



# 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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**PLEASE NOTE** – The *Ellis Parking Structure* on the corner of Capitol and Allegan Streets (that most of you utilize when visiting our offices or the Capitol) will no longer be open for public parking as of **July 1**. Public parking will be available in the following parking structures: corner of Washtenaw and Townsend across from the Post Office, at the end of Allegan Street at Grand Avenue, and between Washtenaw and Kalamazoo Streets on Capitol (next to *Cooley Law School*). These are *City of Lansing* structures. If you visit Lansing on a regular basis, you may want to consider obtaining a monthly parking permit from *Ellis*. The number to reach *Ellis* is (616) 458-1179 and cost is \$150/month for first come first served or \$170/month for a reserved spot. With this change, *MHSA* will no longer be able to provide validation for parking. We apologize for any inconvenience and wanted to be sure you were aware as parking will be significantly more difficult downtown.

**STATE QUALIFIES FOR OPIOID/HEROIN ASSISTANCE VIA FEDERAL FUNDS** – Michigan could receive up to \$28 million in federal funds based on a *White House* budget report released Tuesday of this week. Over a two-year period, the state would see the money go towards medication-assisted treatment for those with opioid use disorders. As part of the *President's* \$1.1 billion proposal to expand opioid treatment, states would receive funding based on the severity of opioid abuse in their communities and their ability to respond to those cases.

According to data from the *White House*, Michigan's 2014 drug poisoning death rate exceeds the national average, with 18 deaths per 100,000 people. The national average is 14.7 deaths. The most prominent counties listed with the greatest annual drug overdose deaths were: *Monroe, Wayne, St. Clair, Sanilac, Lapeer, Owasso, Shiawassee, Livingston, Ingham, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Saginaw, Bay, Oceana, Muskegon, Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw, Cheboygan, Wexford, Manistee, Chippewa* and *Roscommon* counties. The data showed there were more than 15 drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 annually, while also noting the rate of pain reliever prescriptions dispensed by retail pharmacies exceeds the national average.

**MAY REVENUES INCREASE FROM 2015** – In a report released Tuesday, the *Senate Fiscal Agency (SFA)* stated revenue to the state's *General* and *School Aid* funds have increased by 9.5 percent from 2015, totaling \$1.7 billion in May 2016. The increase, according to the report, was due in part to May 2016 tax collections being approximately \$63.5 million above those projected by the *SFA* based on the consensus revenue estimates adopted May of this year. Specifically noted in the report, funds earmarked for the *General Fund* were \$19.7 million above expectations while those for the *School Aid Fund* were \$38.2

million above forecasted amounts.

Collections comprised of the *Single Business Tax*, *Michigan Business Tax* and *Corporate Income Tax* were \$417 million above expected levels for the month of May, with net income tax revenues also up 8.9 percent from May of last year. As for sales tax receipts and individual income tax, the report noted 4.4 percent and 6.3 percent increases respectively, with sales tax collections from vehicles up 11.8 percent from May of 2015 as well.

**HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION RECEIVES SIGNATURE** – *Governor Snyder* signed legislation this week requiring schools to include the *Holocaust* and *Genocide* in their curriculum. Under *House Bill 4493*, the new classwork requirements would have to be in place for the upcoming school year for grades 8 and up.

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR** – *House Bill 4796*, although not effective until September 12, allows for the protection of employment for service men or women who need time off for military service. Current law only allows protection for members in the *Michigan National Guard*. This updated version expands coverage to all *National Guard* members of any state as well as to *Federal Military Reserves* members.

**ASSAULTS ON CORRECTIONS OFFICERS FACE TOUGHER PROSECUTION** – Announced Tuesday of this week, a new initiative intended to improve and increase prosecution of inmate assaults on corrections officers will be a part of a *Department of Corrections* prison inspectors conference. The initiative was introduced by a partnership of Michigan corrections groups including: the *Department of Corrections*, *Department of State Police*, *Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan* and the *Michigan Corrections Organization* (corrections officers' union representative). Incidents such as inmates throwing bodily fluids or another unknown substance onto corrections officers, as well as inmates exposing themselves to departmental employees/officers, are addressed in the initiative.

As for the conference, attendees will receive training on crime scene processing, evidence handling, writing and compiling documentation, and other steps in the process of prosecuting an inmate. *Michigan State Police* will handle the prison inspectors' training in October of this year.

**SECOND SUMMIT TO FIGHT CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT TO BE HELD BY FIRST LADY SUE SNYDER** – With participation by high school campuses across Michigan this year, the "*Inform. Empower. Prevent. Let's End Campus Sexual Assault*" Summit will be held September 30 at the *University of Michigan's North Campus Research Complex* in *Ann Arbor*. The goal of the summit is to continue the fight against sexual assault on the state's college and university campuses.

