

Legislative Analysis



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SEATING ASSIGNMENTS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 6333 as enacted

Public Act 300 of 2020

Sponsor: Rep. Steven Johnson

House Committee: Government Operations

Senate Committee: Government Operations [Discharged]

Complete to 1-2-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 6333 amends 1893 PA 58 to change the method for determining which member of the House of Representatives gets which seat in the House chamber.

Previously under 1893 PA 58, state representatives chose their seats in an order determined by a combination of seniority and the drawing of lots. However, according to committee testimony, term limits have made seniority less useful as a determining factor in that process.

Under the bill, on the first date of the first regular session of each new legislature (i.e., the second Wednesday in January of each odd-numbered year), the clerk of the House must allocate the seats between the political parties whose members were elected to the House in the previous election. The majority and minority leaders must then assign a seat to each member of their respective caucuses. Anyone not assigned a seat through that process must be assigned one by the majority leader. The seat assignments must be printed in the House Journal.

The bill also provides that 1893 PA 58 will not apply if the section of the state constitution that provides for term limits for state representatives and senators is ever amended or repealed.¹ It is not clear, if that happens, how House seats would then be assigned.

The bill took effect December 29, 2020.

MCL 4.61

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on state or local government.

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

¹ Section 54 of Article IV: <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Article-IV-54.pdf>