



# Legislative Update

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## OVERVIEW

On January 25, the Governor gave her State of the State address. She outlined her priorities, which included some tax relief for working families, affordable housing initiatives, education initiatives for preschool and expansion of the Michigan Reconnect Program, narrowing the health inequities gap and advocating "red flag" gun control legislation.

On February 8, the Governor presented her proposed budget for FY 2023-24: the Governor recommends a total spend of \$79 billion and using most of Michigan's \$9 billion surplus toward new programs.

The Legislature, on a mostly partisan vote, eliminated the public employee pension tax instituted during the Snyder administration. The final vote in the House was 56-53 with a certain amount of drama when a rarely-used parliamentary tool, a "Call of the House" was used to ensure enough votes for passage.

From now until the middle of June, the Administration will be working with the Subcommittees of the full House and Senate Appropriations Committees to finalize a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins October 1.

## LEGISLATION

### **HB 4071, Oral Chemo Therapy:**

Rep. Samantha Steckloff (D-Northville) requires equal insurance coverage for oral cancer chemo therapy and intravenous therapy. This bill has been referred to the House Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

### **HB 4015, Insulin Co-Pay:**

Sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Conlin (D-Dexter), places a limit on the co-pay of Insulin of \$30 for every 30-day supply. This bill has been referred to the House Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

### **SB 27, Mental Health Parity:**

Sponsored by Sen. Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing), requires health insurers to give equal coverage for behavioral health and substance use disorder services as that given for physical health. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy.

### **Scope of Practice:**

I have it on good authority that Senator Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes) will reintroduce last session's SB 680. It was this bill that would have allowed nurse practitioners to practice medicine and radiology specifically.

### **Prior Authorization:**

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

### **Radiation Technology:**

The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (DLEO) plans to promulgate administrative rules that would establish education and training requirements for operators of ionizing equipment. DLEO has sent formal notice of the same and an opportunity for public input will be provided.

### **Graduate Medical Education:**

Last week I had a meeting with Senator Anthony, the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. It regarded the possibility of establishing a pilot program for new radiology practitioners. The intent would be to have graduates who have not been placed in a residency program to be placed in a program where they could work in some capacity such as a physician assistant until they were accepted. Before we get too far into the budget season, I encourage members to think about such a program and put forth your thoughts.

### **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.