Commenting on the summit and its importance, Michigan's *First Lady Sue Snyder* noted, "We have already taken tremendous steps in finding ways to increase awareness and prevention of campus assault, but there is still more work to be done. This summit is an opportunity to continue the important conversations already started and bring together Michiganders who share a common goal of ultimately putting an end to campus sexual assault."

**HOUSE DEMS CALL FOR GUN/LGBT REFORMS** – *House Democratic* members pushed this week Tuesday for action on their proposed changes to the state's gun laws and legislation that would

improve and expand the rights of **LGBT** citizens. **Representative Jon Hoadley** (D-Kalamazoo) commented on the lack of movement on the proposals and the recent tragedy in Orlando, stating, “The House Democrats have offered several bills that would put safeguards in place, but these proposals haven’t had a hearing in committee. We can take action now to stop this senseless loss of life, before another tragedy occurs.” The bills in question would include:

- **House Bills 4261** and **4262** – prohibit the open carry of guns in many public places, including schools
- **House Bills 4590, 4591** and **4592** – create universal background checks before the purchase of a firearm
- **House Bills 4942** and **4943** – create a gun violence restraining order, which would remove firearms from those identified as troubled and susceptible to harmful activities or actions
- **House Bills 4944** and **4945** – allow schools, hospitals, day care centers and other public places to prohibit the open carry of firearms on their property
- **House Bill 5443** – prohibit individuals on the federal watch list from obtaining licenses to possess a firearm
- **House Bills 5563** and **5564** – create gun-free zones in buildings owned or leased by the state
- **House Bill 4164** – expand the state’s hate crime law to include intimidation or hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- **House Bill 4583** – expand the **Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act** to include the same language as **HB 4164**

**Representative Jeremy Moss** (D-Southfield) echoed **Mr. Hoadley’s** sentiment, noting, “The Orlando shooting was the end result of hatred and divisiveness that casts members of the LGBT community as dangerous outsiders, when in truth, all we want is to live our lives safely and with dignity.”

**SCHUETTE JOINS OPPOSITION TO WAUKESHA DIVERSION** – This week **Attorney General Bill Schuette** co-signed a letter with **U.S. Representative Candice Miller** (R-Harrison Township) calling on the members of the **Great Lakes Compact Council** to reject **Waukesha, Wisconsin’s** application to use water from **Lake Michigan**. The application calls for the diversion of 8.2 million gallons of water per day out of the **Great Lakes Basin**. As the city of **Waukesha** straddles the line between the **Mississippi River** and **Great Lakes Basins**, it is eligible to apply under the compact, something **Mr. Schuette, Ms. Miller** and other Michigan public officials say is not the goal of the compact. With a final decision expected next week, officials are noting the reason for the compact was to prevent any diversions of water from the lakes, saying the **Wisconsin** city had time to look for other options but chose not to.

In the letter from **Mr. Schuette** and **Ms. Miller**, the two voiced their concerns, stating, “The integrity of the Compact is being tested for the first time with this request and it is critical that the impetus to its creation be considered. Opening our Great Lakes to a municipality that is outside the Great Lakes Basin boundary lines and one that has not exhausted other options is certain to generate new requests that will thus demand to be held to the same reduced standard of eligibility.”

**ODDS & ENDS** – The first part of the state’s **Water Strategy** was released by the **Office of the Great Lakes** Friday, calling for improved monitoring of and education on the protection of Michigan’s water by the state and its citizens...**Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley** has been appointed by **Governor Rick Snyder** to chair the new **Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board**, that will include another 11 members, to develop a statewide program to help prevent childhood lead exposure...**Governor Rick Snyder** ordered flags to be flown at half-staff Monday in honor of the victims of the worst mass shooting in **U.S.** history in

*Orlando, Florida* this past weekend...Former representatives *Cindy Gamrat* and *Todd Courser* were both in court earlier this week facing felony charges relating to their extramarital affair and conduct in office, *Ms. Gamrat's* charges were dismissed but *Mr. Courser* will stand trial on charges of perjury and misconduct in office...the *Great Lakes* will be designated as an “*Unusually Sensitive Area*” resulting in more frequent and an increased number of inspections of pipelines and related facilities in the state under the *Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act* headed to *President Obama* for signature...*John Mulcrone*, current chief of staff to *Senate Minority Floor Leader Morris Hood III* (D-Detroit), has moved to chief of staff to *Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich* (D-Flint) to replace *Andy Leavitt* who recently joined the staff serving *U.S. Representative Dan Kildee* (D-Flint)...Michigan's unemployment rate dropped to 4.7 percent in May from 4.8 percent in April, matching the national rate and coming down 0.8 percent from 2015's May rate according to a seasonally adjusted data report released this week by the *Department of Technology, Management and Budget*...as ruled Wednesday by the *Court of Appeals*, if an insurer can establish a no-fault policy was fraudulently obtained, the insurer is entitled to declare that policy void and is allowed to deny payment of benefits to innocent third-parties.

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