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## [House to Soon Take Up Legislation Expanding P.A. 312; MAC in Opposition](#)

This past winter the Senate passed [Senate Bill 1072](#), legislation sponsored by Senator Richardville (R-Monroe County) that was purported to help counties, cities and townships with some positive reforms to Public Act 312 of 1969. The act, which provides binding arbitration for police and fire has been the target of local government groups for many years who have sought to reform it with amendments placing a higher weight on ability to pay and other provisions limiting arbitrators from counting some restricted funds in that ability to pay. SB 1072 was cloaked as a reform that was needed to assist locals, even though it did nothing we or other local groups asked for.

Unfortunately, not only does it not help counties in any way, it actually will hurt many counties. Upon a close review of the language, the bill actually opens up the 312 bargaining process to include authorities, opening the possibility of non-peace officer 911 dispatchers becoming eligible. **This would mean that the bill actually reforms 312 in the opposition direction from what is needed!** MAC will be seeking an amendment clarifying this provision to not expand binding arbitration to new groups (MAC is also opposing [House Bill 6154](#), which guarantees [binding arbitration for county corrections officers](#)). Counties cannot afford additional expenses at this time. Further, this bill will also add cost to counties by removing the state's portion of paying for arbitrators.

*We have heard from House leadership that SB 1072 could be up in the next week or two, so the time to act and to be heard is now.*

If we are unsuccessful getting the amendment on, we want this legislation to be defeated, as it does not reform the process in a positive way but only adds additional costs to counties. **Please contact your House member today to ask them to remove the additional groups from being added to this legislation. If this is not clarified, we need our legislators to vote no on SB 1072!**

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