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## Michigan House OKs changes to arbitration process

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*Associated Press - June 24, 2010 6:24 PM ET*

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - The Michigan House has approved legislation that supporters say should speed up the binding arbitration process for police, fire and emergency services personnel contracts with local governments.

The bill passed the Democratic-run House by a 62-42 vote Thursday, mostly along party lines. The bill passed the Republican-led Senate in February, so it soon could be sent to Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm for signature.

The bill's critics say it raises costs for local governments and shifts the state's share of arbitration costs to local parties.

The Michigan Municipal League called the bill "hollow and meaningless" and said it would cause more police and firefighters to lose their jobs.

The arbitration legislation is Senate Bill 1072.

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