

Michigan Auctioneers Association Bill Tracking Report

We are absolutely ecstatic that the Michigan Auctioneers Association (MAA) has decided to enroll in our Legislative Tracking Service! This partnership is a fantastic opportunity to keep Michigan's auctioneers informed and up-to-date on the latest legislative developments that could impact the auction industry. We understand how critical it is to stay ahead of new laws and regulations that may affect your business, and we're here to ensure that you have the insights needed to do so.

Each report will highlight bills that have the potential to influence the auction profession—whether it's related to licensing, regulatory changes, tax policies, or other business-related matters. We will keep you updated on the progress of these bills and how they might impact your operations, so you're always prepared to advocate for the interests of Michigan's auctioneers.

Michigan's legislative 103rd session officially convened on January 8, 2025, and is set to adjourn on December 31, 2025, with legislative work continuing into 2026. Thankfully, we haven't seen many bills directly mentioning auctions or auctioneers at this time. However, there have been a slew of other legislative actions that could have an indirect impact on the industry—whether it's through changes in tax laws, business regulations, or other relevant policy areas. **Below, you'll find a detailed report on key legislative developments starting from January 8, including current updates on bills and how they could potentially affect your business.**

Bill: [MI HB4090](#)

Introduced By: Representative Rep. Alabas Farhat (D-3)

Committee: Government Operations

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/19/2025

Bill Summary: This bill authorizes the state administrative board to sell approximately 96.14 acres of state-owned property in Detroit, formerly the site of the Mound and Ryan Correctional Facilities in Wayne County. The bill first gives the City of Detroit a two-year option to purchase the entire property or portions of it for \$1.00, subject to certain conditions. If the city does not purchase the property, the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget can sell the property through various methods including competitive bidding, public auction, real estate brokerage services, or negotiated value-for-value exchanges. The bill defines key terms like "public use" (which must involve actual public access or government use for purposes such as parks, education, or emergency services) and "net revenue" (sale proceeds minus associated sale costs). Any sale must prioritize obtaining the best value for the state, which can be determined by fair market value or potential economic impact. The bill includes several important restrictions

on the sale, such as requiring the property to be used exclusively for public purposes, giving the state a right of first refusal if the property is resold, and reserving state rights to aboriginal antiquities found on the property. Any net revenue from the sale will be deposited into the state's general fund.

Relevancy: The bill is relevant to the auction industry as it allows the sale of state-owned property through various methods, including competitive bidding and public auction. If the City of Detroit does not purchase the property, the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget can auction or sell the land, aiming to secure the best value for the state.

Bill: [MI HB4111](#)

Introduced By: Representative Greg VanWoerkom (R-88)

Committee: Finance

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/25/2025

Bill Summary: This bill provides a property tax exemption for certain hydrogen fuel pumps used to fill motor vehicles with hydrogen fuel. Specifically, for taxes levied after December 31, 2025, all personal property classified as industrial or commercial that constitutes a "qualified hydrogen fuel pump" will be exempt from property tax collection. A qualified hydrogen fuel pump is defined as a machine or device located in Michigan used to fill motor vehicles with hydrogen fuel, meeting either the H35 standard (35 Megapascals dispensing pressure) or the H70 standard (70 Megapascals dispensing pressure). The bill also updates related sections of the General Property Tax Act to incorporate this new exemption, including adding the hydrogen fuel pump installation to a list of normal maintenance activities that do not increase a property's assessed value. The bill is tied to the passage of House Bill 4112, meaning it will only take effect if that companion bill is also enacted into law. The purpose appears to be to encourage the development of hydrogen fuel infrastructure by providing a tax incentive for businesses that install hydrogen fueling equipment.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry because it outlines the possibility of selling state-owned property through various methods, including competitive bidding and public auction. Specifically, the bill authorizes the sale of about 96 acres of land in Detroit, with the potential for the property to be auctioned off if the City of Detroit doesn't exercise its option to purchase it.

