



# 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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**‘GOOD JOBS’ HEADED TO GOVERNOR FOR SIGNATURE** – Following an unexpected move to not vote on the legislation by *House Speaker Tom Leonard* (R-DeWitt) before summer recess, *House* members were provided with the opportunity to vote on the *Good Jobs for Michigan* package of bills on Wednesday afternoon, with the *Senate* concurring in the *House* changes shortly thereafter. The legislation, *Senate Bills 242-244*, passed the *House* 71-35, while on the *Senate* side the bills passed 29-5 (*SB 242* and *243*) and 30-4 (*SB 244*).

As passed, the bills call for the allowance of businesses relocating to Michigan to collect 100 percent of the income tax withholdings for new employees for 10 years, if at least 3,000 jobs are created and the average salary for the local prosperity region is paid. For companies creating 500 jobs at the average income level, 50 percent of the income tax withholdings could be collected for up to 5 years and for those creating 250 jobs at 125 percent of the average salary level, 100 percent of the income tax holdings could be collected for up to 10 years. Amendments to the package include a sunset of the program by 2019 and a requirement for companies to assist in paying for worker training.

The bills are set to take effect 30 days after *Governor Rick Snyder* signs them into law and are filed with the *Office of the Great Seal*. Commenting on the bipartisan support and efforts to get the legislation passed, *Mr. Snyder* noted the legislation will continue to “move the state forward and ensure the strongest possible future.”

**ALCOHOL LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW** – Multiple bills outlining new regulations for alcohol sales, distribution and display were signed into law by *Governor Rick Snyder* on Wednesday, with the package set to take effect October 10. The bills, *House Bills 4556-4559*, address the legal importation of beer, wine or liquor into the state, updates to the *Michigan Liquor Control Commission*, and updates on a wholesaler’s allowance of employee product sampling. As signed, the bills state:

- *House Bills 4556* and *4557*: those that illegally import, sell or deliver 225,000 milliliters of wine or beer into Michigan can receive up to four years in prison, a \$5,000 fine or both. Misdemeanor and civil infraction charges will also be given for those bringing in lesser amounts. Personal consumption and shipping carriers are exempt
- *House Bill 4558*: a retailer licensed for off-site sales will be allowed to install a temporary bin display of beer, wine and spirits on site under a new section of the *Michigan Liquor Control Code*
- *House Bill 4559*: a wholesaler will be allowed to provide beer or wine samples to employees on the licensed premises for educational purposes

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: UPDATES STILL NEEDED** – Members of the *Senate*

*Corrections* and *Senate Judiciary Committees* held a joint meeting on Wednesday, with the focus being on that of additional reforms needed to reduce recidivism rates in the state and to improve data sharing. *Deputy Director* of the *Trial Court Services Department* of the *State Court Administrative Office*, *Jessica Parks*, told members roughly 1,700 individuals have been diverted from prison and into treatment or probation programs since 2003.

However, she noted, of those that enter the programs via mental health courts, roughly 60 percent complete said program, and roughly 50 percent complete their program if entered via drug and veteran's court. Of the current total prison population, 70 to 80 percent of prisoners suffer from a mental health issue or substance abuse problem that could have contributed to committing the crime they were sentenced for. *Senator John Proos* (R-St. Joseph) noted that increased and improved file-sharing between courts, law enforcement entities, the *Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)* and the *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)* could assist in steering those individual offenders earlier in the process towards helpful services.

As chair of both *Committees*, *Mr. Proos* noted a better understanding of individual cases and files will also assist in reducing recidivism rates in the state. Last year, *Mr. Proos* and the *Legislature* approved an instrumental criminal justice package of bills toward the reformation of the system in Michigan, this year adding new regulations to address the opioid epidemic. More joint meetings will be held when legislators return in the fall, *Mr. Proos* noted, with other agencies and stakeholders included in those discussions so as to gather as much information as possible.

## ELECTIONS

- *Matt Maddock* of *Milford* announced his campaign for *House District 44*, currently held by *Representative Jim Runestad* (R-White Lake Twp) who announced he will run for *Senate District 15* as currently held by term-limited *Senator Mike Kowall* (R-White Lake Twp)
- *Democratic* candidate for *Congressional District 11*, *Haley Stevens*, announced she has raised more than \$320,000 in her first fundraising quarter
- *Democrat Elissa Slotkin* announced her campaign against current *U.S. Representative Mike Bishop* (R-Rochester) in 2018
- *Representative Holly Hughes* (R-White River Twp) filed to form a campaign committee for *Senate District 34* on Thursday

