

2024 Year-End

Legislative Report

Year-In-Review
2025 Priorities



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William J. Hallan
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Executive Letter

In Challenging Times, MRA Continues to Fight

While the political makeup continues to evolve at the Capitol, one thing remains constant: MRA's unwavering commitment to protecting Michigan retailers' interests. We'll continue to fiercely advocate on your behalf at the legislature, navigating an ever-changing regulatory environment, and providing cost-effective services like workers' compensation insurance, credit card processing, and group health insurance plans to businesses across the state.

2024 was an unprecedented year for MRA on the advocacy front. The lame-duck session was unlike anything we've experienced in recent memory, with a near record-breaking 29-hour session for the Michigan Senate, and a whirlwind of activity that demanded we play defense like never before as we prepared for any bill to rise from the dead. Despite the chaos we stood firm, successfully fending off numerous proposals that could have negatively impacted the retail industry.

Challenges remain as we look ahead to 2025, but MRA continues to act as both the sword and shield for Michigan's retailers. Your trust fuels our drive to safeguard the industry and ensure retailers have the tools and support needed to thrive. Thank you for allowing us to stand with you in the ever-changing legislative landscape.

Our Michigan-based team is always ready to assist through our Ask Us First program (email askusfirst@retailers.com or call 800.366.3699) and to offer top-notch customer service for the products and services we provide. This report highlights the most important legislative and regulatory work we tackled in 2024 to help you stay focused on running and growing your business. On page 8, you'll find a comprehensive table of legislation impacting retailers that saw movement over the past year.

Save the Date:

Capitol Day | April 23, 2025

More info on page 14

QUICK STATS

2024 By the Numbers



**Legislative
Focus**



1,476
Bills and Resolutions
reviewed by MRA



730
House Bills

486
Senate Bills

260
Resolutions



**Communications
Focus**



14
Government Affairs
emails sent



12
Food eNews updates
sent to grocery
division members



**Advocacy
Focus**



78
Committee meetings
on retail legislation

57
Individual meetings
with legislators

4
Times MRA testified
before committees on
critical issues



**Election
Focus**



81
Friends of Retail
named in Primary
election

70
Friends of Retail
moved to general
election

62
Friends of Retail
elected to serve the
103rd legislature

2024 Year-In-Review

In a legislative term that started and ended by undoing policies changed by the Republican trifecta during the Rick Snyder era, we are extremely fortunate to have ended the year with minimal new disruptive changes. Changes to increase unemployment benefits were the largest business-related change made during lame duck session after infighting between legislative factions prevented the House from having enough members in attendance to conduct formal business.

Very little legislative bill movement happened in 2024 until committees began meeting more in the fall in the Senate and until after the election in the House. This is due largely to the election in the House and special elections held in the spring to fill two House seats that prevented Democrats in the majority party from having enough votes to move any bills that did not also garner Republican support.

Other challenges arose mid-year when the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in late July that the 2018 changes made to paid leave and minimum wage laws were unconstitutional. The court set a Feb. 21, 2025 date for the laws to revert to the original ballot proposal language, providing a narrow window to make several much-needed changes. Unfortunately, state lawmakers were unable or unwilling to reach an agreement in lame duck on making the much-needed changes to the Earned Sick Time Act (paid leave) and tipped wage changes. While extremely disappointing and frustrating, there is still a window of time to act, and the incoming House leaders have said this will be a top priority in 2025 for them as well as the Association.

2024 was also largely focused on stopping bad policies and attempting to improve others. MRA spent much of the year working directly with bill sponsors and committee members to make changes on the issues we expected to move, like a new proposed tobacco retail license (HB 6002-6004 and SB 651-654) and price gouging during declared states of emergency (SB 954-956 and HB 5895-5897). Both issues reached a point where the Association felt comfortable the bills would be workable and the House and Senate both voted to approve its version of the bills. However, because legislators had tie-barred the bills together, meaning both House and Senate bills needed to pass to be signed into law, the packages failed when the House could not get enough legislators to attend session to conduct business the week of Dec. 16.

All year MRA braced for a tumultuous lame duck session and it exceeded even our wildest nightmares on which policies could come up for consideration. Ask anyone in Lansing, and no one has ever experienced a lame duck session quite like this one. Over two dozen concerning policies were defeated. Most of the concerning legislation came through the Michigan Senate along party-line votes and died in the Michigan House. Senate-passed policies that died include legislation on comprehensive data privacy (SB 659), reproductive health data privacy (SB 1082), data breach legislation (SB 888-892), and expanding the Consumer Protection Act to all regulated industries (SB 1022).

Legislative committees held numerous hearings on concerning issues that also died in lame duck including expanding the bottle bill law (SB 1112-1113) - proposed via a simple majority vote to put changes on the 2026 ballot - that only received 20 minutes of testimony before being voted on, a state-run paid family leave program (SB 332-333), bills overhauling workers' compensation laws (SB 1079-1080), allowing local ordinances on tobacco sales (HB 6022) and flavor bans (HB 6234-6235), and major changes to limit property tax appeals (HB 5865-5868). MRA presented testimony in opposition to the bottle deposit expansion, onerous new data privacy requirements, and harmful property tax changes.

