



Legislative Update

James Cavanagh, JD
MRS Lobbyist

OVERVIEW

All of Michigan's statewide constitutional offices face election this year. Both of the two major political parties have held their conventions and completed nominating their candidates. 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.

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. I will keep you informed of any developments.

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. The legislation is with the House Health Policy Committee and has received its first hearing. However, it does not appear there will be any movement on the bill until "lame duck" session, if then

REGULATORY

The next Certificate of Need Commission meeting is scheduled for September 15 in Lansing. The CT Workgroup is scheduled to meet on September 29, and the agenda has yet to be determined.

On July 28, a Public Hearing was held on the draft MRI Standards and draft MRT Standards. Please contact me if you want a copy of these draft revised standards.

The PET Standard Advisory Commission (SAC) met on August 18. The PET SAC is reviewing the oversight requirements to initiate mobile and fixed services in Section 3. The review includes a review of methodology for computing PET data units, a review of the initiation volume for mobile and fixed sites, and a review of accreditation requirements.

OTHER

Due to the number of legislative session days being drastically reduced, it was recommended that this year's MRS "Legislative Day" be postponed until the first part of next year. At that time, the Legislature will be in its new 2-year session with over 40 new members. The Legislative Committee will be making recommendations for a new date.