## ODDS & ENDS

- The class-action lawsuit from those wrongly convicted of obtaining fraudulent unemployment benefits is awaiting a decision from the *Michigan Court of Appeals* as it determines when the harm occurred
- *Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Gretchen Whitmer* asked *Attorney General Bill Schuette* to join 18 other states in suing *Betsy DeVos* (current *U.S. Secretary of Education*) for not implementing departmental rules in regard to for-profit colleges in a timely manner
- According to a *U.S. Supreme Court* ruling, a police officer cannot detain a motorist during a traffic stop beyond the time needed to address the traffic violation at hand, unless there is evidence of another crime
- The *Michigan Department of Education (MDE)* announced it will be extending the *SAT* exam contract by two years and three months, while also adding \$18 million to the contract
- *U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow* (D-Delta Twp) and *Gary Peters* (R-Bloomfield Twp) announced late last week applications for the *U.S. District Court Judge* and *U.S. Attorney* positions in *Eastern* and *Western* districts are now being accepted

- According to the *Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol*, the group has collected 102,425 signatures to put the issue on the 2018 ballot
- **Governor Rick Snyder** has named **Thomas Cameron** as successor to current **Justice Kurtis Wilder** on the *Michigan Court of Appeals*
- The state should see a net reduction of four trial judges via attrition, according to the *State Court Administrative Office's* most recent report on judicial resources
- **Governor Rick Snyder** announced **Luke Terry** as the successor to **Alexander Simpson** on the *Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Board*
- **House Bills 4313** and **4323** have been presented to **Governor Rick Snyder** for signature, outlining the *Education Omnibus* and *General Omnibus* budgets for the **2017-18 Fiscal Year** respectively
- New voting machines were available Wednesday, Thursday and today for testing in Lansing, ahead of the *City of Lansing's* August primary
- **Jeff Mason** has been confirmed as the **CEO** for the *Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)* (effective immediately), and has been tapped by **Governor Rick Snyder** to be president of the *Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF)* as well as chair of the *MSF Board*
- 279 cases of **Lyme** disease have been reported in 2017 so far, already exceeding the total of 2016 (233 cases), according to the *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)*
- **Detroit's** three casinos saw increases in revenue in June from June 2016, as well as an increase in total revenue by 4.1 percent from June 2016 (**MotorCity**, 5.7 percent increase; **Greektown**, 5.4 percent increase, **MGM Grand Detroit**, 2.2 percent increase)
- So far, 1,283 homes in **Flint** have received replacement lines for lead-tainted pipes via the *City of Flint's FAST Start Initiative*, currently carrying out Phase 4 of the program
- According to the *Michigan Department of Education (MDE)*, the state will begin discussions with the *U.S. Department of Education* on its plan for compliance with the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*
- **DTE Energy** filed the first certificate of necessity request with the *Michigan Public Service Commission*, seeking approval of new electric generating resources
- Various financial aid programs in Michigan would be available only to *U.S.* citizens and permanent residents under legislation introduced by **House Republicans** on Wednesday (**House Bills 4829-4834**)
- The *Michigan Supreme Court* issued an order Wednesday calling for an increase in *Michigan State Bar* dues, set to go from \$90 per year to \$120 per year by **Fiscal Year 2018-19**
- **House Bill 4427** was signed by **Governor Rick Snyder** on Wednesday, creating the *Law Enforcement Body Worn Camera Privacy Act* and establishing procedures and guidelines for officers wearing body cameras
- **House Bills 4540** and **4541** were signed into law by **Governor Rick Snyder**, calling for the extension of several fee sunsets; including those on hazardous waste fees and public water supply certification fees
- An outbreak in **Macomb, Detroit, Oakland, Wayne** and **St. Clair** counties of **Hepatitis A** has resulted in 10 deaths and 190 cases confirmed between August 2016 and June 2017, according to the *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)*
- According to the *Senate Fiscal Agency's Monthly Revenue Report*, the *Michigan Department of Treasury* collected \$169.6 million more than estimated for June of this year, a 15 percent increase from June 2016
- **House Bill 4852**, as introduced by **Representative Beau LaFave** (R-Iron Mountain), would eliminate the ban on concealed weapons in gun-free zones, including schools and bars
- **Senate Bill 249** was signed into law on Thursday, creating a ban on local governments from preventing a charter school from purchasing, leasing or renting a former public-school building
- **Governor Rick Snyder** signed **Senate Bill 394** into law, extending the sunset (until September 30,

2018) for which the *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)* is required to pay the cost for certain services provided by private foster care providers

- **Governor Rick Snyder** announced **Prentis Edwards, Jr.** to **Wayne County's 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court**, replacing **Judge Thomas Cameron** who was moved to the **Michigan Court of Appeals**
- **Kid Rock (Robert James Ritchie)**, formally) has created a website implying he holds interest in the race for a **U.S. Senate** seat, though no official candidacy announcement has been made
- According to numbers released by the *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)*, deaths caused by drug overdose increased in the state by 18 percent in 2016, with the total number of opioid overdose related deaths at 1,689 for that year

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