MRA worked behind the scenes to gain support for changes to proposed comprehensive data privacy laws that would have impacted customer loyalty programs and reproductive health privacy laws that would impact sales of everyday items. Both bills passed the Senate and may have seen movement in the House if there had been more time and no attendance issues.

All in all, especially with the level of uncertainty in 2024, Association members can be confident MRA held the line on issues impacting retail business and employers and prevented numerous headache-inducing new policies from being adopted. As we move into 2025 under a divided government with a Republican-controlled House and a Democratic-controlled Senate and governor, we expect each chamber to take up its priorities but for very little to get across the overall finish line and signed into law.



Legislative Wins

Despite some proactive work on pharmacy reimbursement, the bill only passed one chamber, which means all of our 2024 wins were from playing defense. A few of our many wins include:

Defeated Data Privacy (again)

Legislation that passed the Michigan Senate in lame duck, but was defeated in the House, could've had serious consequences for the future of loyalty programs in Michigan. Sen. Bayer's much amended, yet problematic, comprehensive data privacy legislation, SB 659, passed the Senate along party lines in December. To address the loyalty program concern (which was just one of many problems with the proposed bill), Senator Daley offered an amendment on the floor to remove harmful language. The amendment would have struck language requiring loyalty programs to offer each consumer a "proportional benefit" to the benefit received by the retailer operating the program, an impossible-to-meet, highly subjective standard.

The language would have been unique to Michigan and likely caused many retailers to stop offering loyalty reward programs to customers in the state. Unfortunately, the amendment failed along a party-line vote after the sponsor spoke in opposition. The bill never received consideration in the House which, thankfully, had more members who understood the larger concerns the bill presented.

Another harmful bill specific to reproductive health that would have narrowly impacted retailers also passed out of the Senate. SB 1082 passed the Senate along party lines and would have captured sales of many regular over-the-counter consumer purchases, including pregnancy tests, prenatal vitamins, menstrual products, and contraceptives from pharmacies or grocery stores.

To comply with the requirements under the bill, retailers would need to provide opt-in and privacy notices before every standard reminder, notification, purchase recommendation, or marketing communication (e.g., notifications, advertisements, promotions, or coupons promoting health and wellness products that fall within the broad definitions, including prescription reminders).

Repeated opt-in disclosures could limit access to important information for our customers and create obstacles for otherwise simple consumer interactions. In addition, prohibitions on use of geolocation could impact the ability to direct customers to the specific location of products in stores, as well as interfere with in-store or curbside pick-up of products or prescribed medications ordered online.

While we did not oppose the overall intent of the bill to protect certain health data, the inclusion of overly broad definitions may unintentionally cover unsuspecting businesses, and a punitive private right of action (PRA) may impact consumer access to retail products and information about prescription medications, as well as negatively impact the overall customer experience.

Stopping Bottle Deposit Expansion

A creative Michigan lawmaker, Sen. Sean McCann, chair of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee introduced new bills in November 2024 (SB 1112-1113) to expand the bottle deposit law that sought to get around the ¾ vote threshold required for amending an initiated law. The bills would have put the question of expanding Michigan's costly and inefficient bottle deposit law on the November 2026 ballot.

SB 1112 sought to expand the deposit to nearly all non-milk beverage containers, excluding ½ gallon or larger juice containers, but including water bottles, liquor, wine, juice boxes/pouches, non-dairy milk containers, and more. It would also have required universal redemption (but not universal pickup, stranding orphan containers at smaller stores). The bills could have passed the Senate by a simple majority vote because it would require final approval by voters which, while never tried before, could technically meet the constitutional requirements under Article 2, Section 9 of Michigan's Constitution.

After just 20 minutes of testimony, the Senate Energy and Environment Committee in December voted out bottle bill expansion legislation. MRA testified in opposition with an independent retailer from Mt. Pleasant who joined via Zoom and circulated a "10 Reasons Why Expansion is Wrong for Michigan"





document to all legislators. Thankfully, legislators heard our concerns and understood this concept was both flawed and rushed during lame duck. The bill did not receive a vote on the Senate floor but will likely be reintroduced or tried as a ballot proposal using this new method in the future.

Preventing Numerous New Labor and Benefit Policies from Passing

Retailers value flexibility and believe they know their employees best, which is why MRA opposes one-size-fits-all mandates like those that nearly passed in December 2024. Some of the most concerning proposals that attempted to sneak through in lame duck included bills creating a state-run, unemployment-style insurance for 12 weeks of paid family leave for caregiving purposes, reclassifying all independent contractors as direct employees, overhauling workers' compensation laws, and allowing local ordinances on wage and benefit policies for any business that receives any tax incentive.

Additionally, bills to severely increase the maximum penalties for violating any portion of the Youth Employment Act or rules, while also making a second or third offense a felony offense, were offered in both chambers. Making it apply to any violation of the act or rules would have added a violation for something as simple as keeping an employee past 9 p.m. or failing to post the required poster a felony offense. MRA worked on amendments to strike this language if the bills moved further but thankfully they stalled out at the end of lame duck.



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Michigan Retailers PAC
 and protect your interests.