Bill: [MI HB4135](#)

Introduced By: Representative Sarah Lightner (R-45)

Committee: Appropriations

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/26/2025

Bill Summary: This bill provides a comprehensive framework for the conveyance of a specific 81.078-acre parcel of state-owned land located in Jackson County, Michigan, which was formerly the Dalton Road Landfill and is currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections. The bill first defines key terms such as "fair market value" (the highest estimated

open market price), "public use" (actual use by the public or local government for purposes like government administration, parks, education, or conservation), and establishes that Jackson County has the first right to purchase the property for \$1.00 within two years of the act's effective date. If Jackson County does not purchase the property, the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget can sell it through various methods including competitive bidding, public auction, real estate brokerage services, or negotiated value-for-value exchanges, with the goal of obtaining the best value for the state. Any sale must include conditions such as exclusive public use, restrictions on future property transfers, and the state's retention of rights to aboriginal antiquities and potential future oil, gas, or mineral revenues. The bill also specifies that if the property is used in a manner inconsistent with the prescribed restrictions, the state can reclaim the property. Finally, any net revenue from the sale will be deposited into the state's general fund, with net revenue defined as sale proceeds minus associated sale preparation and administrative costs.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry because it outlines the potential sale of state-owned land in Jackson County through methods like competitive bidding or public auction. If Jackson County doesn't purchase the property, auctioneers could be involved in managing the auction process to ensure the land is sold at the best possible price. The auction would need to comply with specific restrictions, such as the property being used for public purposes, and auction professionals would play a key role in ensuring these terms are met while maximizing revenue for the state.

Bill: [MI HB4002](#)

Introduced By: Representative Jay DeBoyer (R-63)

Committee: Select Committee on Protecting Michigan Employees and Small Businesses

Current Status & Last Action: Signed/Enacted/Adopted, Filed With Secretary Of State 02/21/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends Michigan's existing earned sick time law to provide more comprehensive guidelines for employees' sick leave rights. The bill requires employers to provide earned sick time to employees, with different accrual rates for small businesses (10 or fewer employees) and larger employers. Small businesses must provide up to 40 hours of paid sick time per year, while other employers must provide up to 72 hours. Employees can use this time for various purposes, including personal or family medical care, dealing with domestic violence or sexual assault, attending school meetings related to a child's health or disability, and public health emergencies. The bill protects employees from retaliation for using earned sick time and requires employers to maintain confidentiality of employee medical and personal information. Employees can accrue sick time at a rate of 1 hour for every 30 hours worked, and unused time can carry over to the next year, with a maximum cap. The law applies to most employers and employees, with some exceptions for specific types of workers like government employees and unpaid interns. The bill also establishes enforcement mechanisms through the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, including the ability to investigate complaints

and impose penalties for violations. The law is set to take effect on February 21, 2025, with some provisions phased in over time.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry because it impacts businesses that host or participate in auctions. The new law mandates paid sick time for employees, with different accrual rates for small businesses and larger employers. This could affect auction houses and event organizers, as they will need to comply with the new sick leave requirements, ensuring they offer paid sick leave to employees and protecting them from retaliation.

Bill: [MI HB4106](#)

Introduced By: Representative Denise Mentzer (D-61)

Committee: Select Committee on Protecting Michigan Employees and Small Businesses

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/20/2025

Bill Summary: This bill creates a \$20 million supplemental appropriation for the Mothering Justice Small Business Assistance Fund within the Michigan Department of Treasury, specifically designed to help small businesses impacted by a recent Supreme Court decision. The bill defines a "small business" as a for-profit, independently owned business with 25 or fewer employees, and establishes that each eligible business can receive up to \$20,000 in financial assistance. To qualify for funding, businesses must provide payroll and employee attendance records from the previous two years, which the department will use to assess the potential impact of the Supreme Court decision. The fund is intended to help businesses defray costs related to increasing minimum wage and implementing paid sick leave requirements. The appropriation is designated as a work project, meaning unspent funds will remain available until the project is completed, with a tentative end date of September 30, 2029. The Department of Treasury can spend up to \$100,000 of the fund for administrative expenses, and the appropriation comes entirely from the state general fund.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry as it provides financial assistance to small businesses, including auction houses, impacted by a recent Supreme Court decision. Small businesses with 25 or fewer employees can receive up to \$20,000 to help with costs related to minimum wage increases and paid sick leave. This support can assist auction businesses in managing operational expenses and complying with new labor laws.

