



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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HOUSE PASSES RIGHT TO WORK REPEAL, OTHER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – On Wednesday, the House held a marathon session day to pass multiple key priorities, including repealing the right to work law.

The bigger picture: House Democrats continue to take up and pass significant legislative policies previous Republican controlled legislatures had either buried or refused to debate. The House passed legislation repealing the right to work law; restoring the prevailing wage; expanding the Elliot Larson Civil Rights Act (ELCRA); and firearm reforms on Wednesday.

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

GOV WHITMER SIGNS HOUSE BILLS 4001 AND 4016 – This week Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed two bills into law, House Bills 4001 and 4016.

The bigger picture: Since gaining a legislative majority, *Democrats* have rolled out a laundry list of key policy initiatives to take up. Two of the items were to expand the *Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)* and repealing the retirement tax, both of which are included in *House Bill 4001*. The *Governor* also signed *House Bill 4016* which makes investments to create thousands of jobs in the state.

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

CHANGES MADE TO HOUSE COMMITTEES – On Tuesday *House Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit)* made a number of changes to the composition of *House Committees*.

Why it matters: Some of the changes made by the *Speaker* were to remove members of the *Republican* “freedom caucus,” which is made up of far-right conservatives. The *Speaker* also reassigned particular legislators with a deeper policy knowledge base to corresponding committees.

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

ODDS AND ENDS

- The *Senate* passed a bill package along party lines this week that would repeal the state’s 1931 abortion ban and eliminate the sentencing guidelines associated with the 1931 law. The *Senate* passed *House Bills 4006* and *4032*, along with *Senate Bills 2, 37, 39* and *93*. *Senate Republicans* offered a plethora of amendments to the bills, but none were adopted.

- The **House** passed legislation this week that would repeal the requirement to hold back third graders who are not reading proficiently. **Senate Bill 12** passed the **House** 57-51 and now resides in the **Senate**.
- The **Senate** passed legislation this week that would expand the uses for school sinking fund monies approved in local elections to also include transportation costs. **Senate Bill 63** passed 28-10.
- This week legislation was introduced that would repeal the 2018 law that created the letter grading system for schools. Under the legislation, schools receive letter grades, A-F, based on student proficiency in math and English, student growth in math and English, student growth among English language learners, graduation rates and school's academic performance of the state assessment compared to similar schools. The bill, **House Bill 4166**, is sponsored by the **Chair** of the **House Education Committee, Representative Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth)**.
- New **Michigan Republican Party Chair Kristina Karamo** told reporters this week that the **Michigan GOP** party is decentralizing its operations and is no longer solely working in Lansing. The **Michigan GOP** has an office building in Lansing, but it is unclear if the party intends to utilize it.
- The **House Elections Committee** took testimony only on a bill that would enter Michigan into the **Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote. House Bill 4156** would require the **Board of State Canvassers** to designate the slate of presidential electors to the candidate who received the most votes nationwide. The bill heard mixed testimony.
- The **Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** took testimony only on a bill that would require concrete barriers to protect workers from roadways in an effort to reduce worker fatalities and injuries. **Senate Bill 43** had an S-1 substitute adopted, but the bill was not reported from committee.
- **House Energy, Communications and Technology Committee Chair Representative Helena Scott (D-Detroit)** announced **Public Service Commission Chair Dan Scripps** will speak before the committee next week. Mr. Scripps will speak to the recent power outages across the state following a severe ice storm that left countless Michigan residents without power for many days.
- The Senate passed **SB 35** this week, a bill that amends the Social Welfare Act and eliminates a requirement that the **Department of Health and Human Services** apply an asset test to determine financial eligibility for the **Food Assistance Program**. The bill passed the **Senate 25-13**.
- **Representative Samantha Steckloff (D-Farmington Hills)**, and current Chair of the **House Appropriations Higher Education and Community Colleges Subcommittee** indicated her desire to include an ongoing appropriation dedicated to university and community college safety this week during subcommittee testimony. **Representative Steckloff** indicated she has begun conversations with **Governor Whitmer** and the **State Budget Office** regarding the matter.
- On Thursday, members of the **Senate Regulatory Affairs Committee** heard testimony on **Senate Bill 141**, a bill that would eliminate a January 1, 2026, sunset for allowing the sale of to-go alcoholic beverages under certain circumstances. Numerous hospitality business owners testified before the committee heralding the legislation as a lifeline during a very challenging number of years.
- The **House Health Policy Committee** heard testimony on Thursday on **House Bill 4167**, a bill that would create a **Rare Disease Advisory Council**. The bill, introduced by **Representative Jason Morgan (D-Ann Arbor)** was partially inspired by his own battle with muscular dystrophy. The legislation largely mirrors a bill passed by the House in 2021, but was never taken up by the Senate.

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