

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF MARCH 6, 2017

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MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION URGES TRUMP TO TAKE ACTION ON ASIAN CARP ISSUES

Twenty-six members U.S. House members, including the entire Michigan delegation, sent a letter to President Donald Trump asking the Army Corps of Engineers to release its report on Asian Carp prevention efforts, after the Corps announced the report would be delayed indefinitely.

The Trump administration called for the delay of the release of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Report, which had been scheduled to be released on Feb. 28.

The letter to Trump also called for long-term efforts to keep the carp out of the Great Lakes to be continued.

LEGISLATURE PURSUES FOIA CHANGES

Legislation to expand the Freedom of Information Act and create the Legislative Open Records Act were passed out of the House Michigan Competitiveness Committee this week, and could be passed by the House next week during "Sunshine Week."

If passed, the 10-bill package would extend FOIA to the Executive Office, with exemptions, and could make public some legislative communications under a new act created by the bills, LORA, by January 1, 2019.

Speaker of the House Tom Leonard (R-Dewitt), said that he has not talked with Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive), but that the Senate is concerned about ensuring constituent legislation remains private.

INTERNET GAMBLING BILL PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE

Legislation to allow internet gambling in Michigan passed its first hurdle this week when it passed out of the Regulatory Reform. The three-bill package from Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall creates the "Lawful Internet Gaming Act". The legislation would establish the Division of Internet Gaming within the Gaming Control Board, establish a regulatory structure for oversight of internet based gaming, establish licensing fees and a tax structure and require the state to approve qualified vendors for internet gaming licenses. Broad concerns were raised in committee ranging from public safety, youth gaming prevention efforts included in the legislation being sufficient all the way to how

the proposed legislation could potentially impact existing tribal compacts. The legislation now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

FAILING SCHOOLS GIVEN 60 DAYS TO FIND A DEAL AND AVOID CLOSURE

Michigan school districts which were on the list to potentially be closed due to their failing academic performance, now have until the end of April to find a deal and reach a partnership agreement with the Department of Education.

A letter from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Brian Whiston was sent to districts this week who faced closure due to being in the low achieving list, and in the bottom 5 percent of achievement for three consecutive years. Whiston's letter explained that the schools could avoid being closed for 18 months if they work with partners to improve the school.

He also said if no agreement is reached within 60 days, schools would face closure or the next level of accountability.

MM&A BRIEFS

Election Chair Christ Thomas Retires

Michigan Elections Director Christ Thomas announced this week that he will be retiring from his position after serving 36 years overseeing the operations of elections and working with local clerks in Michigan.

Thomas was appointed elections director in 1981, and he has served under four Secretary of States including Richard Austin, who appointed him, Candice Miller, Terri Land, and current Secretary of State Ruth Johnson.

Calendar of Important Events

March 14 Sen. John Proos (R) Fundraiser

Location: 5 p.m., 221 Main Restaurant, Saint Joseph

Rep. Kathy Crawford (R) Fundraiser

Location: 8 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing

Rep. Frank Liberati (D) Fundraiser

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing

Rep. Daniela Garcia (R) fundraiser

Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Rep. Jeremy Moss (D) Fundraiser

Location: 5 p.m., The Exchange, Lansing, 5 p.m.

March 15 Rep. Laura Cox (R) PAC fundraiser

Location: 7:30 a.m., Glazed & Confused, Lansing

Rep. Tim Kelly (R) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Health & Hospitals Association, Lansing

Rep. Jim Runestad (R) fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Sen. Rebekah Warren (D) Fundraiser
Location: 8:30 a.m., Governors Room, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.

Rep. Winnie Brinks (D) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Health & Hospital Association, Lansing

Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R) fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Governor's Room, Lansing

Rep. Brian Elder (D) fundraiser
Location: 12 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Rep. Patrick Green (D) fundraiser
Location: 4 p.m., Governors Room, Lansing

Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R) Fundraiser
Location: 4 p.m., Michigan Restaurant Association, Lansing

Michigan Railroads Association Spring Legislative Reception
Location: 5 p.m., Troppo, Lansing

Sen. Tory Rocca (R) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Tavern & Tap, Lansing

Senate Democratic Fund fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Lansing Brewing Company, Lansing

March 16 House Speaker Tom Leonard (R) fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Governors Room, Lansing

Rep. Pete Lucido (R) fundraiser
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Tim Sneller (D) Fundraiser
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Health & Hospital Association, Lansing

Michigan Fire Service Coalition Luncheon
Location: 11:30 a.m., North wing of the Capitol, Lansing

March 21 Rep. Brett Roberts (R) fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Rep. John Reilly (R) Fundraiser
Location: 11 a.m., Governors Room, Lansing

Rep. Adam Zemke (D) fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Wayne State University Legislative Lunch
Location: 11:30 a.m., Capitol, First Floor, North Wing, Lansing

House Democratic Fund Annual Gala
Location: 5 p.m., Radisson Hotel, Lansing

Rep. Klint Kesto (R) fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association

March 22 Kevin Daley (R) 31st Senate District fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Licensed Beverage Association, Lansing

Rep. Jim Lower (R) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., McAlvey Merchant Loft, Lansing
Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R) fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing

Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R) fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Glazed and Confused, Lansing

Sen. Steve Bieda (D) fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Governors Room, Lansing

Rep. David LaGrand (D) fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Senate Majority PAC 2018 fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., The Exchange, Lansing

March 23 Rep. Bronna Kahle (R) fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing

Rep. Chris Afendoulis (R) fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Steve Johnson (R) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., McAlvey Merchant Loft, Lansing

Rep. Beau LaFave (R) fundraiser
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Jim Tedder (R) fundraiser
Location: 10:30 a.m., Governors Room, Lansing

Rep. Sylvia Santana (D) Fundraiser
Location: 10:30 a.m., Glazed & Confused, Lansing