

Michigan Auctioneers Association Bill Tracking Report

The NAA Advocacy Cornerstone returns with another legislative tracking update, spotlighting important bills recently introduced in Michigan that may influence the auction industry across the state. This report covers a diverse range of topics—from tax withholding reallocations supporting job creation funds, to environmental permitting reforms emphasizing community protections, and property tax exemption expansions aimed at facilitating government-owned property sales.

We examine how these proposals could impact auctioneers engaged in real estate, government surplus, workforce development, and community revitalization auctions. Whether it's navigating new tax distributions tied to certified jobs, understanding evolving environmental justice requirements, or leveraging extended property tax exemptions to assist nonprofit and municipal sales, these bills reflect evolving dynamics auction professionals should watch closely.

The National Auction Association remains dedicated to tracking legislation that affects your business operations and opportunities. Stay informed and prepared with NAA as Michigan's legislative landscape continues to evolve, shaping the future of auctioneering in the Great Lakes State.

RECENTLY FILED LEGISLATION - 8/06/2025 through 8/22/2025

HOUSE

Bill: [MI HB4781](#)

Introduced By: Representative Jay DeBoyer

Committee: Judiciary

Current Status & Last Action: Bill Electronically Reproduced 08/21/2025 (on 08/26/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill amends the Whistleblowers' Protection Act to enhance protections and penalties for employees who report workplace violations. The bill expands the remedies a court can order in whistleblower cases, now allowing courts to award reinstatement, payment of three times the amount of back wages owed, full reinstatement of fringe benefits and seniority rights, actual damages, or a combination of these remedies. Additionally, courts may award some or all litigation costs, including reasonable attorney and witness fees, if deemed appropriate. The bill also increases the civil fine for violations from \$500 to \$2,000, which must be deposited in the general fund. These changes strengthen the legal protections for employees who report workplace misconduct by providing more comprehensive financial and professional recovery options and increasing potential financial penalties for employers who violate the act.

Relevancy: While this bill does not directly regulate the auction industry, it could impact auction businesses as employers. Auctioneers who operate companies with employees should be aware of the expanded remedies and increased penalties under the Whistleblowers' Protection Act. Staff who report workplace violations—whether related to wage issues, workplace safety, or compliance with state regulations—would have stronger protections and greater recourse in court. This may encourage more employee reporting and place greater responsibility on auction businesses to maintain compliant, transparent, and fair workplace practices. Employers in the auction profession should take note of the enhanced financial and professional recovery options for employees and review internal policies to mitigate risk.

Bill: [MI HB4762](#)

Introduced By: Representative Jason Woolford

Committee: Economic Competitiveness

Current Status & Last Action: Bill Electronically Reproduced 08/13/2025 (on 08/14/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill amends the Youth Employment Standards Act to expand employment opportunities for minors, primarily focusing on adding new provisions for youth employment in residential building construction. The bill maintains existing exemptions for youth employment in various settings like domestic work, family businesses, farming, and volunteer charitable construction, while introducing a new section that allows 16-year-olds to work in residential building construction under specific strict conditions. These conditions include holding a 10-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training certification, completing a state-approved career and technical education trades program, working under direct supervision of an experienced adult who also has OSHA certification, and limiting work on structures over 6 feet tall such as scaffolding, roofs, and ladders. The bill also retains the existing requirement that school-age minors can only work outside of school hours, unless they are part of a work-related educational program. The changes aim to provide structured, safe opportunities for youth to gain practical work experience in the construction trades while maintaining robust safety protections.

Relevancy: Although this bill primarily addresses youth employment in construction trades, it could have indirect implications for the auction profession. Many auction companies hire part-time or seasonal help, often from younger workers, to assist with setup, clerking, technology support, or event logistics. By expanding structured work opportunities for 16-year-olds in skilled environments, this bill reinforces the importance of safety training, certification, and supervision when employing youth. Auctioneers who bring on minors for event support should be aware of evolving state labor laws and may consider adopting similar safety and training practices. Additionally, as the bill emphasizes career and technical education, it could encourage more young people to pursue hands-on industries—potentially creating a pipeline of trained, responsible workers who could also find opportunities in auction operations, estate sales, or related event services.

