

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF OCTOBER 28, 2019

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GOVERNOR SIGNS RAISE THE AGE

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an 18-bill legislative package Thursday to raise the age for when teenagers are charged as adults in Michigan from 17 to 18.

Until this point, Michigan was one of only four states to automatically prosecute 17-year-olds charged with crimes as adults. The package, which also changes how an individual is detained, tried and transported, passed with bipartisan support. Under the new bills, violent offenders, however, can still be prosecuted as adults under the prosecutor's discretion.

Separate packages of the "Raise the Age" bills were introduced in both the House and Senate last spring, with funding as the major obstacle. This was solved by a recent agreement for the state to pay counties for the cost of adding 17-year-olds to the juvenile system for three years, and then reevaluating the funding at that time using data from the counties.

The law will take effect in October 2021.

GOVERNOR ASKS LEGISLATURE TO COME BACK AND NEGOTIATE, LEGISLATURE INTRODUCES BILLS LIMITING BOARD TRANSFERS

After weeks of back and forth communication, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called a State Administrative Board Meeting for Thursday and then quickly canceled it after saying that the Republicans are not willing to negotiate about the \$625 million in budget transfers it carried out at her direction, and the \$947 million in line-item vetoes she issued after receiving the 2019-20 fiscal year budget bills issued by the Republicans.

Republican House and Senate leaders said they would welcome the Administrative Board rescinding all transfers before they will negotiate a supplemental budget and continue to push to end the board's ability to transfer powers.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey also repeated his position that the budget is complete but continues to make honest attempts to make sure they are staying engaged. He also said the letter sent in return to the Governor said the first correct step would be to reverse all of the State Administrative Board transfers.

The Senate and House have both introduced legislation to limit the State Administrative Board's transfer powers in any one line item to \$200,000 in one fiscal year, with House and Senate Appropriations committee approval being required for larger transfers.

HOUSE APPROVES GAMING PACKAGE

The State House passed legislation Wednesday that would make online gaming and sports betting legal in Michigan. The package was approved with no changes from the reported version and does not have an agreement with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Whitmer's administration and school groups have voiced concerns that the bills would lead to reduced revenues to the School Aid Fund because online gaming could move funds away from the schools because it would move people away from iLottery.

In addition to legalizing online gaming and sports betting, the bills also allow for fantasy gaming and make changes to the state's gaming system, including taxing sports betting at 8.75% plus 3.25 % tax for Detroit casinos. Online betting would be taxed at a phased-in range depending on revenue from the games. The tax would start at 4-19% and increase to 8-23%.

Proponents of the bills said that the new options would bring in more revenue than the state is currently not receiving.

MM&A Briefs

John Conyers Dies

Former Rep. John Conyers, a longtime Michigan Democrat who resigned in 2017 and represented parts of Detroit for more than 50 years, died last Sunday at age 90.

Conyers was the longest-serving African American in Congress in history, and by serving for 53 years, had the sixth-longest congressional tenure of all members of Congress.

Coulter Decides to Run for Oakland Executive

Oakland County Executive David Coulter announced Thursday that he will run for a full term as Oakland County Executive in the 2020 election. The former Ferndale mayor was named the county executive in August, following the death of longtime executive L. Brooks Patterson, by a one-vote margin by the county's commissioners.

Coulter will be running against Oakland County Treasurer Andrew Meisner, and possibly Oakland County Commission Chair Dave Woodward.

Calendar of Important Events

Nov. 5 Sen. Roger Victory (R) Fundraiser

Location: 12 p.m., Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, Lansing

Rep. Jim Lilly (R) Fundraiser

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

Senate Republican Campaign Committee

Location: 5:30 p.m., St. Clair Golf Club, 1714 North River Road, St. Clair

- Nov. 6** **Rep. Hank Vaupel (R) Fundraiser**
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Mark Huizenga (R) Fundraiser**
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Kevin Coleman (D) Fundraiser**
Location: 4:30 p.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Nate Shannon (D) Fundraiser**
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Lansing
- Rep. Angela Witwer (D) Fundraiser**
Location: 5 p.m., Harper House, 1408 Cambridge Road, Lansing
- Nov. 7** **Rep. Beau LaFave (R) Fundraiser**
Location: 7:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Sen. Tom Barrett (R) Fundraiser**
Location: 7:30 a.m., Karoub Associates, Lansing
- Rep. Kara Hope (D) Fundraiser**
Location: 10:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, Lansing
- Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo (D) Fundraiser**
Location: 10:30 a.m., Kelley Cawthorne, Lansing
- Nov. 8** **Rep. Gary Eisen (R) Fundraiser**
Location: 6 p.m., Biewer Lumber, 812 South Riverside Ave., St. Clair
- Nov. 9** **House Minority Leader Christine Greig (D) Fundraiser**
Location: 1 p.m., The Fifth of Novi, 25750 Novi Road, Novi
- Rep. Mary Whiteford (R) Fundraiser**
Location: 3 p.m., Coral Gables, 220 Water St., Saugatuck
- Sen. Winnie Brinks (D) Fundraiser**
Location: 5:30 p.m., Grand Rapids Firefighters' Hall, 1930 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids
- Nov. 10** **Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D) Fundraiser**
Location: 5 p.m., Dick O'Dows, 160 Maple St., Birmingham
- Nov. 12** **Sen. Michael MacDonald (R) Fundraiser**
Location: 5 p.m., Kelly's Downtown, 220 South Washington Sq., Lansing