



KELLEY CAWTHORNE

Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Update

Legislative Update for January 1st thru January 12th

The legislature returned from Christmas break on Wednesday, marking the start of the 2018 session. Leadership priorities this year include driver responsibility fees, mental health service reforms, skilled trades, and addressing long-term debt.

Governor Rick Snyder's final State of the State address is scheduled for January 23. Snyder will use the address to review his administration's accomplishments and set policy and budget priorities for the coming year.

Nearly 1,000 Michigan residents rallied in support of the state's prevailing wage law this week. The rally came a day after the Secretary of State released a finding that a ballot proposal committee working to repeal the law likely lacked the number of petition signatures required to get on the November 2018 ballot. The finding was based on a sample of 535 petition signatures. The Secretary of State indicated that it would further review the petition signatures using a larger sample and make a final determination.

The Snyder administration called on the legislature to reform the tax code to restore the personal tax exemption lost due to the passage of the federal tax legislation. The administration also called for the exemption to be increased to \$4,500, a \$200 increase beyond what is already planned. If no changes were enacted by the legislature, it is estimated that taxes on Michigan residents would increase \$1.5 billion per year over four years. Sen. Jack Brandenburg responded by introducing legislation that would increase the deduction \$300 more than the administration's proposal, for a total of \$4,800.

The January 2018 Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) met this week. Forecasts from CREC predict a 3.1% growth in General Fund revenues and a 1.1% growth in School Aid Fund revenues. These figures were met with concern from many because those increases likely will not match inflation, effectively creating smaller budgets for the state. Other numbers were more positive, including predicted growth in wages and low unemployment for the next several years.

Miscellaneous: The OPEB reform bills were signed by Governor Snyder, below is the list of PAs.

PA# Bill # Date Signed

PA 202 0686 12/20/17 **Retirement**; *other*; protecting local government retirement and benefits act; create.

(Sen. J. Stamas)

203 0688 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *investments*; reporting requirements of a local unit of government retirement system; revise.

(Sen. M. Shirkey)

204 0691 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *county employees*; retirement health benefits under a retirement system established by a county board of commissioners; make subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act.

(Sen. D. Hildenbrand)

205 0692 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *county employees*; retirement health benefits for optional unified form of county government; make subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act.

(Sen. P. Pavlov)



KELLEY CAWTHORNE

Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Update

PA# Bill # Date Signed

206 0694 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *fire and police*; paying retiree health benefits from interest earned on a local unit of government retirement system subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act; provide for.
(Sen. J. Stamas)

207 0696 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *other*; retirement benefits for township employees subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act; provide for.
(Sen. J. Stamas)

208 0697 12/20/17 # **Public employees and officers**; *ethics*; members of the municipal stability board; exempt from the incompatible public offices act.
(Sen. M. Shirkey)

209 5301 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *reciprocal retirement system*; making a reciprocal unit subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act; provide for.
(Rep. G. Glenn)

210 5304 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *county employees*; retirement benefits for charter county employees subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act; provide for.
(Rep. K. Crawford)

211 5306 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *fire and police*; retirement benefits subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act; provide for.
(Rep. E. Leutheuser)

212 5308 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *other*; retirement system established by a library board; make subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act.
(Rep. G. Howell)

213 5310 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *municipal employees*; act subject to the protecting local government retirement and benefits act; provide for.
(Rep. J. Lower)

214 5313 12/20/17 # **Retirement**; *municipal employees*; retirement benefits under a retirement system established by a city; make subject to protecting local government retirement and benefits act.
(Rep. R. VerHeulen)

Bill Introductions:

- [HB 5376 of 2018](#) Construction; code; advisory committees for certain building codes; create. Amends sec. 4 of 1972 PA 230 (MCL 125.1504).
- [HB 5381 of 2018](#) Traffic control; traffic regulation; use of flashing, oscillating, or rotating green lights on construction vehicles; allow. Amends sec. 698 of 1949 PA 300 (MCL 257.698).
- [HB 5382 of 2018](#) Traffic control; traffic regulation; requirement that vehicles move over or slow down for stationary authorized emergency vehicles;



KELLEY CAWTHORNE

Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Update

expand to include construction workers. Amends sec. 653a of 1949 PA 300 (MCL 257.653a).

[HB 5405 of 2018](#)

Public employees and officers; other; use of public funds to settle sexual harassment claims of public officials; prohibit. Creates new act.

[HB 5409 of 2018](#)

Labor; fair employment practices; remedies for mass picketing; modify. Amends sec. 9f of 1939 PA 176 (MCL 423.9f).

Bill Activity:

PASSED, ENROLLED or ADOPTED By the CHAMBER

No activity at this time.