



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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SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILLS PASSED – The *Senate* passed two book closing supplemental funding bills on Wednesday.

The bigger picture: *Senate Democrats* passed their first pieces of legislation on Wednesday, which were *Senate Bills 7 and 8*. Both bills were expedited to the Senate floor after being discharged from the *Senate Appropriations Committee*; a move *Senate Republicans* called bad legislating.

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

COURT DIMISSES GOV WHITMER ABORTION LAWSUIT – An *Oakland County Court* dismissed *Governor Gretchen Whitmer's* abortion lawsuit as moot following the *Governor* requesting the court to do so.

The bigger picture: Michigan's former 1931 abortion ban law penalized all abortions in the state. *Governor Whitmer* previously challenged this law in an *Oakland County Court* last year. Following Michigan voters adopting *Proposal 2022-3* this November, abortion was legalized in the state, meaning the *Governor's* lawsuit is no longer needed.

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

REMINDER: STATE OF THE STATE NEXT WEDNESDAY – Next Wednesday, January 25th, *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* will deliver her fifth *State of the State Address*.

Why it matters: *Michigan Democrats* have begun highlighting their legislative agenda for this session with bill introductions last week. *Governor Whitmer's* speech next Wednesday will provide greater clarity into her *Executive Budget Recommendation*, as well as which legislative issues will be prioritized.

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

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES RELEASED – *House Appropriations Subcommittee* assignments were announced this week.

Why it matters: Over the long weekend, *House* leadership released *House Appropriations Subcommittees* assignments. *Appropriations Subcommittees* are influential on departmental appropriations bills and are key in the appropriations process.

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

SOS BENSON ANNOUNCES 2023 PRIORITIES – *Secretary of State (SOS) Jocelyn Benson* announced her 2023 priorities alongside lawmakers this week.

The bigger picture: Election related issues have continued to be a key topic in Michigan since 2020. *SOS Benson* outlined the key items she hopes to tackle in 2023.

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

ODDS AND ENDS

- *Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) CEO Quinten Messer* will serve as CEO for four more years after the *MEDC Executive Committee* approved the new contract. *Mr. Messer* started as CEO in July 2021.
- *Senator Erika Geiss (D-Taylor)* will serve as the chairperson for the *Michigan Legislative Black Caucus*. *Senator Geiss* has served in the state Legislature since 2014.
- *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* spent the week in Europe on an investment mission. The *Governor* spent time in Norway, Switzerland, and attended the World Economic Forum annual meeting to participate in a panel called “The Return of Manufacturing.”
- 18 Michigan Legislators signed onto a letter asking *Florida Governor Ron DeSantis* to run for President in 2024. Notably, *former President Donald Trump* already announced he is running for President again in 2024.
- Religious leaders, gun reform advocates, and state lawmakers gathered in Lansing Wednesday to hold a rally against gun violence and call for reforms through legislation. Specifically, the group called for the introduction of bills to ensure safe storage laws, red-flag style risk protection orders, universal background checks and restrictions on the ability of domestic abusers to own firearms.
- The *Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission* approved a dormancy plan this week. Once the current litigation the commission faces is settled, the commission will go “dormant” unless future litigation is filed against the commission.
- *Amy Hovey* is the new *Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)* executive director. The *MSHDA Board* selected *Ms. Hovey* in October 2021, but the appointment requires approval from both the *State Board of Ethics* and the *U.S. Department of Housing and Development*, the latter of which was responsible for the delay in her approval.
- *Trevor Pawl*, chief mobility officer and head of the *Office of Future Mobility and Electrification*, is stepping down, he said in a LinkedIn post on Thursday. According to his post, *Mr. Pawl* said he and his wife made a commitment to spend a year traveling in the future. After some health challenges in his family, he decided to do that in 2023.

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