



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 TO PRESENT EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* will present her executive budget recommendations next Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Heritage Hall.

Why it matters: The *Governor's* executive budget recommendation provides the first glimpse of key priorities the administration hopes to fund in the upcoming Fiscal Year. With *Democratic* majorities in both chambers for the first time in four decades, the level of support (or lack thereof) her priorities may receive remains a topic of discussion in Lansing.

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

DEMOCRATS SEND RETIREMENT TAX BILL TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE – *Legislative Democrats* sent *House Bill 4001* to Conference Committee this week where it is speculated to play a larger role in passing some of *Governor Gretchen Whitmer's* 2023 priorities outlined in her *State of the State Address*.

The bigger picture: *Legislative Democrats* now have the ability to run multiple key issues through *House Bill 4001* without the possibility of last minute floor changes. Key priorities like expanding the *Earned Income Tax Credit*, repealing the retirement tax, and providing a substantial deposit into the *Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) fund*, could be included in the final bill.

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

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BILL PASSED & SIGNED BY GOV WHITMER – This week, *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* expeditiously signed a bill to move up the state's presidential primary to the end of February from the second week of March.

The bigger picture: *Legislative Democrats* want to move up the presidential primary date to provide increased attention to the state in presidential election years and afford it more power in selecting presidential nominees. The *House* passed *Senate Bill 13* Tuesday, and the *Governor* signed it in short order. But the bill did not receive immediate effect, meaning it currently will not be in effect in time for the 2024 presidential election.

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

GOV WHITMER SIGNS \$1.1 BILLION SUPPLEMENTAL – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed *Senate Bill 7*, a \$1.1 billion book closing supplemental funding bill this week.

Why it matters: *Senate Bill 7*, now *Public Act 1 of 2023*, is the earliest new law of a legislative term since 1947. The \$1.1 billion book closing supplemental provides funding for *Fiscal Year 2021-22*, as well as *2022-23*.

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

ELECTIONS

- *U.S. Representative Haley Stevens (D-Birmingham)* announced this week she will not seek the open *U.S. Senate* seat in 2024. After *U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)* announced she will not be seeking reelection, speculation regarding a potential replacement has been rampant. *Representative Stevens* said in a statement that she felt she could best serve her residents in her current role.

ODDS AND ENDS

- *U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township)* was appointed to the *U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee*. *Senator Peters* is the first *Michigan Senator* to be named to the *Appropriations Committee* in decades.
- *Ronna McDaniel*, Michigan native and former chair of the *Michigan Republican Party*, was reelected Friday to lead the *Republican National Committee*. *Ms. McDaniel* will serve her fourth term, making her the longest serving *Republican National Committee Chair* since the civil war.
- *Representative Natalie Price (D-Berkley)* told reporters this week that she voted from the *House* gallery last Thursday during session due to testing positive for COVID-19 Wednesday morning. *Representative Price* told reporters, “I feel that my duty to the people of Michigan unfortunately compelled me to go in under every precaution I could and be there for the vote. I just want to stress it was a challenging decision. I did everything I could to protect others.”
- The *Senate Education Committee* reported a bill that would eliminate the third grade reading law, and instead implement a requirement for schools to provide a reading intervention program for those who are one grade level or more behind in their M-STEP score. *Senate Bill 12* was reported 5-1.
- *Attorney General Dana Nessel* spoke before the *House Judiciary Committee* and requested the *Consumer Protection Act* be expanded to protect people in the state. *AG Nessel* stated Michigan was once strongest in the nation, but following court cases in the 1990s, Michigan’s *Consumer Protection Act* was weakened.

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