

Legislative Analysis



EXEMPT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS FROM EMERGENCY HEALTH ORDERS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4728 as referred from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Ann M. Bollin
Committee: Education
Complete to 5-5-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4728 would amend Part 22 (State Department of Public Health) and Part 24 (Local Health Departments) of the Public Health Code.

Currently, section 2253 of the code allows the director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to issue emergency orders prohibiting public gatherings and establishing required procedures if the director determines that either is necessary to protect the public health during an epidemic. Section 2453 grants the same authority to local health officers.

The bill would introduce exceptions to both sections, stating that any such emergency orders at the state or local level could not prohibit or otherwise limit a high school graduation commencement ceremony that is sponsored by a public or nonpublic school to honor the graduating class of 2020 or 2021 and that is held during the 2020-2021 school year.

MCL 333.2253 and 333.2453

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4728 would have indeterminate fiscal implications for DHHS and for local public health departments. Health department costs related to pandemic events include monitoring, contact tracing, collaborating with other public and private entities for pandemic infrastructure and response, and many others. In the current pandemic many of these costs are supported by state and local funds, and some of these costs have been supported by federal appropriations in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill (5-4-21):

Davison Board of Education
Oakland Schools

The following entities indicated opposition to the bill (5-4-21):

Michigan Education Association
Michigan Association of School Boards

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