



# *This Week in Lansing*

MHSA • Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Highlights of the Latest Major Legislative, Administrative and Regulatory Activity in the State Capitol

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**AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES WILL BE ABLE TO ‘READ’ ROADS** – The *Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)* will be partnering with multiple companies to implement technology that would allow autonomous vehicles to receive information and adjust accordingly to the state’s constantly changing road conditions, as announced last week. The systems will be tested on a three-mile section of *I-75* and will use infrared and camera technology to record the data. The two companies noted in the announcement as partnering with the state are *Magna*, a camera-based driver assistance feature supplier, and *3M*, a global science company.

The section of *I-75* set for the testing is currently under construction for the next four months, making the alterations in road conditions due to the work zone ideal for the testing. A demonstration vehicle will be developed that is equipped with cameras and software that will receive and process messages via signs along the road with codes on them. As the car drives, the equipment will “read” the code and report to the driver conditions as listed in the code. Officials will also assist in analyzing the data and continuously make improvements in the technology based on said data.

Along with the technology aspect, communications and safety features will also be implemented, including all-weather lane markings and retroreflective signs. The science company will ensure the signs are equipped with “smart sign” technology and will also assist in implementing dedicated, short-range equipment to be used for vehicle-to-infrastructure communication. The company will also provide apparel with new reflective material for increased worker safety throughout the project, as compliant with the *American National Standards Institute*.

Commenting on the combined efforts, officials from both companies and **MDOT** praised the teamwork and collaboration, noting that over the next several years the project will assist in the evolution of the autonomous vehicle industry locally and nationally.

**PART-TIME LEGISLATURE PROPOSAL: NEW VERSION FILED** – *Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley* announced on Monday an updated proposal for a part-time *Legislature* in Michigan has been circulated to supporters for signature, in response to questions regarding the legality of the original language.

Filed on Monday with the *Department of State*, the new language states that the *Legislature* would be required to adjourn sine die on or before April 15 instead of being given a set 90-day schedule. Another contentious issue addressed in the proposal is that of the salaries for legislators. The updated proposal still uses a pro-rated average teacher salary as the basis but calls for the *State Officers Compensation Commission* to meet “as soon as practical” to set the salaries.

*Mr. Calley*, along with the *Clean Michigan Government Committee*, circulated the updates with notification that the petitions would be out this week and available for signature (315,654 signatures are needed to put the proposal on the 2018 ballot). Due to the changes, any signatures collected thus far for the proposal have been nullified. Other alterations to the proposal include:

- The removal of the term “emergency session”
- More broad availability for the *Governor* to call a special session
- Decreased utilization of the *Legislature* related to overriding a veto and approving or disapproving a citizen initiative

*Mr. Calley* and the *Committee* have 180 days to collect the required signatures. In his message, *Mr. Calley* thanked supporters for their efforts and noted the proposal will push forward despite the opposition, saying, “The Lansing establishment has gone to great lengths to try and stall this effort, but we are standing with the people.”

Those in opposition to the proposal claim that by restricting or reducing the amount of legislative session days, the executive office would have increased oversight and therefore take away the power of citizens.

**REDISTRICTING PETITION LANGUAGE SUBMITTED** – The *Legislature* and the *Governor* would have no input regarding the restructuring of Michigan’s legislative districts, under new language submitted to the *Board of State Canvassers* last week. *Voters Not Politicians*, the group that filed the petition proposal, noted that the redistricting decisions would instead be made by a citizen’s commission “made up of 13 Michigan voters and NO politicians” and would “end the secrecy and corruption that surrounds the current process of drawing district maps...”.

The group also noted in the proposal that by eliminating *Legislative* and *Executive* oversight, the chance for gerrymandering to maximize party influence during an election cycle would be minimized. Under the language, the commission would still be required to follow the federal one person/one vote regulations, as well as respect city, township, and county lines while taking into account “communities of interest”. The commission would also need to be allocated funds for the allowance of hiring map technicians to assist in drawing the maps, holding hearings throughout the state and conducting other matters in relation to the redistricting process.

Any and all commission activities would be required to be public as well, with final versions of the map still subject to court challenge. No veto authority would be allowed from either the *Legislature* or the *Governor*, however, if the language is placed on the 2018 ballot, the *Legislature* could draft its own challenge proposal.

If the *Voters Not Politicians* proposal is approved in the election, it would not take effect until after the 2020 election, meaning the next redistricting wouldn’t take place until the 2021-2022 legislative session. The proposal was created following the group’s statewide town hall-type meetings on the issue, to which, the group notes, more than 3,000 people attended. No meeting date has been set for the *Board of State Canvassers* to take the issue into consideration.