Contact MRA at 800.366.3699 or mra@retailers.com, or download a contribution form online [here](#):



Bills Impacting Retail That Saw Movement in 2024

BILL #	BILL SUBJECT/DESCRIPTION	ACTION IN HOUSE OF ORIGIN	ACTION IN SECOND HOUSE	PUBLIC ACT (EFFECTIVE DATE)	MRA POSITION	
GROCERY/CONVENIENCE						
Alcohol	SB 868	"Brand" definition: A bill to redefine brand and brand extension to mean any word, letter, symbol, or group or combination of those adopted and used by a supplier to name, identify, or trademark a specific beer, malt beverage, wine, mixed wine drink, or mixed spirit drink product.	Amended, Passed Senate 37-1 on 6/26/24	Reported by House Reg. Reform on 12/3/24		Monitored
	SB 730	Co-branded beverage product placement: A bill to prohibit placing "co-branded" alcoholic beverages "immediately adjacent" to nonalcoholic beverages, candy, snacks, toys, or water.	Amended, Passed Senate 35-3 on 6/26/24	Reported by House Reg. Reform on 12/10/24		Neutral on the S-2 version
	SB 731-732	Financial viability and fines: Legislation that would allow a late or nonpayment from a retailer to a wholesale vendor to trigger a required financial viability review of a retailer by MLCC. Reviews could result in fines or suspension of licenses.	Amended, Passed Senate 36-2 on 6/26/24	Reported by House Reg. Reform on 12/10/24		Neutral on the S-2 versions
	HB 4758	License violations: Legislation that would set a time period of two years after which violations of the Michigan Liquor Control Code cannot be held against licensees in applications for transfers, new licenses, or used to suspend or revoke a license.	Passed House 103-6 on 12/12/24			
	HB 4757	License waiver/discount extension: A bill that would double the liquor license discount on uniform prices for SDD and on-premises licensees from 17% to 35%.	Passed House 104-5 on 12/12/24			Monitored
Tobacco	SB 651-654	Tobacco retail license: A four bill package that would create a new retail license requirement to sell tobacco or nicotine products and change signage requirements.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-16 on 12/5/24			Neutral on the S-2 version
	HB 6002-6005	Tobacco retail license/remove penalties for minors: A four bill package that would create a new retail license requirement to sell tobacco or nicotine products, remove penalties for minors, and change signage requirements.	Amended and reported by House Families on 12/10/24			 Seeking changes
Other	SB 1112-1113	Bottle bill expansion: Would expand the bottle deposit law to nearly all non-milk containers, require universal redemption, and give distributors 20% of the unclaimed escheats. SB 1113 would shift \$60M from the income tax to implement the changes. The bill seeks to do this via a simple majority vote and place changes on the 2026 ballot.	Amended and reported by Senate Energy on 12/5/24			
	HCR 14	Double Up Food Bucks: A concurrent resolution to urge the federal government to increase funding for Double Up Food Bucks programs.	Adopted on 4/30/24	Adopted on 5/2/24	N/A	
HUMAN RESOURCES/LABOR						
Benefits	HB 6239-6240	Discrimination/unemployment disqualification/sick time: Bills prohibiting employers from excluding those victims of domestic violence, gender violence, or sexual violence from disqualification for unemployment benefits or using earned sick time for those reasons.	Reported by House Labor on 12/12/24			Monitored
	SB 332-333	Optimal Family Leave: A bill that would create a state-run program, similar to unemployment, to provide for 15-weeks of paid family leave coverage for workers. Benefits would be paid for by the employer at an amount set by the state to fund each employee's benefits. Employers may deduct up to 50% of the contribution from the employee's wages. A business may opt out if they offer equivalent benefits and usage but must gain approval from the state and pay for the review. SB 333 would create an individual income tax credit to exempt benefits received from taxation.	Amended and reported by Senate Housing & Human Services on 12/10/24			
	HB 5618-5627	Pay equity: A package of bills seeking to diminish the discrepancies between pay by providing equal pay certification, requiring employers to educate employees of their equal pay rights, requiring employers to follow certain protocol, such as prohibiting inquiries about previous wage situations or wage discrimination, and allows for anonymous wage discrimination reporting.	Reported by House Labor on 12/12/24			Monitored
	HB 5827	Unemployment benefits: A bill that would expand and increase unemployment benefits from 20 to 26 weeks.	Amended, Passed House 56-54 on 6/26/24	Passed Senate 21-16 on 12/10/24		
	SB 40	Unemployment benefits: A bill that would expand and increase unemployment benefits from 20 to 26 weeks.	Amended, Passed Senate 21-15 on 12/5/24	Passed House 58-51 on 12/10/24	P.A. 173 of 2024 takes effect 90 days after sine die	






Follow along online!




