**Legislative Update for February 15th through February 19th**

Amber McCann, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey’s Chief of Staff, shocked many in the capital community this week with the announcement that she is leaving her position to join Democratic Attorney General Dana Nessel’s staff. McCann has worked for the Senate Republicans for 15 years as the primary spokesperson for the last three Senate Republican Leaders. There is speculation that this move is related to a series of public relations controversies with Sen. Shirkey.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently said she is ready to work with Republicans on how to spend the $5 billion in federal COVID-19 relief funding. Although Senate Republicans are said to still be negotiating amongst themselves, Senate Appropriations Chairman Jim Stamas (R-Midland) stated that the Senate is looking to vote on a spending bill by next week and will seek input from the governor.  Conversely, House Appropriations Chairman Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) said that talks have progressed, but that the governor “just isn’t personally part of them. . . we will afford the governor as much input on the budget as she has afforded the people of Michigan during this pandemic.”

Former Majority Floor Leader Lee Chatfield was recently hired as Southwest Michigan First Council of 100’s new CEO. This hire was met with backlash from the Kalamazoo City Commission, as they unanimously withdrew from the Southwest Michigan First Council of 100. Some of the pushback came from Kalamazoo City Commissioner Erin Knot due to Chatfield’s opposition in the Legislature to expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. In response, Chatfield tweeted that Southwest Michigan First has more clearly articulated the company’s prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in its hiring process.

The Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association has proposed a plan that says if the state’s positivity rate is lower than 3 percent, restaurants could be open at 100 percent capacity with no restrictions. The plan lays out what the restrictions would be based on the positivity rate from less than 3 percent all the way to 15 to 20 percent. Some legislators have said that they will offer legislation mirroring the plan.

**Miscellaneous:**

The House Appropriations committee heard testimony on Rep. Matt Koleszar’s legislation HB 4070. This legislation expands the tuition assistance programs for dependents of first responders killed in the line of duty. A vote is expected the week of Feb. 21st.

The House Insurance committee took testimony on HB 4171 and 4172 which expand the presumption of cancer to all fire fighters. It also makes the presumption available to retirees up to age 65. Two additional cancers are included in the bill, breast and ovarian. A vote is expected in committee the week of Feb. 21st.

**Committees:**

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| **Committee(s)** | Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC |
| **Chair** | Sen. Ken Horn |
| **Clerk Name** | Cory Savino |
| **Clerk Phone** | 517.373.2768 |
| **Location** | Room 1200, Binsfeld Office Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933 |
| **Date** | Tuesday, 2/23/2021 |
| **Time** | 3:00 PM |
| **Time Notes** |  |
| **Agenda** | Testimony from the Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration on COVID-19 Workplace Safety Measures and Education |

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| **Committee(s)** | Families, Seniors, and Veterans |
| **Chair** | Sen. John Bizon |
| **Clerk Name** | Elena Palombo |
| **Clerk Phone** | 517.373.1721 |
| **Location** | Room 403, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 |
| **Date** | Wednesday, 2/24/2021 |
| **Time** | 3:00 PM |
| **Time Notes** |  |
| **Agenda** | [SB 157](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%281eiziezdxm3je0d1bbxedcvj%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2021-SB-0157) (Sen. John Bizon, M.D.) Health occupations: health professionals; reciprocity for veterans and military service members and their dependents who hold an out-of-state license or registration; provide for and update definition of armed forces.[SB 158](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%281eiziezdxm3je0d1bbxedcvj%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2021-SB-0158) (Sen. Adam J. Hollier) Occupations: individual licensing and registration; licensing reciprocity for certain occupations for veterans and military service members and their dependents who hold an out-of-state license; provide for. |
| **Committee(s)** | Finance |
| **Chair** | Sen. Jim Runestad |
| **Clerk Name** | Jackie Mosher |
| **Clerk Phone** | 517.373.5312 |
| **Location** | Room 403, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 |
| **Date** | Wednesday, 2/24/2021 |
| **Time** | 12:00 PM |
| **Time Notes** |  |
| **Agenda** | A presentation by the Michigan Municipal League regarding Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) and Pension Systems 2017 Reforms. |

**Bill Introductions:**

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| [HB 4247 of 2021](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28tz5k10nawgu2jefkbud0r2ng%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2021-HB-4247) | Higher education: financial aid; tuition assistance benefits for certain survivors of Michigan police officers and Michigan fire fighters killed in the line of duty; modify. Amends secs. 2 & 3 of 1996 PA 195 (MCL 390.1242 & 390.1243). |
| [HB 4273 of 2021](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28tz5k10nawgu2jefkbud0r2ng%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2021-HB-4273) | Labor: working conditions; residency requirements for public employees; repeal. Repeals 1999 PA 212 (MCL 15.601 - 15.603). |

**Bill Activity:**

***PASSED, ENROLLED OR ADOPTED By the CHAMBER***

***NO ACTIVITY AT THIS TIME***