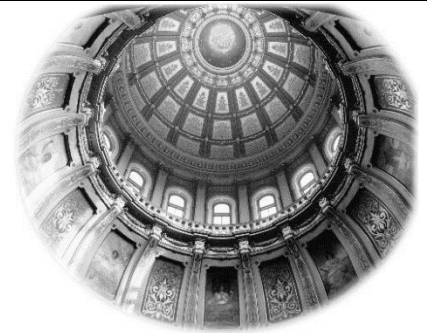


# CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF OCTOBER 2, 2017

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## **HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARS DUGGAN, OTHERS TESTIFY ON NO-FAULT REFORM**

The House Insurance Committee held hearings this week on new legislation designed as another attempt to overhaul the state's auto insurance system. The committee took testimony from supporters and opponents of House Bill 5013, including Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan who supports the bill as a starting point, even though he said he would ideally like it to include having credit scores and zip codes removed from consideration when insurance companies set rates.

Duggan, Speaker of the House Tom Leonard, and Committee Chair Rep. Lana Theis (R-Brighton) worked together to come up with the bill, which in its current form, would give drivers more options for personal injury protection and create a new fraud authority. Proponents say the current no-fault law drives up insurance rates through its unlimited, lifetime coverage, and that 49 other states do not offer unlimited benefits. Duggan is also concerned that because of the expense, his residents are driving without insurance at an alarming rate. The proposal could also offer the potential of over \$1 billion in savings to drivers.

Opponents are concerned that the insurance industry will keep reduced rates after the initial five years, and that the proposal shifts \$150 million in costs to the Medicaid system with no "permanent" rate relief.

Rep. Theis has encouraged all members to submit alternative proposals or amendments in the coming week, but has not indicated when the committee would take up the vote.

## **BLACK CAUCUS AMONG GROUPS CALLING FOR ETUE TO RESIGN**

After calling for the resignation of Michigan State Police Director Kriste Etue, the Legislative Black Caucus met with her this week to discuss her Facebook post and other issues related to the MSP and minority populations.

The members of the Black Caucus said the meetings were productive, but they were not ready to rescind their calls for her to resign. The caucus will continue to meet with Etue to discuss systemic changes which they would like to see in the MSP and other state departments.

Etue has apologized for posting a meme to her Facebook page calling professional football players "degenerates" for kneeling during the national anthem. She has also said that she will not be resigning her post.

## **LEONARD OFFICIALLY ENTERS ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE**

Michigan's Speaker of the House Tom Leonard officially announced on Thursday that he is running for the office of Attorney General.

"I love fighting for people. My entire professional career has been fighting for people," Leonard said. "I was in the AG's office for a couple of years. And that puts me in a position where I'm immediately qualified."

Leonard was elected to the state House of Representatives in 2013 and became Speaker of the House this year. He was previously a Genesee County assistant prosecutor and worked in the Attorney General's office.

Leonard joins State Senator Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton) in the race. Schuitmaker announced her run two weeks ago before the Republican convention on Mackinac Island. The Republican nominee for attorney general will be chosen during the Republican convention held after the 2018 August primary election.

Former U.S. Attorney Pat Miles of Grand Rapids and Detroit attorney Dana Nassel have also announced they are running for the Democratic nomination.

Current Attorney General Bill Schuette, who is unable to run for reelection due to term limits, is running for governor.

## **SENATE PUSHES FOR PRIVATE POLICE FORCES**

The Senate Government Operations Committee heard testimony on a two-bill package sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof this week which would allow private police forces to supplement public law enforcement agencies in the state of Michigan.

Under the legislation, the potentially for-profit agencies would have full arrest powers and would provide services for a specific time and in a specific geographic area. Corporations, associations, school districts, and other entities could create contracts with the agencies.

Proponents say the bill would fill a necessary gap due to police having fewer resources but more need for their services.

Current law enforcement officials said the transparency and training requirements in the bill are cause for concern.

## **MM&A Briefs**

### **Lyon criminal case begins**

Testimony continued this week in the involuntary manslaughter and misconduct in office criminal case against Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon to determine if the case will proceed to trial in Genesee County Circuit Court. Lyon is the highest ranking government official charged in connection with the Flint water crisis. The charges are in regards to an outbreak of

Legionnaires' disease in the Flint area that several top-ranking state officials allegedly did not inform the public about until about a year after the officials had found out.

### **Kelly nominated to U.S. Dept. of Education post**

Michigan State Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw Twp.) has been nominated by President Donald Trump to become assistant secretary for career, technical, and adult education in the U.S. Department of Education. Kelly, who is serving his third term in office, is currently chair of the House Education Reform Committee and the House Appropriations subcommittee on school aid. He also has served as an education policy adviser under former Gov. John Engler.

### **Calendar of Important Events**

Oct. 9            Rep. Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Twp.) Senate Campaign Fundraiser  
Location: 5:30 p.m., MacKay Harbor Banquet & Events Center, Harrison Twp.

Oct. 10          Rep. Jeff Noble (R-Plymouth) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Restaurant Association, Lansing

Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

Rep. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Rep. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

Rep. Klint Kesto (R-Commerce Twp.) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Glazed and Confused, Lansing

Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Oct. 11          Rep. Lana Theis (R-Brighton) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers, Lansing, 8 a.m.

Rep. Sylvia Santana (D-Detroit) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

House Republican Campaign Committee Fundraiser  
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Sen. Jack Brandenburg (R-Harrison Twp.) Fundraiser  
Location: 5 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

- Oct. 12      Rep. Martin Howrylak (R-Troy) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Tom Cochran (D-Mason) Fundraiser  
Location: 9 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Robert Wittenberg (D-Oak Park) Fundraiser  
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- 34th Senate District Candidate Jon Bumsted (R) Fundraiser  
Location: 11 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Oct. 13      Rep. Mike McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills) Fundraiser  
Location: 5 p.m., Oakland Hills Country Club, Bloomfield Hills
- Oct. 16      93rd District State House Candidate Graham Filler (R) Fundraiser  
Location: 5 p.m., Boji Tower, Lansing
- Rep. Brandt Iden (R-Oshtemo Twp.) Fundraiser  
Location: 5 p.m., Cove Lakeside Bistro, Portage
- Oct. 17      Rep. Julie Calley (R-Portland) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Brian Elder (D-Bay City) Fundraiser  
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland Twp.) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Kelley Cawthorne, Lansing
- Rep. Kristy Pagan (D-Canton) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Patrick Green (D-Warren) Fundraiser  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Eric Leutheuser (R-Hillsdale) Fundraiser  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Oct. 18      Rep. Jeff Yaroch (R-Richmond) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Michele Hoytenga (R-Manton) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Mediteran Café, Lansing

- Oct. 18      Secretary of State Ruth Johnson (R) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Sen. Steven Bieda (D-Warren) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) fundraiser for Senate campaign  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Senate Republican Campaign Committee fundraiser  
Location: 5:30 p.m., Oakland Hills Country Club, Bloomfield Hills
- Oct. 19      Rep. Diana Farrington (R-Utica) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Triston Cole (R-Mancelona) Fundraiser  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Steve Marino (R-Harrison Twp.) Fundraiser  
Location: 10 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Brian Elder (D-Bay City) Fundraiser  
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Jim Tedder (R-Clarkston) Fundraiser  
Location: 3:30 p.m., Oakland County Sportsman's Club, Clarkston
- Rep. Sylvia Santana (D-Detroit) Fundraiser  
Location: 6 p.m., Arab American Museum, Dearborn
- Oct. 20      Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) Fundraiser  
Location: 7:30 a.m., The Pinnacle Center, Hudsonville