Bill: [MI SB0015](#)

Introduced By: Senator Sam Singh (D-28)

Committee: Regulatory Affairs

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/20/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends Michigan's Earned Sick Time Act to modify several key provisions related to employee sick leave. The bill changes the definition of the administering department from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, and expands the definition of family members who can be cared for using earned sick time. For small businesses (now defined as those with fewer than 25

employees instead of 10), employees can accrue 1 hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, with a maximum of 40 paid hours and 32 unpaid hours per year. For other employers, employees can accrue 1 hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, with a maximum of 72 paid hours per year. The bill allows employers to provide a lump sum of sick time at the beginning of the year as an alternative to accrual. Employees can use sick time for personal or family medical needs, dealing with domestic violence or sexual assault, school meetings, and public health emergencies. The bill also reduces the statute of limitations for filing a complaint from 3 years to 1 year and increases potential penalties for employers who violate the act, including fines of up to \$1,000 per violation and up to 8 times an employee's normal hourly wage for failing to provide earned sick time.

Relevancy: This bill impacts the auction industry by modifying Michigan's Earned Sick Time Act, affecting how small and larger businesses, including auction houses, manage sick leave. The changes expand the definition of family members eligible for care and adjust accrual rates for sick time. Small businesses (fewer than 25 employees) can now offer up to 40 paid hours, while larger employers can offer up to 72 paid hours. The bill also increases penalties for non-compliance, which could impact auction businesses' operations if they fail to meet the new sick leave requirements.

Bill: [MI SB0134](#)

Introduced By: Senator Sam Singh (D-28)

Committee: Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/20/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends the Michigan Consumer Protection Act to enhance consumer safeguards and expand the legal framework for protecting consumers from unfair, deceptive, or harmful business practices. The bill introduces several key modifications, including new definitions for terms like "elder" (individuals 80 years or older), "vulnerable adult" (individuals requiring supervision or personal care), and "small business" (businesses with fewer than 250 employees or less than \$6 million in annual sales). It strengthens the attorney general's investigative and enforcement powers by allowing them to serve written demands for information, examine individuals under oath, and compel the production of documents. The bill also significantly increases potential civil fines for violations, particularly those targeting elders or vulnerable adults, with penalties up to \$50,000 per violation. Additionally, the bill establishes a Consumer Protection and Antitrust Revolving Enforcement and Education Fund, which will receive a portion of attorney fees, costs, and damages from legal actions, to be used for enforcement efforts and public education about consumer protection. The legislation emphasizes liberal interpretation of the act to effectuate its consumer protection purposes and provides more robust mechanisms for investigating and preventing unfair trade practices.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry as it enhances consumer protections, particularly against unfair or deceptive practices. Auction businesses, like others, will need to ensure compliance with the expanded definitions and stricter enforcement measures. The bill

increases penalties for violations, especially those involving vulnerable consumers, and empowers the Attorney General to investigate and take action against businesses engaging in harmful practices. Auction houses will need to be mindful of these regulations to avoid significant fines and legal repercussions.

Bill: [MI HR0007](#)

Introduced By: Representative Matt Hall (R-42)

Committee: Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/20/2025

Bill Summary: A resolution to create the Select Committee on Protecting Michigan Employees and Small Businesses.

Relevancy: This resolution is relevant to the auction industry as it proposes the creation of a committee focused on protecting employees and small businesses in Michigan. The committee's work could address issues such as labor laws, regulations, and financial support for small businesses, which may directly impact auction houses and other small businesses operating in the state.

Bill: [MI HR0007](#)

Introduced By: Representative Steve Carra (R-36)

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Current Status & Last Action: Transmitted 03/19/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends the Michigan Business Tax Act to modify the business income tax rate and provide options for taxpayers with certain credits. Specifically, the bill changes the business income tax rate from 4.95% to 30% for all business activity occurring on or after January 1, 2025. For taxpayers with certificated credits who previously elected to file under the Michigan Business Tax Act, the bill now allows them to switch to filing under the Corporate Income Tax Act starting in tax years beginning after December 31, 2024. This means businesses with existing credits can choose to continue using those credits under the new tax structure. The bill also includes detailed provisions about how these changes will affect various types of taxpayers, including those with affordable housing projects, flow-through entities, and businesses with specific types of tax credits. The changes are part of a broader set of legislative bills that must all be enacted for this bill to take effect, indicating it is part of a comprehensive tax reform package.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry as it significantly alters the business income tax rate in Michigan, raising it from 4.95% to 30% for all business activity starting January 1, 2025. Auction businesses, particularly those with certificated credits, may be affected by the shift in tax structure, as it offers the option to switch from the Michigan Business Tax Act to the Corporate Income Tax Act. This could impact tax planning and compliance for auction houses, especially those with existing tax credits.