Scan the QR code to view the complete, up-to-date bill tracker:



Key		Completed action, bill(s) move on to the next step
		Support
		Oppose

BILL #	BILL SUBJECT/DESCRIPTION	ACTION IN HOUSE OF ORIGIN	ACTION IN SECOND HOUSE	PUBLIC ACT (EFFECTIVE DATE)	MRA POSITION
Benefits	SB 1079-1080 Workers' compensation changes: Bills that would more than double existing death benefits and funeral expenses as well as redefining "disability" to focus on the employee's inability to perform all jobs paying maximum wages or obtain jobs performed before the injury and removing language about transferable work skills, potentially broadening the scope of disability claims. The bills would also modify the definition of "wage earning capacity," which could affect how partial disability benefits are calculated.	Reported by Senate Labor on 12/12/24			
Hiring Process	HB 4960 Criminal history: Legislation to make it illegal for an employer (or landlord) to request information related to an expunged misdemeanor offense or a charged offense if it did not result in a conviction.	Passed House 57-53 on 10/31/23	Reported by Senate Civil Rights on 4/18/24		Monitored
	HB 5594 Youth employment changes: Legislation that would require youth employees to register with the state (instead of just filing paperwork with their local school district) and creating an "authorized employer" database housed by the state.	Passed House 56-0 on 12/13/24	Passed Senate 20-18 on 12/20/24		Neutral
	SB 963-965 Youth employment penalties and permits: Bills that seek to greatly increase penalties for employers if a minor is killed or harmed while working and change the youth work permit process. SB 964 would shift the work permit process from local school districts to a state-run system and sets a uniform number of hours minors under age 16 can work. SB 965 would increase the penalties for employers or employer's agents if a minor is killed or suffers severe bodily harm while working to a felony offense with up to five years in prison and a penalty of \$50,000-500,000 for a first offense.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-18 on 11/7/24	Reported by House Labor on 11/14/24		Neutral on SB 964, opposed and seeking additional changes on SB 965
Other	HB 5461 Auto-enrollment payroll deduction IRA: Legislation that would create the state-run, "Michigan Secure Retirement Savings Program" to auto-enroll employees into an IRA with payroll deduction if the employer does not offer another retirement plan.	Amended and reported by House Labor on 9/25/24			
	HB 6238 Discrimination for victims: A bills prohibiting employers from discriminating against victims of domestic violence, gender violence, or sexual violence.	Amended, Passed House 56-0 on 12/13/24			Monitored
	SB 1173 Local labor ordinances for incentives/contracts: A bill exempting local ordinances on labor-related policies from the current preemption law if the business is subject to any local incentives or has any local government contracts.	Passed Senate 20-15 on 12/12/24			
	HB 4962 Minor employee - violations and penalties: Legislation that would severely increase the max penalties for violating the youth employment act or rules for a first violation to a misdemeanor and a fine from \$500 to \$5,000, make a second or third offense a felony and increases the fines from \$5,000 to \$25,000, and a third offense fine from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and adds felony jail time for employers if a minor dies from a work injury.	Amended, Passed House 56-0 on 12/13/24			
	HB 5736 Veterans' services poster: A bill to require the state to create a poster of veterans' services and benefits that employers will be required to post.	Amended, Passed House 56-54 on 6/26/24	Passed Senate 20-16 on 12/10/24		Monitored
	HB 4390-4406 Wage theft/employee misclassification package: A 16-bill package that would reclassify gig workers as employees, and add whistleblower protections, noncompete language, wage disclosures, and penalties under the guise of protecting workers from "wage theft."	HB 4399 & HB 4402-4406 reported by House Labor on 12/5/24			
PHARMACY					
Drug Cost	SB 1179 340B programs: Would prohibit a manufacturer, wholesaler, or wholesale distributor-broker from denying or restricting the acquisition of a 340B drug by a 340B entity or to a pharmacy under contract with a 340B entity.	Amended, Passed Senate 30-3 on 12/13/24			Monitored
	HB 4409 Manufacturer drug cost transparency: Would require drug manufacturers to file reports to the state on drugs with a wholesale acquisition cost of \$500 or more for a 30-day supply if the price increases 15% or more in a year or 40% or more over three years.	Passed House 90-20 on 6/26/24			Monitored
	HB 4276 Medicaid PBM contracts: A bill to regulate Michigan Medicaid managed care contracts with PBMs, include transparency reporting by PBMs, and set CMS-level reimbursement to pharmacies with seven or fewer locations.	Amended, Passed House 105-4 on 10/25/23	Passed Senate 36-0 on 11/9/23	P.A. 279 of 2023 effective 2/13/24	Monitored
Other	HB 5435-5436 Pharmacists prescribe/dispense birth control: Legislation to allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense hormonal birth control to patients. The companion bill would require insurers cover that prescription and reimburse pharmacies.	Amended, Passed House 56-53 on 11/13/24	Passed Senate 20-18 on 12/19/24		
	SB 993 PREP Act reimbursement: A trailer bill to SB 219, this bill would ensure pharmacies are reimbursed for PREP Act procedures they perform that were codified in 2023 as P.A. 97 of 2023.	Amended, Passed Senate 35-1 on 12/11/24			

