



# This Week in Lansing

MHSA • Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Highlights of the Latest Major Legislative, Administrative and Regulatory Activity in the State Capitol

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**GOV WHITMER HITS 100 DAYS IN SECOND TERM** – The first 100 days of *Governor Gretchen Whitmer's* second term have been extraordinarily productive. The *Governor* reached the milestone on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Why it matters:** The *Democratic* trifecta of state government has wasted no time in tackling significant campaign and policy promises during the *Governor's* first 100 days of her second term. The *Governor* is also not wasting the opportunity to acknowledge the myriad of accomplishments.

To read more, please click [here](#).

**HOUSE PASSES “RED FLAG” GUN REFORM BILLS** – On Thursday the *House* passed legislation that would make it possible for law enforcement to remove firearms from people considered a significant risk to themselves or others.

**The bigger picture:** Following the horrific mass shooting at Michigan State University this year, *Legislative Democrats* and *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* have moved multiple gun law reforms through the Legislature. On Thursday, the *House* passed bills that did not receive bipartisan support that create extreme risk protection orders, or red flag laws.

To read more, please click [here](#).

**OVER 840,000 MICHIGANDERS SEE CONVICTIONS EXPUNGED UNDER 2020 LAW** – This week a 2020 law took effect that resulted in 842,593 people having a total of nearly 1.2 million convictions expunged.

**The bigger picture:** In the 2019-2020 legislative session a law was passed that would expunge certain criminal offenses from a person's records when those crimes were committed before they turned 18. Under the law, certain offences would be automatically expunged, which resulted in almost 1.2 million convictions being removed from people's records.

To read more, please click [here](#).

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS PARKS MOTION INCENTIVE PACKAGE FOR NOW** – The *Senate Appropriations Committee* opted not to take up a state incentives package this week after a number of committee members have privately (and publicly) expressed the need for more information before providing final approval.

**Why it matters:** The proposed package for *Gotion, Inc.* was pushed by *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* as a top priority for economic development in the state. The decision to not approve the economic incentive

package this week is the first rift among *Governor Whitmer* and the new *Democratic* majority in the Legislature.

To read more, please click [here](#).

## ELECTIONS

- *Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-Ann Arbor)* announced this week that she will not run for the open *U.S. Senate* seat. Instead, *Congresswoman Dingell* is running for re-election in her current seat, the *6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District*.

## ODDS AND ENDS

- This week, *Senate Democrats* announced the caucus is introducing a bill package that would phase out the use of fossil fuels to produce energy in Michigan and shift toward renewables in less than 15 years. *Senate Democrats* announced the legislation after session on Wednesday and stated the plan to move the state toward a renewable energy future is to protect against the effects of climate change.
- Legislation that would make it illegal for motorists to drive while on their phones received testimony only in the *House Transportation, Mobility, and Infrastructure Committee*. *House Bills 4250, 4251* and *4252* received near universal support from stakeholders and legislators.
- The *House Regulatory Reform Committee* reported legislation that would allow the *Department of State Police* and *Department of Transportation* to install and use automated speed enforcement systems in construction zones on state trunklines. Substitutes for *House Bills 4132* and *4133* were adopted after hearing testimony and prior to being reported from committee.
- The *State Board of Education* proposed a new standard to require a personal finance half credit for students graduating in 2028 and onward. Public comment and discussions amongst the board are set to continue through May. After May, a final presentation and recommendation will be given to the *Board of Education*.
- The *House Criminal Justice Committee* took testimony only on a bill that would create a 19-person criminal justice policy commission, that would analyze *Department of Corrections* data and develop modifications to sentencing guidelines. *House Bill 4173* received some debate among members on the committee.
- The *Senate Fiscal Agency (SFA)* released their March 2023 revenue reports, which showed total collections at \$2.1 billion. Notably, this is a 21.5% decrease from revenue collections in March 2022, as well as \$104.5 million less than *SFA* projected for the month based off the 2023 January Revenue Estimating Conference.
- The *Senate Elections and Ethics Committee* reported a bill that would codify part of *Proposal 2022-2* that states a ballot postmarked on or before a given election day would be deemed valid and timely when received by a city or township clerk within six days of the election. *Senate Bill 259* was reported unanimously by the committee.

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