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## SCHOOLS JOIN LOBBY AGAINST PA 141 BILLS

The Michigan School Business Officials asked its members to join the fray over electric market restructuring bills this week.

In an email to members, the association said the current law "has literally saved schools tens of millions of dollars over the past ten years." The email urged members to call legislators and voice their opposition to [HB 5520](#), [HB 5521](#), [HB 5522](#), [HB 5523](#) and [HB 5524](#).

The bills would allow utilities the more certain customer base they argue they need to be able to invest in new generation in the state. But MSBO argued to its members that the changes will mean schools paying more for power by eliminating the ability to seek alternative providers like the Michigan Schools Energy Cooperative.

"In return for re-regulating the utility industry and reducing competition, the utilities would construct new plants and agree to use a more renewable energy," the email said. "There's their trade off. However, in the process, schools will end up paying higher rates; and that will probably be the case for most consumers."

Though the bills are expected to be reported with a cap on the load permitted to move to alternative electric suppliers from each utility, choice supporters have argued the cap would still stifle competition by making the state less attractive to the alternative providers.