

LEGISLATURE REACHES DEAL ON MEDICAL COMPACT – After months of debate over which lawmaker will receive the public act to extend Michigan’s participation in the interstate medical licensure compact, the *Senate* agreed to pass *Representative Rylee Linting’s (R-Wyandotte) House Bill 5455* next week as part of a policy bill deal between the *House* and *Senate*.

The bigger picture: The *House* and *Senate* negotiated the passage of *House Bill 5455* in the *Senate* in exchange for the *House* passing *Senate Bill 581*, sponsored by *Senator Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores)*. Both *Senator Hertel* and *Representative Linting* are in extremely competitive districts, making it a priority of their own chamber to have their sponsored bills be signed into law. The deal came on the final session day before the *House* embarks on a three-week legislative break. The *House* passed *Senate Bill 581* by a margin of 98-2, and the *Senate* will now pass *House Bill 5455* next week before they go on their legislative break.

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

BILLS RETURN TO COMMITTEE AFTER MONTHS OF EMPTY DOCKET – *Representative Jaime Greene (R-Richmond)*, who chairs the *House Communications and Technology Committee*, previously had all bills removed from her committee last September after she missed session due to an international trip. On Thursday this week, the *House* returned the legislation that was previously in the *House Communications and Technology Committee*.

The bigger picture: According to reports, *Representative Greene’s* committee docket was filled due to *Representative Greene* voting yes on *House Bill 5537* on Wednesday this week. Prior to the vote, *House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township)* was seen speaking to the *Representative* while the board was open and the legislation needed her vote to pass. *Representative Greene* reportedly told the *Speaker* “the punishments end” before voting yes.

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

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED FOR 7 COUNTIES – *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* declared a state of emergency for seven northern Michigan counties after extreme winter weather conditions hit the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula.

The bigger picture: The emergency declaration covered Alcona, Alpena, Delta, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Roscommon, and Wexford counties. The seven counties are authorized to use all available state resources to assist with local response and recovery efforts following the storm. Notably, parts of the U.P. saw up to four feet of snow, while other areas encountered dangerous, impassable roads with nearly two feet of snow accumulation.

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

ELECTIONS

- Former *Representative Jaime Churches* announced her campaign for the 27th *House District* on Monday. *Ms. Churches* represented the seat for one term before losing to *Representative Rylee Linting (R-Downriver)* in 2024, who won with 52% of the vote.

- *Erin Schor* announced she is no longer running for the **74th House District**. The **74th District** is currently held by **Representative Kara Hope (D-Holt)** who will be vacating the seat at the end of the year. **Aaron Iturralde** is now the only **Democrat** running for the seat.

ODDS AND ENDS

- The **House Election Integrity Committee** took up legislation this week that would require a township to contract with a qualified individual to fill a vacant clerk position when no deputy clerk is available. Currently, the stand-in needs to be an elector within the township. **House Bill 5717** took testimony only.
- The **House Families and Veterans Committee** heard testimony on legislation that would regulate transportation of youths to residential treatment programs. The use of certain restraints such as handcuffs, chains, straitjackets, and blindfolds would be prohibited under **House Bill 5514**.
- A bill package that would create the Money Transmission Modernization Act was voted out of the **House Finance Committee** this week. **House Bills 5544-5550** would regulate money transmission services such as Venmo and PayPal, creating a set of standards for the services.
- The **House** passed a bill this week that would prohibit the production and sale of kratom. **House Bill 5337** passed after spending nearly 30-minutes on the board by a margin of 56-48. The bill received a floor substitute prior to the vote.
- The **Senate** passed a bill package this week that would change Michigan's primary election dates from August to May. Under **Senate Bills 691-697**, a primary election would also be permitted to be held on the February election date. The change aims to increase voter turnout due to many senior residents living out of state during the winter months. The bills all passed 29-4.