



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Three Branches of Government

United States	Branch	Michigan
Congress (House and Senate)	Legislative	Michigan Legislature (House and Senate)
President (Departments and Agencies)	Executive	Governor (Departments and Agencies)
U.S. Supreme Court (Federal Courts)	Judicial	Michigan Supreme Court (State Courts)



Members of the Legislature

House of Representatives		Senate
110	Number of Members	38
2 years	Term Length	4 years
3 terms	Term Limit*	2 terms

*Term Limits changed with Proposal 2022-1
Most legislators will now have the ability
to serve 12 years in either chamber



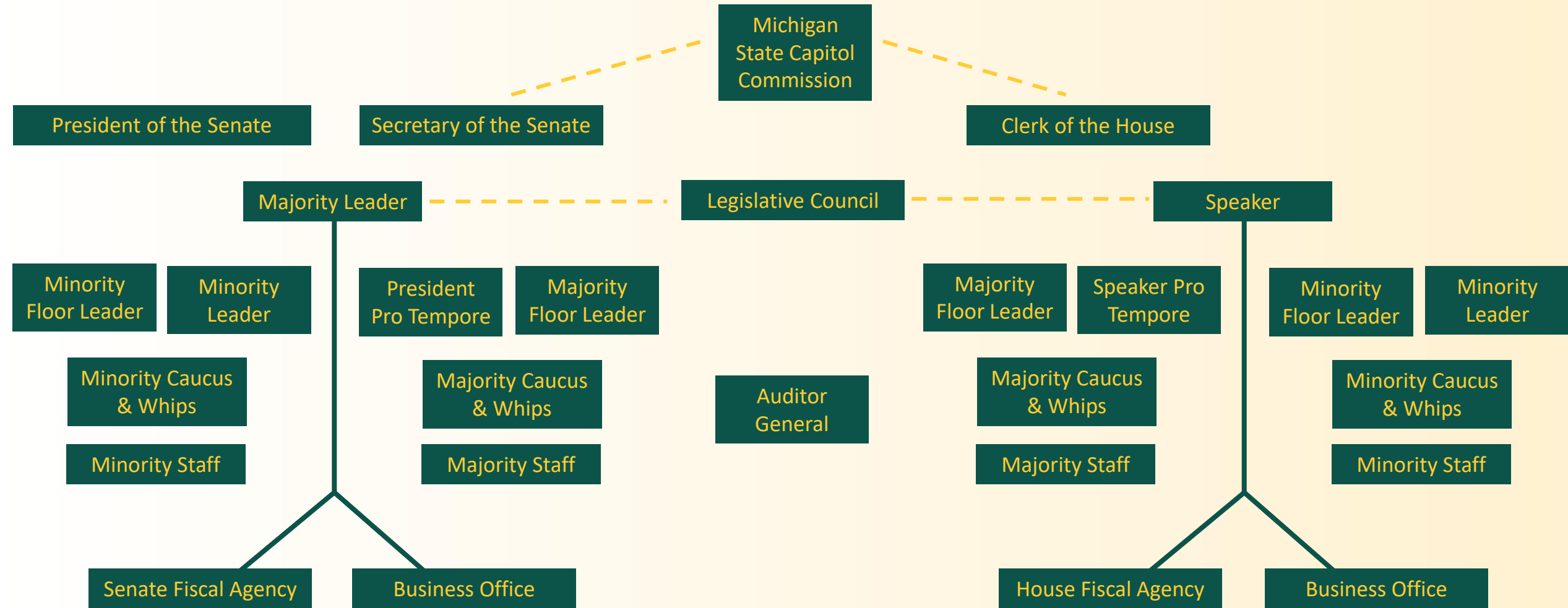
Overview of the Legislature

- Organization and structure of Michigan Legislature
 - Legislators
 - Leadership
 - Staff
 - Rules
 - Committees
- Powers of the Legislature
 - Lawmaking, appropriations, oversight, constituent representation



How is the Legislature Organized?





