

**HOUSE, SENATE HOLD SESSION DAYS** – The *House* and *Senate* returned to Lansing this week to dispose of a plethora of bills awaiting action prior to the election. It was the first day the legislature had been back in Lansing taking votes since finalizing the budget in late June.

The *House* met on Wednesday and held a lengthy five-hour session, with the *House GOP* unexpectedly adding a number of bills to the agenda, causing friction with their *democratic* colleagues. *House Republicans* made a surprise addition to session by adding a 23-bill package that limits emergency orders issued by the executive branch to 28 days, unless extended by the Legislature. This was in response to *House Democrats* attempting to add tie-bar amendments addressing abortion, the retirement tax, an ethics committee, and the *Governor's* tax rebate plan to *House Bill 6358*. Tension continued to grow in the *House* as *House Democrats* also attempted to discharge several bills from committee during session, including *House Bill 6346*, which would provide a \$500 tax rebate per household; *House Bill 6117*, which would repeal the retirement tax; *House Bill 5542*, which is the Reproductive Health Act; *House Bill 5289*, which would repeal the 1931 abortion ban; *House Resolution 224*, which would create a select committee on ethics; *House Bill 4933*, which would expand the earned income tax credit; and *House Bill 6279*, which would instate the MI Kids Back on Track program. *House Republicans* procedurally prevented any bills being discharged from committee. While there were fireworks throughout the lone session day this week, the *House* did pass legislation related to deer harvest reporting, emotional support animals and marijuana.

The Senate was also busy this week, casting votes on Tuesday. Two bills that received near unanimous support were *Senate Bills 184* and *185*, which would require schools and childcare centers to work with the *Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy* to enact drinking water safety plans, including testing water for lead. Passing by a margin of 35 to 1, both *Senate Bills* received praise from *Senators* and stakeholders. The *Senate* also passed a bill package that would make several changes to the state's foster care system. *House Bills 5801, 5974, 5975, 5976, 5977, 5978, 5980, 5981, 6070, 6073, 6074, 6075*, and *Senate Bill 1166* all passed the *Senate* on Tuesday. Of the 13 bills, focus was on *House Bills 5801* and *5981*. *House Bill 5801* would create an 11-member *Foster Care Improvement Commission*, while *House Bill 5981* had a substitute adopted that lowers the cap on individuals in a qualified treatment program that provides services to 10 or fewer people, reduced from a cap of 25 or fewer in earlier versions of the bill. *House Bill 5801* passed the *Senate* 29 to 7; *House Bill 5981* passed the *Senate* 27 to 9; *Senate Bill 1166* passed 35 to 1; and all the other bills in the package passed unanimously.

The *House* and *Senate* are scheduled to return to Lansing for session next Wednesday, September 28.

**GOV WHITMER MAKES APPOINTMENTS TO THE MICHIGAN PARENTS COUNCIL** – This week, *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* made appointments to the *Michigan's Parent Council*, which was created by the *Governor* with the goal to bring parents into the process surrounding the education budget.

The *Michigan Parents Council* is designed to build on *Governor Whitmer's* inclusion of the parent perspective in the most recent education budget signed for the current 2022-2023 school year. The council represents parents from across Michigan, as well as parents of students with a variety of educational needs. The council will convene a series of regional parent roundtables to gather input.

The council originally designed with seven appointees, but due to the high number of applications the council has been expanded to 11 individuals, according to the *Governor's* office. The 11 appointees will work with *Stacy Ann Sipes* of Potterville, a departmental specialist with the *Department of Education*

and the president of the Pottersville Board of Education. *Ms. Spies* represents the agency as the designee of *Superintendent of Public Instruction Michael Rice*. The appointees are:

- *Blanca J. Astua* of Holland, a health promoter for Strangers No Longer.
- *LaQuitta Brown* of Detroit, a certified nursing assistant at Boulevard Temple Care Center in Detroit and as a COVID-19 health screener for Great Lakes Wined and Spirits.
- *Jennifer L. Figler* of Gwinn, an active volunteer in her community and a former breastfeeding peer helper.
- *Cindy E. Gamboa* of Detroit, the director of community organizing and advocacy for the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation.
- *Sarah Kucher* of Birch Run, a senior commodity buyer for ValuePoint Solutions.
- *Yazeed Moore* of Grand Rapids, a senior programs officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- *Bailey Nuss* of Traverse City, the Northwest region impact director for the United Way of Northwest Michigan.
- *Ranya Shbeib* of Bloomfield Hills, a co-founder and board member of the Muslim Foster Care Association and a member of the Michigan Foster Care Review Board.
- *Tracey Troy* of DeWitt, a project manager for Dart Container Corporation and president of the Michigan PTA.
- *Rafael Turner* of Grand Blanc, the manager of community affairs for Consumers Energy.
- *Monique Zantop* of Jackson, co-founder of Birthbrite.

