



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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OPIOID PACKAGE SENT TO HOUSE FLOOR – Members of the *House Health Policy Committee* sent a package of bills addressing the state’s opioid crisis to the full *House* for a vote late last week, with each bill receiving a 16-0 unanimous vote. The bills, *House Bills 4403, 4404, 4405, 4406, 4407* and *4408*, call for:

- The creation and implementation (by the *Michigan Department of Education (MDE)*) of a model program of instruction about opioids and opioid abuse to be included in the health curriculum in public schools (*HBs 4406* and *4407*). The program would need to be ready for use for the 2018-19 school year and would be available to charter schools as well
- The addition of opioid abuse/addiction treatment services to those covered via *Medicaid*, including: inpatient care; care at a licensed substance abuse facility; and “acute medical detoxification” for an opioid use disorder (*HB 4403*)
- The implementation of licensing regulations and fees for pain management clinics/facilities (*HB 4404*)
- The allowance of pharmacists to refuse to refill a prescription if he or she believes the prescription is not legitimate. The pharmacist would be exempt from any civil liability (*HB 4405*)
- The requirement of a physician, before prescribing any opioid to a minor, to discuss the side effects and potential for addiction to the patient’s parent(s) (*HB 4408*)

In 2015, the state saw a 13.3 percent increase in opioid overdose deaths from 2014, putting the number up to 1,980. While legislators continue to attempt to address the increase and epidemic of opioid abuse addiction in the state, so do members of the executive office. *Attorney General Bill Schuette* announced this week that for the first time, the *Department of Attorney General* will bring homicide charges to those involved in dealing or overprescribing opioids to a person or persons that die(s) as a result of an overdose.

Mr. Schuette created *The Opioid Trafficking and Interdiction Unit* task force last October, made up of four attorneys and one paralegal, with the group having worked 46 cases so far; in which they obtained six convictions, and are currently moving 15 more cases through the judicial system. During a press conference announcing the update, *Mr. Schuette* noted that in prosecuting those involved in such cases, the *Department* can assist smaller counties that simply do not have the means or capacity to prosecute. *Mr. Schuette* also noted that law enforcement education will be required for the system to work correctly and curtail demand of products.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR: PART-TIME LEGISLATURE FOR MI? – Michigan legislators

could see a change in their legislative session schedule if the state moved to a part-time legislature, something *Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley* addressed on Tuesday, with the announcement following weeks of rumors he would actually announce his candidacy for governor and the release of a \$500,000 web advertising campaign.

Mr. Calley told attendees of the announcement that he fully supports the proposed amendment to Michigan's constitution, which would include a cut to legislators' salary by almost half. If adopted, the amendment would call for a consecutive 90-day legislative session (at most) unless legislators were called into a special session by the *Governor*, and a roughly \$30,937 annual salary, equal to the average daily salary of a teacher. Noting the theme of his initiative as "*Clean Michigan Government*", *Mr. Calley* stopped short of announcing his gubernatorial run in 2018, but argued instead his motivation in spearheading the part-time legislature movement is solely to "make the Michigan government much more effective and efficient."

Currently, legislators make \$71,685 annually and are in session anywhere between 100 (2015) and 80 (2016) days, depending on the issues at hand and whether it is an election year. Therefore, the consecutive 90-day regulation would completely change how session is operated currently, something *Mr. Calley* stated is a necessary move. Commenting on the proposed change, *Mr. Calley* also noted that Michigan is one of only four other states currently engaged in a fulltime legislature.

Those in opposition to the move claim by restricting legislative session days, the executive office would have more oversight and would take the power away from citizens. *Mr. Calley's* proposal will need to garner 315, 654 valid signatures in order to be qualified for placement on the ballot.

ECONOMY COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT – *Governor Rick Snyder* released the most recent report from his *Economy Commission*, with the *Commission* focusing on education, infrastructure, business and talent as areas the state needs to improve. Commenting on the report, *Governor Snyder* noted that the recommendations of this *Commission* closely align with those of his *21st Century Infrastructure Commission*, meaning the state must continue to move forward and "not become complacent or content." Key recommendations outlined in the report include:

- Effective pathways to post-secondary and lifelong education
- Provide individuals with a "*21st Century*" skillset for all levels of education
- Attract and retain talent from all states and countries
- Construct and maintain digital communications, modern transportation, and utility infrastructure
- Construct social infrastructure i.e. housing and childcare to remove certain barriers
- Create and implement policy frameworks to encourage smart business growth within the state
- Increase and encourage cross-sector collaboration among the business community, focusing on mobility and improvement of "economic clusters"
- Assist those in expanding, starting, or locating a business via customer-centric and technology-enabled approaches
- Celebrate individuals from all cultures and backgrounds to create better quality of life within the state
- Ensure access for all to fresh water, recreation, and natural resources in Michigan

The full report can be viewed [here](#).

