



KELLEY CAWTHORNE

Michigan Fire Services Coalition Update

Legislative Update for April 23rd – May 11th

The Board of State Canvassers met on Thursday to approve the addition to the ballot of proposals for marijuana legalization and the repeal of the state's prevailing wage law. The Board approved the marijuana language, leading to some speculation that the Republican-led legislature would act on the issue before the election to make the proposal moot. Speaker of the House Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt) put an end to those rumors quickly, publicly stating that he would let the voters decide. The four-member board deadlocked on a vote to approve the prevailing wage language after concerns were raised about the way petition signatures were collected. Protecting Michigan Taxpayers, the group spearheading the effort, indicated that it would take the issue to court for a decision.

The House of Representatives approved the FY 2019 budget this week with a few minor changes. The House's version of the budget includes a 0.5% increase in School Aid Fund spending from Governor Snyder's proposal, which resulted in the "School Bus" being passed on a 71-36 vote. The omnibus bill passed on an almost completely partisan vote of 66-41. The Senate also unanimously approved an \$18.6 million supplemental spending bill for school safety, which included money for security improvements in schools, as well as communications upgrades.

The Senate passed its version of the budget on Thursday, with few major changes from the versions reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations. One notable amendment, aimed at addressing sexual assault, requires the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education to develop a curriculum for students on topics such as consent. The House and Senate will now form a conference committee to reconcile any points of difference between the chambers' budgets.

The House Committee on Appropriations held hearings on SB 897 (Sen. Shirkey), which would require able-bodied Medicaid and food stamp recipients to work at least 20 hours per week in order to keep benefits. Despite the legislation being highly criticized by Democrats on the committee, House Republican leadership has given indications that the measure is a priority for the caucus to accomplish before the end of the year.

Democratic gubernatorial candidates Shri Thanedar and Abdul El-Sayed filed challenges this week contesting each other's eligibility to run for governor. Thanedar's challenge involves concerns raised earlier this year regarding El-Sayed's eligibility because of time spent in New York. Meanwhile, El-Sayed's challenge of Thanedar alleges the petitions submitted contain numerous problematic signatures, meaning Thanedar did not actually submit the required number of signatures. Both parties have maintained that they are eligible and that any challenges are simply political tactics.



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This week brought several developments in the race for governor. The first Republican gubernatorial debate was held Wednesday night, with Bill Schuette, Brian Calley, Patrick Colbeck, and Jim Hines trading barbs over the course of the evening. Although all four candidates generally agreed on the issues presented, they attacked each other based on political records and actions, the Flint Water Crisis, and personal history. On the Democratic side of the race, the Secretary of State threw out challenges to Abdul El-Sayed's candidacy claiming he was continuously registered to vote in Michigan since 2003, the challenges did include any legal citations or evidence that would contradict that finding, and that the Secretary of State did not have a procedure for addressing challenges to eligibility. A case on the matter in the Michigan Court of Claims is still pending.

State Superintendent Brian Whiston passed away on Monday night at the age of 56. He had gone on long-term disability leave from the Michigan Department of Education at the end of last week to continue treatments for cancer. Whiston spearheaded the "Top 10 in 10" initiative, a plan to make Michigan a top 10 state in education in 10 years as well as implementing the partnership model to address failing schools while allowing them to retain local control. Chief Deputy Superintendent Sheila Alles was appointed by the State Board of Education to replace Whiston.

The House Committee on Law and Justice heard testimony on Tuesday regarding legislation passed by the Senate that would extend the statute of limitations for cases of sexual assault against minors and eliminate governmental immunity for sexual misconduct. Committee members expressed reservations about the idea of holding taxpayer-funded institutions liable for such acts, reasoning that any penalty against an institution would simply be penalizing taxpayers. Proponents of the legislation countered that institutional accountability like what is proposed in the legislation is one of the primary methods of stopping predators. Several more weeks of hearings are expected on the legislation.

Miscellaneous:

Rep. Chirkun and Lilly introduced HBs 5939-5941 to amend the Fireworks Act. The changes put tighter restrictions on the number of days that fireworks can be shot off and the sale of fireworks in tents. They also add Sky Lanterns to the legal items that can be sold under the act. The bills also put the control in the Governor's office not the locals to determine if a burn ban is appropriate.

Rep. Lilly is hosting a meeting on Tuesday, May 15th at 3:30 PM. Each member of the Coalition is invited to have one representative attend.



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The bills have been referred to the House Regulatory Reform committee chaired by Rep. Brandt Iden. It is expected that a hearing will be scheduled for the week of May 21st but nothing has been confirmed yet.

Committee Activity:

Senate Regulatory Reform committee plans to meet on Wednesday, May 16th at 12:30 pm to take up Senator Stamas' legislation SB 279. This legislation adds a member from the Fire Service to the Bureau of Construction Code Commission.

Bill Introductions:

- [HB 5873 of 2018](#) Education; safety; comprehensive school security plan; require. Amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 1308a.
- [HB 5901 of 2018](#) Crime victims; other; allocation for statewide trauma system; modify limitation. Amends sec. 4 of 1989 PA 196 (MCL 780.904).
- [HB 5918 of 2018](#) Public employees and officers; state; post-employment benefits; revoke for certain terminated employees. Amends title of 1994 PA 350 (MCL 38.2701 - 38.2705) & adds sec. 3a.
- [HB 5925 of 2018](#) Labor; fair employment practices; employer requesting, making, or maintaining a record of a job applicant's felony arrest or detention; prohibit. Amends sec. 205a of 1976 PA 453 (MCL 37.2205a).
- [HB 5939 of 2018](#) Fireworks; use; time restrictions, fee collection, and retail certification and safety requirements; modify and clarify. Amends secs. 4, 5, 6 & 7 of 2011 PA 256 (MCL 28.454 et seq.).
- [HB 5940 of 2018](#) Fireworks; ordinances; local government regulations governing the use of temporary structures with fireworks; allow, and modify the definition of low-impact fireworks to include sky lanterns. Amends secs. 2 & 7 of 2011 PA 256 (MCL 28.452 & 28.457).
- [HB 5941 of 2018](#) Fireworks; use; authority to place a ban on the use of consumer fireworks because of weather conditions; limit to governor. Amends sec. 7a of 1941 PA 207 (MCL 29.7a) & adds sec. 7d.
- [HB 5984 of 2018](#) Education; safety; annual inspections of all public and nonpublic schools for safety concerns; require. Amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 1264.



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Bill Activity:

PASSED, ENROLLED or ADOPTED By the CHAMBER

**HB 5830 of
2018**

Construction; code; adoption of safety protocol procedures and building code standards for schools; provide for. Amends secs. 1 & 5a of 1937 PA 306 (MCL 388.851 & 388.855a). TIE BAR WITH: HB 5828'18