

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Before calling it quits for the year, the Legislature passed nearly \$5 billion in appropriations. This included well over \$3 billion for overhaul of the state infrastructure system including replacement of lead pipes in several urban areas. Over \$1 billion was allocated for expansion of COVID testing, especially in schools. There now appears to be some consensus among Democrats and Republicans about how to apply the funds. There is also growing momentum for infrastructure and, in particular, a dramatic increase in behavioral health beds, especially for young people. With regard to policy, there are efforts in both Houses to revamp the way behavioral health services are administered. Specialty nurses are at it again attempting to expand their scope of practice which includes ordering and interpreting imaging. MRS leadership is working with MSMS to combat any such effort. The Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission approved new district maps for congressional, state senate and state house seats. It requires several current legislators to either relocate their residences or run against one another. For instance, Congressman Andy Levin would have to run against incumbent Congresswoman Haley Stevens and State Senators Adam Hollier and Stephanie Chang would face off in the Democratic Primary. Preliminary indications reveal that the districts are much more competitive between the parties than the current ones and tend to give the Democrats a better chance of gaining control of at least one House of the State Legislature.

Nurses Seek to Practice Radiology:

SB 680, sponsored by Sen. Rick Outman, (R-Six Lakes) would establish the category of “certified nurse practitioners” (CNP) in statute and would greatly expand their scope of practice. The bill allows a CNP to determine a diagnosis, which is, in essence, the practice of medicine. The bill also allows CNPs to prescribe pharmacological and non-pharmacological “interventions and treatments” that are within their specialty role. Finally, the bill allows CNPs to supervise others and to order, perform, supervise and interpret laboratory and imaging studies. Clearly, this is the practice of medicine and radiology.

MRS will be working with MSMS to defeat this bill. I will be heading up an initial grassroots effort as an initial step. I have forwarded talking points to the Legislature Committee for it’s review and will be sending them to the membership. While this bill just was introduced and is still with the Senate Health Policy and Human Services Committee, it is “all hands on deck” for this one.

Chiropractors Seek to Amend Limited Liability Law and Business Corporation Act:

HB 5295 and 5296, sponsored by Representatives Roger Hauck (R-Mt. Pleasant) and Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores) amend Michigan’s Professional Business Corporation Act and Limited Liability Act. The legislation allows chiropractors to be in business with each other or MDs, DOs or Podiatrists. One or more chiropractors could also form a PLLC or a PC with one or more physician assistants, but only if at least one MD or DO also is a member in the company or a shareholder in the corporation. The bills have been referred to the House Committee on Regulatory Reform. This appears to be an attempt to have chiropractic considered one of the “learned professions” traditionally meant for medicine, law, theology and, in some states, engineering and architecture. In addition, listing a chiropractor in practice with a medical doctor or a doctor of osteopathic medicine could be deceptive to the public. I will be working on this issue with MSMS. [Continue reading.](#)