

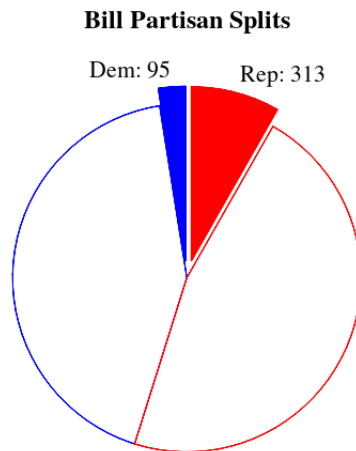
MI ELECTORATE

Dec. 2022

A Review of Michigan's 101st Legislature

The 2021-'22 legislative session is drawing to a close, and with it goes full Republican control of the state legislature. With a handful of bills sitting on the Governor's desk after this session's "Tame Duck," it appears Michigan's 101st Legislature will wrap up more than 400 new or revised laws.

As shown below, the controlling Republicans passed more than three times as many pieces of legislation as Democrats: 313 to 95. In total, however, more than 90% of the Legislature's work dead ends and will be shelved.



The parties generally worked on the same chapters of Michigan law. The most bipartisan new laws funded state police enforcement of bottle returns and prescribed penalties for non-compliance.¹ The state budget, HB4400, on the other hand, was one of the most contentious.

An initial budget proposal passed the House in a narrow 57:50 vote along party lines. A week later the Senate voted 20:16 along party lines on an alternative budget:

6 (a) The gross appropriation is ~~\$1,699,925,400.00.~~ **\$100.00.**

Chamber leadership named six participants to a consensus conference, then replaced half of them, one at a time. Eventually, the Legislature passed a budget bill. Governor Whitmer line-item vetoed seven individual provisions from the result.²

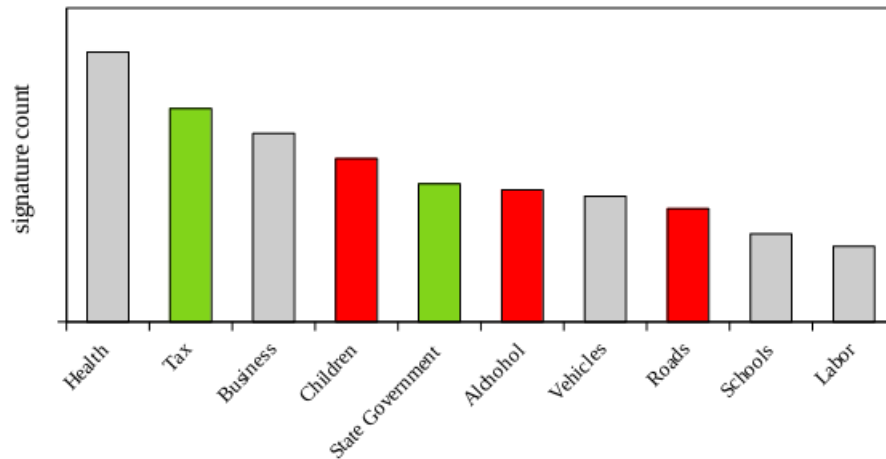
¹Republican-led bills HB4780 and HB4781, Democratic-led bills HB4782 and HB4783

²2021-HJ-09-29-077 pages 1816-1817

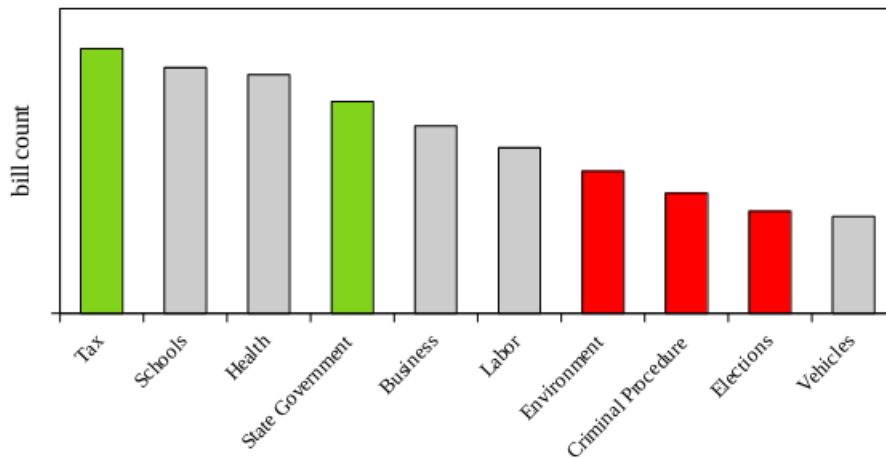
More often than not, this Legislature and Governor shared priorities. Taxes and government (e.g. budgets) were top concerns for both. The legislature proposed more legislation about criminal procedure, election law and the environment, whereas the Governor's signature favored laws for children, alcohol regulation and Michigan roads.

