



Prepared for the Fire Service Clients of Kelley Cawthorne

Legislative Update for March 4th – March 8th

Governor Whitmer unveiled her FY2019-2020 budget proposal last Tuesday, which received mixed reactions from legislators. Included in the budget was a proposed 45-cent increase on gas taxes, which would raise the \$2.5 billion experts say is needed to fix Michigan's roads. The tax would be phased in as 15-cent increments every three months. The proposal also includes an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit from 6% to 12%, which is intended to lessen the burden of the tax increase on lower-income residents. Republican legislators balked at the proposal, but acknowledged that more funding was required for the state's infrastructure. Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) agreed with the \$2.5 billion recommendation, but noted that money from the 2015, \$1.2 billion road funding plan should be included in the figure, meaning that an additional \$1.3 billion was the true need. Legislative republican leadership gave the gas tax proposal a 1% chance of passage in its current form.

Also included in the executive budget recommendation was a proposal to repeal the pension tax and replacing the lost revenue by applying the 6% corporate income tax to S Corporations- a format in which business income is reported on personal income taxes. While legislators on both sides of the aisle and the governor have identified a pension tax repeal as a priority, legislative republicans reacted poorly to the approach proposed by Governor Whitmer. The business community and Senate republicans strongly opposed the proposal, saying it essentially amounted to a tax on small businesses. The proposal followed action by House committees the prior week on a repeal of the pension tax.

Supporters of Michigan's current auto no-fault system gave committee testimony in favor of implementing a hospital fee schedule in order to lower no-fault related litigation. They also contended that the Department of Insurance and Financial Services was not properly protecting consumers in the state.

The House Appropriations Committee moved HB 4286, sponsored by Rep. Steve Johnson (R-Wayland), to the floor. The bill provides \$10 million to the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Fund, the amount needed for the fund to operate for the rest of the current fiscal year.

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs announced that it would not extend any more deadlines for unlicensed medical marijuana facilities to end operations, but would recommend that caregiver product be allowed to enter the regulated market if properly tested and tracked.

Members of California's redistricting commission said this week that Michigan's redistricting process must be transparent enough to withstand expected legal challenges, noting that legal challenges in other states were successfully defended against because of that factor.

Legislation was introduced in the House and Senate to modernize the state's gaming laws. The bill packages are the same as a set of bills that passed both chambers but were ultimately vetoed by Governor Snyder last session.



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Miscellaneous

The Michigan Fire Service Coalition hosted their annual Fire Caucus Luncheon at the Capitol. Each freshman legislator was given a helmet and was asked to join the Caucus. We delivered 46 helmets to the Representatives and 8 helmets to new Senators.

The Governors budget did NOT include additional funding for the First Responders Presumed Coverage Fund. Currently, the fund is sitting at close to \$2.1 M. There have been 29 applications to the fund, of those, 19 have been approved, 6 denied and 4 are pending. The range of the claims paid have been as low as \$240 up to \$141,000. The average claim is about \$27,500. We are currently advocating for a sustainable funding source without the fees from the sale of medical marijuana products.

HB 4294 was introduced and it will impact the public safety. It disallows new rules on multi line telephone systems (MLTS) to go into effect. The rules require entities with MLTS, like schools, businesses, etc., to have the location of the phone register at 911. For example, many school districts have phones that all ring as being located at the main administrative office. The rules would require it to ring as the room and address of the physical location. This bill would eliminate the rules requirement. It has obvious public safety implications for response time. Further, it is unfair for businesses that have already converted.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/billintroduced/House/pdf/2019-HIB-4249.pdf>

We expect that there will be a hearing on this legislation soon.

Upcoming Committees:

Committee Appropriations: Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Insurance and Financial Services

Clerk Phone Number Marcus Coffin 517-373-8080

Number

Location Room 307, House Office Building, Lansing, MI

Date Tuesday, 3/12/2019

Time 9:00 AM

Agenda Presentation by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) on the FY 2019-20 Executive Budget Recommendation

Committee Judiciary

Melissa Weipert 517-373-5176

Clerk Phone

Number

Location Room 519, House Office Building, Lansing, MI

Date Tuesday, 3/12/2019



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Time 9:00 AM

Agenda [HB 4031](#) (Rep. Brann) Criminal procedure; probation; supervision fees in the code of criminal procedure; modify.

[HB 4032](#) (Rep. Brann) Criminal procedure; other; supervision fees for probation and parole in code of corrections; modify.

[HB 4129](#) (Rep. LaFave) Corrections; parole; procedures for parole of prisoner who is determined to be medically frail; revise.

[HB 4130](#) (Rep. Tyrone Carter) Corrections; parole; corrections code of 1953; amend to implement medically frail parole.

[HB 4131](#) (Rep. Griffin) Crimes; penalties; penalties related to a parolee in a medical facility; provide for.

[HB 4132](#) (Rep. Bolden) Corrections; parole; corrections code of 1953; amend to implement medically frail parole.

[HB 4185](#) (Rep. Farrington) Crimes; malicious destruction; provision related to malicious destruction of fire or police department property; modify to include real property.

[HB 4296](#) (Rep. Filler) Civil procedure; costs and fees; e-filing fee; extend sunset.

[SB 003](#) (Sen. Lucido) Civil procedure; evictions; writ of restitution; allow to be executed by a court officer, bailiff, or deputy sheriff.

Committee Local Government

Clerk Phone Number Andrew Haring, (517) 373-1721

Location Room 1200, Binsfeld Office Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

Date Thursday, 3/14/2019

Time 12:00 noon.

Agenda Organizational Meeting

[SB 19](#) (Zorn) Public employees and officers; other; 1968 PA 317 regarding contracts of public servants with public entities; modify certain population thresholds.

[SB 173](#) (Stamas) Vehicles; wreckers; incentives for or from local governments for wrecker, recovery, or towing services; prohibit.



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Upcoming Events:

Fire OPS 101
May 20th
LCC Fire Academy
10 am – 2 pm

Bill Introductions:

No activity at this time.

Bill Activity:

PASSED, ENROLLED or ADOPTED By the CHAMBER

[HB 4066 of 2019](#)

Fire; other; requirement for manual fire alarm box in schools; exempt in certain circumstances. Amends 1941 PA 207 (MCL 29.1 - 29.33) by adding sec. 3d.

[HB 4067 of 2019](#)

Construction; code; requirement for manual fire alarm box in schools; exempt in certain circumstances. Amends 1972 PA 230 (MCL 125.1501 - 125.1531) by adding sec. 4h.