



## Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Update

### **Legislative Update for February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Jamie Clover Adams, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, announced that she would be resigning from her position on March 3 in order to take a new job as advisor to the federal Secretary of Agriculture. MDARD Chief Deputy Director Gordon Wenk will replace Clover Adams. Wenk brings 40 years of experience within MDARD to the position.

The supplemental appropriations bill passed by the House last week was amended by the Senate and concurred in by the House this week. The Senate Appropriations Committee agreed with the House's \$175 million appropriation for roads, but also added \$1 million in funding to investigate Michigan State University officials in relation to crimes committed by Larry Nassar. Both chambers passed the bill unanimously, and it will now be sent to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk for signature.

A package of bills designed to prevent situations similar to the occurrences involving Larry Nassar moved to the Senate floor this week. HBs 4486 and 4487 and SBs 871-880 strengthen laws involving mandatory reporting, statutes of limitations, and protections for survivors. The legislation saw opposition from the Michigan Catholic Conference and ACLU, who expressed concerns regarding the validity of provisions regarding the statute of limitations and child pornography.

Senator Bert Johnson (D - Highland Park) resigned from office on Friday after agreeing to a plea deal in which he will plead guilty to conspiracy to commit theft from a federally funded program. He will serve a 6 to 12 month prison sentence as part of that guilty plea. Senator Johnson's committee assignments were filled this week by appointment from Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R - West Olive). Posts will be filled by Sen. Vincent Gregory (D – Lathrup Village), Sen. Jim Ananich (D – Flint), Sen. Morris Hood (D – Detroit), and Sen. David Knezek (D – Dearborn Heights).

Gov. Rick Snyder expressed support for so-called "red flag" legislation that would allow confiscation of firearms by law enforcement after a judicial order is issued. Despite a recent poll showing 70% public support in the state for such legislation, some Republican legislative leaders have expressed concerns about the proposal. Sen. Mike Green (R – Mayville) and Sen. Rick Jones (R – Grand Ledge) stated reservations over due process issues. Rep. Robert Wittenberg (D – Oak Park), the sponsor of legislation that would establish such a system, voiced his hope that Gov. Snyder would take a leadership role in advancing HB 4706 and HB 4707.

The Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee reported SB 425-429 this week. The legislation would allow people to register to vote electronically through the MiSOS portal currently used for drivers licenses. The House Elections and Ethics Committee also took testimony on a similar bill package, but stopped short of voting on them. Both packages received support from Secretary of State Ruth Johnson.



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### Miscellaneous:

Michigan Competitiveness Committee took further testimony on Rep. Wentworths' HB 5456 which would create restrictions on the asbestos bankruptcy trust funds. A substitute has been agreed upon by all parties that would lessen the impact on those individuals filing claims against the trust funds. Our two main concerns were taken into account.

1. Trust filings- requires trust claims to be filed "not later than 180 days prior to the initial date set for trial in an asbestos action." (This is versus the 30 days after an asbestos action is filed.) This timeframe is reflective of the current practices.
2. Trust claims materials – The bill language required documents to be accompanied by "a custodial affidavit from the asbestos trust claims materials are true and complete." There were some questions about what a custodial affidavit is and whether it even exists, so the language was changed to an "affidavit".
3. Effective Date – To deal with pending AND future claims, the effective date was changed to read: "This chapter applies to asbestos actions filed on or after the effective date of this chapter. This chapter does not apply to any pending asbestos action which trial has been scheduled to occur prior to Nov.1, 2018." The goal is to make sure we don't delay cases that are set to go to trial in the next 6 months.

### Committee Activity:

**Committee Appropriations:** General Government

**Clerk Phone Number** Benjamin Gielczyk 517-373-8080

**Location** Room 352, House Appropriations, State Capitol Building, Lansing, MI

**Date** Tuesday, 3/13/2018

**Time** 9:00 AM

**Agenda** Testimony on the FY 2018-19 Executive Budget Recommendation:

Department of Treasury  
Michigan Civil Service Commission

OR ANY BUSINESS PROPERLY BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE

**Chair** Representative Rob VerHeulen

**Committee Appropriations:** General Government

**Clerk Phone Number** Fiscal Analyst - Senate Fiscal Agency 517-373-2768

**Location** Room 1300, Binsfeld Office Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

**Date** Thursday, 3/15/2018



# KELLEY CAWTHORNE

## Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Update

**Time** 8:30 a.m.

**Agenda** FY 2018-19 Budget Presentations:

Department of Treasury

Revenue Sharing

Department of Talent and Economic Development

And any other business to come properly before the Subcommittee.

**Chair** Jim Stamas

**Bill Introductions:**

[HB 5654 of 2018](#) Marihuana; administration; allocation of money in the medical marihuana excise fund; modify for counties and local law enforcement agencies. Amends sec. 602 of 2016 PA 281 (MCL 333.27602).

[HB 5681 of 2018](#) Sales tax; distribution; certain portion of sales tax into the fireworks safety fund for the training of firefighters; create an earmark. Amends sec. 25 of 1933 PA 167 (MCL 205.75).

[HB 5682 of 2018](#) Fireworks; other; use of sales tax revenue deposited into the fireworks safety fund for firefighters training; allow. Amends sec. 11 of 2011 PA 256 (MCL 28.461). TIE BAR WITH: HB 5681'18

[HB 5683 of 2018](#) Law enforcement; fire personnel; firefighting training funding from sales tax revenue; allow. Amends sec. 13 of 1966 PA 291 (MCL 29.373). TIE BAR WITH: HB 5681'18

[HB 5684 of 2018](#) Law enforcement; fire personnel; fireworks safety fund used to provide compensation to firefighters in certain circumstances; provide for. Amends secs. 13 & 14 of 1966 PA 291 (MCL 29.373 & 29.374). TIE BAR WITH: HB 5685'18

[HB 5685 of 2018](#) Law enforcement; fire personnel; administration of Michigan fireworks safety fund; modify. Amends sec. 11 of 2011 PA 256 (MCL 28.461). TIE BAR WITH: HB 5684'18

[HB 5698 of 2018](#) Worker's compensation; employers; proof of worker's compensation insurance; require employers to post at place of employment. Amends 1969 PA 317 (MCL 418.101 - 418.941) by adding sec. 661.



# KELLEY CAWTHORNE

## Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Update

[SB 0860 of 2018](#)

Appropriations; zero budget; department of licensing and regulatory affairs; provide for fiscal year 2018-2019. Creates appropriation act.

**Bill Activity:**

***PASSED, ENROLLED or ADOPTED By the CHAMBER***

[SB 0400 of 2017](#)

Communications; emergency 9-1-1; emergency 9-1-1 service enabling act; modify. Amends secs. 102, 201, 312, 401a, 401b, 401c, 403, 406, 407 & 408 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1102 et seq.).