



# Legislative Update

**James Cavanagh, JD**  
MRS Lobbyist

The 102nd Michigan Legislature convened at Noon on Wednesday, January 11, as required by the State Constitution. Democrats control both Chambers by a 20-18 margin in the Senate and a meager 56-54 majority in the House. Senator Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) was elected Senate Majority Leader and Senator Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) was elected Majority Floor Leader. On the Republican side, Senator Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) was elected Minority Leader. In the House, Representative Joe Tate (D-Detroit) was elected Speaker, and Representative Matt Hall (R-Marshall) was elected Minority Leader. While committee assignments have yet to be made, two key Chairs have been named. Newly elected Senator Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing) will Chair the Senate Appropriations Committee. On the House side, Representative Angela Witwer (D-Delta Township) will be the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. At this time, it now appears that Senator Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores) will Chair the Senate Health Policy Committee and Representative Julie Rogers (D-Kalamazoo) will Chair the House Health Policy Committee.

The Governor is scheduled to deliver her State of the State Address on January 25. She is also expected to submit her Executive Budget recommendations for FY 2023-24 by mid to late February. It is expected that the budget process will be, at least initially, driven by the Whitmer Administration as many of the legislative Democrats are new to this endeavor. By winning her re-election by more than 10 percentage points, the Governor now has a strong mandate to pursue her agenda which includes narrowing the disparities that exist in health equity.

Finally, Democratic U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow announced her intention not to run for re-election in 2024. Stabenow has served in the Senate since being elected in 2000. Prior to that she served in the U.S. House of Representatives, Michigan Senate, Michigan House and Ingham County Board of Commissioners. Many of you have met and spoken with her during ACR Capitol Hill visits. Several names have been mentioned as candidates for the post. On the Democratic side, there are Congresswomen Haley Stevens, Elyssa Slotkin and Debbie Dingell. Other Democrats who have been mentioned as possible candidates included Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. On the Republican side, State Senator Ruth Johnson from Holly is considering a run and former Congressman Fred Upton from St. Joseph has been mentioned as well. Time will tell and stay tuned.

## LEGISLATION

What issues do we expect?

### **Scope of Practice:**

Look for the nurses and possibly the chiropractors to wage a vigorous effort to be statutorily enabled to practice medicine generally and radiology specifically.

### **Prior Authorization:**

Providers including physicians, will likely attempt to make further gains to reform the prior authorization practice.

### **Radiation Technology:**

Look for another attempt by radiation technologists to establish education and training criteria and get certification and/or credentialing for operators of imaging equipment.

### **Graduate Medical Education:**

Working with other physician organizations, efforts will be made to obtain adequate funding for this program.

### **Legislative Day:**

It is expected that the MRS will have at least one Legislative Day this year, one in the spring and possibly another in the fall.

