

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF JUNE 4, 2018

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NO-FAULT CHANGES FOCUS ON SENIORS, PASS IN SENATE

The Senate passed legislation on Thursday that would make changes to the state's no-fault auto insurance by allowing seniors to choose their coverage limits for personal injury protection, and creating an insurance fraud prevention authority.

Proponents say these are the first steps to reform a system that has needed change for years, but the legislature has failed to make any changes up to this point. The legislation could also lead to reduced auto insurance programs. Senate Bills 787 and 1014 passed with a vote of 23-13. Four Republicans and all nine Democrats opposed the bills.

Senate Bill 787, would give seniors age 65 and older the choice to use no-fault auto insurance, or their personal health insurance to cover medical bills caused by car accidents. The two options would include a \$50,000 cap on no-fault insurance benefits or no cap at all. The default would be \$50,000 and would expand options available for paying for health care including private insurance, Medicaid, or personal payment.

Senate Bill 1014 creates an insurance fraud prevention authority, limits attendant care provided by a relative or person living in the same household, and caps medical coverage at \$400,000 for injured individuals with no insurance coverage. Currently, there is not a limit on these assigned claims.

SB 787 sponsor Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) said although he would prefer a complete overhaul of no-fault insurance for everyone, making changes for seniors is a good starting point. According to Jones, Michigan is the only state where Medicare does not coordinate with auto insurance companies on benefits, essentially triggering higher rates after age 65.

PER PUPIL INCREASES AND SHARED TIME HIGHLIGHT SCHOOL AID BUDGET

Conference committees came to budget agreements this week, with the upcoming School Aid Fund budget providing an increase of at least \$120 per public school pupil, with some schools getting \$240 per student. It also agreed to continue funding of shared time agreements with non-public schools and retained around \$132 million for these programs.

The increased funding will add \$312 million gross to school operating funds. The increase is a 1.2 percent increase overall, however, the budget also moves \$135.46 million away from the General Fund and puts it into the School Aid Fund.

Additionally, the conference agreed to provide \$5 million to encourage local districts to enroll students in career and technical education based on the governor's proposal; and retained \$2.5 million in the budget for grants and career and technical education equipment.

Other features of the School Aid Budget include:

- \$2.25 million for special education millage equalization for intermediate school districts.
- \$1.5 million for kindergarten entry assessment
- \$500,000 towards a summer reading pilot proposed by the Senate
- \$30 million School Aid Fund into the School Mental Health and Support Services Fund

The Legislature expects to complete any additional changes and voting by Tuesday, before breaking for summer.

MEDICAID WORK REQUIREMENT BILL HEADED TO SNYDER'S DESK

Legislation that will enact Medicaid work requirements in the state, once the federal government approves a waiver request, is headed to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk after the Senate concurred with House changes on the bill this week.

Snyder is expected to sign SB 897. His administration has been negotiating with the bill's sponsor, Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake). There is a provision in the bill that would end the Healthy Michigan program if the federal government does not allow a waiver. Snyder's administration, however, said the state has been in contact with the federal government and believes it will approve the waiver.

Snyder said that the bill "ensures the continuation and sustainability of the Healthy Michigan program."

Taking effect in January 2020, the legislation requires recipients of Healthy Michigan benefits to work 80 hours per month. Several exceptions are included in the bill for pregnant women, people 20-years old or younger who have been in foster care, disabled individuals, and caretakers of young children or dependents, full-time students, people who can't work due to medical conditions, recipients of unemployment benefits, and those incarcerated in the last six months.

Michigan's work requirement bill, and several other states, have been able to put the work requirement into practice after the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services allowed the options earlier this year. The Federal government has approved waivers for three states including Kentucky, Arkansas and Indiana.

In addition to traditional employment, the work requirement include training, vocational training, internships, tribal employment, substance abuse treatment, job searching and community service.

MM&A Briefs

Snyder names members of School Safety Task Force

Gov. Rick Snyder appointed 13 Michigan residents to Michigan's School Safety Task Force. Appointees include teachers, law enforcement officers, administrators, security experts, representatives from the Michigan State Police, the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, and nominees from both political parties.

The group is tasked with submitting a report to Snyder and the Legislature before Nov. 30 with best practice recommendations for assessing school infrastructure safety policies, creating safe learning environments.

Appointees include:

- Bishop Cory Chavis, Canton - Representing parents
- Nicholas Dent, Marshall - Representing Teachers
- David Forystek, Fenton - Nominee of the Speaker of the House
- Brian Gard, Rockford - Nominee of the Senate Majority Leader
- Patricia Kovacs, St. Clair Shores - Nominee of the Senate Minority Leader
- Rick Joseph, Royal Oak - Nominee of the Minority Leader of the House
- Larry Johnson, Kentwood - Representing school administrators
- Paul Lauria, Mount Pleasant - Represent law enforcement
- Elizabeth Newell, Williamston - Representing mental health professionals
- Nolan Wright, Saline - Representing students
- Michigan State Police Director Colonel Kriste Kibbey Etue
- Deputy Superintendent Kyle Guerrant
- Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Director Nancy Vreibel

Calendar of Important Events

June 12 12th Senate District Candidate Rep. Mike McCready (R) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

Rep. Dave Maturen (R-Vicksburg) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Steve Marino (R-Harrison Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

42nd House District Candidate Ann Bolin (R) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

Sen. Curtis Hertel (D-East Lansing) Fundraiser
Location: 4 p.m., Kelley's Downtown, Lansing

June 13 Rep. Larry Inman (R-Williamsburg) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

Rep. Ben Frederick (R-Owosso) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

17th Senate District Candidate Bill LaVoy (D) Fundraiser
Location: 8:30 a.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing

Rep. Kathy Crawford (R-Novi) Fundraiser
Location: 8:30 a.m., Grand Traverse Pie Company, Lansing

House Minority Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) Fundraiser
Location: 5:30 p.m., El Azteco East, Lansing

- June 14 Rep. Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- June 15 Rep. Jason Sheppard (R-Temperance) Fishing Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Toledo Beach Marina, LaSalle
- June 18 21st Senate District Candidate Rep. Kim LaSata (R) Fundraiser
Location: 9:30 a.m., Dunes Club, New Buffalo
- Rep. Kathy Crawford (R- Novi) Fundraiser
Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi, 11:30 a.m. Add to Calendar
- Rep. Tommy Brann (R-Wyoming) Fundraiser
Brann's Steakhouse, 4157 Division Avenue South, Wyoming, 6 p.m.
- June 19 Rep. Julie Alexander (R-Hanover) Fundraiser
Country Club of Jackson, 3135 Horton Road, Jackson, 4 p.m. Add to Calendar
- House Democratic Fund
Green Dot Stables, 410 South Clippert St., Lansing, 5 p.m. Add to Calendar
- Sen. Mike Kowall (R-White Lake) Congressional Race Fundraiser
Sapphire Room, Suburban Collection Showplace, 6100 Grand River Avenue, Novi, 5:50 p.m. Add to Calendar
- June 21 Rep. Patrick Green (D-Warren) Fundraiser
3929 Marlene Drive, Warren, 5:30 p.m.
- June 22 29th Senate District Candidate Chris Afendoulis (R) Golf Fundraiser
Scott Lake Country Club, 911 Hayes Road N.E., Comstock Park, 9 a.m.
- 30th Senate District candidate Daniela Garcia (R) Golf Fundraiser
Winding Creek Golf Club, 4514 Ottogan Street, Holland, 9:30 a.m.
- Rep. Sheldon Neeley (D-Flint) Fundraiser
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing