



Key Legislation January-June 2011

The first part of 2011 flew by, and the legislature is now on their summer break until the fall. Here's a look at some of the key pieces of legislation MNA has been following:

Redistricting

One of the biggest changes came in the form of redistricting this spring. Redistricting means that some of our House and Senate districts have been adjusted and that certain legislators no longer represent some of the areas they did previously. The process can be tricky and sometimes people believe that new districts are drawn in favor of one party over another. Redistricting can turn a previously Democratic district into a Republican one and vice versa. Due to the fact that Republicans control our legislature, Detroit and Wayne County will feel the most impact from the recent redistricting changes.

Key Legislation

1. **SB 7:** A bill that limits how much a public employer can pay toward the cost of their public employees' health care. This bill says that an employer would only have to pay a hard cap of up to \$5,500 for a single person, \$11,000 for two people, and \$15,000 for a family. A public employer can decide to opt out of the hard cap by voting to

use an 80/20 split or to forego these two options altogether. The decision must be re-evaluated on an annual basis.

- a. Passed the Senate on May 18, 2011.
- b. Passed the House on June 30, 2011.
- c. Referred to Conference Committee on July 13, 2011.

MNA POSITION: Actively oppose

2. **SB 20:** A bill that prohibits the promulgation of rules regarding workplace ergonomics. With the passage of this bill, the ability of an employer to enforce rules and standards regarding workplace ergonomics has been removed and is now against the law. Ergonomic information can still be shared with employees, but only at the employers' discretion and any kind of enforcement is now strictly prohibited.

Signed by the Governor on March 22, 2011.

MNA POSITION: Opposed

3. **HB 4059:** A bill that prohibits public employers from entering into contracts that allow payment to union officials for time spent conducting union business. Essentially, this would hurt any union member who does any kind of union work on behalf of the other members. If this passes, the provisions would apply to any new contracts that are established. Union work would have to be done on personal time, and the employer would not have to pay for the work to get done.

- a. Passed the House on April 14, 2011.

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- b. Referred to the Senate Committee on Reforms, Restructuring, and Reinventing on April 26, 2011.

MNA POSITION: Actively oppose

- 4. **HB 4152:** A bill that freezes wages and benefits for public employees during contract negotiations. This bill removes the ability for employees to receive raises or step increases during contract negotiations. When the contract expires, whatever is in place at that time will remain until a new contract is signed or an old one is renewed. Extending a contract does not get employees out of the provisions of this legislation. In addition, any increases in the cost of health care that occur at this time will fall on the backs of the employees. Signed by the Governor on June 8, 2011.

MNA POSITION: Actively opposed

- 5. **Criminal Sexual Conduct Package: HB 4411, HB 4412, and HB 4413** are bills that address the consequences of being convicted of first, second, or third degree criminal sexual conduct in the world of health care. The bills address the conditions under which a medical professional would have their license temporarily revoked and/or permanently revoked in the event that they are convicted of criminal sexual conduct.

- a. **HB 4411 and HB 4412.**
 - i. Passed the House on May 17, 2011.
 - ii. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole on June 9, 2011.
- b. **HB 4413**
 - i. Passed the House on May 17, 2011.
 - ii. Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 18, 2011.

MNA POSITION: Monitoring

- 6. **SB 291:** A bill that allows motorcyclists over the age of 21 to ride without a helmet, provided they obtain up to \$100,000 in medical insurance coverage. Prior to the movement of this bill, the law stated that everyone operating a motorcycle had to be wearing a helmet, similar to the seatbelt requirement when operating a car. This law now gives those who are 21 and older the ability to choose whether or not they wear a helmet, but because of the increased risks involved, they must obtain the necessary insurance to cover their

medical bills if they are in a traumatic accident.

- a. Passed the Senate on June 28, 2011.
- b. Referred to the House Transportation Committee on June 28, 2011.

MNA POSITION: Actively oppose

- 7. **HB 4350:** A bill that clarifies the liability of employees being paid by their employer to provide voluntary care at health clinics. This legislation states that if a licensed individual provides voluntary health care and is not paid for it, they will not be held liable for any damages or omissions that occur. Over the course of an investigation into a given incident, if it is determined that the actions of the licensed individual were negligent or committed with the intention of harming the patient, they will be held responsible for their actions.

- a. Passed the House on April 26, 2011.
 - b. Passed the Senate on June 28, 2011.
- MNA POSITION: Actively support**

- 8. **SJR-C:** A joint resolution that allows the legislature to regulate the cost of health benefits for public employees and officers. Passing this joint resolution would change the state constitution by giving the members of the legislature the ability to determine, by law, how much the cost of health benefit plans for public employees and officials should be. This is yet another example of how the ability to collectively bargain the cost of health benefit plans would be taken away from the employee and employer.

- a. Passed the Senate on May 18, 2011.
 - b. Postponed temporarily on June 30, 2011.
- MNA POSITION: Actively oppose**

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Contact your legislators this summer regarding these pieces of legislation. Go to their town hall meetings and their coffee hours. Let your voice be heard!