

December 08, 2022 05:17 AM

QLine, Huntington Place bills get approval in late-night final session in Lansing

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LANSING — In the final hours of their two-year session, legislators passed dozens of bills and sent them to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for consideration.

Other measures — proposals to [change Michigan's presidential primary](#) date, to scale back a potential [spike in the tipped minimum wage](#) and to [expand a tax break](#) for lower-wage workers — stalled and were left for the next Legislature, which will flip from Republican to Democratic control.

A spending deal that could have included a \$200 million deposit into the state's main economic development fund for an unspecified project in Delta County in the Upper Peninsula and exempted sales tax from businesses' delivery and installation services fell through, too.

Convention center

[Legislation](#) would let the authority that oversees Detroit's Huntington Place convention center [enter into public-private arrangements](#), lift its spending cap, authorize new borrowing and expand the facility's definition to include nearby roads. The action comes as the convention hall is working to encourage the construction of hotels on the nearby former site of Joe Louis Arena.

The definition of a convention facility would be revised also include bike paths, plazas, green space and roads necessary or convenient for use in connection with the facility. A \$279 million spending cap on expanding or renovating Huntington Place would be lifted. The Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority could issue new bonds not to exceed \$299 million.

Convention authorities, which can use excess distributions from the Convention Facility Development Fund to pay down debt, could also spend the money on capital expenditures, including payments under a public-private arrangement.