



Prepared for the Fire Service Clients of Kelley Cawthorne

Legislative Update for February 24th through February 28th

The Senate rejected Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's second Natural Resources Commission appointee this week. The vote mirrored the prior rejection vote for Anna Mitterling, who was rejected on a 20-16 vote, with only Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-Newaygo) siding with democrats. Likewise, Heartwell was rejected on a 20-17 vote with Sen. Bumstead again voting with democratic senators. The vote comes after a heated Advice and Consent Committee hearing the previous week, with republicans taking issue with anti-gun statements made by Heartwell and the fact that he had not hunted for over three decades. The committee met again this week and recommended disapproval of the appointment by a 4-1 party line vote. Democrats argued that Heartwell was qualified for the position and that his disapproval was due to political pressure from the National Rifle Association and other gun advocacy organizations.

HB 5550, sponsored by Rep. Diana Farrington (R-Utica), was moved to the floor by the House Government Operations Committee on a 4-0 vote. Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) abstained from voting. The legislation would amend the Regional Transit Authority law and would allow Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties to proceed with a new regional transit system while allowing Macomb County to opt out of the system. Macomb County has historically opposed the implementation of such a system. The legislation also saw opposition from some northern Oakland County legislators whose areas would potentially receive less service than more populated areas, despite paying the same millage amount.

The Michigan Department of Corrections settled a lawsuit involving juvenile inmates for \$80 million this week. The class action suit, which included approximately 1,300 juveniles between the ages of 13 and 17 housed in adult corrections facilities, alleged that class members were subjected to physical and sexual abuse, assault, harassment, and other demeaning treatment at the hands of adult prisoners and department staff. The agreement calls for \$25 million to be paid upon court approval of the settlement, \$15 million by October 2021, and \$15 million by October 2022. The Washtenaw County Circuit Court will decide whether to approve the settlement agreement on April 9.

The House of Representatives passed HB 4274 and HB 4275, sponsored by Reps. Steve Marino (R-Harrison Twp.) and Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) respectively, despite opposition from Gov. Whitmer's administration. The legislation, which passed on 58-49 and 59-48 votes, would require the state provide at least two annuity options to employees with defined contribution retirement plans. The bills are now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Gov. Whitmer activated the state's Emergency Operations Center in response to the worldwide spread of coronavirus. Although no confirmed cases have been found in Michigan, the state has asked 357 people since January 31 to quarantine themselves due to recent travel to China.



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Miscellaneous:

Rep. Rendon is preparing to take testimony on Rep. Yarochs' legislation to include all fire fighters under the First Responders Presumed Coverage Fund. We are working to ensure that the committee understands the importance of this legislation.

Committee work has begun on the appropriations committee which will determine if our \$2.5M for funding to help first responders with PTSD will be in the final budget. They will also work on funding for Task Force One and for additional smoke alarms as part of the work of MI Prevention.

Upcoming Committees:

Committee(s) Appropriations Subcommittee on Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Insurance and Financial Services

Chair Rep. Jeff Yaroch

Clerk Name [Marcus Coffin](#)

Clerk Phone 517.373.8080

Location Room 307, House Office Building, Lansing, MI

Date Tuesday, 3/3/2020

Time 9:00 AM

Time Notes

Agenda Presentation by the Department of Insurance and Financial Services on the FY 2020-21 Executive Budget Recommendation and resources for Auto No-Fault Reform

Committee(s) Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

Chair Rep. Mary Whiteford

Clerk Name [Sue Frey](#)

Clerk Phone 517.373.8080

Location Room 352, House Appropriations, State Capitol Building, Lansing, MI

Date Monday, 3/9/2020

Time 1:00 PM

Time Notes



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Agenda Public Testimony on the FY 2020-21 Executive Budget Recommendation for Department of Health and Human Services

Committee(s) Regulatory Reform

Chair Rep. Michael Webber

Clerk Name [Molly Wingrove](#)

Clerk Phone 517.373.5024

Location Room 521, House Office Building, Lansing, MI

Date Tuesday, 3/3/2020

Time 10:30 AM

Time Notes

Agenda [HB 5437](#) (Tim Sneller) Liquor; licenses; issuance of a national sporting event license; expand to include Professional Golfers' Association Tour Champions Tournament for certain calendar years.

[HB 5407](#) (Mike Mueller) Fire; other; power source for certain smoke alarm devices; enact requirements.

Bill Introductions:

[HB 5554 of 2020](#) Appropriations; other; executive recommendation; provide for omnibus bill. Creates appropriation act.

[SB 0802 of 2020](#) Appropriations; other; executive recommendation; provide for omnibus bill. Creates appropriation act.

Bill Activity:

PASSED, ENROLLED or ADOPTED By the CHAMBER

Passed by Chamber

[HB 4042 of 2019](#) Health occupations; nurses; nurse licensure compact; enact. Amends sec. 17201 of 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.17201) & adds secs.



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16190, 17225 & 17225a.

[SB 0402 of 2019](#)

Water; drinking water standards; Michigan PFAS action response team; codify. Creates new act.

Enrolled

No activity at this time.

Adopted

No activity at this time.