BILL #	BILL SUBJECT/DESCRIPTION	ACTION IN HOUSE OF ORIGIN	ACTION IN SECOND HOUSE	PUBLIC ACT (EFFECTIVE DATE)	MRA POSITION	
Other	HB 5077-5078	Opioid antagonists - naloxone distribution: Legislation that would clarify the ability for any government agency to purchase/obtain, possess and distribute free doses of naloxone (typically from MDHHS) and distribute it directly to organizations and others who need it outside of the pharmacy.	Passed House 96-11 on 4/24/24	Passed Senate 37-0 on 12/10/24	Bill enrolled on 12/10/24	Monitored
	SB 592	Opioid settlements: A bill that would amend the Opioid Liability Litigation Act to prohibit a political subdivision of the State from commencing or maintaining a legal action related to the released claims in the Allergen, CVS, Teva, Walgreens, and Walmart settlements.	Passed Senate 38-0 on 10/25/23	Passed House 104-5 on 11/8/23	P.A. 228 of 2023 effective 11/22/23	
	HB 5178-5179	Syringe Services Program: Legislation would allow local governments to create a needle and hypodermic syringe access program for the purposes of distributing sterile needles or hypodermic syringes to individuals or providing additional services, items, or equipment to individuals to decrease the spread of communicable diseases. It also amends to say fentanyl test strips and hypodermic syringes are not considered drug paraphernalia.	Amended, Passed House 56-0 on 12/13/24			Monitored
	HB 5013	Year-supply coverage for birth control: Legislation to require insurers to cover the cost of a year's supply of birth control dispensed at one time.	Amended, Passed House 57-52 on 11/13/24	Reported by Senate Health Policy on 11/26/24		Monitored
REGULATIONS						
Sales	HB 4843	Automatic online renewals: A bill that would require notice be provided about automatic renewals and allow a consumer to cancel automatic renewal and continuous service contracts online if it was offered online.	Passed House 56-0 on 12/13/24			Monitored
	HB 4491	E-bike voucher program: Legislation that would create a voucher program for lower-income individuals to purchase e-bikes.	Amended, Passed House 56-0 on 12/13/24			Monitored
	SB 1170	Item pricing penalties: A bill to substantially increase the penalties for item pricing violations and essentially eliminate the notice and cure requirements that the AG must provide to the retailer. It would also give the Director of the Department of Agriculture to conduct regular inspections.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-15 on 12/12/24			
	SB 57-58	Nitrous oxide devices: A bill that would prohibit the sale of an object specifically designed for inhaling nitrous oxide for recreational purposes, knowing that the object will be used to inhale nitrous oxide for recreational purposes. Commonly called whippets.	Passed Senate 37-1 on 10/18/23	Passed House 87-18 on 2/27/24	P.A. 18-19 of 2024 took effect 3/12/24	Monitored
	HB 4596	Non flushable wipes warning: A bill that would prohibit the sale of disposable wipes used for cleaning, hygiene, or other use without a warning label on the product noting the product is not flushable.	Amended, Passed House 69-39 on 10/4/23"	Passed Senate 23-13 on 4/16/23	P.A. 43 of 2024 takes effect 90 days after sine die	Monitored
	SB 328	Smoke detectors: A bill that would prohibit the sale of smoke detectors powered only by removable and replaceable batteries 18 months after signed into law. The bill includes a \$500 fine for noncompliance.	Amended, Passed Senate 23-15 on 10/19/23	Passed House 60-49 on 6/18/24	P.A. 98 of 2024 takes effect 90 days after sine die	Neutral
Tech/Insurance	SB 888-892	Data breach legislation: Bills that seek to make substantial revisions to Michigan's Identity Theft Protection Act around data breaches, including requiring providing credit monitoring services to impacted residents and requires notice to the attorney general if the breach involves more than 100 residents. It also grants the attorney general the right to initiate an investigation and examination under oath prior to bringing any civil action.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-15 on 12/12/24			
	SB 659	Data privacy: Legislation that would require initial consent from the consumer (opt-in) vs. an opt-out, includes biometric data without an exemption for security footage, allows consumers to bring private rights of action against businesses, and uses ambiguous loyalty program language.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-15 on 12/12/24			
	SB 1082	Reproductive health data privacy: Legislation that would create a Reproductive Health Privacy Act that would rope in many over-the-counter consumer products, including pregnancy tests, prenatal vitamins, menstrual products, and contraceptives from pharmacies or grocery stores.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-15 on 12/5/24			
Pollution	HB 5332-5333	Hazardous waste fees: Legislation that would double landfill registration fees and increase landfill fee for disposing hazardous waste from \$10 per ton, \$10 per cubic yard, or 1/2 cent per pound to \$25 per ton, \$25 per cubic yard, or 1.25 cents per pound starting in 2024 and increase the rate every five years based on CPI.	HB 5333 was amended, vote failed on 12/13/24			Monitored
	HB 4325	Illegal garbage dumping: A bill that would substantially increase the fines for illegally dumping more than three cubic feet of garbage.	Amended, Passed House 103-4 on 11/9/23	Passed Senate 29-9 on 2/14/24	P.A. 6 of 2024 takes effect 90 days after sine die	Monitored
	SB 605-611	Polluter pay: Bills to require businesses with large amounts of potentially polluting materials to post up-front financial assurance to cover any cleanup, companies that pollute to clean the contamination up completely, allow people exposed to bring claims via private action to cover the costs of medical monitoring, and set more stringent cleanup standards.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-13 on 12/13/24			Monitored
Other	SB 351	Breastfeeding/expressing human milk: Legislation to update the breastfeeding anti-discrimination act that protects breastfeeding in public to include expressing human milk in public.	Passed Senate 26-12 on 10/18/23	Passed House 83-26 on 9/25/24	P.A. 130 of 2024 effective 10/8/24	Monitored