Bill: [MI HB4144](#)

Introduced By: Representative Steve Carra (R-36)

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/26/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends Michigan's Income Tax Act by increasing the corporate income tax rate from 6.0% to 8.5% starting January 1, 2025, and modifying how tax revenue is distributed. Currently, corporate income tax revenue goes primarily to the general fund, but the bill introduces a new allocation strategy. Beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the first \$50 million will be deposited into the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund, and any additional revenue attributable to the 2.5% rate increase will be directed to the State School Aid Fund. The bill aims to generate more funding for housing initiatives and education by increasing the corporate tax rate. The legislation also makes technical changes to tax calculation rules, such as how businesses calculate their taxable income, including adjustments for items like interest income, dividends, and expenses. These modifications provide more detailed guidance on how corporations should determine their tax liability under Michigan law, ensuring a more precise and comprehensive approach to corporate taxation.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry as it increases Michigan's corporate income tax rate from 6.0% to 8.5% starting January 1, 2025. Auction businesses that are structured as corporations will face a higher tax burden. Additionally, the bill changes how tax revenue is allocated, directing funds to housing and education initiatives, which could indirectly affect the business environment. The revised rules for calculating taxable income may also impact the way auction houses determine their tax liability.

Bill: [MI SB0198](#)

Introduced By: Representative Denise Mentzer (D-61)

Committee: Regulatory Affairs

Current Status & Last Action: Referred To Committee 03/20/2025

Bill Summary: This bill, known as the Motor Vehicle Dealer Data Collection Act, establishes comprehensive regulations for protecting automobile dealer data and controlling how third parties and manufacturers can access, use, and share such data. The bill defines key terms like "protected dealer data" (which includes consumer personal information, vehicle diagnostic data, and business operational data) and requires prior express written consent from dealers before any third party or manufacturer can access, share, sell, copy, use, or transmit their data.

Manufacturers are limited in their data access, primarily restricted to using "required manufacturer data" for specific purposes such as safety recalls, processing vehicle sales, validating incentives, and conducting performance evaluations. The bill mandates that dealer data vendors provide standardized frameworks for data exchange and integration, and ensures dealers can audit and terminate data-sharing agreements. Dealers have the right to revoke consent with 60 days' notice, and manufacturers must indemnify dealers for any third-party claims resulting from unauthorized data access. Violations of the act can result in civil fines of

up to \$5,000 per violation, and the legislation does not apply to data generated outside of dealer data systems or prevent dealers from maintaining existing data protection obligations.

Relevancy: While this bill primarily focuses on automobile dealers, it could be relevant to the auction industry if auction houses handle or process similar sensitive data, such as consumer personal information or business operational data. The Motor Vehicle Dealer Data Collection Act establishes strict regulations around how third parties and manufacturers can access, use, and share dealer data. Auction businesses dealing in vehicle sales or related services would need to comply with these protections, ensuring they obtain proper consent for data sharing and are aware of the potential penalties for violations.

Bill: [MI HB4139](#)

Introduced By: Representative Jim DeSana (R-29)

Committee: Judiciary

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 02/26/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends Michigan's firearms licensing law to remove references to the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, which appears to have been repealed. The bill makes technical changes to several sections of the existing law, primarily focusing on updating language related to firearms licensing and concealed pistol permits. Specifically, the bill removes mentions of extreme risk protection orders from various sections that detail licensing requirements, eligibility criteria, and license suspension procedures. The changes impact how individuals qualify for firearms licenses, with modifications to the sections that list disqualifying factors for obtaining a license to purchase or carry a firearm. The bill ensures that the existing firearms licensing statute reflects the current legal landscape by eliminating references to a law that is no longer in effect. Notably, the bill is tied to another piece of legislation (House Bill 4140) and will only take effect if that companion bill becomes law.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry, particularly for auctioneers who handle the sale of firearms. It amends Michigan's firearms licensing law by removing references to the now-repealed Extreme Risk Protection Order Act and updating language related to licensing and concealed pistol permits. Auction houses dealing with firearms will need to ensure compliance with these updated regulations, particularly regarding the eligibility criteria for buyers and the disqualifying factors for obtaining a firearm license. Any changes to licensing requirements could impact how firearms are sold at auction.

