**Legislative Update for February 24th through February 28th**

The Senate rejected Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s second Natural Resources Commission appointee this week. The vote mirrored the prior rejection vote for Anna Mitterling, who was rejected on a 20-16 vote, with only Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-Newaygo) siding with democrats. Likewise, Heartwell was rejected on a 20-17 vote with Sen. Bumstead again voting with democratic senators. The vote comes after a heated Advice and Consent Committee hearing the previous week, with republicans taking issue with anti-gun statements made by Heartwell and the fact that he had not hunted for over three decades. The committee met again this week and recommended disapproval of the appointment by a 4-1 party line vote. Democrats argued that Heartwell was qualified for the position and that his disapproval was due to political pressure from the National Rifle Association and other gun advocacy organizations.

HB 5550, sponsored by Rep. Diana Farrington (R-Utica), was moved to the floor by the House Government Operations Committee on a 4-0 vote. Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) abstained from voting. The legislation would amend the Regional Transit Authority law and would allow Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties to proceed with a new regional transit system while allowing Macomb County to opt out of the system. Macomb County has historically opposed the implementation of such a system. The legislation also saw opposition from some northern Oakland County legislators whose areas would potentially receive less service than more populated areas, despite paying the same millage amount.

The Michigan Department of Corrections settled a lawsuit involving juvenile inmates for $80 million this week. The class action suit, which included approximately 1,300 juveniles between the ages of 13 and 17 housed in adult corrections facilities, alleged that class members were subjected to physical and sexual abuse, assault, harassment, and other demeaning treatment at the hands of adult prisoners and department staff. The agreement calls for $25 million to be paid upon court approval of the settlement, $15 million by October, $25 million by October 2021, and $15 million by October 2022. The Washtenaw County Circuit Court will decide whether to approve the settlement agreement on April 9.

The House of Representatives passed HB 4274 and HB 4275, sponsored by Reps. Steve Marino (R-Harrison Twp.) and Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) respectively, despite opposition from Gov. Whitmer’s administration. The legislation, which passed on 58-49 and 59-48 votes, would require the state provide at least two annuity options to employees with defined contribution retirement plans. The bills are now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Gov. Whitmer activated the state’s Emergency Operations Center in response to the worldwide spread of coronavirus. Although no confirmed cases have been found in Michigan, the state has asked 357 people since January 31 to quarantine themselves due to recent travel to China.

**Miscellaneous**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Committee(s)** | Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC |
| **Chair** | Sen. Ken Horn |
| **Clerk Name** | Cory Savino |
| **Clerk Phone** | 517.373.2768 |
| **Location** | Harry T. Gast Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor, Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 |
| **Date** | Tuesday, 3/3/2020 |
| **Time** | 3:00 PM |
| **Time Notes** |  |
| **Agenda** | Public Comment |

**Upcoming Events:**

CAN Michigan Advocacy Day

March 10th, 2020

8 am – 3 pm

**Bill Introductions:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [SB 0804 of 2020](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28lp5akkzxi4iovun1dyaaerzm%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2020-SB-0804) | Education; curriculum; certain elementary music and art instruction requirements; provide for. Amends sec. 1160 of 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 1160. |
| [HB 5554 of 2020](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28ctaihcotcyigjxl24dewjl4t%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2020-HB-5554) | Appropriations; other; executive recommendation; provide for omnibus bill. Creates appropriation act. |
| [SB 0802 of 2020](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28ctaihcotcyigjxl24dewjl4t%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectname=2020-SB-0802) | Appropriations; other; executive recommendation; provide for omnibus bill. Creates appropriation act. |
|  |  |

**Bill Activity:**

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

*No activity at this time.*