



## Legislative Committee

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Meeting ID: 297 980 930 213 Passcode: Qf3do7yY  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

**Members:** Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jay Dunwell, Jeran Culina, Nate Henschel, TaRita Johnson, Marcus Keech

**Charge:** *The Legislative Committee will educate legislators representing the 7-county region on workforce development programs and their impact on the local economy. The group will advocate for resources and goodwill with state and federal legislators. The committee's role is **Connections** and **Advocacy**.*

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Call to Order   |                         |
| 2. Approval of December 16, 2024 Minutes   | <b>Action Required</b>  |
| 3. Governor Whitmer 2025 State of the State Address: February 26                           | <b>Information Item</b> |
| 4. Michigan Works! Association (MWA) Advocacy Day: March 18-19                             | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 5. 2025 MWA State/Federal Priorities   | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 6. Legislative Visits/Tours  | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 7. Updates from Members  | <b>Discussion Item</b>  |
| 8. Other Business- National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum: March 29-April 1 |                         |

### Next Scheduled Legislative Committee Meetings:

**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**April 22, 2025**

**July 15, 2025**

**October 21, 2025**

**November 18, 2025 – if needed**

**Legislative Committee**

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**Meeting ID: 223 724 810 021 Passcode: sQ7H9AT9**

**Monday, December 16, 2024 • 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Members:** Jim Fisher (Chairperson), Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jeran Culina, Jay Dunwell, Nate Henschel, TaRita Johnson, Marcus Keech

**Present:** Jim Fisher, Nora Balgoyen, Mark Bergsma, Jeran Culina, Marcus Keech, Jacob Maas, Angie Barksdale, Janette Monroe

**Charge:** *The Legislative Committee will educate legislators representing the 7-county region on workforce development programs and their impact on the local economy. The group will advocate for resources and goodwill with state and federal legislators. The committee's role is **Connections and Advocacy**.*

1. Welcome and call to order by Chairperson, Jim Fisher at 11:33 a.m.
2. Approval of July 16, 2024 Minutes **Action Required**  
**Motion – Mark Bergsma**  
**Second – Marcus Keech**  
**Item Approved by Vote – Motion carried.**
3. Appointment of TaRita Johnson **Information Item**  
Janette Monroe, Executive Assistant reported that TaRita Johnson currently serves on the Workforce Development Board (WDB) and expressed interest in joining the legislative committee. On November 18, 2024, Madam Chairperson Heather Daniel approved the appointment for TaRita to serve as a member.
4. 2025 Meeting Schedule **Action Required**  
Janette Monroe reviewed the proposed meeting schedule provided in the packet. Discussion took place. The 2025 meeting dates are as follows: January 28, April 22, July 15, October 21 and November 18. If adjustments are needed throughout the year, those will be made in advance.  
**Motion – Mark Bergsma**  
**Second – Jeran Culina**  
**Item Approved by Vote – Motion carried.**
5. 2025 Election Results **Discussion Item**  
Legislative updates at the State and Federal levels were discussed. Some insights on items which included the focus on road funding, Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA), tipped wage credits, workforce initiatives like skills-based hiring and apprenticeships, Going Pro Talent Fund (GPTF) were also discussed. Committee members discussed planning for 2025 to include strengthening key state and federal legislative relationships, hosting district-level meetings to showcase our workforce programs and their meaningful impacts and legislative priorities.
6. Update from Members **Discussion Item**  
No updates.

7. Other Business –

- a. Michigan Works! Association (MWA) Legislative/Advocacy Day: March 19, 2024  
Staff reported that this event will take place in Lansing and is typically a full day event. Jim, Mark, Marcus and Jeran all reported that they would be interested in attending with West Michigan Works!. Additional information will be provided in January.

- 8. Adjournment at 12:29 p.m. by Jim Fisher. Next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025.

**Motion – Mark Bergsma**

**Second – Jeran Culina**

**Item Approved by Vote – Motion carried.**

Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_ Received by: \_\_\_\_\_