



What's Happening in Lansing & How to be an Effective Advocate

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Current Michigan Government Landscape

Executive & Legislative Branches



Executive Branch

- Governor (Executive Office) – Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D)
- Key State Departments/Agencies
 - MI Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
 - Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration (BPHASA)
 - Medical Services Administration (Medicaid)
 - Bureau of Children’s Coordinated Health Policy and Supports
 - Michigan Department of Education

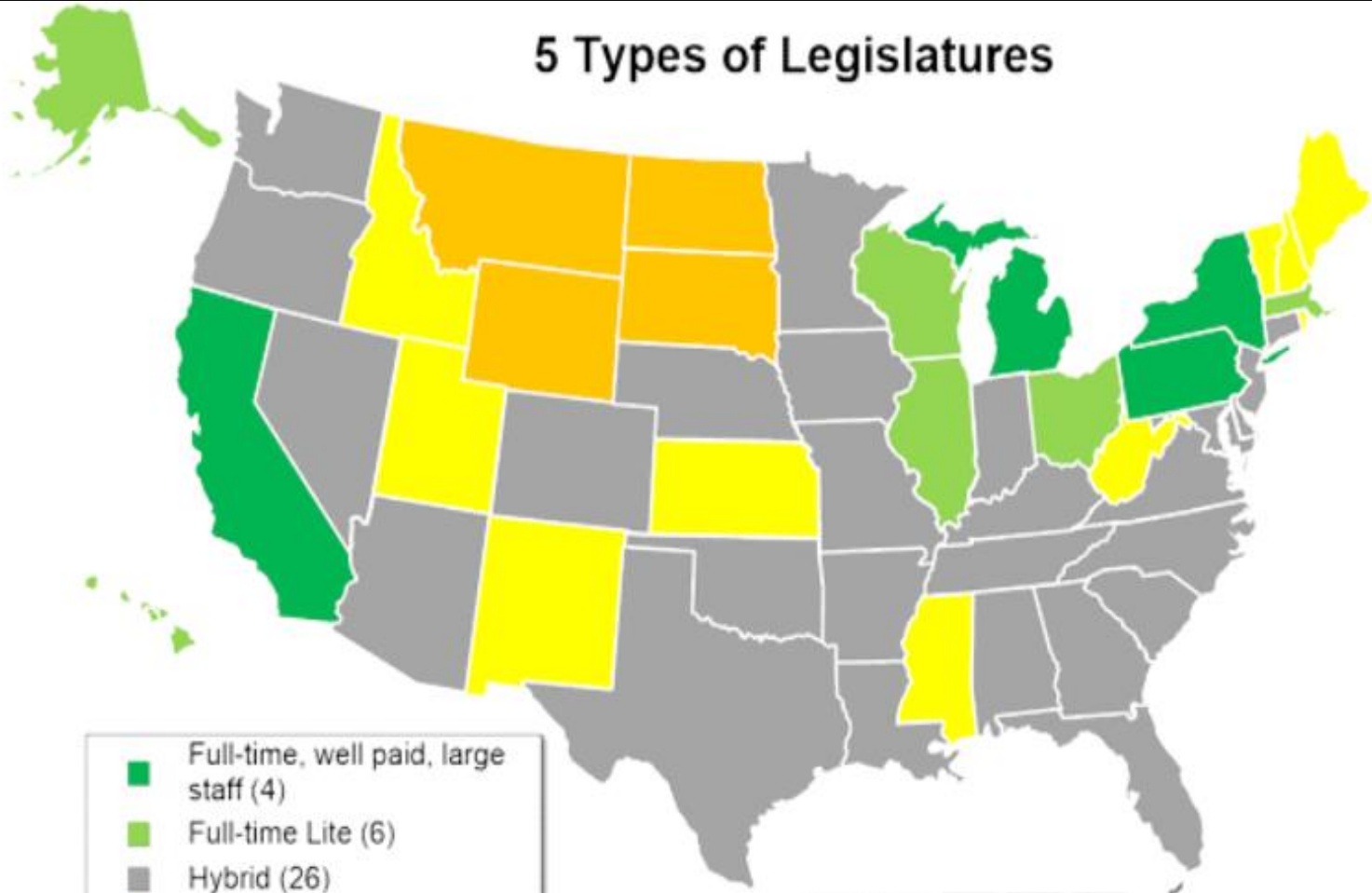


State Agency Leaders

- Elizabeth Hertel – Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - David Knezek – Chief Deputy for Administration
 - Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian – Chief Medical Executive
 - Meghan Groen – Senior Deputy Director, Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration
 - Demetrius Starling – Senior Deputy Director, Children’s Services Administration
 - Kristen Jordan – Director, Specialty Behavioral Health Services
 - Patricia Neitman - Director, Bureau of Children’s Coordinated Health Policy and Supports
 - Belinda Hawks - Director, Division of Adult Home and Community Based Services
 - Chardaé Burton – Director of Legislative Affairs at MDHHS



5 Types of Legislatures



- Full-time, well paid, large staff (4)
- Full-time Lite (6)
- Hybrid (26)
- Part-time Lite (10)
- Part time, low pay, small staff (4)

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Legislative Branch

- Democratically controlled House and Senate (first time in 40 years)
- 20-18 Democratic majority in Senate
 - Senate Majority Leader Winne Brinks
 - Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt
- 56-54 Democratic majority in House
 - House Speaker Joe Tate
 - House Minority Leader Matt Hall
- House Democrats recently regained their two-seat majority in April
 - Mai Xiong (D-Warren)
 - Peter Herzberg (D-Westland)



2023-24 Policy Initiatives

Democrats

- Health Care
- Gun Reform
- Voting Rights/Accessibility
- Education Reform
- Housing

Republicans

- Reducing State Income Tax
- Restoring Right-to-Work