2018 EXECUTIVE OFFICE ELECTIONS: WHO IS LEADING THE WAY? – According to a recently released poll, the two major party candidates for the 2018 gubernatorial race will be *Attorney General Bill Schuette* (Republican) and former *Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer* (Democratic), polling 66 percent and 69 percent among participants respectively. The next closest to the two apparent

front runners were listed as **Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley** (Republican, 30 percent) and **Attorney Mark Bernstein** (Democratic, 22 percent). Other elections polled included those of:

- **U.S. Senate:** Currently held by **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-Delta Twp.); main competitors polled: former **Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bob Young** (Republican, 46 percent) and **U.S. Representative Fred Upton** (R-St. Joseph, 38 percent)
- **Office of Attorney General:** Currently held by **Mr. Schuette**; main competitors polled: current **House Speaker Tom Leonard** (R-DeWitt Twp, 52 percent), current **Senator Tonya Schuitmaker** (R-Lawton, 37 percent), and former **House Minority Leader/current Representative Tim Greimel** (D-Auburn Hills, 11 percent)
- **Secretary of State (SOS):** currently held by **SOS Ruth Johnson**; main competitors polled: current **Senator Mike Kowall** (R-White Lake, 34 percent) and **Jocelyn Benson, U of M** law professor (Democratic, 41 percent)

The poll was conducted May 12 – May 19 of this year by **EPIC-MRA** and included responses from 479 political insiders.

ODDS & ENDS

- **Governor Rick Snyder** announced **Rick Johnson** (former **House Speaker**) as chair of the **Medical Marijuana Licensing Board**
- Members of the **Lansing Regional Chamber** and the **Michigan Chamber of Commerce** sent letters to legislators expressing their support for an \$88 million welcome center at the **Capitol**, as well as the \$70 million for the **Capitol Commission** to repair and upgrade the **Capitol Building** and its facilities
- According to a recent **EPIC-MRA Insider Survey**, all four **House** leaders were noted as being “most effective” in the legislature: **Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof** (R-West Olive, 30 percent); **Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich** (D-Flint, 33 percent); **House Speaker Tom Leonard** (R-DeWitt Twp, 14 percent); and **House Minority Leader Sam Singh** (D-East Lansing, 35 percent)
- Members of the **House Judiciary Committee** sent **House Bills 4416-4419** to the floor this week on a 6-4 party line vote, with the legislation calling for the allowance of individuals to carry a concealed weapon without a permit or prior training
- **House Bill 4427** was sent to the **Senate** floor for a full vote by the **Senate Judiciary Committee**, with the bill calling for exemptions for certain police body camera footage release and filing
- **Senate Education Committee** members moved **Senate Bill 343** to the floor unanimously, which if passed, would require schools to provide certain career information to middle and high school students and would also create a new **STEM** endorsement on diplomas
- According to a statement made by her campaign on Wednesday, former **Senate Minority Leader** and current **Democratic** gubernatorial candidate **Gretchen Whitmer** has raised \$1 million for her campaign, a record for a non-incumbent at this point during an election cycle (**Attorney General Bill Schuette** and **Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley** reportedly have \$782,572 and \$609,680 in cash on hand, respectively)
- **David Behen, Director of the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB)** announced he will be leaving his post on June 16 to take a position with a Michigan-based global company, with current **Chief Deputy Director Brom Stibitz** set to take over until a permanent replacement is named
- **Senator Patrick Colbeck** (R-Canton Twp.) filed a committee to allow for him to raise funding to join the run for governor
- **Tom Curry** of **Trenary** and **Kevin Harrington** of **Marquette** have filed to run in the special election

- set to succeed the late **Representative John Kivela**
- Since the city's first street sweep in 2010, **Detroit** is approaching the halfway mark in having its roughly 2,000 miles of side streets swept
 - **Governor Rick Snyder**, along with **Senator Jim Stamas** (R-Midland) urged passage of the **Good Jobs for Michigan** package of bills (**Senate Bills 242-244**) by the **House** in the coming weeks, noting if not passed, the state could lose large job opportunities and new employers
 - According to a recent survey, 47 percent of 600 likely voters in Michigan oppose the alteration of the **Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPERS)** as currently being considered in the legislature

MHSA • Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Patrick Harrington pharrington@mhsa.com | Jon Smalley jsmalley@mhsa.com | Sandra Jones - sjones@mhsa.com
Adrian Cazal acazal@mhsa.com | Bret Marr bmarr@mhsa.com | Evelyn Zois Sweeney esweeney@mhsa.com

124 West Allegan St., Suite. 1900 | Lansing, MI 48933 | Phone: 517-484-8800 | Fax: 517-484-4442 | Email: rsmith@mhsa.com

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