



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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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES MOVE BUDGETS TO THE FLOOR – The *House* and *Senate Appropriations Committees* continued the budget process this week by reporting the remaining departmental budgets to their respective floors.

The bigger picture: Last week, the full *Appropriation Committees* in each chamber moved a number of budgets to the floor. Both committees reported the remaining budgets, including *School Aid* and the *Department of Health and Human Services* budget to the floor this week. The full chambers are expected to deliberate and vote on each budget next week.

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

DISTRACTED DRIVING BILL CLEAR HOUSE POISED FOR QUICK SENATE ACTION – Legislation that would make it illegal for drivers to use electronic devices while operating a vehicle passed the *House* on Tuesday.

Why it matters: Legislation banning the use of electronic devices while operating a vehicle has been a long-held priority for multiple legislatures. On Tuesday, *House Bill 4250* received bipartisan support from the 2023-2024 body.

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

EUROPEAN COMPANY ANNOUNCES \$400 MILLION INVESTMENT IN MICHIGAN – Earlier in 2023, *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* embarked on an economic mission trip to Europe in hopes of drawing economic investment to Michigan.

The bigger picture: On Wednesday, the Norwegian company Nel Hydrogen announced it is establishing an automated gigawatt electrolyzer manufacturing facility in Michigan. In total, the project is expected to generate a total of \$400 million in capital investment and create over 500 clean energy manufacturing jobs.

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

ODDS AND ENDS

- *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* signed legislation into law this week that allows military and overseas absentee ballots to be counted if received within six days of an election. *Senate Bill 259*, which is now *Public Act 25*, codifies parts of *Proposal 2022-2* that was adopted by Michigan voters.

- As the budget process is in full swing in Lansing, the **House** passed the **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** bill this week. **House Bill 4238** provides \$23.3 million in gross funding for 15 land acquisition projects and 30 land development projects.
- The **House** passed legislation this week that would eliminate the sunset on the current law that allows carryout and delivery sales of alcohol. **House Bill 4201** passed the **House** 102-5.
- The **House** also passed legislation this week that would amend the **Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act** to add protections against discrimination for employees who have an abortion. **Senate Bill 147** passed along party lines, 56-52, and now heads to **Governor Gretchen Whitmer**.
- **Senate Republicans** introduced legislation this week that would repeal licensing requirements for carrying concealed pistols. **Senate Bills 308, 309, 310, 311, 312** and **313** were introduced on Tuesday and were referred to the **Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee**.
- The **Senate** passed legislation this week that would repeal the state's A-F letter grading system for public schools. **House Bill 4166** passed along party lines 20-18, and now heads to **Governor Gretchen Whitmer's** desk.
- **Representatives Bryan Posthumus (R-Cannon Township)** and **Tom Kunse (R-Clare)** sent a letter to the **House Ethics and Oversight Committee** calling for an investigation into the **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)** over **MDARD** launching an investigation into a resident who publicly criticized the Gotion battery plant project. **MDARD** stated the complaint was launched because of pollution reasons, not due to the individual opposing the Gotion battery plant.

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