BILL #	BILL SUBJECT/DESCRIPTION	ACTION IN HOUSE OF ORIGIN	ACTION IN SECOND HOUSE	PUBLIC ACT (EFFECTIVE DATE)	MRA POSITION	
Other	HB 4511	Child car seat regulations: A bill setting more specific car seat standards and regulations based on age, height, and weight (refers to manufacturer's instructions).	Passed House 68-42 on 9/27/23	Passed Senate 21-17 on 3/13/24	P.A. 21 of 2024 takes effect 90 days after sine die	Monitored
	SB 1022	Consumer protection act expansion: Legislation to expand the coverage of Michigan's Consumer Protection Act to all licensed and regulated professions and industries as well as adding litigation opportunities under the act. The bills would rope in 80 different regulated businesses, trades, and professions under the Michigan Consumer Protection Act by eliminating what's known as the "regulatory compliance exemption."	Amended, Passed Senate 20-16 on 12/5/24			
	HB 4608	Dietitian and nutritionist licensing: A bill that would require dietitians and nutritionists be licensed by the state to practice.	Passed House 63-46 on 10/19/23	Passed Senate 26-11 on 4/10/24	P.A. 39 of 2024 takes effect 90 days after sine die	Neutral
	SB 501	Electric truck weights: A bill that would allow an electric truck tractor to exceed the axle loading maximums by a gross weight of not more than 2,000 pounds to accommodate the extra battery weight not to exceed a maximum gross weight of 82,000 pounds.	Amended, Passed Senate 23-14 on 11/9/23	Passed House 60-49 on 6/18/24	P.A. 106 of 2024 takes effect 90 days after sine die	
	SB 459-461	Mobile ID: A bill that seeks to allow mobile drivers licenses via an app or wallet-based system.	Amended, Passed Senate 32-4 on 12/12/24			Monitored
	SB 894	Mobile ID relying parties requirements: A companion bill that seeks to protect data contained/accessed from mobile drivers licenses (SB 459-461). It would restrict what information can be stored and accessed from MDLs.	Amended, Passed Senate 31-4 on 12/12/24			Monitored
	SB 1086	No sell list for firearms: Legislation to require the state police to create both a temporary do-not-sell list and an indefinite do-not-sell list that is updated and entered into the national instant criminal background check system and any other federal or state computer-based systems used by law enforcement agencies, or others, to identify prohibited purchasers of firearms.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-13 on 12/13/24			Monitored
	SB 955	Price gouging during state of emergency: A bill that sets specific price gouging parameters during a declared state of emergency on building materials, consumer food items, goods, services, emergency supplies, or medical supplies that are priced at "an unjustified disparity of more than 10%" during a natural or man-made disaster that has been declared by the governor as a state of emergency.	Amended, Passed Senate 20-16 on 12/12/24			Monitored
	HB 5895	Price gouging during state of emergency: A bill that sets specific price gouging parameters during a declared state of emergency on building materials, consumer food items, goods, services, emergency supplies, or medical supplies that are priced at "an unjustified disparity of more than 10%" during a natural or man-made disaster that has been declared by the governor as a state of emergency.	Amended, Passed House 56-0 on 12/13/24			Monitored
	SB 660	Stormwater utility fees: Legislation that would allow local units of government to set up a storm water management utility to address water runoff and snow melt by assessing utility fees proportionate to the property size and its contribution to water runoff based on property elements.	Amended and reported by Senate Local Gov. on 11/13/24			
TAXES						
Sales Tax	SB 930	Marketplace facilitator deduction: Legislation requested by Instacart that would allow a marketplace facilitator to claim a deduction on a portion of sales tax collected if the sales tax was charged to the facilitator prior to the end sale to the customer.	Amended, Passed Senate 38-0 on 6/26/24	Reported by House Tax Policy on 12/4/24		Monitored
Property	HB 4979	Designated assessors: A bill that would allow a county to forgo the use of a designated assessor and instead use an interlocal agreement and work with the state tax commission to appoint an assessor of record for any assessing district within the county.	Amended, Passed House 85-24 on 10/24/23	Passed Senate 31-6 on 2/22/24	P.A. 12 of 2024 took effect 3/12/24	Monitored
Income	HB 5546	Distributors bottle deposit income tax credit: A bill that would reinstate the income tax credit for distributors for the bottle bill that existed under the Michigan Business Tax. The proposed tax credit would be equal to 1/2 cent per returnable container sold. The bill does not open the bottle bill – only the income tax act, so it does not require a 3/4 majority vote.	Passed House 103-7 on 6/12/24			Monitored
OTHER						
	HB 5164-5165	Call center registry: Bills that would require the state to maintain a registry of businesses with 50 or more employees who relocate a call center from Michigan to a foreign country and prohibit economic development incentives for businesses on that registry list.	Reported by House Labor on 2/29/24			Monitored
	SB 836-839	"Child Care for All" plan: A package of bills that seek to solve the childcare program that includes a working parents tax credit, updates licensing requirements for childcare providers, and expands access to child care "contact-based" subsidies for providers caring for children with special needs and/or working in areas with concentrated poverty.	Passed Senate 22-11 on 12/13/24			Monitored
	HB 5637-5640	"Child Care for All" plan: A package of bills that seek to solve the childcare program that includes a working parents tax credit, updates licensing requirements for childcare providers, and expands access to child care "contact-based" subsidies for providers caring for children with special needs and/or working in areas with concentrated poverty.	Reported by House Tax Policy on 12/11/24			Monitored