- Small Business Supports
- Increasing Accountability Over Taxpayer-Funded Economic Development Projects



2024 Election

- Primary: August 6
 - 35 current House members have a primary challenger(s)
- General Election: November 5
- Items To Watch
 - Redistricting
 - Term Limits



Redistricting

- In early 2023, there was a successful challenge by a group of metro Detroiters who argued that commissioners improperly used racial data to diminish the influence of Black voters. This included 7 House districts and 6 Senate districts
- The Michigan Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission recently adopted new maps for the state House and are currently working on a new state Senate map
- New maps would not put any incumbent legislators up against each other this fall, which is something the commission said was of coincidence. The new districts also boost Black majorities in areas where critics of the redistricting process said commissioners initially kept the Black voting age population artificially low
 - 11 Detroit-area districts would have majority-Black voting age populations in primary election contests under the new map
 - The state's partisan balance wouldn't change much under the proposed configuration, giving Democrats an edge in 60 of the state's 110 House seats



Redistricting – Districts Required to be Redrawn

House Districts

- House District 1 – Rep. Tyrone Carter (D-Detroit)
- House District 7 – Rep. Helena Scott (D-Detroit)
- House District 8 – Rep. Mike McFall (D-Hazel Park)
- House District 10 – House Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit)
- House District 11 – Rep. Veronica Paiz (D-Harper Woods)
- House District 12 – Rep. Kimberly Edwards (D-Eastpointe)
- House District 14 – Rep. Donovan McKinney (D-Detroit)

Senate Districts

- Senate District 1 – Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor)
- Senate District 3 – Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit)
- Senate District 6 – Sen. Mary Cavanagh (D-Redford Township)
- Senate District 8 – Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak)
- Senate District 10 – Sen. Paul Wojno (D-Warren)
- Senate District 11 – Sen. Veronica Klinefelt (D-Eastpointe)



