

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF JUNE 18, 2018

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SNYDER SIGNS FINAL BUDGET

Continuing his tradition of completing the budget in June, Governor Rick Snyder signed the state's fiscal year 2019 budget outside of the Capitol building on Thursday – his eighth and final budget as Governor of Michigan

Although there were no line-item vetoes in the \$58.6 billion budget, Snyder called attention to one provision, saying that the item banning giving family planning and pregnancy services and pregnancy prevention funds to organizations that also perform abortions if there is a provider in the same county that does not perform abortions would be unenforceable, and if the Legislature wanted to try to change this it would need to be done in a policy bill, not the budget.

The signed budget includes more spending overall than the current FY 2018 budget, but less spending from the general fund.

The 2019 budget also focuses on priorities such as roads and education, sending an additional \$300 million in one-time funding to roads (\$117.3 million towards state trunk line and bridge construction, \$117.3 million toward county road commissions, and \$65.4 million toward cities and villages). In addition, another \$30 million is given to the Fiscal Year 2018 budget for specific road projects. Snyder also said this is a 42 percent increase in road funding since 2015.

In education, the 2019 budget increases per-pupil funding in schools' foundation allowance by between \$120 and \$240 per public school pupil. The total increase in school funding will cost an additional \$312 million, with the total amount spent for per-pupil foundation allowances to \$9.53 billion.

The budget also:

- Brings the state's rainy day fund to more than \$1 billion
- Invests in Department of State Police trooper recruit schools to train 75 more troopers
- Includes a monetary penalty for universities that fail to comply with laws around Title IX and sexual assault.
- Puts \$25 million in one-time spending toward environmental remediation and redevelopment
- Funds the governor's workforce development plan.

LEGISLATURE ACTS ON PREVAILING WAGE

The Legislature acted earlier this month on its 40-day window to vote on the citizens' initiative to repeal the state's prevailing wage law.

The House voted 56-53 the Senate voted 23-14 in support of the repeal. The 1965 law requires that construction workers on state building projects be paid the prevailing union wage.

The vote to repeal prevailing wage happened a week after the Michigan Supreme Court ordered the State Board of Canvassers to certify the petitions submitted by the Protecting Michigan's Taxpayers. The initiative was led by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

The Secretary of State ruled that Protecting Michigan's Taxpayers had 268,403 valid signatures—thousands more than the 253,523 valid signatures needed.

Both the Michigan State Board of Canvassers and the Supreme Court grappled with the issue of a high number of circulators using phony home address on their petitions for the issue. The Supreme Court did not count these as invalid, but said the circulators could be charged with criminal penalties.

ABC and other free-market conservative groups argued for the repeal saying it would lower taxpayer costs by providing more competition among construction companies.

Democrat opponents of the repeal argue that prevailing wage laws ensure working people are paid responsibly and that there is quality work in public projects.

HOUSE PASSES LARGE CARNIVORE BREEDING BILL

A bill to allow the breeding of large carnivores passed in the House last week, giving the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development the ability to grant 10, two-year breeding licenses annually for animals such as lions, tigers, leopards, and other large carnivores.

The bill also creates the Large Carnivore Breeding Advisory Committee which would be chaired by the state veterinarian, and allows the department to create an application for the breeding licenses which includes a description of the two large carnivores the applicant will be breeding, and information from businesses presenting the animals to the public for education or exhibition purposes. The applicant would also need documentation from a local law enforcement agency saying the applicant complies with relevant emergency protocols.

There would also be a \$2,500 application fee with revenue going to implement the breeding license application process.

HB 5778 passed 55-54. An additional large carnivore bill, HB 6050, was also passed. HB 6050 is solely a provision for Oswald's Bear Ranch in Newberry and allows a business to breed up to four black bears per year as long as the business possessed a bear before March 26, 2013 and will not use the bears for food, pelts, hunting, or other related reasons.

SENATE AND HOUSE DISAGREE – POT LEGALIZATION GOES TO BALLOT IN NOVEMBER

Michigan's voters will get to decide the question of whether or not to legalize marijuana for adults on the ballot this November after the House and Senate failed to vote on the proposal.

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) said that the Senate Republicans had the votes to adopt the proposal and amend it, and called the lack of a House vote a missed opportunity.

Speaker of the House Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt) said the House had questions about what an amended proposal would look like, and that the Senate never gave the House a proposal.

Democrats were advocating for the issue to go to the voters on the ballot.

Opponents say the proposal would legalize marijuana without proper regulations. Those in support of the proposal, including its sponsor the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, say it would be a model for marijuana regulations and is similar to the medical marijuana regulations passed in 2016.

MM&A Briefs

Calley, Whitmer endorsed by Detroit Chamber

The Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce's political action committee announced this week it is endorsing gubernatorial candidate Brian Calley for the Republican primary and Gretchen Whitmer for the Democratic primary.

The group is also endorsing incumbent U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Delta Twp.) for the U.S. Senate race.

Schneider officially nominated for U.S. Attorney

President Donald Trump formally nominated Matthew Schneider to be U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. Schneider will need a majority vote in the U.S. Senate for confirmation. The former top aide to Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette has been the interim U.S. attorney since January.

Calendar of Important Events

- June 23 Rep. Bronna Kahle (R-Clinton) Fundraiser
Location: 9 a.m., 109 North Main Street, Adrian
- Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida) Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., 7498 Ida East Road, Ida
- June 24 Race to Build the Monument 5k
Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Commission
Location: 2 p.m., 608 West Allegan Street, Lansing
- 20th Senate District candidate Sean McCann (D) Fundraiser
Location: 4 p.m., 3940 Lakeside Drive, Kalamazoo

- June 25 Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) Golf Fundraiser
Location: 9 a.m., The Bear, Grand Traverse Resort & Golf Club, Acme
- 35th Senate District Candidate Rep. Kurt VanderWall (R-Ludington) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., UACJ Automotive, 4960 West Progress Dr., Ludington
- 55th House District candidate Sen. Rebekah Warren (D) Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., 3300 East Dobson Place, Ann Arbor
- June 26 Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) Golf Fundraiser
Location: 9 a.m., Garland Lodge & Golf Resort, Lewiston
- June 27 Rep. Michelle Hoitenga (R-Manton) Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., Two Hats Ranch, Big Rapids
- 11th U.S. House Candidate Lena Epstein (R) Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., Franklin Hills Country Club, Franklin
- June 29 Rep. Brant Iden (R-Oshtemo Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., 7455 Hidden Cove, Kalamazoo
- July 7 Rep. Leslie Love (D-Detroit) Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., Demi's Restaurant and Bar, Detroit