Election Recap

Michigan House control flips, creating divided government in 2025

Republicans picked up four seats following the Nov. 5 election, taking them to a 58-52 majority by ousting third-term Rep. Jim Haadsma (44th District/D-Battle Creek), first-term Rep. Jamie Churches (27th District/D-Wyandotte), first-term Rep. Jenn Hill (D-Marquette), and third-term Rep. Nate Shannon (D-Sterling Heights). This ends the slim-majority Democratic trifecta that lasted just two years.

This is the first election since Michigan reformed state legislative term limits. As a result, 96 incumbent legislators were reelected and the incoming freshman class of 14 new faces is one of the smallest since the 1990s. The revised 2022 proposal allows state lawmakers to serve up to 12 years total, instead of the previous limits of three, two-year terms in the House and two, four-year terms in the Senate.

The 2025-26 incoming class includes two former legislators who were previously ineligible to run under the previous term limits, meaning there are only 12 first-term state representatives. MRA named 81 Friends of Retail in the Primary election, 70 moved on to the general election, and 62 were elected.

35th Michigan Senate seat will see a special election

State Senator Kristen McDonald-Rivet (D-Bay City) was successful in winning the 8th U.S. House District, which will result in a special election to fill her open seat sometime next year. Democrats currently have a 19-18 majority in the Senate, meaning if Republicans win the special election, the Michigan Senate could be split 19-19. While that could result in some aspects of shared power, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist serves as President of the Senate and is the deciding vote when needed. McDonald-Rivet won the 35th district state senate seat with 53% of the vote in 2022.

U.S. Senate and Michigan's 13 congressional seats

Democrat U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin narrowly won the open U.S. Senate seat over Republican, former U.S. Rep., Mike Rogers. All 11 of Michigan's congressional members running for reelection returned to Congress along with current state Senator Kristen McDonald-Rivet (MI-8) and former Republican state senator Tom Barrett who picked up the open MI-7 seat Slotkin vacated to run for U.S. Senate. That gives Republicans a slight 7-6 advantage in the Michigan delegation's makeup.

2025 Current Michigan Political Makeup

Governor: Democrat (Gretchen Whitmer)

Attorney General: Democrat (Dana Nessel)

Secretary of State: Democrat (Jocelyn Benson)

Supreme Court: Democrat majority (5-2), Chief Justice Beth Clement

U.S. Senate: Both democrats

U.S. Congress: 13 members (7-6 Republican majority)

House: 110 members (58-52 Republican majority)

- Speaker Matt Hall (R-Kalamazoo)
- House Minority Leader Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton)
- 2-year terms

Senate: 38 members (19-18 Democrat majority)

- Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids)
- Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton)* (announced he's running for governor on 1/14/25)
- 4-year terms
- One vacant seat due to Kristen McDonald-Rivet winning the 8th Congressional District race. Will likely be filled in a special election sometime in 2025.

2025 election preview

- Special election in MI Senate to fill the 35th District (vacated by now Congresswoman Kristen McDonald-Rivet)

2025 Legislative Priorities

Fixing the Earned Sick Time Act

Lawmakers were unable or unwilling to reach an agreement on making the much-needed changes to the Earned Sick Time Act (paid leave) and tipped wage changes. Thanks to the Michigan Supreme Court ruling in late July, these laws are set to take effect Feb. 21. While extremely disappointing and frustrating, there is still a window of time to act. The first bills introduced in the House in 2025 focus on amending the Earned Sick Time Act and addressing the tipped wage for restaurant workers. HB 4002 includes many of the changes that we've asked for, such as adding a small business exemption for employers with under 50 employees, allowing front-loading of benefits, and removing the accrual requirements.

For tipped wage, HB 4001 would increase the minimum wage to \$12 an hour starting Feb. 21 instead of \$12.48 and increase to \$15 an hour by 2029 while maintaining the tipped wage at 38% of the standard minimum wage.

While we expect these to move quickly in the House, they will face more opposition in the Senate which introduced its own version of watered-down changes as SB 15 (paid leave) and SB 8 (tipped wage).

Updating ORC laws to combat new kinds of fraud

Organized Retail Crime continues to present a challenge for retailers of all sizes and new forms of fraud have emerged impacting gift cards and loyalty programs. While Michigan has had a strong ORC law on the books since 2012, these new fraud patterns require updates to address one of the fastest-growing elements of Organized Retail Crime; gift card fraud.

