



This Week in Lansing

MHSA • Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

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

Volume MMXXIII – Issue 50

December 21, 2023

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! – *MHSA* would like to wish our clients a restful, healthy, and truly merry holiday season! We are deeply grateful for your partnership and continued trust throughout this year. As you spend time with loved ones this holiday season, we hope you can reflect on the many blessings of the past year, which from our perspective, includes each of you. Happy Holidays!

Please note, the *MHSA* office will be closed beginning tomorrow, December 22, through January 1st.

GOV WHITMER SIGNS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILLS – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed two supplemental funding bills this week that make spending adjustments to both the *Fiscal Year 22-23* and *Fiscal Year 23-24* budgets.

The bigger picture: Between the two spending bills, *House Bill 4292* and *Senate Bill 174*, over \$640 million is appropriated to various state departments as well as planning authorizations for capital outlay projects for 13 universities and community colleges. The largest spending piece in the supplementals is \$114.1 million in *School Aid Fund* dollars to eliminate school debt for five districts in the state. The bills also included significant funding for the settlement agreement between the city of Highland Park and the *Great Lakes Water Authority*, and funding for state trunkline and bridge construction, among others.

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

OVER 350,000 MICHIGANDERS HAVE LOST MEDICAID COVERAGE SINCE NOVEMBER – This week *Bridge Magazine* reported that over 350,000 Michigan residents have lost their *Medicaid* coverage since November 30th of this year amid the state conducting their safety-net insurance program.

Why it matters: The state's safety-net insurance program was paused amid the COVID-19 pandemic so individuals who were no longer eligible remained insured through *Medicaid*. However, with the federal government declaring an end to the pandemic emergency earlier this year, Michigan and other states resumed *Medicaid* reviews to determine who still qualified. The redetermination has led to about 1 in 3 of the more than 991,000 Michiganders whose cases have been reviewed losing coverage.

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

ODDS AND ENDS

- *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed *Executive Directive 2023-6* this week, which names numerous state agencies and the federal *Department of Veterans Affairs* “voter registration agencies” in an effort to help with voting-related services. The *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs* agreed to designate its Saginaw Medical Center, Detroit Medical Center, and Detroit

Regional Office as official voter registration agencies who will assist veterans in the process of registering to vote. The directive also requires all departments and agencies to adopt voting information best practices. The ***Department of Health and Human Services***, the ***Department of Military and Veterans Affairs***, several divisions within the ***Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity***, the ***Michigan State Housing Development Authority*** and the ***Michigan Worker's Disability Compensation Agency*** were all named voter registration agencies within the directive.

- The ***Board of State Canvassers*** approved a petition brought forward by Referendums of Michigan, LLC, which is challenging the state's extreme risk protection order law (Public Act 38 of 2023) via ballot referendum. The petition requires gathering 223,099 valid signatures by February 12, 2024, to put the referendum on the firearms law on the ballot.
- ***Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids)*** announced this week that ***Todd Cook***, who currently serves as director of legislative affairs for the ***Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity***, will take over as head of the ***Senate Business Office*** effective January 8, 2024. Former ***Senate Business Office Director Tim Bowlin*** announced his retirement in September, with deputy director ***Sueann Mitchell*** serving as interim director since his announcement.

MHSA

Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates, LLC

Sandra Jones
sjones@mhsa.com

Adrian Cazal
acazal@mhsa.com

Bret Marr
bmarr@mhsa.com

Evelyn Zois Sweeney
esweeney@mhsa.com

Malcolm Kletke
mkletke@mhsa.com

Mandy Bolter
mbolter@mhsa.com

Patrick Harrington
pharrington@mhsa.com

Jon Smalley
jsmalley@mhsa.com

124 West Allegan St., Suite 1900 | Lansing, MI 48933 | Phone: 517-484-8800 | Fax: 517-484-4442 | Email: rsmith@mhsa.com
Follow MHSA on [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)
