



KELLEY CAWTHORNE

Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Update

Legislative Update for the week of February 27th – March 10th

Congressional Republican leadership unveiled the American Health Care Act (AHCA) this week. The legislation is intended to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Because the legislation has not yet been scored by the Congressional Budget Office, the full costs and implications of it are unknown. While the legislation does retain several popular provisions of the ACA, many stakeholders have expressed concerns regarding proposed changes- notably, the conversion of the Medicaid program into a “per capita caps” program (using 2016 as the base year for calculations), a freeze on the enhanced federal match rate for new enrollees after 2020, and the elimination of the individual mandate.

State Superintendent Brian Whiston is working with Governor Rick Snyder and Detroit Superintendent Alycia Meriweather to prevent the closure of 26 schools in the city of Detroit. Whiston is seeking the implementation of state-local partnerships for the underperforming schools. Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw), chair of the House K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, opposes Whiston’s proposal because it delays the closing of schools for 18 months. Despite sponsoring legislation to eliminate the School Reform Office (the entity in charge of closing the schools), Senate Education Committee Chair Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair) has not taken a position on Whiston’s proposal yet, saying further study is needed.

The Governors’ OPEB & Pension Reform workgroup continue to meet. They have not focused on whether they plan to tackle both OPEB & Pension or just one of the issues. Their last scheduled meeting is April 14th.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Fire Service Coalition Legislative Day will be held March 16th in the Capitol.
 - **Exhibits can begin being set up by 8:30 am on the first floor of the Capitol. Helmets will be delivered beginning at 9:30 am. Meet at 208 N. Capitol Ave, 3rd Floor to pick up helmets and delivery locations. There are 43 deliveries that need to be made. This can easily be done by 10 people. Please email Melissa if you plan to make deliveries.**
 - **Lunch begins at 11 am on the first floor of the capitol building.**
- On March 17th at 8 am, a meeting with the Oakland County legislative delegation has been planned to discuss the Ambulance QAAP assessment. It will be held at the Bloomfield Twp Fire Department, Lower Training Room, 1155 Exeter Rd, Bloomfield Twp.

Committee Reports:

The Senate Transportation committee met and took testimony on SB 46 which would eliminate the requirement that The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to delete a requirement that an emergency vehicle's flashing, rotating, or oscillating red lights be mounted on the roof of the vehicle.



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<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2017-2018/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2017-SFA-0046-G.pdf>

LARA subcommittee on House Appropriations: The committee met on Thursday and the State Fire Marshal provided a presentation of the role of BFS. I have attached the presentation for your review. Below are the questions and answers that were provided.

Bureau of Fire Services

- Note: on slide 8, FY16 nursing care isn't mentioned because the inspections are handled by different group outside of BFS

Q&A

- Rep. Whiteford
 - 6% of sales goes to local training- what's the dollar amount?
 - Around \$2 million originally, this year saw decrease to about \$1.6m.
 - 6% sales tax- what's that amount?
 - Will get figure to you.
 - For citations that are issued: what is the fine, and where does the money go?
 - The fines vary. They go back to BFS to fund inspectors.
- Rep. Afendoulis
 - How many FTEs are in the bureau?
 - About 70
 - Are the inspections conducted by the state duplicated on the local level?
 - Locals can enact their own codes, so some may duplicate inspection efforts. It depends on the facility type and municipality. Some locals choose not to conduct inspections because they are done by the state. Locals sometimes request to come with state inspectors when they occur in their respective cities/villages/townships
- Rep. Yaroch
 - Asked for an update on home sprinkler efforts
 - That's been a battle between the construction industry and fire services. Legislation was introduced last session on this.
 - Expressed a strong interest in promoting home sprinklers in new construction, and partnering with BFS to do so

- Rep. Brann



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- Is there anything you do that might be unnecessary?
 - We've looked at all our processes, functions, etc. to see what makes the most sense. When looking at what makes the most sense from a life/safety perspective, nothing could be decreased.
- When public education programs were cut during the recession, did we see an increase in harm to citizens?
 - Hard to answer, but when revenue sharing is decreased, we do see a large increase in fire-related deaths. The Fire Service Coordinating Committee has a Community Risk Reduction subgroup that has partnered with media on various campaigns. The campaign on the west side of the state campaign has been very effective and is a good model for public education programs. Another good example is the partnership with the Red Cross to get 10,000 smoke alarms to people who need them.
- Rep. Santana
 - What is inspected on public buildings?
 - Alarms, suppression systems, door locks, (other things listed on slide 5), as well as structural components.

Bill Introductions:

[HB 4280 of 2017](#)

Individual income tax; retirement or pension benefits; limitations and restrictions on retirement income deduction for a surviving spouse; clarify. Amends sec. 30 of 1967 PA 281 (MCL 206.30).

[HB 4307 of 2017](#)

Labor; fair employment practices; paid sick leave; require certain employers to provide. Creates new act.

[SB 0199 of 2017](#)

Fireworks; other; local unit of government's authority under the fireworks safety act; expand. Amends sec. 7 of 2011 PA 256 (MCL 28.457).

[HB 4289 of 2017](#)

Public employees and officers; ethics; crime of altering data used for official reports to intentionally falsify or mislead; create. Amends 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.1 - 750.568) by adding sec. 491a.

[HB 4323 of 2017](#)

Appropriations; zero budget; omnibus budget appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2017-2018. Creates appropriation act.

[HB 4330 of 2017](#)

Retirement; legislative; retirement health care benefits; limit to 80% of premium. Amends secs. 50b & 79 of 1957 PA 261 (MCL 38.1050b & 38.1079).



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[SB 0218 of
2017](#)

Appropriations; other; executive recommendation; provide for omnibus bill. Creates appropriations act

Bill Activity:

PASSED, ENROLLED or ADOPTED By the CHAMBER

No activity to report