Continue funding for the ORC Taskforce/ FORCE Team

In December, MRA started meetings with the Senate Appropriations Chairwoman's office and State Budget Office (SBO) to request the Fiscal Year 25-26 budget include at least \$3.5 million to continue funding the ORC Taskforce for another three years. We anticipate the Attorney General Dana Nessel's budget request and the executive budget recommendation from the governor will also include this funding since AG Nessel has been very vocal about continuing to fund this taskforce and having it continue operating under future AGs.

It's been three years since this one-time funding passed as part of the FY 2022-23 Michigan budget. Michigan AG Nessel used those funds to create the FORCE team (FORCE is an acronym, that stands for Focused Organized Retail Crime Enforcement) and Organized Retail Crime Unit in April 2023 to focus on criminal organizations that target retailers by stealing products to repack and sell for profit in both illicit and legal, physical, and digital marketplaces.

The FORCE team was a first-of-its-kind in the nation taskforce focused on rooting out organized retail crime across the State of Michigan, and is comprised of two full-time assistant attorneys

general working alongside three special agents from the Department of Attorney General, three detective troopers from the Michigan State Police, State Police intelligence and financial fraud analysts, and a special agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The team is housed within the Department of Michigan State Police and operates out of their facilities in Metro Detroit and also works intimately with various local law enforcement agencies and retailer loss prevention specialists.

In its first operational year, the FORCE team charged 41 defendants in 13 cases representing nearly \$13 million in losses to Michigan businesses. They have achieved 10 convictions to date, recovered over \$8 million in product, seized nearly \$2 million in cash, and negotiated \$4.4 million in court-ordered restitution.

Pharmacy reimbursement

In 2023, MRA was successful in having legislation signed into law as P.A. 97 that codified the Federal PREP Act and granted pharmacists independent authority to order and administer vaccines and CLIA-waived tests. Unfortunately, the trailer bill to ensure pharmacies are reimbursed for PREP Act procedures they perform did not make it all the way through the legislative process in 2024. The sponsor of that 2024 bill (SB 993) plans to reintroduce the legislation in 2025. The legislation would ensure that pharmacies are properly reimbursed for various immunizations, lab tests, and dispensed prescriptions.

MRA will also support legislation that seeks to further expand the list of illnesses and conditions that pharmacists can test and treat for under independent authority and that pharmacies will receive fair and adequate reimbursement for these new services.



Strengthen our efforts by contributing to MRA's Advocacy Fund

MRA's Advocacy Fund enhances MRA's lobbying efforts to support retail in Michigan.

To contribute

Contributions to the fund can be made from business accounts and written off as a business expense. To contribute, please send a check made payable to "MRA." In the notes line, indicate "MRA Advocacy Fund." Contributions should be sent to Tom Clement's attention. Contact Tom at tclement@retailers.com

2025 Michigan Retailers Association's

Capitol Day & Legislative Reception

Catered by Michigan's Food and Grocery Industry

Wednesday, April 23

Capitol View (Senate building)
9th floor offices of Dykema Law Firm
201 Townsend, Lansing MI 48933

Each April, MRA hosts our annual legislative reception for members to mingle with state legislators and regulators to discuss important retail issues. In 2023, MRA added a new component by inviting our Retail Ambassadors to meet directly with their legislators prior to the reception to share their stories and the impact new and potential laws and regulations have on their businesses. The day was a great success thanks to our Retail Ambassadors and the continued support of our generous sponsors.

Join us at the Capitol in 2025 to share your story! Join MRA, and retailers and business owners like yourself, on Wednesday, April 23 to remind lawmakers about the important role retail plays in their community. If interested in participating and/or sponsoring the event, contact MRA's Nora Jones by March 29 at njones@retailers.com.

Thank You to Our 2024 Sponsors

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I've Read This Report, Now What?

Reach out to us for help in dealing with state regulators and the legislature.



1. Use it

Update your systems, policies, and procedures to stay compliant with current laws and regulations.



2. Share it

Tell your employees and share information with a neighboring store on items that might impact both of your businesses. Encourage them to get engaged and reach out to MRA for information.



3. Tell us

Let us know what requirements and regulations keep you up at night. We may not know the challenges you're facing until you tell us. We can help cut through the red tape to get you answers and work on making changes to laws and regulations. Contact us at mra@retailers.com



4. Weigh in

Connect with your elected officials – they WANT to hear from you and we promise they don't bite. Your input will help them be more informed and prepared when it's time for them to vote on legislation impacting retail stores like yours. Here are a few ways to connect with them:

- Visit their coffee hours
- Invite them to tour your store
- Join us for Capitol Day, April 23, 2025 in downtown Lansing!
- For more ideas, visit our Take Action page under the Advocacy tab on Retailers.com



5. Stay in the know

We share a lot of information in a variety of ways to keep members updated. You can find information:

- On our website (check out our Advocacy tab on Retailers.com)
- On our Facebook page
- In your email inbox (full of important news alerts and reminders)
- By following along with our bill tracker



6. Chip in

Consider making a contribution to MRA's PAC or Advocacy Fund. Donation forms are available on our website.

- MRA PAC helps support lawmakers and candidates who understand the unique challenges that retailers face every day. MRA PAC can only accept personal contributions.



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