Role of the Legislative Branch

- Lawmaking
- Appropriations
- Oversight
- Constituent Representation

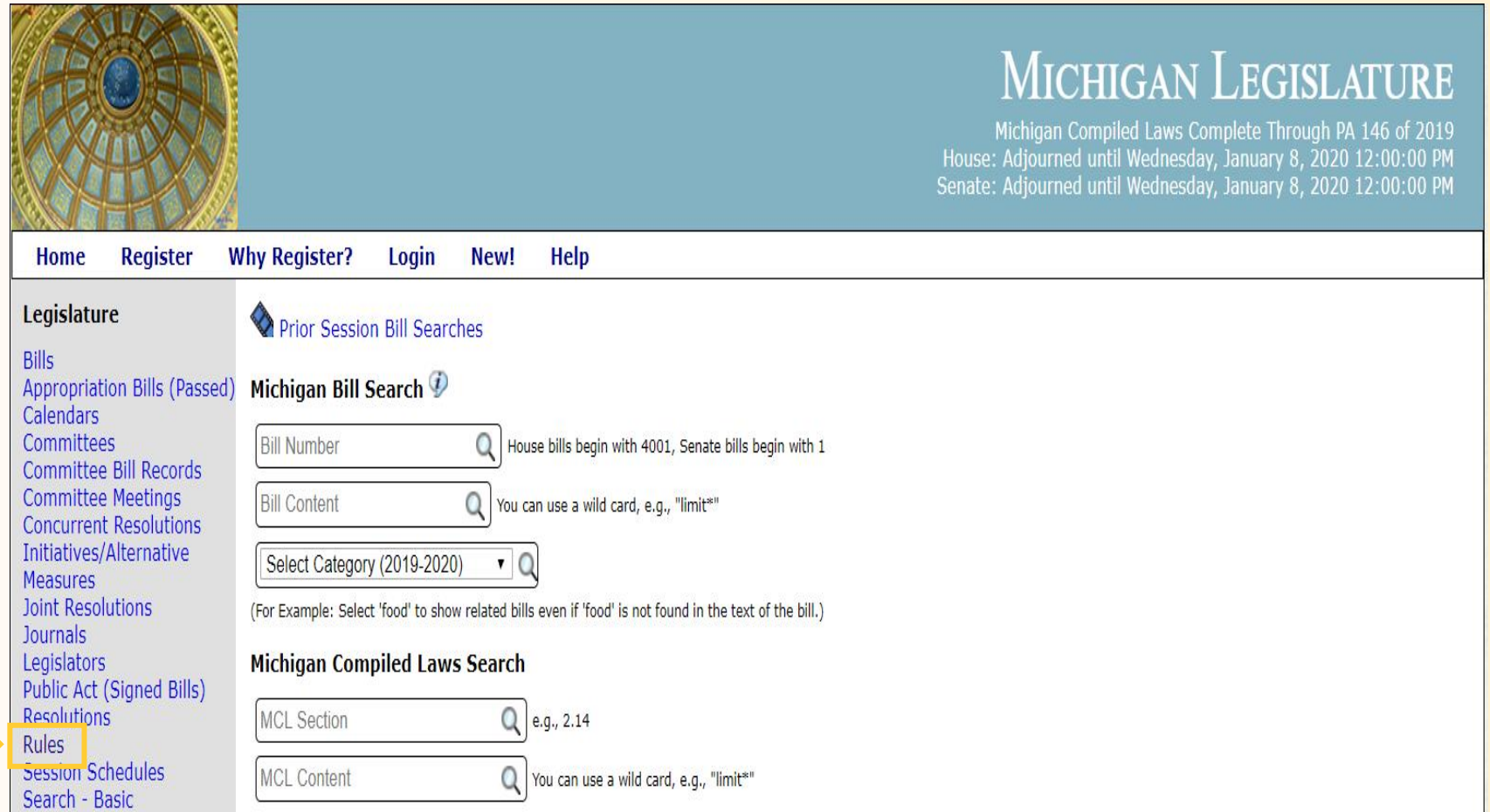


How Does the Legislature Carry out the function of the Legislative Branch?



Chamber Rules

- House Rules
- Senate Rules
- Joint Rules



The screenshot shows the Michigan Legislature website. The header features a blue banner with the Michigan State Capitol dome on the left and the text "MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE" on the right, followed by adjournment dates for the House and Senate. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: Home, Register, Why Register?, Login, New!, and Help. A left sidebar lists various legislative topics, with "Rules" highlighted by a yellow box and an orange arrow pointing to it from the left. The main content area includes a "Prior Session Bill Searches" section, a "Michigan Bill Search" section with input fields for Bill Number, Bill Content, and a category dropdown, and a "Michigan Compiled Laws Search" section with input fields for MCL Section and MCL Content. Explanatory text for the search fields is provided.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE
Michigan Compiled Laws Complete Through PA 146 of 2019
House: Adjourned until Wednesday, January 8, 2020 12:00:00 PM
Senate: Adjourned until Wednesday, January 8, 2020 12:00:00 PM

Home Register Why Register? Login New! Help

Legislature
Bills
Appropriation Bills (Passed)
Calendars
Committees
Committee Bill Records
Committee Meetings
Concurrent Resolutions
Initiatives/Alternative Measures
Joint Resolutions
Journals
Legislators
Public Act (Signed Bills)
Resolutions
Rules
Session Schedules
Search - Basic

Prior Session Bill Searches

Michigan Bill Search ⓘ

Bill Number ⓘ House bills begin with 4001, Senate bills begin with 1

Bill Content ⓘ You can use a wild card, e.g., "limit*"

Select Category (2019-2020) ⓘ

(For Example: Select 'food' to show related bills even if 'food' is not found in the text of the bill.)

