



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, SENATE PASS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILL – This week both chambers of the *Legislature* passed *House Bill 4016*, a supplemental funding bill that allocates approximately \$1.34 billion in total funding.

Why it matters: Economic investment has been a consistent priority for *Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Administration*. *House Bill 4016* provides economic incentives for a large economic development project in Michigan, along with other grants and funding for numerous departments.

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

HOUSE BILL 4001 SENT TO GOV WHITMER WITHOUT IMMEDIATE EFFECT – This week the *Senate* attempted to garner a 2/3 majority vote to give *House Bill 4001* immediate effect, but the vote fell short, and the *Senate* sent the bill to *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* without immediate effect.

The bigger picture: *House Bill 4001*, which contains the *Governor's Lowering MI Costs* proposal, failed to get immediate effect which means the \$180 rebate checks under the plan will not be disseminated to tax filers. The bill included an April 18, 2023, effective date requirement for that portion of the bill. Instead, Michigan's income tax rate rollback trigger will likely be met, meaning the state's income tax rate will likely be 4.05 or 4.04 percent, instead of the current 4.25 percent.

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

SENATE EXPANDS ELCRA – In a historic vote Wednesday, the *Senate* voted to expand the *Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA)* to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

The bigger picture: For decades *Democrats* have attempted to expand the *ECLRA* in Michigan, but all efforts to date had been unsuccessful. Wednesday's vote is the first time such legislation moved through a full legislative chamber in the state's history.

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

CONGRESSWOMAN ELISSA SLOTKIN ANNOUNCES U.S. SENATE BID – *Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (D-Lansing)* announced she is seeking the open *U.S. Senate* seat being vacated by current *U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-East Lansing)*.

The bigger picture: Since announcing her retirement following this term, rumors about a replacement for *Senator Stabenow* have been swirling. In recent weeks however, multiple *Democrats* have withdrawn their name from consideration, likely clearing the field for *Congresswoman Slotkin*.

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

MICHIGAN CAPITOL COMMISSION BEGINS MAKING CAPITOL GROUNDS GUN FREE –

The *Michigan State Capitol Commission* voted 5-0 this week to develop plans for enhancing security measures on capitol grounds, which would include a total ban on firearms.

Why it matters: Since 2021 the *Michigan State Capitol Commission* has discussed the topic of capitol security following a 2020 rally which saw armed individuals enter the capitol, some of whom were later convicted in the plot to kidnap *Governor Gretchen Whitmer*. Following another tragic mass shooting at *Michigan State University*, calls for firearm reforms are front and center in Lansing.

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

MICHIGAN COVID-19 RACIAL DISPARITIES TASK FORCE RELEASES FINAL REPORT –

The *Michigan COVID-19 Racial Disparities Task Force* released their final report which highlights Michigan virtually eliminated racial disparities in deaths caused by COVID-19.

The bigger picture: The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted communities of color. The *COVID-19 Racial Disparities Task Force* highlighted that Michigan's aggressive investment and unique approach helped the state outperform the nation in addressing racial disparities.

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

ELECTIONS

- *Lansing Mayor Andy Schor (D)* created a *Congressional Exploratory Committee* as he considers a run for Michigan's 7th *Congressional District*. Current *Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (D-Lansing)* announced she is running for the open *U.S. Senate* seat, leaving her *Congressional* seat vacant for 2024.

ODDS AND ENDS

- The *House Judiciary Committee* received testimony only on a bill package that would implement firearm reforms in the state. The 11-bill package would enact extreme protection orders, safe storage requirements and universal background checks. The bill package is expected to receive additional testimony next week as the committee ran into time constraints on Wednesday.
- The *Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee* also took testimony only on a bill package that would implement firearm reforms in Michigan. The bill package in the *Senate* is nearly identical to the *House*. Three overflow rooms were required for the committee meeting Thursday as numerous stakeholders, supporters, and legislators participated in the committee meeting.
- The *House* passed *Legislation* this week that would repeal the 1931 abortion ban. After moving bills out of committee, the *House* passed *House Bills 4006* and *4032* largely along party lines. Two *Republican* members joined the *Democrats* in voting yes, passing the bills 58-50.
- The *Senate Health Policy Committee* also reported legislation this week that would repeal the 1931 abortion ban. *Senate Bills 2, 37, 38, 39, and 93* were reported along party lines and reside on the *Senate* floor.
- The *House Education Committee* reported a bill that would remove the retention portion of the third-grade reading law. *Senate Bill 12* instead focuses on providing intervention programs and

literacy coaching to students who are not reading at a third-grade level, instead of holding them back. **Senate Bill 12** heads to the **House** floor after the committee reported the bill along party lines, 9-5.

- The **House Elections Committee** took testimony only on two bills that would make it a misdemeanor to possess a firearm inside a polling place, absentee voter counting board locations, or within 100 feet of entrances to these buildings. **House Bills 4127** and **4128** received divided testimony from a wide array of stakeholders.
- The **Senate Housing and Human Services Committee** reported a bill this week that would remove the asset test for the state's food assistance program. **Senate Bill 35** received positive testimony last week and was reported 10-0 by the committee on Tuesday.
- The **Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee** took testimony only on a bill that would decriminalize failure to report a new deer harvest within 72 hours. **Senate Bill 52** would reduce the offense from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of no more than \$150. **Senate Bill 52** largely received support from **Senators** on the committee.
- **House Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit)** recognized Black History Month at the White House on Monday with fellow Speakers from across the country. **Speaker Tate** also joined discussions about various legislative priorities and building a partnership with the **Biden Administration** for economic opportunity and equity.

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