

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF MARCH 26, 2018

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SPEAKER PROMISES PROMPT ACTION ON CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT BILLS

Speaker of the House, Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt), said last week the House will act quickly on a set of Criminal Sexual Conduct Bills passed by the Senate when the Legislature returns from spring break. The bills change the statute of limitations for criminal and civil liability for sexual assault.

Drafted in reaction to the Larry Nassar scandal at Michigan State University, the Senate version was created to serve justice for sexual assault victims. Leonard said the House will supplement the package in an effort to prevent similar situations from occurring.

The Senate package includes SB 871-880, and was originally opposed by the business community and other leaders. The package gives those abused as minors from 1997 to the present, one year from when the bill becomes law to file civil suits.

It would also allow prosecutors to charge an abuser with second-degree criminal sexual conduct against a minor at any time after the act occurs and to bring charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct against a minor up to the victim's 48th birthday, or within 30 years after DNA evidence identifies the perpetrator.

In addition, governmental agencies would not be immune from liability if they were negligent in the hiring, supervising, or training of an employee who engages in sexual misconduct or if the agency knew or should have known of the misconduct and failed to report it under the bills.

ROAD FUNDING READY FOR POTHOLE SEASON

Governor Rick Snyder added \$175 million for road repairs to this year's General Fund by signing a supplemental budget appropriation last week. The additional funds mean more roads can be fixed during the current construction season, and also increase the state budget for road repairs to about \$4.5 billion for 2018.

Both House Speaker Tom Leonard (R-DeWitt) and Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) supported the measures.

Although in support of spending the money on roads, Democrats and others don't think the supplemental budget goes far enough or meets the need for a long term plan to fund Michigan's roads.

"The Governor's 21st Century Infrastructure Commission have pointed out that \$2.7 billion a year is the funding that is needed to restore the road system that we have. We are on our way to \$1.2 billion by the

end of 2021 and it's time to begin talking about phase two and that second step," said Denise Donohue, director of the County Road Association of Michigan.

SNYDER OFFICIALLY ENDORSES CALLEY

Gov. Rick Snyder gave his official endorsement of Lt. Governor Brian Calley's gubernatorial bid last week, saying that Calley would bring the state together rather than divide it.

"Brian has been a key part of Michigan's reinvention and has a complex understanding of the reforms and modernizations of state government that brought us back to economic prosperity," he said. "He isn't afraid of tough problems, and he is the one I believe has the experience, the leadership and the expertise that can continue our comeback."

MM&A Briefs

Whitmer names Goldman as new campaign manager

Gretchen Whitmer has named a new campaign manager, Eric Goldman to manage her bid to become Michigan's next governor. Goldman will be Whitmer's third campaign manager so far.

Goldman was previously the manager of Ohio gubernatorial candidate Connie Pillich's campaign. Pillich was one of the first candidates in the race, and a leading Democratic fundraiser before dropping out of the race to endorse Richard Cordray. Goldman was also campaign manager for Steve Santarsiero, a Democratic who ran for congress and lost in Pennsylvania's 8th District.

Former MSU dean and Nassar's boss charged

Former dean of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, William Strampel, was charged with misconduct in office, fourth-degree criminal sexual misconduct and two counts of willful neglect of duty this week for allegedly possessing pornographic videos, using his position to manipulate female students and not enforcing protocols against Nassar after a Title IX investigation. Strampel was arraigned on all charges at the 54-B District Court in East Lansing.

Calendar of Important Events

- April 3 2nd Senate District Candidate Adam Hollier (D) Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., Grosse Pointe War Memorial, Grosse Pointe Farms
- April 5 Rep. Tim Sneller (D-Burton) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Brick Street of Grand Blanc, Grand Blanc
- April 9 Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m. DeVos Graduate School Bldg., Northwood University, Midland
- U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) campaign kickoff
Location: 5:30 p.m., The American Spirit Centre, Brighton
- U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Tipton) fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., The Commonwealth Commerce Center, Jackson

- April 10 Rep. Roger Hauck (R-Mt. Pleasant) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) Senate Campaign Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Jim Lower (R-Cedar Lake) Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- April 11 Rep. Lana Theis (R-Brighton) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Ben Frederick (R-Owosso) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- 20th Senate District Candidate Sean McCann (D) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Brandt Iden (R-Oshtemo Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 12 p.m., TBA
- Rep. Scott Dianda (D-Calumet) Senate Campaign Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- April 12 Rep. Jeff Noble (R-Plymouth) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) State House Campaign Fundraiser
Location: 8:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Abdullah Hammoud (D-Dearborn) Fundraiser
Location: 11 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing