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[Binding Arbitration Bill Passes House Amid Controversy](#)

After an intense week of testimony and passage in the House Committee, Senate Bill 1072 passed the House on Thursday, June 24; the same day an article appeared in MIRS News deeming this bill 'not a priority'. The bill now awaits Governor Granholm's approval.

MIRS News reported that the bill was not on the agenda. In session Thursday however, the bill did appear, throwing many representatives off.

Many spoke in opposition of the bill; one representative even went so far as accusing the state of being disingenuous by asking local government, at this time of reduced revenue sharing, to increase its spending especially when the state government refuses to dip into its general fund.

The Michigan Association of Counties sought an amendment that would prevent Public Act 312 of 1969 from potentially expanding to 911 dispatch centers. After the amendment was defeated by a close vote of 45 to 59, the bill was taken up for passage. It is now thought that this bill could now grant airport authorities, metro park authorities and possibly other parks that have law enforcement binding arbitration.

It's disappointing to see our legislature mislead the public about an issue that so closely affects them. It's unfortunate that the legislature could have fixed this with a simple amendment but chose to blatantly ignore that.

It's likely that if this bill is signed into law, it will increase the cost of government and place a higher burden on tax payers at a time when this state can least afford it.

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