

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2019

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SENATE NO-FAULT BILL DRAFT TO BE READY IN MAY, ROAD FUNDING PROPOSAL COULD APPEAR EARLY SUMMER

A Senate spokesperson this week said that a draft outline of comprehensive Senate no-fault auto insurance legislation might be unveiled by next month, and that the Senate's road funding proposal should be ready by early summer.

Although there has not been a detailed framework announced, the Senate Insurance and Banking Committee has been taking testimony from stakeholders about SB 1, the vehicle bill for a proposed auto insurance reform bill.

Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) introduced SB 1 and said he has been meeting with stakeholders and taking feedback from members on a potential solution for what has often been labeled as being the highest auto insurance rates in the nation. Nesbitt and others have said any proposal must contain significant premium rate relief to motorists, allow motorists the ability to choose the coverage level, reduce fraud and other goals.

For road funding, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) had previously mentioned having a Senate proposal to counter Governor Gretchen Whitmer's proposed 45-cents per gallon gasoline tax increase. The legislation is expected to have a mix of existing revenue in the budget and new revenue for additional road funding.

HOADLEY ANNOUNCES RUN AGAINST UPTON FOR 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Rep. Jon Hoadley (D- Kalamazoo) announced he will challenge longtime Republican incumbent, Congressman Fred Upton, in a run for the 6th Congressional District.

Hoadley, in his third term representing Kalamazoo and parts of Portage and Kalamazoo Township, cannot seek re-election for the 60th House District. Hoadley has said he will focus on people, not special interests.

Upton, from Saint Joseph, has held the seat since 1986. The traditionally Republican seat is has swung toward the Democratic party in Kalamazoo County, but the district also includes portions of traditionally strong Republican areas of Allegan and Berrien counties.

Upton won the last closer-than-expected race less than two years ago by only 5 percent against political unknown, Democrat Matt Longjohn. The race will be the last time anyone can run for these districts, since all congressional districts will be redrawn after the 2020 census and state's new redistricting rules.

SUPREME COURT SET TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON 'ADOPT AND AMEND' STRATEGY

The Supreme Court announced that it will be holding oral arguments in July on the constitutionality of the "adopt and amend" tactic used by Republican state lawmakers last year.

During Lame Duck last year, the Legislature passed minimum wage and paid sick time ballot proposals, and then significantly changed them after adoption—instead of letting the proposals go to the ballot.

Although Republicans introduced the measure asking the Supreme Court for its opinion, Democrats also have said they welcome the Supreme Court's input.

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on July 17 at 9:30 a.m. The hearing, however, does not guarantee an advisory opinion by the Supreme Court. The court has also asked for briefs from House and Senate members, and requested briefs arguing both sides of the issue from Attorney General Dana Nessel.

Briefs supporting the constitutionality of the current minimum wage and paid sick leave laws, which went into effect last week, are due by May 15. Briefs opposing the constitutionality are due by June 19. Other seeking to file briefs can request permission from the court.

Nessel turned down a request to issue an opinion on the issue since it is being considered by the Supreme Court. Former Attorney General Bill Schuette had issued an opinion last year saying the adopt and amend strategy was constitutional, which reversed an earlier opinion from former Attorney General Frank Kelley.

SENATE COMMITTEE PREPARES TO REPORT 'RAISE THE AGE BILLS'

The Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee plans to report a legislative package that would increase the age for individuals automatically being charged as adults next week.

During the final testimony hearing, court officials told the Senate panel that they would agree in principal of moving 17-year-olds into the juvenile system, but are concerned about expected cost increases. Counties currently share the juvenile justice cost with the state 50-50. The two funding options discussed in the proposed legislation are either having the state pay 100 percent of the cost for the 17-year-olds, or the state paying 68 percent of the cost.

Court officials prefer the 68 percent option saying it would work best. In addition, the Child Care Fund mechanism is familiar to the courts, counties, and DHHS.

MM&A Briefs

Mills returns as House Policy Director

Michigan State Housing Development Authority chief of staff Brian Mills will be returning to the position of Republican House Policy Director after MHSDA's Republican executive director, Earl Poleski, was removed when appointees on the board switched to Whitmer appointees. Mills was previously held the position from 2011 to 2015.

The current House Policy Director Bill Stone, will become the Republican majority general counsel for the Senate.

Snyder joins national advisory council

Former Governor Rick Snyder was recently named to a national advisory committee for a center-right public policy organization founded in 2017 by former Ohio Governor John Kasich named Two Paths America.

The group was formed by Kasich to "promote reasonable and proven solutions to America's challenges."

Calendar of Important Events

- April 16**
- Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland Twp.) Fundraiser**
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Governors' Room, Lansing

 - Rep. Mark Huizenga (R-Walker) Fundraiser**
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

 - Rep. Angela Witwer (D-Delta Twp.) Fundraiser**
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

 - Sen. Curtis Hertel, Jr. (D-East Lansing) Fundraiser**
Location: 12 p.m., Karoub Associates, The Governors' Room, Lansing

 - Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) Fundraiser**
Location: 4:30 p.m., Governor's Room, Karoub Associates, Lansing

 - Rep. Isaac Robinson (D-Detroit) Fundraiser**
Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

 - Rep. Julie Brixie (D-Okemos) Fundraiser**
Location: 5:30 p.m., Pizza House, East Lansing

April 17

Rep. Luke Meerman (R-Coopersville) Fundraiser

Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Association of Counties, Lansing

Rep. Larry Inman (R-Williamsburg) Fundraiser

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington) Fundraiser

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown Twp.) Fundraiser

Location: 9:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (D-Livonia) fundraiser

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Nate Shannon (D-Sterling Heights) Fundraiser

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Jim Haadsma (D-Battle Creek) Fundraiser

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

Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) Fundraiser

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

April 18

Rep. Jack O'Malley (R-Lake Ann) Fundraiser

Michigan Credit Union League, 110 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 7:30 a.m.

Sen. Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes) Fundraiser

Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Governors' Room, Lansing

House Democratic Fund Fundraiser

Location: 5:30 p.m., Detroit PAL, 1680 Michigan Ave., Detroit

Rep. Julie Brixie (D-Okemos) PAC Fundraiser

Location: 5:30 p.m., Pizza House, East Lansing, 5:30 p.m.

April 23

Rep. Matt Maddock (R-Milford) Fundraiser

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

Rep. Greg VanWoerkom (R-Norton Shores) Fundraiser

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

April 24

Rep. Tommy Brann (R-Wyoming) Fundraiser

Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

April 24

Rep. Scott Van Singel (R-Grant) Fundraiser

Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, Lansing

Rep. Nate Shannon (D-Sterling Heights) Fundraiser

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

April 25

Rep. Kathy Crawford (R-Novi) Fundraiser

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

Rep. Kristy Pagan (D-Canton Twp.) Fundraiser

Michigan Municipal League, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.