Bill: [MI HB4186](#)

Introduced By: Representative Steve Carra (R-36)

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Current Status & Last Action: Transmitted 03/19/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends the Michigan Business Tax Act to modify the business income tax rate and provide options for taxpayers with certain credits. Specifically, the bill changes the business income tax rate from 4.95% to 30% for all business activity occurring on or after

January 1, 2025. For taxpayers with certificated credits who previously elected to file under the Michigan Business Tax Act, the bill now allows them to switch to filing under the Corporate Income Tax Act starting in tax years beginning after December 31, 2024. This means businesses with existing credits can choose to continue using those credits under the new tax structure. The bill also includes detailed provisions about how these changes will affect various types of taxpayers, including those with affordable housing projects, flow-through entities, and businesses with specific types of tax credits. The changes are part of a broader set of legislative bills that must all be enacted for this bill to take effect, indicating it is part of a comprehensive tax reform package.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry because it significantly alters Michigan's business income tax rate, raising it from 4.95% to 30% starting January 1, 2025. Auction businesses that are structured as corporations will face a higher tax burden under this new rate. Additionally, businesses with existing tax credits can opt to switch to the Corporate Income Tax Act, potentially impacting auction houses that may have certificated credits or are involved in specific tax credit programs. The changes could affect how auction houses manage their finances and tax planning moving forward.

Bill: [MI HB4213](#)

Introduced By: Representative Mike Hoadley (R-99)

Committee: Government Operations

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 03/12/2025

Bill Summary: This bill eliminates several existing restrictions on where individuals with concealed pistol licenses can carry firearms. Specifically, the bill removes previous prohibitions on carrying concealed weapons in locations such as schools, child care centers, sports arenas, bars, places of worship, entertainment facilities, hospitals, and college campuses. The only remaining significant restriction is for establishments with certain security measures. The bill maintains existing penalties for violations, which range from civil infractions for a first offense (with a 6-month license suspension) to felony charges for third or subsequent violations (potentially including up to 4 years imprisonment). For private property owners who want to prohibit firearms, the bill now requires them to have metal detectors at every entrance and on-site security personnel if they wish to prevent concealed carry. The bill also continues to provide exceptions for certain professionals like law enforcement officers, corrections officers, judges, and other specific licensed individuals who are permitted to carry concealed weapons in these previously restricted locations. These changes represent a significant expansion of where licensed concealed pistol holders can legally carry their firearms in Michigan.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry, particularly for auction houses that host events or auctions in venues where firearms may be present. It expands the locations where individuals with concealed pistol licenses can legally carry firearms, removing previous prohibitions in places like sports arenas, bars, hospitals, and college campuses. Auction houses, especially those dealing with firearms or operating in larger venues, may need to reassess their

security protocols, as private property owners will be required to have metal detectors and security personnel if they wish to prohibit concealed carry on their premises. This could affect how firearm-related auctions or events are managed.

Bill: [MI HB4233](#)

Introduced By: Representative Gina Johnsen (R-78)

Committee: Government Operations

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 03/12/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends Michigan law to prohibit foreign persons, including foreign businesses and governments, from purchasing agricultural land in the state. The new section 36a establishes that foreign entities cannot acquire farmland, with some exceptions. Existing foreign landowners can retain their current agricultural land but cannot purchase additional property. Exceptions include land acquired through inheritance (which must be sold within two years), land taken as a security encumbrance, and land acquired through legal processes like foreclosure (also subject to a two-year divestment requirement). Foreign persons who already own agricultural land must register their property with the secretary of state within 60 days, providing details such as ownership information, location, and acquisition date. If a foreign entity violates these restrictions, the attorney general will initiate legal action, potentially resulting in the land being declared escheated (transferred) to the state and sold, with proceeds going to court costs and the previous owner. The bill defines key terms like "agricultural land," "farming," and "foreign person" to provide clarity. Violations can result in civil fines up to \$2,000, and a person remains in violation as long as they hold the agricultural land illegally.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry, particularly for auctions involving agricultural land. It prohibits foreign entities from purchasing farmland in Michigan, with some exceptions, and requires existing foreign landowners to register their property. Auction houses dealing with agricultural land sales may need to adjust their processes to ensure compliance with the new regulations, particularly when foreign buyers are involved. Auctions for agricultural land may be impacted if foreign entities seek to acquire property in violation of the law, potentially leading to legal action or the land being seized and resold.