Bill: [MI HB4766](#)

Introduced By: Representative Laurie Pohutsky

Committee: Regulatory Reform

Current Status & Last Action: Bill Electronically Reproduced 08/13/2025 (on 08/14/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill amends Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of products containing plastic microbeads, which are tiny synthetic particles less than 5 millimeters in size. Beginning January 1, 2026, the bill will ban the manufacture and promotional offering of materials with plastic microbeads, with an exception for personal care and cleaning products. Starting January 1, 2027, the bill will prohibit selling or distributing personal care and cleaning products containing plastic microbeads, unless the amount is less than 1 part per million by weight. Violations can result in civil fines up to \$2,000 per day, with courts considering factors such as the nature of the violation, its severity, and the economic impact on the violator. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy will be responsible for administering and enforcing the law, providing public information about the prohibitions, and preparing annual reports on enforcement and progress. The bill defines various terms like "personal care product" and "plastic" and allows the department to create additional rules to implement these provisions, with the overall goal of reducing plastic microbead pollution in the environment.es annual reporting on claims and fund status to state budget and appropriations committees.

Relevancy: This bill is unlikely to directly impact auctioneers, but it may have indirect effects on certain auction categories. Auctioneers who sell personal care or cleaning products—such as in liquidation, surplus, or wholesale auctions—will need to ensure that these products comply with the new restrictions on plastic microbeads beginning in 2026 and 2027. Noncompliant items could carry legal risk if sold after the ban dates. Additionally, the environmental focus of this legislation aligns with growing consumer and donor interest in sustainability. Auctioneers working in benefit or charity auctions may find that highlighting environmentally responsible practices, or avoiding restricted products, aligns with the values of bidders and nonprofit partners.

Bill: [MI HB4767](#)

Introduced By: Representative Denise Mentzer

Committee: Natural Resources and Tourism

Current Status & Last Action: Bill Electronically Reproduced 08/13/2025 (on 08/14/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill establishes a comprehensive statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan for Michigan, focusing on understanding the impact of microplastics in the Great Lakes ecosystem. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy will develop this plan in consultation with research institutions like Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, with the goal of assessing the occurrence and effects of microplastics on human and animal health. The plan must include strategies for identifying ecological and economic impacts, methods for sampling and detecting microplastics using recognized scientific standards, and a baseline assessment of microplastic concentrations in the

Great Lakes. Key components include investigating microplastic sources, developing research objectives, creating an impact assessment framework, and recommending policy changes and solutions to reduce microplastic introduction. The department is required to submit the research plan to the legislature by July 1, 2026, and an implementation report by January 30, 2029, with the goal of adopting and implementing the plan by July 1, 2028, contingent on available funding. The bill defines microplastics as solid plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in size, excluding naturally occurring polymers, and aims to provide a comprehensive approach to understanding and mitigating microplastic pollution.

Relevancy: This bill does not directly regulate auctioneers, but its focus on microplastics research could have indirect impacts on sectors tied to auctions. For auctioneers handling categories such as surplus goods, retail returns, or estate sales involving consumer products, heightened awareness and future regulation of microplastics may influence what products can be sold or how they are marketed. Additionally, because the bill highlights environmental sustainability and the health of the Great Lakes, auctioneers engaged in benefit or charity auctions may see growing bidder and donor interest in environmentally responsible practices.

SENATE

Bill: [MI SB0496](#)

Introduced By: Senator Thomas Albert

Committee: Labor

Current Status & Last Action: Referred To Committee On Labor (on 08/13/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill amends the Youth Employment Standards Act to modify regulations surrounding employment of minors in Michigan. The bill revises definitions, work permit requirements, and employment restrictions for youth under 18 years old. Key changes include modifying work hour limitations for minors under 16, such as restricting them to no more than 6 days per week, 8 hours per day on average, 48 hours per week, and 10 hours per day. The bill removes previous references to specific time periods and simplifies language around work restrictions. It also increases penalties for employers who violate youth employment regulations, with first-time violations potentially resulting in a misdemeanor with up to one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine, and subsequent violations carrying higher fines and potential imprisonment. Notably, the bill adds a provision that if a minor is killed or seriously injured while working, the employer could face a felony charge with up to 5 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine. The legislation maintains protections for minors by ensuring they cannot be employed in hazardous conditions and preserves certain exceptions for specific types of work, such as agricultural labor and volunteer positions. The bill is tied to another Senate bill and will only take effect if that companion legislation is also enacted.