In the graphs below, green indicates close agreement and red shows differing priorities:

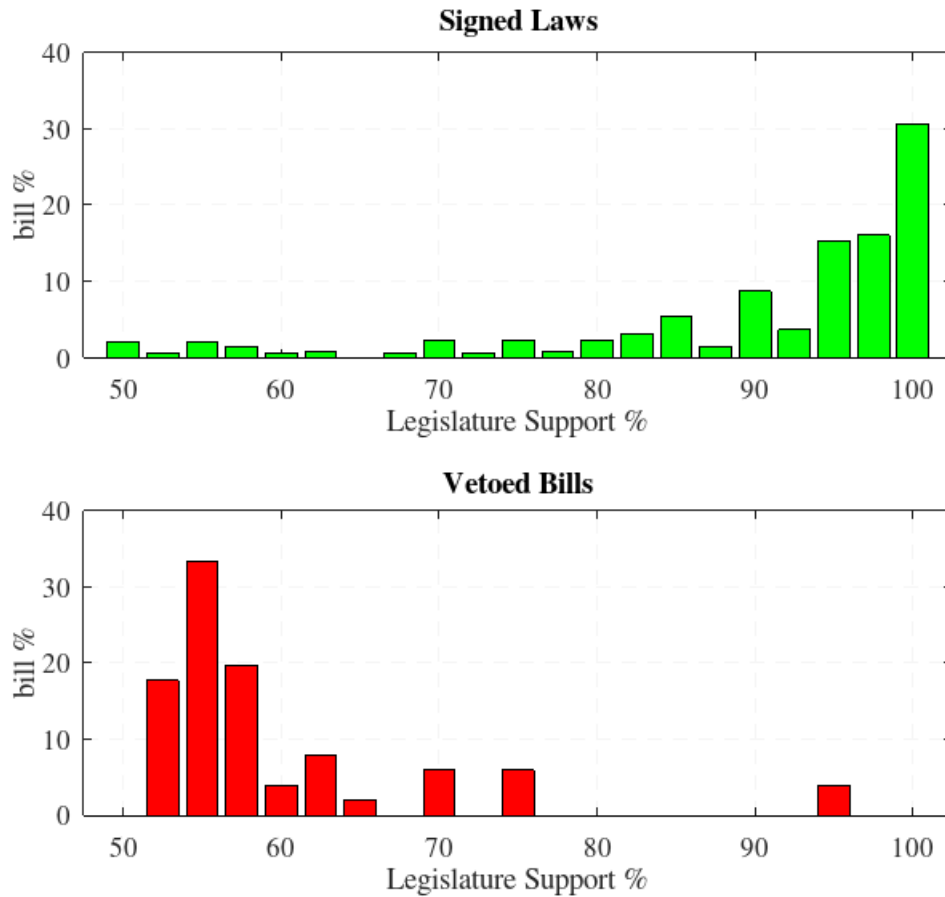
Gov. Whitmer Signatures - top 10



Bills in the 101st Legislature - top 10



A large number of bills passed with unanimous or near-unanimous support. Bills enrolled with less than 60% legislative support risked a veto; the 101st Senate was 58% Republican.



Governor Whitmer vetoed Bills HB4224 & HB4225 despite strong bipartisan support. These bills were intended as COVID relief, to which the Governor replied:³

Unfortunately, **House Bills 4224** and 4225 fall short, because they would create a tax credit rather than a grant program, making the expense ineligible for American Rescue Plan dollars. I encourage the legislature to send me bills that would allow us to send these federal relief dollars to hard-working business owners who've kept their employees and customers safe over the past 15 months.

No doubt we'll see closer alignment in Michigan's 102nd Legislature, as both chambers move under Democratic party control. We'll keep an eye out for the transparency and ethics reforms the Democrats promoted when they were the minority.

A summary of Michigan's 101st Legislature is available at our [our website](#).

³2021-HJ-06-30-063.pdf page 1281