To view a press release from *Governor Whitmer's* office on the *Michigan Parents Council*, please click [here](#).

**TAX INCENTIVES HAVE HEARING IN HOUSE COMMITTEE** – This week the *House Tax Policy Committee* took testimony on a bill that would amend the *Income Tax Act* to create a refundable individual income tax credit and corporate income tax credit for retail dealers that sell corn-based fuels, or ethanol.

*Senate Bill 814*, introduced by *Senator Kevin Daley (R-Lum)*, would let the tax credit be equal to 5-cents per gallon of E15 fuel and 8.5-cents per gallon of E85 fuel sold and dispensed at a gas station during any given tax year. For a taxpayer that is a member of a flow-through entity that qualifies for the credit, the credit would be determined based on the taxpayer's distributive share of the business income reported by the flow-through entity or by an alternative method approved by the *Department of Treasury*. *Senator Daley's* office testified on *Senate Bill 814*, claiming the bill would be a benefit to Michigan corn producers as it would expand the use of corn crops for fuel and would offer a cleaner and more affordable alternative to petroleum-based fuels.

However, *Senate Bill 814* immediately saw pushback from committee members and stakeholders. *Representative Steve Johnson (R-Wayland)* argued ethanol was not as efficient as traditional oil-based gasoline and has the potential to do harm to some. *Representative Johnson* stated the Legislature's primary focus should be on protecting consumers rather than a single industry. The Michigan Environmental Council also expressed opposition to the bill over the potential negative impact of increased ethanol use.

Proponents of the legislation, like the Michigan Agri-Business Association, testified the bill would enable greater market demand for clean burning fuels like E15 because it is cheaper compared to petroleum-based fuel at the pump. There was no vote held on *Senate Bill 814*.

## ELECTIONS

- In the most recent filing period, *Attorney General (AG) Dana Nessel* reported raising \$435,197, bringing her total raised to \$4.19 million. *AG Nessel* reported spending \$538,071 during the latest reporting period.
- *Secretary of State (SOS) Jocelyn Benson* reported raising \$482,966, bringing her 2022 campaign cycle total to \$4.24 million. *SOS Benson* also reported spending \$383,738 during the reporting period.

## ODDS AND ENDS

- *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* issued *Executive Order 2022-11* this week, which creates the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics to analyze data from across state government and provide “data- and evidence-driven strategies” to state departments and agencies. The new center will be housed in the *Department of Technology, Management and Budget*. The order directs the center to gather data and build the infrastructure necessary to help the state make evidence-based positions. The state’s chief data officer, which has existed since 2016, will head the center.
- The *Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)* issued an interpretative statement allowing licensed physicians to delegate to pharmacists the ability to prescribe self-administered hormonal birth control in most cases. *Governor Gretchen Whitmer* made the announcement that clarifies eligibility for pharmacists and provides a template agreement to make the delegation easier. The action also allows pharmacists to opt into this program and does not require pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraception if they do not want to.
- The *House Regulatory Reform Committee* reported legislation that would create regulations for car sharing. *House Bill 6376* would regulate people renting their personal cars for a limited amount of time. A substitute was adopted by the committee on Wednesday to add language clarifying who the lessor of the vehicle is, per the recommendation of members and the *Department of Treasury*, to clearly state there is no double tax on the vehicle owners.
- The *Senate Elections Committee* reported two bills that would create uniform trainings for poll challengers and expand locations that could be used for voting. *House Bills 6071* and *6124* moved 4-0 and 3-0, respectively.
- The *Senate Health Policy and Human Services Committee* heard testimony on a bill that would codify a soon-to-be sunsetted law that allows Medicaid patients to have appointments with their health care providers over the phone and other electronic mediums. *Senate Bill 1135* received testimony only.
- Two bills that would allow municipalities to create a water management board or commission to propose projects addressing storm drain issues were subject to testimony only before a *House* committee. *House Bills 6317* and *6318* received pushback Wednesday from some members of the *House Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee* over who could be assessed to pay for the projects, with stakeholders sharing similar concerns surrounding the bills as written.
- A *House* committee took up legislation that would require state departments to regularly review their rules and regulations. The *House Government Operations Committee* took up *House Bill 5858* for testimony only.