## **ELECTIONS BUZZ**

- Former *U.S. Attorney Patrick Miles (Democrat)* has announced he is considering running for the Michigan *Attorney General* post in 2018
- *Representatives Winne Brinks* (D-Grand Rapids) and *Chris Afendoulis* (R-Grand Rapids) have both commented on their consideration of running for the *Senate District 29* seat in 2018, currently held by term-limited *Senator Dave Hildenbrand* (R-Lowell)
- *Representative Jim Runestad* (R-White Lake Twp) announced the creation of his campaign committee for *Senate District 15*, with the seat currently held by term-limited *Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall* (R-White Lake)
- *Paul Clements* announced his run against *U.S. Representative Fred Upton* (R-St. Joseph) (for the third time)

## ODDS & ENDS

- **Secretary of State Ruth Johnson** announced on Monday her office will not release personal information of Michigan's voters, as requested by the newly created **Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity**, but will instead release any public information as written under state law
- 95 percent of tax returns filed this year have been completed by the **Michigan Department of Treasury**, issuing \$1.738 billion in refunds
- According to a bulletin posted by the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**, health care providers providing free or reduced-price care to the general public will now be able to bill the state for any such care that has been provided to **Medicaid** recipients
- **Governor Rick Snyder** signed **House Bills 4612** and **4613** into law late last week, with the legislation calling for the extension of the sunset on local courts' ability to require convicted offenders to pay costs from their court proceedings and to form a commission to seek a permanent solution to the court funding issue
- **Governor Rick Snyder** signed **House Bill 4169** into law, codifying the **Michigan Liquor Control Commission's** procedures regarding the approval of liquor licenses to certain establishments located within 500 feet of a church or school
- **Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Jamie Clover Adams** announced last week she will lead her fifth trade mission to **China** this fall, set to focus on the expansion of export opportunities for farmers and food processors
- The **Michigan Department of State Police** announced the addition of 12 new canine teams following their graduation last Friday, the largest new class in **State Police** history
- The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** announced roughly \$15 million has been allocated to the federal **Genesee County Healthy Start Program**, which provides health and social services to women, infants and families affected by the **Flint Water Crisis**
- **Senator Ian Conyers** (D-Detroit) introduced **Senate Bill 494** and **SJR K** last week, calling for the elimination of the minimum age requirement for governor and lieutenant governor in Michigan
- **Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens** ruled on Wednesday that the state cannot allocate \$2.5 million in funds to nonpublic **K-12** schools to cover the costs for compliance with state mandates
- **Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof** (R-West Olive) announced **Senator Mike Shirkey** (R-Clarklake) as finance chairman and **Senator Jim Stamas** (R-Midland) as candidate engagement chairman of the **Senate Republican Campaign Committee** on Wednesday
- **Vice President Mike Pence** and **Second Lady Karen Pence** walked in the **Grandville Fourth of July** parade on Tuesday, making it the first (known) visit to Michigan for the **Vice President** since having been sworn into office
- According to an opinion released by the **Michigan Supreme Court**, municipalities can conditionally transfer land to other municipalities given that the land is zoned via specific requirements and previous agreements be made so the land cannot be annexed
- Under proposed federal policy released recently, the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)** would end the current 20 outpatient visit limit for behavioral health services per year for those covered by **Medicaid**, effective October 1 of this year
- According to **Michigan's Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives**, the state will see a 7.4 percent increase in job growth by 2024
- The **Michigan Chamber of Commerce** announced it will study a proposal outlining term limits for

legislators, with the proposal calling for the allowance of legislators to serve a maximum of 12 years in one chamber or the other

- According to the *Dynamic Risk Assessment Systems* report on *Enbridge's Line 5 Pipeline* currently running under the *Straits of Mackinac*, the accumulated probability that the pipeline would fail by 2053 (it would be 100 years old by then) is 1.6 percent

**IN MEMORY:** *MHSA* would like to extend our condolences to the family and friends of *Diane K. Bollman*, as well as the *Michigan College of Emergency Physicians (MCEP)* family. Diane led *MCEP* for 25 plus years, and made a lasting impact on the advocacy efforts for the *College* and emergency physicians. Diane passed away this weekend following a hard-fought battle against Leukemia. She will be missed greatly by all that knew her. Please join us in sending thoughts and prayers to her loved ones.

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