



KELLEY CAWTHORNE

Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Update

Legislative Update for the week of March 20th- March 31st

March 20th -25th

Governor Snyder has sharply criticized the AHCA (American Health Care Act), the health care act backed by U>S House republicans and President Donald Trump. On Wednesday however, he was careful with his words explaining that he does not oppose it. Mr. Snyder has released two letters, one he wrote with three other Republican governors to congressional leaders and one to Michigan's 16 members of Congress, outlining major concerns with the legislation and suggesting an alternative. Those letters have contained sharp criticism of the legislation. But those letters called for changes, not outright opposition. He told Gongwer separately that he would prefer to recommend changes instead of opposing it.

The “Dark Store” legislation that would end an appraisal practice that has greatly reduced the taxable value of big box retailers and reduced revenues to local governments is back for another try, but still faces key opposition. Local governments have two major problems with the current system. First, the comparable system leads to comparing new big box stores to similarly sized vacant ones, keeping the valuation artificially low. Second, big box retailers often place deed restrictions when they vacate their locations to prevent similar retailers from moving in and becoming competition. That keeps the stores vacant and their valuation low. The bills are formally expected to be introduced Wednesday.

The two state associations representing the major insurance companies that do business in Michigan merged on Tuesday, creating a statewide association called the Insurance Alliance of Michigan (IAM). The announcement marks the end of the two separate entities -- the Michigan Insurance Coalition (MIC), which had been made up of Auto Owners Insurance and Citizens, among other mostly in-state businesses, and the Insurance Institute of Michigan (IIM), made up of predominately national insurance players.

The previous split represented a difference in attitude on how quickly and regimented policy positions should be pursued, but given the building pressure to move forward this year on automobile no-fault reform, members of the two former groups have buried the proverbial hatchet.

March 27th -31st

Michigan's judicial and legal world was shocked Wednesday when [Justice Robert Young Jr.](#), who has been both an intellectual as well judicial leader in the Supreme Court, announced he was retiring from the court no later than the end of April and returning to his former law firm, the Detroit-based Dickinson Wright. When Young leaves, the entire seven- member court will have been elected since 2011. [Governor Rick Snyder](#) will, of course, appoint Mr. Young's successor



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who will then be able to claim an incumbent's designation when running for a full eight-year term in 2018.

[Sen. Bert Johnson](#)'s campaign committee has failed to file its last three campaign finance reports, and the political action committee tied to him has not filed a report in two and a half years. Mr. Johnson has had major financial problems for years, with a string of campaign consultants, election workers and others saying he stiffed them on money.

The Marihuana Regulatory Fund that [Governor Rick Snyder](#) had sought to provide nearly \$19 million in his budget proposal would see only \$10 million under the plan reported Wednesday by the Senate Appropriations Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee. Snyder sought \$18.7 million and 108 full-time equivalent workers for the regulation of licensed medical marijuana growers, processors, provision centers and secure transporters. But the Senate used \$172,200 of those funds toward the Direct Shipper Enforcement Fund to increase enforcement actions against unlicensed sellers of wine ([SB 137](#)).

The House is on pace to move all but one department budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 out of subcommittee by Thursday. Only the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) budget is not expected to be moved to the House Appropriations Committee by week's end, which has House Appropriations Committee Chair Laura [Cox](#) (R-Livonia) confident that the next year's budget will be off to the Governor by June 1st, Gov. Rick Snyder's annual goal.

MISCELLANEOUS

Two meetings have been held with legislators in Macomb and Oakland counties to discuss the impending Ambulance QAAP assessment. The legislators were very sympathetic to the concerns of the fire departments. Meetings have been held with the Chair of the MDHHS subcommittees in both the House and Senate. They are considering including language in the MDHHS budget to prevent the department from moving forward with the QAAP. The MDHHS budget will be debated in both chambers when the legislature returns from spring break on April 19th.

The State Fire Marshal served her last day on March 24th. A replacement for this position has not been named. The process for her successor has not been identified.

Senator Stamas introduced the PA 291 rewrite, SB 264 & 265. The bills were referred to the Regulatory Reform Committee.

Committee Reports:

The House and Senate subcommittees on Appropriations for the Department of LARA reported budgets.

The House included: (Please see attached report with specifics)



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- The House reduced the Governor's recommendation for funding for the Medical Marijuana Facilities, Licensing, and Tracking Program by \$2.1 million and reduces FTE authorization by 20 FTEs
- The House concurred in the Governor's recommendation for funding for First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund Administration and Claims
- House includes \$1 million in one-time funding for fire protection grants

The Senate included:

- The House concurred in the Governor's recommendation for funding for First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund Administration and Claims

The House Transportation Committee plans to meet on April 25th to take testimony on Rep. Hernandez legislation HB 4160 which would allow for charitable organizations to donations in roadways. This hearing will be in the House Office Building at 10 am.

Bill Introductions:

- [HB 4366 of 2017](#) Individual income tax; credit; qualified volunteers credit; create. Amends 1967 PA 281 (MCL 206.1 - 206.713) by adding sec. 254. TIE BAR WITH: HB 4367'17
- [HB 4367 of 2017](#) Individual income tax; other; volunteer firefighter and emergency medical services personnel incentive act; establish. Creates new act. TIE BAR WITH: HB 4366'17
- [HB 4399 of 2017](#) Labor; collective bargaining; periodic vote to recertify bargaining representative; require. Amends 1947 PA 336 (MCL 423.201 - 423.217) by adding sec. 12a.
- [HB 4400 of 2017](#) Construction; code; construction code commission and certain advisory committees; increase fire service representation on. Amends sec. 3a of 1972 PA 230 (MCL 125.1503a).
- [HB 4468 of 2017](#) Labor; fair employment practices; act relating to solicitation of strikebreakers; repeal. Repeals 1962 PA 150 (MCL 423.251 - 423.254).



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- [SB 0264 of 2017](#) Law enforcement; fire personnel; firefighters training council act; modify. Amends secs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9a, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 16 of 1966 PA 291 (MCL 29.362 et seq.) & adds secs. 9b & 11a.
- [SB 0265 of 2017](#) Fireworks; other; administration of Michigan fireworks safety fund; modify. Amends sec. 11 of 2011 PA 256 (MCL 28.461). TIE BAR WITH: SB 0264'17
- [SB 0282 of 2017](#) Worker's compensation; employers; authority to refuse reimbursement for certain chiropractic services; eliminate. Amends sec. 315 of 1969 PA 317 (MCL 418.315).
- [SB 0283 of 2017](#) Insurance; no-fault; authority to refuse reimbursement for chiropractic services; eliminate. Amends sec. 3107b of 1956 PA 218 (MCL 500.3107b).
- [SB 0288 of 2017](#) Health occupations; emergency medical services personnel; community paramedics; regulate and provide for certification. Amends 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.1101 - 333.25211) by adding secs. 17039 & 17539. TIE BAR WITH: SB 0289'17
- [SB 0289 of 2017](#) Human services; medical services; community paramedic services; provide for as a covered service. Amends sec. 109 of 1939 PA 280 (MCL 400.109). TIE BAR WITH: SB 0288'17

Bill Activity:

PASSED, ENROLLED or ADOPTED By the CHAMBER

- [SB 0046 of 2017](#) Traffic control; traffic regulation; requirement that emergency lights be mounted on the roof of an authorized emergency vehicle; eliminate. Amends sec. 698 of 1949 PA 300 (MCL 257.698).