



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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RED FLAG GUN REFORM BILLS SENT TO GOV WHITMER – The *Senate* took up and passed legislation this week that would create extreme risk protection orders, or red flag laws.

Why it matters: After the *House* passed legislation last week, the *Senate* sent three bills to *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* that would codify red flag laws in the state. The legislation is part of a larger gun reform package that the *Legislature* has recently taken up.

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

FISCAL YEAR 23-24 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS BEGIN ADVANCING – *Appropriation Subcommittee Chair's* began reporting recommendations for the fiscal year 23-24 budget this week, as anxious onlookers wondered if democratic majorities would deviate from, or largely rubber stamp the *Governor's* executive recommendation. Budgets thus far have reflected a balanced mix of supporting the *Governor's* executive recommendation while also prioritizing legislative interests.

The bigger picture: Budgets began moving this week in Lansing after months of public testimony and behind the scenes work by subcommittee members. With the budget process in full swing, policy committees are limiting their activity to allow legislators and staff time to draft, meet and advance bills through the process.

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

SENATE MOVES VARIETY OF POLICY BILLS DURING SESSION – After not holding session Tuesday, the legislature, and in particular the *Senate* was busy Wednesday and Thursday passing a variety of bills.

Why it matters: While both the *House* and *Senate* have a short-term focus on the appropriations process, the *Senate* passed a number of policy bills this week including the repeal of a 100-year-old law that took a surprising, contentious turn during debate.

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

ODDS AND ENDS

- The *Senate Appropriations Committee* approved the state incentive package for Gotion, Inc., on Thursday. During committee, countless individuals testified against the package over the company's ties to China. The committee approved the incentive package with three Democrats joining all Republicans in voting no. The committee approval allows the funds to be dispersed to the *Michigan Economic Development Corporation*.

- The city of Highland Park’s city council adopted a resolution declaring a preliminary review for probable financial distress under the state’s 2012 emergency manager law. The resolution seeking bankruptcy comes amid a \$19.8 million judgement owed by the city to the Great Lakes Water Authority. The city stated it collects only \$9.6 million annually and cannot pay the nearly \$20 million judgement.
- The **House** sent legislation to **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** this week that would allow school districts to use their sinking funds to support certain transportation costs. **Senate Bill 63** passed 61-45.
- The **Senate** passed two bills that would require schools and day care centers to have filtered bottle-filling stations and faucets specific for drinking water. **Senate Bills 88** and **89** passed the **Senate** with broad bipartisan, 31-6 and 30-7, respectively.
- The **House Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure Committee** reported legislation this week that would make it illegal to be on your phone while driving in Michigan. **House Bills 4250, 4251, and 4252** received unanimous support from members present at Wednesday’s meeting.
- The **House** passed legislation this week that would close the loophole in Michigan law for marital rape. Michigan’s penal code doesn’t allow prosecution when the perpetrator’s legal spouse is “mentally incapacitated.” The state’s legal definition of “mentally incapacitated” includes instances where a spouse has been drugged without that person’s consent. **House Bill 4202** removes this loophole and passed the **House** 103-5.
- The **House Judiciary Committee** reported legislation that would require employers and organizations to distribute training information to people designated as mandatory reporters for child abuse and neglect, as well as prohibit people from using their authority to prevent abuse from being reported. **House Bills 4120, 4121, 4122, 4123, 4124, and 4125** were all reported unanimously.

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