Michigan Compiled Laws Search

MCL Section ⓘ e.g., 2.14

MCL Content ⓘ You can use a wild card, e.g., "limit*"



Chamber Rules

- Adopted and amended by resolution
- Examples of matters address in rules:
 - Leadership selection and powers
 - Parliamentary/voting procedures
 - Committee establishment and rules
 - Member code of conduct
 - Floor access
 - Access to legislative financial records



Committees

- Standing Committees (which includes the Appropriations Committee)
 - Subcommittees
- Select Committees
- Statutory Committees



Committees

- Organized by subject
- Chair Appointment (Leader)
- Member Appointment (Committee on Committees & Minority Leader)
- Role:
 - Consider legislation
 - Study issues
 - Conduct oversight



Lawmaking

- Enact, amend, and repeal laws
- Propose constitutional amendments
- Policy, business, and commemorative resolutions



Lawmaking Process

Process Stage	Description
Idea and Drafting	A legislator has an idea for a new law and works to develop a bill.
Introduction and Referral	A legislator submits the bill in their chamber and the Speaker or Majority Leader decides which committee will consider it.
Committee	The committee may consider the bill at a public hearing and take testimony from the sponsor, stakeholders, and citizens. The committee may recommend changes to the bill and may vote to refer it to another committee or the entire chamber.
Floor	The entire chamber may debate the bill and consider changes. A majority vote is required to pass the bill.
Other chamber	The process repeats in the other chamber.
Reconcile Differences	If both chambers pass identical language, the bill goes to the Governor. If the chambers pass different versions, they must reconcile them either through a conference committee or by sending the bill back and forth.
Governor	The Governor has 14 days to consider bills. They may sign, veto, or ignore.
Override	If the Governor vetoes the bill, the Legislature may override with a 2/3 vote in both chambers.



Appropriations

- Annual budget
 - Boilerplate
- Supplemental budgets
- Legislative transfers

Sec. 208. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used by a principal executive department, state agency, or authority to hire a person to provide legal services that are the responsibility of the attorney general. This prohibition does not apply to legal services for bonding activities and for those outside services that the attorney general authorizes.

Sec. 209. Not later than November 30, the state budget office shall prepare and transmit a report that provides for estimates of the total general fund/general purpose appropriation lapses at the close of the prior fiscal year. This report shall summarize the projected year-end general fund/general purpose appropriation lapses by major departmental program or program areas. The report shall be transmitted to the chairpersons of the senate and house of representatives standing committees on appropriations and the senate and house fiscal agencies.

ARTICLE I
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PART 1
LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. There is appropriated for the department of agriculture and rural development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, from the following funds:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated unclassified positions	6.0	
Full-time equated classified positions	500.5	
GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 107,948,100
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
IDG from department of licensing and regulatory affairs, liquor quality testing fees.....		223,700
IDG from department of environmental quality, biosolids		90,200
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers.....		313,900
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		\$ 107,634,200
Federal revenues:		
USDA, multiple grants.....		6,118,600
EPA, multiple grants		1,277,300
HHS-FDA		4,140,500
Department of interior		238,800
Total federal revenues		11,775,200
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues.....		0



Appropriations Timeline

Example of Historical Legislative Appropriations Timeline

Month	Action Taken
January	First Meeting of Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference
January	Governor's Recommendation Prepared for Submission to Legislature Governor's "State-of-the-State" and Budget Message Prepared
February	Budget Documents Delivered to Legislature
March - June	Legislative Action – Subcommittee & Committee Hearings, Floor Votes, Conference Committees
May	Second Meeting of Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference
May	House and Senate Leaders and Governor meet to set spending targets
June	Governor Signs (or vetoes) Bills – May include Line-Item Vetoes
September 30	Fiscal Year Ends
October 1	Fiscal Year Begins



Oversight

- Monitor, review, and investigate the implementation of state law and determine appropriate responses to other significant issues.
- Legislative oversight is an important check on executive power.

Direct Powers

- Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)
- Advice and consent
- Executive reorganization disapproval
- Impeachment and removal

Tools

- Committee hearings and investigations (subpoena power)
- Reporting requirements
- Sunset laws
- Whistleblower laws
- Auditor General
- Ombudsman

Responses

- Legislation
- Appropriations
- Awareness



Constituent Representation

- Connect with resources
- Navigate government
- Advocate on their behalf
- Solve problems
- Voice opinions
- Research issues
- Identify resources and programs
- Communicate with agencies/stakeholders
- Public communications



Examples of Legislation and Appropriations

- Public Acts [134, 136, 137, & 143](#) of 2021
 - Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund
 - Critical Industry Program
 - Michigan Strategic Readiness Program
 - State Administrative Board transfer limitations
- Public Act [132](#) of 2021 (Senate Bill 85)
 - Supplemental Appropriation (Various funding items, including SOAR funds)
- Legislative Transfer 2022-1
 - [Gubernatorial Request](#) to Utilize funds from SOAR
 - [Legislative Approval](#) of Transfer Request 2022-1



Examples of Legislation and Appropriations

- Public Acts [37-38](#) & [180](#) of 2022 (Senate Bills 246, 435, & 1012)
 - Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals
 - Mental Health Professional Program Established
- Public Act [144](#) of 2022 (Senate Bill 845)
 - Omnibus School funding (K-12, Community Colleges, and Higher Education)
 - Sec. 31aa (Mental Health Funding)
 - [Sec. 31aa](#) (Mental Health Funding – House Bill 5795)

