



# Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

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## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

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### MICHIGAN HOUSE REPEALS “RIGHT-TO-WORK” AND BRINGS BACK PREVAILING WAGE

Michigan Democrats have passed legislation in the state House that would repeal the state's right-to-work law that prohibits public and private unions from requiring that nonunion employees pay fees and passed legislation that would require contractors hired for state projects to pay union-level wages.

Repealing the law, which prohibits public and private unions from requiring that nonunion employees pay union dues even if the union bargains on their behalf, has been a top priority for Democrats since they took full control of the state government this year.

“This bill is not about making history. It is about restoring the rights of workers from whose work we’ve all benefited,” Rep. Jim Haadsma, a Battle Creek Democrat, said on the House floor prior to the vote.

Michigan House Democrats moved quickly on bringing down two Republican labor laws that diminished union power and their ability to bargain contracts. Both were key priorities announced after Democrats took control of the Legislature this year.

One of the bills would repeal Michigan’s right-to-work law, which prohibits making union membership a condition of employment. The other would require contractors hired for state projects to pay union-level wages.

The two hot-button Democratic priorities have been put in a fast track for votes in the state House of Representatives.

Democratic Representative Jim Haadsma (D-Battle Creek) chairs the House Labor Committee. He said the decision to move the bills quickly was made by House Democratic leaders. “I am not the Speaker of the House. I am not leadership in the House,” he said. “But I am someone who, as has been asked, am supportive of repealing right to work and am supportive of ensuring that we have restoration of prevailing wage.”

Both bills will need to pass the state Senate before being sent to Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for final approval.