

CAPITOL NEWS UPDATE

WEEK OF JUNE 13, 2022



McAlvey Merchant
& ASSOCIATES

REP. LILLY LEAVING LEGISLATURE EARLY

Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Park Twp.), is resigning his term and will be moving to work as vice president of government affairs at West Michigan-based food distributor, Spartan Nash.

Lilly, who is in his third term and can't seek reelection, is the fourth House lawmaker to make a similar move this term. After he resigns, Governor Whitmer will need to call a special election, which will be complicated by changing district lines.

SENATE PASSES SHIRKEY'S PROPOSED \$565M MENTAL HEALTH SUPPLEMENTAL

The Michigan Senate approved a \$565.5 million supplemental spending bill on Wednesday, with a hitch – before some of the funding can be used, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey's proposed integration of mental and physical health Medicaid services must also be passed.

Several Democrats blocked immediate effect for the bill, meaning it would not be able to be implemented until 90 days after the end of the current session.

SB 714 was passed 36-1. Of the contained \$565.5 million gross (\$17.5 million General Fund) contained in the bill for the 2021-22 fiscal year for the coronavirus pandemic response, \$548.7 million would be from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. A total of \$15 million in local funds would be replaced in General Fund dollars for Medicaid mental health services within the Department of Health and Human Services. All of the fund shifts would only happen if SB 597 and SB 598 also pass.

In a floor speech prior to the vote, Sen. Shirkey (R-Clarklake) said, "They should have access to quality mental health services regardless of their means and what their ZIP code happens to be. We need to make everyone aware of the importance of mental health and where their loved one, their neighbor, their co-worker can receive quality care when needed."

Shirkey said the proposal would use funds to bolster services, help recruit and retain health care staff, and help proactively address mental health risks among children.

The legislation, which is also sponsored by Sen. John Bizon (R-Battle Creek), would establish the first Office of Behavioral Health Ombudsman and council in Michigan. It could also increase the prioritization of mental health to that of physical health, with phasing in managed healthcare plans to partner with local care providers to serve Michigan's Medicaid population by 2030.

Proponents of the plan, however, disagree with the way it authorizes the state to contract with licensed privatized insurance companies to deliver care. The concern is that this would give

private insurance companies more power, at the expense of community-operated mental health services.

Reported in October 2021, SB 597 and SB 598 have had several committee hearings but have not been up for votes.

GOVERNOR'S RACE UPDATES

Gubernatorial candidate **Republican Tudor Dixon** has received a string of conservative endorsements including the DeVos family, Michigan Right to Life and, most recently this week, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

Republican candidate for Governor, Ryan Kelly had his home raided and was arrested by the FBI this week for participating in the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. About three weeks after the insurrection, Kelly formed a committee to run for governor. Instead of being seen as negative, the arrest has increased Kelly's visibility and has been used to make more of a case to the Republican voters through news outlets. Republicans have questioned the timing of the arrest in relation to the congressional hearings into the insurrection.

Two gubernatorial candidates who were disqualified from the August primary ballot because of fraudulent petition signatures –former Detroit police chief **James Craig** and businessman **Perry Johnson**–plan to sue the petition companies and circulators who were accused of forging signatures. Craig filed a lawsuit in Kent County Circuit Court Monday, while Johnson said this week he is meeting with lawyers. Craig also submitted paperwork this week to run as a write-in candidate on the August primary ballot.

MM&A BRIEFS

MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION LEAGUE LOBBYIST, JORDON KINGDON HAS DIED

Longtime MCUL lobbyist Jordan Kingdon died last weekend, according to the organization.

In a post on Facebook, MCUL said, "During his several years with the MCUL, Jordan was a credit union champion through and through in his advocacy, fundraising, and most recently, his commitment to our northern credit unions. We will honor Jordan and share more details in the weeks to come. For now, we hold his children, family and friends in our hearts."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 20** **HRCC Golf Outing and Reception**
Location: 12 p.m., Eagle Eye Golf Course, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath
- June 21** **Rep. Mary Whiteford (R-Casco Twp.) Leadership Fund**
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing

- June 21** **Rep. Christine Morse (D-Texas Twp.) - Morse Force Leadership Fund Event**
Location: 8:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing
- Michigan House Democratic Fund - Gala in the Garden**
Location: 4:30 p.m., MSU Horticulture Gardens, 578 Wilson Road, East Lansing.
- Rep. John Roth (Interlochen) Summerzcool Leadership Reception**
Location: 5 p.m., Capitol White House, 320 Ottawa St., Lansing, 5 p.m.
- Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for Governor**
Location upon RSVP: 5:45 p.m.
- June 22** **Rep. Joe Tate (D-Detroit) Summer Breakfast**
Location: 8 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing
- Rep. Carol Glanville (D-Walker) - Summer Luncheon**
Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Municipal League, First Floor, 208 North Capitol Ave., Lansing
- Rep. Alex Garza (D-Taylor) - Summer Happy Hour**
Location: 4:30 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing
- June 23** **Rep. Mary Whiteford (R-Casco Twp.) Breakfast Reception**
Location: 8 a.m., Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan St., Lansing
- Senate Republican Campaign Committee**
Location: 5 p.m., University Club-Grand Rapids, 111 Lyons St. NW, Grand Rapids
- June 27** **Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) Leadership Fundraiser**
Location: 8:30 a.m., The Bear & The Wolverine, Grand Traverse Resort, 100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd, Acme
- June 28** **Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) Leadership PAC**
Location: 9 a.m., Monarch & Fountains at Garland Resort, 4700 North Red Oak Road, Lewiston

June 29

13th Senate District Candidate Jason Rhines (R) Fundraiser

Location: 8 a.m., Bright Spark Strategies, 106 West Allegan St., Lansing

Rep. Kelly Breen (D-Nov) - Re-Election Reception

Location: 11:30 a.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing

Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac) - Spring into Summer

Location: 5 p.m., Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, 332 Townsend St., Lansing