Bill: [MI HB4234](#)

Introduced By: Representative Luke Meerman (R-89)

Committee: Government Operations

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 03/13/2025

Bill Summary: This bill establishes significant restrictions on foreign entities' ability to purchase or own agricultural land and real property within 20 miles of military installations or key facilities in Michigan. Specifically, foreign principals (defined as entities or individuals from countries of concern like China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, or Syria) are prohibited from directly or indirectly acquiring agricultural land or real property near sensitive locations. Existing foreign-owned properties within these zones can be retained but cannot be

expanded, and owners must register with the state's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development by July 1, 2025. Failure to register can result in civil fines up to \$1,000 per day. If a foreign principal acquires such property through inheritance, debt collection, or other means, they must divest within two years. The bill imposes criminal penalties, including potential misdemeanor charges and fines up to \$500, for violations. In cases of non-compliance, the state can initiate court proceedings that may result in the property being declared escheated (forfeited) to the state and sold. The legislation aims to protect strategic land areas near military installations and key facilities from foreign ownership, particularly from governments or entities associated with countries deemed potential national security risks.

Relevancy: This bill is highly relevant to the auction industry, particularly for auctions involving agricultural land or real property near military installations or key facilities in Michigan. It restricts foreign entities from purchasing or owning such land, particularly from countries deemed to be national security risks. Auction houses involved in the sale of agricultural or real property in these areas will need to ensure compliance with these new restrictions, including verifying the ownership of potential buyers. Failure to adhere to the registration requirements or violations of the divestment provisions could lead to significant legal consequences, including fines and the forfeiture of property.

Bill: [MI HB4263](#)

Introduced By: Representative Mike McFall (D-14)

Committee: Judiciary

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 03/18/2025

Bill Summary: This bill establishes the "Event Online Ticket Sales Act" to regulate ticket sales for public entertainment events, defining such events as concerts, theatrical performances, sporting events, exhibitions, or shows held in Michigan that charge an admission fee. The legislation prohibits using automated programs or technological methods to circumvent ticket purchasing restrictions, specifically banning actions that disable or bypass security measures designed to: enforce ticket purchase limits, manage electronic queues or waiting periods, control sales volume during online ticket sales, or validate ticket authenticity. The bill broadly defines "person" to include individuals, businesses, and legal entities, and defines "ticket" as any physical or electronic document that grants entry to an event. A key provision is preventing the use of bots or automated systems that could unfairly acquire multiple tickets beyond posted purchasing limits, which aims to protect consumers and ensure fairer access to event tickets. The bill is tied to another piece of legislation and will only take effect if a companion bill is also enacted into law.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry, particularly for auction houses that deal with the sale of tickets to events, such as sporting events, concerts, or shows. The "Event Online Ticket Sales Act" aims to prevent unfair practices like the use of bots to acquire tickets beyond purchase limits, ensuring fairer access to tickets. Auction houses involved in reselling tickets or

managing events may need to adjust their processes to comply with these new regulations, especially regarding the sale and authenticity of tickets.

Bill: [MI SB0010](#)

Introduced By: Representative Joe Bellino (D-14)