Relevancy: This bill could impact auctioneers who employ minors for part-time or seasonal work, such as clerking, setup, concessions, or event support. By tightening hour limitations, increasing penalties, and introducing felony consequences for serious workplace injuries

involving minors, the bill reinforces the need for strict compliance with youth labor laws. Auction businesses that rely on younger workers should carefully review scheduling, supervision, and safety practices to ensure compliance and avoid liability. While the bill preserves exceptions for agricultural and volunteer work, auctioneers hiring under-18 staff will need to remain attentive to these heightened restrictions and penalties.

Bill: [MI SB0498](#)

Introduced By: Senator Jeff Irwin

Committee: Education

Current Status & Last Action: Referred To Committee On Education (on 08/13/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill establishes a sales tax holiday for back-to-school clothing and supplies in Michigan, allowing purchasers to claim a refund for sales tax paid on eligible items during a specific time period. From August 8th to August 24th in eligible years (between 2025 and 2030), consumers can purchase clothing items priced at \$100 or less and school supplies priced at \$20 or less and later claim a tax refund. To qualify for the refund, purchasers must submit a claim within 30 days of purchase, providing a detailed receipt that includes the seller's name, purchase date, item prices, and sales tax collected. The bill defines eligible back-to-school property as clothing and specific school supplies, explicitly excluding items like clothing accessories, sports equipment, protective gear, and furniture. Sellers remain responsible for collecting sales tax during this period, and a new "back-to-school rebate fund" will be created in the state treasury to manage the refund process. Teachers are also specifically allowed to purchase eligible items for classroom use and claim refunds. The bill aims to provide financial relief to families preparing for the school year by temporarily reducing the cost of essential school-related purchases.

Relevancy: This bill could indirectly affect auctioneers who sell retail returns, surplus goods, or school-related items such as clothing, backpacks, or supplies through auctions. Since sellers are still required to collect sales tax during the holiday period, auction companies would need to ensure receipts are detailed and accurate so buyers can submit refund claims. For charity or benefit auctions tied to back-to-school drives, this bill may also encourage more bidder participation, as families and teachers could take advantage of refunds on qualifying purchases. Auctioneers should be aware of the rebate rules and timelines to answer bidder questions and ensure compliance.

Bill: [MI SB0499](#)

Introduced By: Senator Jeff Irwin

Committee: Education

Current Status & Last Action: Referred To Committee On Education (on 08/13/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill establishes a temporary use tax holiday for back-to-school clothing and school supplies in Michigan, allowing purchasers to claim a refund for use tax paid on eligible items bought between August 8th and August 24th during eligible years (2025-2030). Eligible back-to-school property includes clothing items priced at \$100 or less and school supplies priced

at \$20 or less, but specifically excludes clothing accessories, sports equipment, protective gear, and items for business use. To claim a refund, purchasers must submit a claim within 30 days of purchase, providing a detailed receipt with seller information, purchase date, item prices, and tax collected. The bill defines specific categories of clothing and school supplies, such as binders, calculators, pencils, and notebooks, that qualify for the tax holiday. Teachers are also permitted to purchase eligible items for classroom use and claim a refund. The tax collected during this period will be deposited into a back-to-school rebate fund until September 30, 2030, providing a temporary tax relief to help families offset the cost of school-related purchases.

Relevancy: Similar to the sales tax holiday proposal, this use tax holiday could affect auctioneers who sell retail returns, surplus inventory, or school-related goods through auctions. Since auction companies must still collect use tax at the point of sale, detailed receipts will be essential so buyers can successfully file for refunds. Families and teachers may be more inclined to participate in auctions during this holiday window if eligible items—like clothing or school supplies—are available, making it a potential marketing opportunity for auctioneers.

Bill: [MI SB0503](#)

Introduced By: Senator Jeff Irwin

Committee: Natural Resources And Agriculture

Current Status & Last Action: Referred To Committee On Natural Resources And Agriculture (on 08/14/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill aims to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of products containing plastic microbeads, which are tiny synthetic plastic particles 5 millimeters or less in size, in Michigan. The legislation defines various terms such as personal care products, cleaning products, and air care products, and establishes a phased implementation timeline: starting January 1, 2026, manufacturers cannot produce materials containing plastic microbeads, and by January 1, 2027, selling or distributing personal care and cleaning products with plastic microbeads will be prohibited, with a de minimis exception for products containing less than 1 part per million microbeads by weight. The bill empowers the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to administer and enforce these regulations, with violators subject to civil fines up to \$2,000 per day of violation. The department is required to provide public information about the prohibitions, establish a reporting mechanism for violations, and submit annual reports to legislative committees detailing enforcement efforts and progress toward the law's goals. The legislation allows the department to create additional implementation rules through the administrative procedures act, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to reducing plastic microbead pollution in consumer products.

