



Prepared for the Fire Service Clients of Kelley Cawthorne

Legislative Update for December 2nd through December 13th

The legislature concluded its activity for the year on December 11th. Last week, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and republican legislative leaders made a breakthrough in previously stalled budget negotiations. Both the House and Senate passed supplemental appropriations bills that would address approximately a third of the nearly \$1.5 billion vetoed and transferred by the governor in addition to funding some of her priorities. Legislative leaders acknowledged that while many large items were not included in the bill, the items that were included reflected high priority items in the areas of public safety, education, and healthcare. The bills included funding for Michigan Tuition Grants, PILT payments, rural healthcare and critical access hospitals, county jail payments, secondary road patrols, early literacy coaches, school security upgrades, and autism navigators and intervention. Funding for Gov. Whitmer's priorities included Proposal 2 implementation, annual fee payments for health insurers under the Affordable Care Act, Healthy Michigan work requirement implementation, lead abatement, IT projects, and state facility maintenance. Both chambers also passed legislation reflecting an agreement for legislative oversight of the State Administrative Board. The supplemental appropriations bills and administrative board changes are received broad support in both chambers and are expected to receive the governor's signature in the coming days.

The bill package legalizing sports betting and online gaming is headed to the governor's desk for her signature. In addition to legalizing sports betting and online gaming in the state, the legislation changes tax structures and revenue allocations. Changes made to the bills are designed to hold schools harmless or increase revenue, a major concern of the Whitmer administration and reason for initial democratic opposition in the House of Representatives.

The House Health Policy Committee heard testimony on bills that would allow Michigan to import pharmaceuticals from Canada and other countries approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Supporters of HB 4978 and HB 4979, sponsored by Reps. Tommy Brann (R-Wyoming) and Steve Johnson (R-Wayland), testified that the legislation would reduce healthcare costs. Opponents, however, argued that such imports are likely to be blocked and that the measure would increase the prevalence of counterfeit medications.

HB 4540, HB 4541, HB 4542, and HB 4543 received Gov. Whitmer's this week. The bill package codifies the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, which allows states to collect sales tax from online retailers.



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Miscellaneous:

The House and Senate sent the Governor to sign the expansion of gaming to sports betting, fantasy, and internet gaming this week. We successfully negotiated \$4 million in revenue from this expansion to be dedicated to the First Responders Presumed Coverage Fund. This will be a stable source of funding for the fund without having to annually seek a general fund appropriation.

The House Appropriations committee took testimony on HB 4426 introduced by Rep. Matt Koleszar. This legislation would modify the police and fire fighter's survivor tuition grant act to guarantee that surviving school aged children of fall first responder will be able to receive tuition assistance regardless of their parents' economic status. No vote was taken on Thursday but wide support from both sides of the aisle were given to the bill.

Budget Overview:

SB 152 and SB 154 were supplemental bills that were finalized this week which restored \$459 million (\$257 million General Fund) to state agency programs and \$114.5 million (\$70.2 million School Aid Fund, \$3.9 million General Fund) to school programs. HB 5176 and HB 5177 were also passed which would make changes to the State Administrative Board powers. These changes were significant in brokering the final deal on restoring some of the vetoes and shifts by the State Administrative Board.

Task Force 1 saw their funding partially restored to \$600,000 as part of the supplemental.

We expect that the legislature will revisit the remaining budget issues in January in an additional supplemental.

For a full breakdown, see attached legislative documents.

Upcoming Committees

Committees will resume after January 8th.

Upcoming Committees:

There are no committees scheduled at this time.

Bill Introductions:



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- [HB 5240 of 2019](#) Campaign finance; statements and reports; required contents of campaign statements; modify to exclude the occupation, employer, and principal place of business of a contributor. Amends secs. 26, 28, 29, 32, 42, 46 & 51 of 1976 PA 388 (MCL 169.226 et seq.).
- [HB 5264 of 2019](#) Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2019-2020. Creates appropriation act.
- [HB 5265 of 2019](#) Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2019-2020. Creates appropriation act.
- [HB 5295 of 2019](#) Property tax; millage; combining millages into a single ballot proposal; prohibit.
- [HB 5300 of 2019](#) Fireworks; sale; storage of articles pyrotechnic for wholesale at a retail facility; modify regulations. Amends secs. 5 & 17 of 2011 PA 256 (MCL 28.455 & 28.467).

Bill Activity:

PASSED, ENROLLED or ADOPTED By the CHAMBER

- [HB 4307 of 2019](#) Gaming; casinos; general amendments to the Michigan gaming control and revenue act; provide for. Amends secs. 2, 4, 4a, 4c, 4d, 5, 6, 6a, 6c, 7a, 7c, 8, 9, 9a, 9b, 9c, 12, 12a, 14, 18, 21 & 25 of 1996 IL 1 (MCL 432.202 et seq.) & repeals secs. 7b, 8a & 10 of 1996 IL 1 (MCL 432.207b et seq.).
- [HB 4308 of 2019](#) Gaming; other; fantasy contests consumer protection act; create. Creates new act.
- [HB 4309 of 2019](#) Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; guidelines for violation of the fantasy contests consumer protection act; enact. Amends sec. 14d, ch. XVII of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 777.14d). TIE BAR WITH: HB 4308'19
- [HB 4310 of 2019](#) Gaming; horse racing; third-party facilitator licenses; provide for. Amends secs. 8, 17, 20 & 22 of 1995 PA 279 (MCL 431.308 et seq.).
- [HB 4311 of 2019](#) Gaming; other; lawful internet gaming act; create. Creates new act.



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[HB 4916 of
2019](#)

Gaming; other; sports betting act; create. Creates new act.