Committee: Government Operations

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 03/18/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends existing Michigan law to prohibit foreign governments, state-sponsored enterprises, and individuals acting on their behalf from purchasing farmland in the state. The bill defines farmland as land zoned for agricultural use capable of producing crops, livestock, poultry, timber, dairy, orchards, or other agricultural products. Foreign governments are specifically defined to exclude U.S. federal, state, and local governments. The legislation allows foreign entities that already owned farmland in Michigan before October 1, 2023, to retain their existing property but prevents them from acquiring additional land. Key exceptions are made for land acquisitions that occur under United States treaties. The bill introduces technical definitions like "controlling interest" (50% or more ownership) and "primary interest" (serving geopolitical aims or investing against U.S. interests). The amendments modify previous provisions about land ownership by non-citizens, effectively creating new restrictions specifically targeting foreign government and state-sponsored enterprise land purchases in Michigan's agricultural sectors.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry, particularly for auctions involving farmland. It prohibits foreign governments, state-sponsored enterprises, and individuals acting on their behalf from purchasing farmland in Michigan, with some exceptions. Auction houses dealing in agricultural land sales will need to ensure compliance with these new restrictions, especially when foreign buyers are involved. Existing foreign landowners can retain their property but cannot acquire more, which could impact future land sales and auctions. Auctions for agricultural land may need to verify buyer eligibility and be prepared for potential legal challenges if foreign entities attempt to purchase farmland in violation of the new law.

Bill: [MI SB0010](#)

Introduced By: Representative Joe Bellino (D-14)

Committee: Government Operations

Current Status & Last Action: In Committee, Bill Electronically Reproduced 03/18/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends the Michigan Consumer Protection Act to enhance consumer safeguards and expand the legal framework for protecting consumers from unfair, deceptive, or harmful business practices. The bill introduces several key modifications, including new definitions for terms like "elder" (individuals 80 years or older), "vulnerable adult" (individuals requiring supervision or personal care), and "small business" (businesses with fewer than 250 employees or less than \$6 million in annual sales). It strengthens the attorney general's investigative and enforcement powers by allowing them to serve written demands for

information, examine individuals under oath, and compel the production of documents. The bill also significantly increases potential civil fines for violations, particularly those targeting elders or vulnerable adults, with penalties up to \$50,000 per violation. Additionally, the bill establishes a Consumer Protection and Antitrust Revolving Enforcement and Education Fund, which will receive a portion of attorney fees, costs, and damages from legal actions, to be used for enforcement efforts and public education about consumer protection. The legislation emphasizes liberal interpretation of the act to effectuate its consumer protection purposes and provides more robust mechanisms for investigating and preventing unfair trade practices.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry as it enhances consumer protections, particularly for vulnerable groups such as elders and vulnerable adults. Auction houses will need to be more diligent in their business practices to avoid deceptive or unfair trade practices, as the bill increases penalties for violations, including significant fines up to \$50,000 per violation. The strengthened powers of the attorney general to investigate and enforce consumer protection laws could also affect auctioneers, especially if complaints are filed against them. Auction houses, especially small businesses, should ensure their advertising, sales, and customer interactions are fully compliant with these stricter regulations to avoid potential legal and financial consequences.

Bill: [MI SB0134](#)

Introduced By: Senator Sam Singh (D-28)

Committee: Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection

Current Status & Last Action: Referred To Committee On Finance, Insurance, And Consumer Protection 03/06/2025

Bill Summary: This bill amends the Michigan Consumer Protection Act to enhance consumer safeguards and expand the legal framework for protecting consumers from unfair, deceptive, or harmful business practices. The bill introduces several key modifications, including new definitions for terms like "elder" (individuals 80 years or older), "vulnerable adult" (individuals requiring supervision or personal care), and "small business" (businesses with fewer than 250 employees or less than \$6 million in annual sales). It strengthens the attorney general's investigative and enforcement powers by allowing them to serve written demands for information, examine individuals under oath, and compel the production of documents. The bill also significantly increases potential civil fines for violations, particularly those targeting elders or vulnerable adults, with penalties up to \$50,000 per violation. Additionally, the bill establishes a Consumer Protection and Antitrust Revolving Enforcement and Education Fund, which will receive a portion of attorney fees, costs, and damages from legal actions, to be used for enforcement efforts and public education about consumer protection. The legislation emphasizes liberal interpretation of the act to effectuate its consumer protection purposes and provides more robust mechanisms for investigating and preventing unfair trade practices.

Relevancy: This bill is relevant to the auction industry because it enhances consumer protections against unfair and deceptive business practices, with particular emphasis on protecting

vulnerable groups such as elders and vulnerable adults. Auction houses, especially those in the small business category, must ensure that their practices comply with stricter consumer protection regulations. With increased penalties for violations (up to \$50,000 per violation) and expanded powers for the attorney general to investigate and enforce these laws, auctioneers will need to be extra careful in how they advertise, sell, and manage consumer transactions to avoid legal and financial risks.