



Legislative Update

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OVERVIEW

All of Michigan's statewide constitutional offices face election this year. After winning the Republican primary for Governor, businesswoman Tudor Dixon selected former State Representative Shane Hernandez of Port Huron as her running mate, and the convention ratified that choice. Incumbent Governor Gretchen Whitmer will head the Democratic Party ticket. The incumbent Governor currently holds a significant lead in the polls, and Democrats are hoping she will have coattails long enough to give them a majority in the State House and Senate.

Senate Democrats are optimistic about gaining the majority in that Chamber for the first time in 38 years. An independent citizen's commission reapportioned districts, making them much more competitive. At least at this time, most experts agree that the Republicans are still favored to win the majority in the House of Representatives, but it will be competitive.

Republicans are so concerned about their majority that they have cancelled several session days that were to take place prior to the election in order to get their members facing re-election out on the campaign trail.

"Lame duck" session is scheduled to begin right after the November General Election and last until December 15.

LEGISLATION

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 has been working with MSMS and other physician specialty organizations to defeat this bill. The bill is still with the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Meantime, representatives of the nurses and the Wayne State University School of Nursing have engaged in a series of work group meetings in an effort to reach a compromise which at this point, given the aspirations of the nurses, is unattainable. We will be keeping close tabs on this legislation during lame duck. In any event, look for a reintroduction of this legislation next session.

Upgrade Standards for Radiographic Technologists:

HB 5116, sponsored by Rep. Rodney Wakeman (R-Saginaw) establishes education and training standards for those who operate sophisticated imaging equipment. Currently, Michigan is an outlier among states, mandating requirements for only mammography and CT operation. MRS is supportive but has suggestions as to how to make the bill stronger. For a variety of reasons, this legislation will die at the end of this session and will have to be reintroduced next year.

REGULATORY

The Certificate of Need (CON) Informal Workgroup on Computer Tomography is next scheduled to meet on October 27. If you need more information regarding this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

OTHER

The Governor's office has been requested to draft a tribute proclaiming November 8, 2022 as the "Day of Radiology" in Michigan. I will keep you informed of the progress on this matter.

