

# CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

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## **LEGISLATIVE LEADERS WORK TO FUND RAISE-THE-AGE**

Meeting with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Thursday, Legislative leaders talked about non-budget issues including allocating funds to move the “Raise-the-Age” criminal justice legislation voted on by the House and Senate in April to the Governor’s desk. The legislation would increase the age of criminals who are treated as adults from 17-years-old to 18-years-old.

Both the House and Senate voted to no longer automatically treat 17-year-old criminal defendants as adults. Each version, however, had a different funding mechanism and legislators still need to figure out how to afford an additional \$17-\$47 million in annual juvenile justice costs for counties related to the change.

“Michigan is behind the mark when it comes to ‘raise-the-age’ laws,” said House Minority Leader Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills).

The maximum age for a juvenile court jurisdiction is 17 in 45 states, with Missouri increasing their law to 17 in 2021. Michigan is only one of four states to set the age at 16.

## **WHITMER SLASHES BUDGET ITEMS, REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO DISCUSS SUPPLEMENTAL**

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer approved the budget this week, after 147 line-item vetoes for a total of \$947 million in the 2019-20 fiscal year budget.

Republican leaders criticized Whitmer for her line-item vetoes of many of their longtime priorities and the unilateral transfer of \$624 within departments.

Although Whitmer made it clear she wants to begin immediately negotiating on a supplemental appropriations bill that could both replace the vetoed funds and address her budget priorities, Republican leaders in the House and Senate showed little interest in revisiting the budget.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) said the budget is done. He also told reporters that the Governor would need to admit to making a mistake before there would be conversation on restoring funding for programs that the governor vetoed.

Whitmer’s veto means if left as-is, there will be no funding for the Pure Michigan campaign, rural hospitals, schools, local government and economic development. In addition, she vetoed an increase in per-pupil funding for charter schools, and kept the increase for public schools.

Whitmer has said her "key priorities" for a supplemental include restoring General Fund to pay for key Department of Corrections programs, funding cybersecurity and other programs in the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, funding for the Department of Health and Human Services, increasing the number of literacy coaches and funding her proposed Michigan Reconnect program to provide skills training programs to help fill vacant jobs.

### **NEW LAWSUIT CLAIMS AUTO NO-FAULT CHANGES ‘UNCONSTITUTIONAL’**

A lawsuit was filed on Thursday in an effort to contend that a new Auto No-Fault law is unconstitutional. The guardians of two people injured in catastrophic crashes and a brain injury rehabilitation clinic filed the suit against USAA Casualty Insurance Company and Citizens Insurance Company of America in Ingham County. The lawsuit was assigned to Circuit Judge Wanda Stokes in Mason. Stokes was formerly a top official in the administration of Governor Rick Snyder and a former attorney for Auto Owners Insurance Company.

The lawsuit targets the limits on in-home attendant care services provided by family members, and the fee schedule for reimbursement from auto insurance companies to medical providers.

It argues that the new limits impair the plaintiff's insurance policies, thus violating their due process, equal protection and contract rights and it asks the judge to prohibit the insurance companies from enforcing them.

It also argues the laws create an equal protection violation for future crash victims who purchased auto insurance after the bill's provisions took effect because they would be subject to different care than those before them (if the lawsuit is successful).

The lawsuit was filed by the Eisenhower Center, and the guardians of Ellen Andary and Philip Krueger. Both Andary and Krueger are legally incapacitated adults who suffered brain injuries during traffic collisions, Andary in 2014 and Krueger in 1990. Both require round-the-clock care.

### **HOUSE APPROVES NEW REGULATIONS FOR PFAS FIREFIGHTING FOAM**

The House approved legislation this week that would require firefighters to receive more training for appropriate use and safe handling of firefighting foam containing PFAS. House Bills 4389- 4391 now head to the Senate.

### **MM&A Briefs**

#### **Challengers lining up to face Slotkin**

Two Republican have come forward recently hoping to challenge U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Holly) for her seat in Congress. State Board of Education member Nikki Snyder and Mike Detmer, a general manager at an auto sales dealership both declared their campaigns in the 8<sup>th</sup> District this week.

#### **State picks Christmas Tree**

The Department of Technology, Management and Budget selected a 61-foot blue spruce from Iron Mountain as the official 2019 state Christmas tree. The tree is donated by Jordan and Sarah Wolfenberg and will arrive at the Capitol grounds Oct. 26.

## Calendar of Important Events

- Oct. 5 Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) Fundraiser**  
Location: 6 p.m., Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center, 3501 Lapeer Rd., Flint
- Oct. 6 House Minority Leader Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) Fundraiser**  
Location: 3 p.m., 21031 Eastham Lane Court, Farmington Hills
- Oct. 7 Rep. Scott VanSingel (R-Grant) Fundraiser**  
Location: 6 p.m., Pompeii's Pizza, 751 Michigan Avenue, Baldwin
- Oct. 8 Rep. Aaron Miller (R-Sturgis) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m. Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Daire Rendon (R-Lake City) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Credit Union League, Lansing
- Rep. Sue Allor (R-Wolverine) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Credit Union League, Lansing
- Rep. Roger Hauck (R-Mount Pleasant) Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Sheldon Neely (D-Flint) Fundraiser**  
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Pam Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) Fundraiser**  
Location: 11 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Doug Wozniak (R-Shelby Twp.) Fundraiser**  
Location: 4 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Oct. 9 Rep. Pauline Wendzel (R-Watervliet) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- House Speaker Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- House Minority Leader Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) Fundraiser**  
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Oct. 10 Rep. Ben Frederick (R-Owosso) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Oct. 10**

**Rep. Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) Fundraiser**

Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Rep. Michele Hoytenga (R-Manton) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Mediteran Café, 200 North Washington Square, Lansing

**Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Rep. Tommy Brann (R-Wyoming) Fundraiser**

Location: 4 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor) Fundraiser**

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

**Rep. Eric Leutheuser (R-Hillsdale) Fundraiser**

Location: 5:30 p.m., Meckley's Flavor Fruit Farm, 11025 S. Jackson Rd, Somerset

**House Democratic Fund Fundraiser**

Location: 6 p.m., Northville Sports Den, 133 West Main Street, Northville

**Rep. Joe Tate (D-Detroit) Fundraiser**

Location: 6 p.m., War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Gross Pointe Farms

**Oct. 12**

**Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) Fundraiser**

Location: 8:30 a.m., Brookside Farms, 34448 44th Avenue, Paw Paw

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

Location: 1 p.m., Brewligans Public House, 2385 Fort Street, Trenton

**Oct. 14**

**Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) Fundraiser**

Location: 5p.m., Beeches Golf Club, 9601 68th St., South Haven

**Oct. 15**

**Rep. Donna Lasinski (D-Scio Twp.) Fundraiser**

Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing

**Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) Fundraiser**

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

**Rep. Jim Haadsma (R-Battle Creek) Fundraiser**

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing

**Sen. Curtis Hertel (D-East Lansing) Fundraiser**

Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing

- Oct. 15**      **Rep. Sarah Lightner (R-Springport) Fundraiser**  
Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Oct. 16**      **Rep. Jack O'Malley (R-Lake Ann) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown Twp.) Fundraiser**  
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth) Fundraiser**  
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Oct. 17**      **Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Linden) Fundraiser**  
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Sen. Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo) Fundraiser**  
Location: 8:30 a.m., Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Lansing
- Rep. Mari Manoogian (D-Birmingham) Fundraiser**  
Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing, 4:30 p.m.