



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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**REWRITE MICHIGAN CAPITOL
COMMITTEE PROVISIONS**

House Bill 5984

Sponsor: Rep. Gary L. Randall

Committee: House Oversight and Ethics

Complete to 9-11-96

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5984 AS INTRODUCED 7-3-96

The bill would repeal Chapter 7 ("The Michigan Capitol Committee") of the Legislative Council Act (MCL 4.1701 and 4.1702), and re-create the Michigan Capitol Committee, with broadened powers, so that generally the committee would have primary authority over the Capitol building and grounds. Thus, instead of the committee making recommendations to the governor and the two house leaders regarding the restoration and preservation of the Capitol and its grounds, the governor and the legislative leaders would advise and make recommendations to the committee.

Committee composition and operation. As currently is the case, the 12-member committee would consist of four Senate members appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and four members appointed by the governor from the executive branch of government. One Senate member and one House member would have to be from the minority party, and each member would serve at the pleasure of the official who had appointed them. Members would serve for two years, with the terms of the legislative members ending at the end of each two-year legislative session ("legislative biennium"). Vacancies would be filled in the same way as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term, and members could be reappointed to the committee. Committee action could only be taken by concurring majorities of the three sets of appointees. Committee business would have to be conducted publicly in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and committee records of official functions would be available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

Committee powers and duties. Currently, the Michigan Capitol Committee advises and makes recommendations to the governor and the two legislative leaders (the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House) regarding the restoration and preservation of the state Capitol building and the management, operation, development, construction, renovation, maintenance, and repair of the state Capitol building and grounds (the latter being defined as the property on which the state Capitol building is situated, bordered on the north by Ottawa Street, on the east by Capitol Avenue, on the south by Allegan Street, and on the west by Walnut Street). Recommendations must take effect 15 days after being submitted to the governor and legislative leaders unless rejected by them in writing. The committee currently is required to develop and recommend written procedures for its operation, and to make recommendations to the governor and legislative leaders regarding (a) the implementation of all permanent physical changes to be made in or on the Capitol building and all physical changes to be made on the grounds of the Capitol building; (b) the implementation of a state Capitol building master plan; (c) public and

private financial support for the development, construction, renovation, and preservation of the Capitol building and grounds; and (d) the selection, design, and placement of statues, memorials, trees, and plants on the Capitol grounds.

Under the bill, the committee would have "exclusive authority over the architectural, structural, and mechanical and electrical systems" of the state Capitol building and grounds, and changes in these systems couldn't be made without the committee's approval. However, with the exception of these enumerated systems, the governor and the legislative leaders would advise and make recommendations to the committee regarding the restoration and preservation of the Capitol building and the management, operation, development, maintenance, and repair of the Capitol building and grounds.

As currently is the case, the committee would develop (but would not have to recommend to the governor and legislative leaders) written procedures for its operation. In addition, instead of the committee making recommendations to the governor and legislative leaders, the bill would require that -- with the advice and recommendations of the governor, Senate Majority Leader, and House Speaker -- the committee (a) develop guidelines for implementing any permanent physical changes to the Capitol building or grounds; (b) develop and implement a state Capitol building master plan; (c) develop public and private financial support for the development, construction, renovation, and preservation of the Capitol building and grounds; and (d) provide for the selection, design, and placement of statutes, memorials, trees, and plants on the Capitol grounds.

Also as currently is the case, the committee would have powers that were necessary or appropriate to perform its duties and exercise its powers as prescribed by the bill (and that weren't otherwise prohibited by law), including both appointing advisory committees and contracting with the Department of Management and Budget or any other public or private entity. Unlike current law, however, the bill would not require that the current labor and trades and safety and regulatory classifications performing duties on the Capitol premises be maintained.

Finally, as currently is the case, all decisions concerning the allocation of space in the Capitol building, including legislative or staff offices, would continue to be made by the Senate and House according to their rules, and the committee would not have authority or control over the internal decisions of the two chambers as they related to the allocation of space in the Capitol. However, under the bill, neither chamber could change the use of space under its control without the approval of the committee.

MCL 4.1701 and 4.1702

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.