

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

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K-12 BUDGETS HEAD TO WHITMER

House Democrat and Republican leaders announced a K-12 budget agreement and then quickly passed it yesterday, without the support of Governor Whitmer. The bill, HB 4242, passed 91-18 in the House with 33 Democrats voting yes and 18 voting no.

The bill passed the Senate mostly on party lines, 21-17, with Republican Tom Barrett joining the Democrats with a “no” vote.

It now goes to Gov. Whitmer’s desk. While the Governor stopped short of promising a veto she did characterize the deal as being “far short” of what is needed.

Democratic Leader Greig said the negotiations were “about sending the best budget we can to the Governor.” She also dismissed the idea that it would “undercut” or hurt the ability of the Governor to come to a broader agreement on the budget.

"This is the work of the House, of us coming together doing our jobs on a daily basis and looking at what the needs of our districts are and fighting for those values," Greig said.

Whitmer’s press secretary Tiffany Brown said earlier that the agreement was a step in the right direction but is not even close to Whitmer’s proposed executive budget.

Following the vote, Brown said, "While the school aid budget passed by the Legislature includes some additional funding, it is still nowhere near what the governor proposed in the executive budget, and far short of what our children deserve."

REPUBLICANS PROPOSE \$400M MORE FOR ROADS

A conference committee moved the Transportation Budget forward on Thursday, by voting along party lines to include an additional \$400 million in general funds for roads. The proposal would mean that the total General Fund spending on roads and bridges would be \$868 million, more than required under former Gov. Rick Snyder’s 2015 road funding plan.

The committee reported SB 149 with a 4-2 vote. Rep. Ronnie Peterson (D-Ypsilanti), and Sen. Adam Hollier (D-Detroit) opposed the bill.

Gov. Whitmer has said she is not in favor of at using one-time general fund money for roads instead of schools or other budget issues.

“Today’s action just proves that the Republican-controlled legislature is totally unserious about passing a long-term solution to address Michigan’s infrastructure crisis,” she said.

The overall \$5.4 billion transportation plan does not assume that the sales tax will be taken off of fuel. It also does not include a proposal to accept bids for the Blue Water Bridge and state welcome centers. It does, however, include a proposal to accept bids on the sale of two of the state’s four airports and sale of state and sale of the state-owned rail line between Grayling and Gaylord

Other large budgets from the conference committees were also reported on Thursday, including general government, health and human services and corrections.

PLAN MOVES REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO LEGISLATURE'S BUDGET

A committee on Thursday approved moving the budget for the state’s new independent redistricting commission to the Legislature’s budget from the Department of State.

The committee passed SB 138 along party lines 4-2, to cut funding and move the funding for the redistricting commission which voters approved in 2018 to the legislature from the Secretary of State’s office.

The proposed budget would give the redistricting commission \$3.36 million from the General Fund. This is a cut of \$1.3 million from Gov. Whitmer’s recommendation. The bill moves the funding, which was going to be in the Department of State, to the Legislature. The funding is required in the 2018 voter-approved amendment to be 25% of the department’s General Fund appropriation.

Democrats opposed the move and asked if it would be constitutional. Republicans are also currently challenging the legality of the commission itself in a lawsuit before the U.S. District Court.

MM&A Briefs

Hobbs, Carlson Named to Oakland County Executive’s Team

Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter announced this week that former Rep. Rudy Hobbs will head public policy development and advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels for the County. Hobbs is also the first African American to serve as deputy executive in the county.

Coulter also announced that Sean Carlson will be the head of economic development. Carlson has extensive experience at the state level with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Department of Management and Budget, and Treasury. Carlson also previously served as Chief of Staff to former House Speaker Andy Dillon.

Calendar of Important Events

- Sept. 21 Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) Fundraiser
Location: 10 a.m., Yankee Rebel Tavern, Mackinac Island
- Sept. 23 Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden (D-Southfield) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Joe Tate (D-Detroit) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Cochrane House Historic Inn, 216 Winder St., Detroit
- Sept. 24 Rep. Brad Paquette (R-Niles) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, Lansing
- Sen. Kevin Daley (R-Lum) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Rodney Wakeman (R-Saginaw Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Robert Wittenberg (D-Huntington Woods) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m. Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Sen. Marshall Bullock (D-Detroit) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Cynthia Johnson (D-Detroit) Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Sept. 25 Capitol Morning Brew
Location: 7:30 a.m., First Floor Conference Room, Boji Tower, Lansing
- Rep. Bronna Kahle (R-Madison) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Andrea Schroeder (R-Independence Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Governors' Room, Lansing
- Senate Republican Campaign Committee Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, Lansing
- Rep. Tim Sneller (D-Burton) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

- Sept. 26 Rep. Luke Meerman (R-Coopersville) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, Lansing
- Rep. Matt Hall (R-Emmett Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing,
- Rep. Phil Green (R-Millington) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Sue Allor (R-Wolverine) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Credit Union League, Lansing
- Sen. Sylvia Santana (D-Detroit) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Sarah Lightner (R-Springport) Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., 8483 Brookfield Road, Charlotte
- Sept. 28 Rep. Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain) Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., W8180 Becker Dr., Iron Mountain
- Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida) Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., 7598 East Ida Road, Ida
- Sept. 29 U.S. Sen. Gary Peters (D) Fundraiser
Location: 12 p.m., 3946 Turnberry Lane, Okemos
- House Democratic Fundraiser
Location: 4 p.m., Bill's Beer Garden, 218 South Ashley St., Ann Arbor
- Sept. 30 Detroit Caucus PAC Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., Motown Museum, 2648 West Grand Blvd., Detroit
- Oct. 1 Rep. Julie Alexander (R-Hanover) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Governors' Room, Lansing
- Rep. Kevin Hertel (D-Saint Clair Shores) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain) Fundraiser
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Oct. 2 Rep. Bradley Slagh (R-Zeeland) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing

- Oct. 2 Rep. Scott Van Singel (R-Grant) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Sen. Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Twp.) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Lambert & Company, 114 Allegan St., Lansing
- Rep. Greg Markkanen (R-Hancock) Fundraiser
Location: 11:45 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Julie Brixie (D-Okemos) Fundraiser
Location: 12 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- House Republican Campaign Committee GOPToberfest fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. John Chirkun (D-Roseville) Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m. Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Senate Democratic Fund Fundraiser
Location: 5 p.m., UrbanBeat Even Center, 1213 Turner Road, Lansing
- Oct. 3 Rep. Diana Farrington (R-Utica) Fundraiser
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) Fundraiser
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Sheryl Kennedy (D-Davison) Fundraiser
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D-Beverly Hills) Fundraiser
Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- House Democratic Fund Fundraiser
Location: 6 p.m., Firebird Tavern, 419 Monroe St., Detroit