

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

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House Asks Schools To Spread The Word On Safe Storage, Bans Guns At Polls, Adds Speed Enforcement To Construction Zones

Schools, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services, would be required to notify parents of the state's new safe storage gun law under legislation passed by the House on Wednesday.

[HB 5450](#) and [HB 5451](#) both passed 56-53 in party line votes.

"With the recent safe storage legislation that was passed into law last year, we must now ensure that citizens know about and understand these rules, which require safe storage of firearms in homes where there are children," [Rep. Sharon MacDonell](#) (D-Troy) said. "What better way to ensure that parents and guardians understand the rules than by having schools send home accurate information."

Vigilant parents could prevent kids from playing with guns and hurting themselves or others, MacDonell said.

"Safety is more important than politics," she said. "Maybe it won't save a thousand lives, but maybe it will save a few children from crippling injuries or death. Isn't that worth it?"

[Rep. Gina Johnsen](#) (R-Lake Odessa) testified in opposition to the bills, saying that the safe storage legislation was already a violation of people's Second Amendment rights and that requiring schools to notify parents and guardians took it a step further.

"Now, the government wants them to use more of their tax dollars to inform them how to take care of their property in their homes. What a

waste of our tax dollars," she said. "Funding should be going to basic education for our children."

Other legislation passed by the House on Wednesday would make it illegal for people to carry firearms at a polling place or a counting board location. [HB 4127](#) and [HB 4128](#) also passed 56-53 in a party-line vote.

The House passed legislation that would add automated speed enforcement systems to construction zones.

Currently, Michigan law requires a law enforcement officer to witness a traffic violation, such as speeding, to issue a citation. [HB 4132](#) and [HB 4133](#) would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow the Department of Police and the Department of Transportation to install and use automated speed enforcement systems in work zones to issue tickets.

If a driver was recorded violating the posted speed limit by 10 mph or more in

a work zone while workers were present, different penalties would apply, based on how many violations have occurred.

The first violation would trigger a warning, while a third or subsequent violation within three years would result in a fine of up to \$300.

Both bills passed 57-51, with [Rep. Graham Filler](#) (R-Duplain Township) voting with the Democratic majority.

– By Elena Durnbaugh

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