



# 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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**CREC SCHEDULED FOR NEXT FRIDAY, MAY 19** – As a note to clients, the May *Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC)* is scheduled for next Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. *CREC* will be held in-person in the Capitol at 9 a.m. The purpose of *CREC* is to reevaluate the consensus revenue estimate for *Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-23, FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25*. To view the *CREC* announcement, please click [here](#). *MHSA* will provide additional updates on *CREC* in next week's *This Week In Lansing*.

**BUDGETS MOVE ON HOUSE AND SENATE FLOORS** – After being reported to the *House* and *Senate* floors, departmental budgets were passed in each chamber this week ahead of the *Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC)* next Friday.

**Why it matters:** *House* and *Senate Democrats* continued disposing of budgets this week by passing all departmental budgets on the floor. This progression positions bills for final negotiations which are anticipated to take place after *CREC* next week.

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

**DISTRACTED DRIVING BILLS SENT TO GOVERNOR WHITMER** – Bills that would ban drivers from operating a motor vehicle while using a handheld mobile device have been sent to *Governor Gretchen Whitmer*.

**The bigger picture:** After multiple legislative sessions, distracted driving legislation is set to become law after the *House* and *Senate* passed *House Bills 4250, 4251 and 4252*. The bill package received bipartisan support in both chambers and is expected to be signed by the *Governor*.

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

**MSC DENIES APPEAL ON NOW DEFUNCT ABORTION LAW** – The *Michigan Supreme Court (MSC)* denied county prosecutors and abortion opponent's appeal for the *MSC* to deliberate upon a now moot case challenging Michigan's abortion law.

**The bigger picture:** *Proposal 2022-3* enshrined reproductive rights in the Michigan Constitution, leaving Michigan's now-repealed 1931 abortion law unenforceable. However, court cases surrounding the 1931 law were still active until this week when the *MSC* officially closed the abortion right case.

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

## **ELECTIONS**

- Former Democratic state Representative and current commissioner of the Natural Resources Commission **Leslie Love** announced at the end of the **NRC** meeting Thursday that she is running for **U.S. Senate**. **Ms. Love** resigned from the Commission and told reporters that she will make a formal announcement in the coming weeks.

## ODDS AND ENDS

- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** traveled to Austria this week where she participated in an economic investment trip. Additionally, the **Governor** traveled to thank Michigan National Guard troops conducting multinational exercises amid the Ukraine-Russian war.
- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** signed legislation this week that exempts industrial processing involving aggregate materials from sales and use tax. **Senate Bill 97** and **House Bill 4054** both received bipartisan support in the legislature.
- The **Senate** passed legislation this week that would create a local grade separation grant program. **Senate Bills 124** and **125** passed the Senate unanimously. Supporters of the legislation argue the bills would improve major traffic congestion and delays caused by trains in areas in southeast Michigan.
- The **House** passed legislation this week that would make it easier for Michiganders to join Michigan's organ donor registry. **House Bill 4362** passed by a margin of 103-4.
- The **House** also passed legislation that would require the state to reimburse costs for certain special elections. **House Bill 4033** passed by a margin of 94-13.
- The **House Tax Policy Committee** reported two bills that would codify the exemption from the sales tax of items like bottled soft drinks and pre-packaged candy as a taxable prepared food item. **House Bills 4377** and **4378** were reported by the committee 7-5.
- The **House Criminal Justice Committee** took testimony only on legislation that would prohibit individuals under the age of 19 from being sentenced to life without parole for certain crimes. **House Bills 4160, 4162, 4163, and 4164** received mixed testimony and support from stakeholders. **House Bill 4164** bill sponsor, **Representative Curt VanderWall (R-Ludington)** stated substitutes are being drafted to address the balance between justice for families and second chances to those convicted.
- The **Michigan Board of Education** adopted a proposed set of standards for middle school and high school social studies teachers. Under the standards, the social studies endorsement structure would require teachers to earn one middle grade or high school social studies endorsement with the option to add endorsements in civics, economics, geography, and history. According to a consultant for the **Department of Education**, standards are meant to help address the teacher shortage by ensuring the teacher preparation matches the content and skills needed for teaching.
- The **House Economic Development and Small Business Committee** took testimony only on legislation that would eliminate the asset test to qualify for the state's Food Assistance program. **Senate Bill 35** received some bipartisan support in the **Senate**, but **Republicans** in the **House** committee signaled opposition.
- The **House Judiciary Committee** took testimony only on a bill package that would prohibit anyone under the age of 18 from getting married. **House Bills 4293-4302** are expected to receive additional testimony in the coming weeks.

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