Relevancy: This bill could affect auctioneers who sell liquidation, surplus, or wholesale lots that include personal care, cleaning, or air care products. Beginning in 2026 and 2027, products containing plastic microbeads will be prohibited from manufacture, sale, or distribution in Michigan, meaning auctioneers must ensure their lots do not include noncompliant items. While the direct impact on most auction categories is limited, businesses dealing in consumer goods

will need to carefully review inventory and supplier sources. Additionally, with Michigan prioritizing sustainability and environmental protections, auctioneers working in charity or benefit events may find opportunities to highlight eco-friendly practices that align with donor and bidder values.

Bill: [MI SB0504](#)

Introduced By: Senator Danya Polehanki

Committee: Natural Resources And Agriculture

Current Status & Last Action: Referred To Committee On Natural Resources And Agriculture (on 08/14/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill amends Michigan's Safe Drinking Water Act to establish a comprehensive microplastics testing program for public water supplies. Beginning July 1, 2027, and continuing through July 1, 2030, the state department will monitor and test public water supplies quarterly for microplastics, which are defined as solid plastic materials less than 5 millimeters in size. The program will examine various water sources, including Great Lakes shorelines, major tributaries, inland lakes, groundwater near agricultural and landfill operations, considering factors like water supply size and environmental justice impacts. Using established scientific sampling methods from organizations like the EPA and American Society for Testing and Materials, the program aims to conduct a preliminary risk assessment of microplastics in drinking water. By July 1, 2031, the department must submit a detailed report to legislative committees that includes comprehensive findings such as quarterly test results, microplastic quantities, source descriptions, and potential origins. The report will also provide recommendations for addressing microplastic presence, including potential toxicity limits, risk assessments, and suggestions for continued monitoring and public protection. This initiative represents a proactive approach to understanding and potentially mitigating potential health risks associated with microplastic contamination in drinking water.

Relevancy: While this bill does not directly regulate auctioneers, it may have indirect relevance for those selling consumer goods or participating in estate, surplus, or retail-return auctions. As Michigan develops a comprehensive microplastics testing program for public water supplies, future regulations or public awareness around microplastics could influence demand for products containing plastics, particularly in household or personal care items. Auctioneers engaged in charity or benefit events may also note growing environmental and health concerns among bidders, which could impact marketing and product selection strategies. Highlighting sustainable practices or eco-friendly items may resonate with environmentally conscious participants.

Bill: [MI SB0505](#)

Introduced By: Senator Sue Shink

Committee: Natural Resources And Agriculture

Current Status & Last Action: Referred To Committee On Natural Resources And Agriculture (on 08/14/2025)

Bill Summary: This bill establishes a comprehensive statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan for Michigan, focusing on assessing the presence and impact of microplastics in the Great Lakes ecosystem. The bill requires the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to develop a detailed strategy in consultation with research institutions like Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. The plan must include strategies for identifying ecological, health, and economic impacts of microplastics, methods for sampling and detecting microplastics using recognized scientific standards, and a baseline assessment of microplastic concentrations in the Great Lakes. The bill mandates an investigation into microplastic sources, research objectives for reducing microplastics, and approaches to minimize their introduction into the environment. The department is required to submit the research plan to the legislature by July 1, 2026, and an implementation report by January 30, 2029. Microplastics are defined as solid plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in size, which may contain chemical additives. The bill emphasizes a comprehensive approach to understanding and mitigating the potential environmental and human health risks associated with microplastics.

Relevancy: While this bill does not directly regulate auctioneers, it may indirectly affect those handling consumer goods or plastic-containing products. Increased research and potential future regulations on microplastics could influence which items can be sold or how they are marketed, particularly in estate, surplus, or retail-return auctions. Auctioneers involved in charity or benefit events may also highlight sustainable practices and eco-friendly products to appeal to environmentally conscious bidders.