State Budget Update



State Budget Process

Fiscal Year Runs October 1 – September 30

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Legislative Action									Legislative Action		
Governor's State of the State is delivered and budget recommendation is prepared for submission to the Legislature.	Governor's budget is delivered, legislative action begins.	Subcommittees make decisions, Appropriations Committee meets, floor votes take place.			Budget targets are negotiated between the Executive and Legislature. Conference Committees meet.	Governor signs appropriation bills and issues vetoes. Veto overrides are considered. Current-year budget adjustments are considered. Fiscal year ends September 30.			New fiscal year begins October 1. Appropriations Committee considers book-closing transfers.		
Senate Fiscal Agency Action									Senate Fiscal Agency Action		
First Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) is scheduled. SFA prepares applicable documents, schedules future hearings, and provides background briefings.	SFA presents analysis of Governor's budget. Subcommittee hearings begin.	Decision documents are prepared, SFA works with Subcommittee chairs and members to develop proposals, substitute bills are prepared and analyzed, amendments are drafted. SFA revenue forecast is released. Second CREC is held in May.			SFA provides staff support to Conference negotiations, and prepares and analyzes Conference Reports.	Analysis of initial appropriations legislation is completed. Initial Appropriations Report is distributed. Year-end budgetary adjustments and lapse estimates are completed.			SFA Year-End Appropriations Report is generated. SFA Economic and Revenue Forecast is released. Mid-year budget adjustments (transfers, supplementals, Executive Orders) are analyzed as needed.		



Source: Senate Fiscal Agency

FY 24 Recommendations

Executive Recommendations

- Recommended historic \$81 billion in spending

House Recommendations

- Recommendations came in \$61 million (GF) above Executive Recommendation

Senate Recommendations

- Recommendations came in \$8 million (GF) under Executive Recommendation



Arc Priorities

- Direct Care Worker Wages
 - Executive: Continuation of the \$0.85/hour increase from last fiscal year (in addition to the \$2.35 given in FY 23)
 - House and Senate concurred with the Executive
- Medicaid
 - Increases in Mental Health, SUD Services, and CCBHC Funding
- Special Education Funding
 - Additional increases to per-pupil funding
- Foster Care Education Navigation
 - House included \$1m
- Voting Access
 - Polling place improvements



Arc Advocacy Issues



Regulatory Issues

1. Conflict Free Access & Planning
2. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)
3. Transition from MI Health Link to Highly Integrated Dual Eligible (HIDE) Special Needs Plan



2023-2024 Key Legislative Issues

Signed into Law

- Hate Crimes
- Vulnerable Adults
- Insurance
 - ACA Codification and Telemedicine

Moving Through Legislative Process

- Guardianship/Conservatorship – changes to EPIC
- Home Help Unionization
- Voting Rights/Access



Being an Effective Advocate



What is Advocacy?

- Supporting a cause/issue in an effort to **educate** lawmakers and build support around an issue
- Advocacy involves developing public awareness
- Advocacy does not always involve lobbying
 - Lobbying involves direct contact with an elected official to influence
 - Lobbying also involves money – a nonprofit organization’s fund can not go towards lobbying activities



Why should you engage in Advocacy?

- Most legislators are not health care experts or well-versed in the IDD space
 - You likely know more than they do
- You are already an advocate every day
- You have a unique and critical perspective



Cast a Wide Net

- Include both legislative and executive branches
- Regulatory Advocacy
 - MDHHS
 - MDE
- Legislative Advocacy
 - Bipartisan
 - Bicameral



Strategies and Tactics

- Pro-active & reactive
- Strategic and properly-timed
- Build a brand/familiarity first



The Foundation

- Relationship-building
 - Campaign Support
 - Coffee Hours (even virtual!)
 - Events
- Have a clear message
- Appropriate timing in the year/legislative session
- Consistency in messaging



Meetings in Lansing 101

- Step 1: Prepare
 - Research the Lawmaker, Issues
- Step 2: Reflect
 - Your position
 - What's your story?



Meetings in Lansing 101

- Flexibility
- Punctuality & Brevity
- Importance of meeting with staff
- Personal connections
- Stay on message



Follow Up

- Hand-written note, if possible
- Send any documents or background that were promised
- Establish consistency and continuity



Resources

- 102nd Legislature – Citizen’s Guide to State Government:

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Publications/CitizensGuide.pdf>

- National Conference of State Legislatures:

<https://www.ncsl.org/>

- Michigan Constitution:

<http://legislature.mi.gov/Publications/MIConstitution.pdf>

- State Budget Office

<https://www.michigan.gov/budget/>

- House Fiscal Agency Publications:

<https://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/home.asp>

- Senate Fiscal Agency Publications:

<https://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/>



Thank you. Questions?

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