



Warner Norcross + Judd LLP

To: Michigan Radiological Society Board of Trustees and Shannon Sage, Executive Director
From: James Cavanagh and Ron Stallworth
Date: February 20, 2025
Re: Legislative Overview

OVERVIEW

New House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Twp) named members to that Chamber's committees for the 2025-26 House Legislative session. Key appointments include Representatives Curt Vanderwall (R-Ludington) as Chair of the Health Policy Committee, Greg VanWoerkem (R-Norton Shores) Chair of the Medicaid Subcommittee for Appropriations, and Mike Harris (R-Clarkston) who will serve as Chair of the House Insurance Committee.

On February 6, Governor Gretchen Whitmer presented her Executive Budget recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. The Governor proposes to expand access to Medicaid by eliminating the current mandatory spend down for those whose incomes are 100% of the federal poverty level. This proposal will entail an additional commitment of \$98 million, gross \$33 million GF/GP. The Governor has proposed \$3 billion in funding for road repair, and construction. The Governor's plan calls for a new tax on marijuana, directing all taxes levied at the gas pump toward roads, shifting existing state expenditures and increasing the state corporate income tax. The provisions in the Governor's plan calling for either a new tax or an increase in existing ones have been criticized by Republicans who will submit their own proposal.

Another issue facing the Legislature involves how to lessen the impact of the legislative initiative passed by voters in 2022 which called for a significant increase in the State's minimum wage, mandating sick leave and calling for new treatment of tip revenue. The business community has strenuously argued that if the initiative is allowed to take effect "as is" it will have a drastically adverse effect on their bottom line. The State Senate which is controlled by Democrats and the House of Representatives now controlled by the Republicans have very different and competing proposals to soften the impact of the initiative. It is highly unlikely a compromise will be reached prior to the initiative's February 21 effective date.

The Governor is scheduled to deliver her State of the State address on February 26. With the announcement by US Senator Gary Peters that he will not seek re-election, speculation has grown in both political parties as to who will run for the seat. Democrats considering the race include former US Secretary of Transportation and former presidential candidate, Pete Buttigieg, current Congresswomen, Haley Stevens and Hillary Scholten, and current State Senator Mallory McMorrow. On the Republican side, 2024 US Senate candidate and former Congressman Mike Rogers, current Congressman and former US Senate candidate John James, as well as current Congressman Bill Huizenga are all considering a run. As is the case with one of Michigan's US Senate seats, the Office of the Governor will be open due to Governor Whitmer being term limited. Republicans who have either formally declared or who have expressed an interest include the

current GOP leader in the Senate, Aric Nesbitt, former Attorney General Mike Cox, and former Gubernatorial candidates Tudor Dixon and Kevin Reinke. For the Democrats current Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has formally declared. Other candidates who are considering the race include Lieutenant Governor Garland Gilcrest, and perhaps State Senator Mallory McMorrow. Of course the big unanswered question is what affect Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan will have on the race. Duggan has declared as an independent candidate for Governor. He enjoys very good statewide name recognition. The Detroit area business community appears to be very supportive. Whomever is nominated by the two political parties for the office will have to contend with Duggan who has a good record as mayor and who will be well funded.

LEGISLATION

What we expect for 2025-26:

- Another effort by nurse practitioners to gain statutory authority to practice medicine and practice radiology specifically
- Efforts by others, such as chiropractors to enhance their scope of practice to include radiology
- Moving forward with a legislative effort by MRS which would mandate insurance coverage for breast imaging
- Proceeding with legislation promoted by MSMS, MRS and other physician specialty organizations to mandate a physician as the lead of a patient -centered medical team

OTHER

The annual ACR Capitol Hill Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 in conjunction with the annual conference. Our office will schedule congressional visits and report to ACR state government affairs regarding the same. Those planning to attend please let Shannon Sage know so that my office will have time to schedule appointments.

In the event the Board has not heard, the MRS was featured in the ACR/RAD PAC Advocacy Quarter 4 Update. The recognition outlined the MRS legislative achievements regarding issues involving scope of practice, medical malpractice monetary awards and the efforts most notably by MRS Legislative Committee members, toward "Advocacy in Action". Many thanks to the MRS leadership for this outstanding achievement.

The MRS has submitted an application with RBMA on behalf of MiRadiologists as Best Marketing Campaign. Many thanks to Dr. Leah Davis and the MiRadiologist Work Group for spearheading this effort.