

JULY 2, 2020

SPECIAL ALERT

Official newsletter of Khoury Johnson Leavitt



Khoury
Johnson
Leavitt

KJL SPECIAL ALERT

The Khoury Johnson and Leavitt team remain informed and engaged during these times of uncertainty. We are in communication with leadership in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of state government, in addition to locals on a regular basis. Updates will continue every Friday as a mechanism to recap relevant activity from the past week.

Governor Whitmer and Legislature Reach FY 2020 Budget Agreement:

This week, the Governor and legislative leaders reached a budget agreement to close a \$2.2 billion budget gap for the current fiscal year. To close the budget gap, the agreement uses \$950 million in federal coronavirus relief funds as well as \$350 million from the state's Budget Stabilization Funds.

Other components of the agreement includes \$490 million savings from a state-hiring freeze, \$256 million reduction in k-12 funding, \$200 million reduction to universities and community colleges, \$97 million reduction to local governments.

Some of these reductions will be offset by the use of federal coronavirus relief funds for COVID-19 costs. More details of the agreement will be forthcoming. This agreement will allow the Governor and legislative leaders to focus on the FY 2020-21 budget that has an anticipated \$3.2 billion shortfall.

Whitmer Signs Budget Supplemental

Governor Whitmer signed SB 690 (PA 123, 2020), an \$880 million budget supplemental appropriating federal funds for COVID-19 relief.

The spending outlined in the bill includes:

- \$18 million for school districts and public school academies to support instructional recovery programming, benchmark assessments or health and safety expenditures necessary to provide instruction safety due to COVID-19;
- \$9 million for the Food Bank Council of Michigan;
- \$1.4 million for infection control surveys in nursing homes;
- \$5.1 million for a \$100 per diem increase in the inpatient psychiatric hospital rate adjustment program through Medicaid prepaid inpatient health plans;
- \$100 million would be provided for the payment or reimbursement of hazard pay premiums for first responders;
- \$25 million for personal protection equipment grants;
- \$60 million is included for the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to work with the Department of Health and Human Services, the judiciary and other local and advocacy agencies on a rental assistance program;
- A \$2/hour increase for direct care workers, costing \$120 million;
- \$115 million for small business restart programs; and
- \$200 million for reimbursing local governments, including counties, for various expenditures.

Governor Signs Bill to Extend Legislative Budget Deadline

Last fall the legislature and Governor reached an agreement that would require the legislature to present a balanced budget to the Governor by July 1 of each year beginning in 2020. Due to the budget uncertainty as a result of the pandemic, the Governor and legislature have agreed to prolong the requirement of the July 1 one deadline to 2021. Governor Whitmer signed SB 963 (PA 122 of 2020) enacting this agreement.

Auto No-Fault Reforms Take Effect July 2

On July 2, auto no-fault reforms take effect and will, for the first time create tiered options. These include: PIP coverages, eliminating the use of credit scoring and other non-driving rating factors as well as other cost shifting for additional savings for insureds. It has been reported that there remains a considerable amount of confusion within the industry as well as with consumers regarding the reforms. Also in question is how much savings drivers will see in their rates once the changes go into effect. It is likely that legislation will have to be introduced to further clean up and refine the changes.

Governor Announces Plan for Re-Opening Schools

Governor Whitmer announced this week her plan for re-opening Michigan schools this fall. The MI-SAFE Schools Roadmap can be found at:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI_Safe_Schools_Roadmap_FINAL_695392_7.pdf

In person instruction will only be permitted in phase 4 of the MI-Safe Start plan. Each school will be required to have a COVID-19 response including social distancing and hygiene measures to ensure safety.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE:

- [EO 2020-138](#) - Encouraging the use of telehealth services during the COVID-19 emergency - Rescission of Executive Order 2020-86
- [EO 2020-140](#) - Temporary suspension of youth work permit application requirements - Rescission of Executive Order 2020-116
- [EO 2020-141](#) - Providing alternative notice of public hearings under Michigan's tax abatement statutes - Rescission of Executive Order 2020-103
- [EO 2020-142](#) - Provision of preK-12 education for the 2020-2021 school year
- [EO 2020-143](#) - Closing indoor service at bars

The KJL Team would like offer our deepest condolences to the family of former state Senator Art Miller. The Miller family remains in our thoughts and prayers.



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Pricing will be based on complexity of meeting. Initial meeting plan and proposal will be provided upon request.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com

www.michigan.gov/ag

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com

www.congress.gov.com

www.michiganbusiness.org

KJL SOCIAL MEDIA



LINKEDIN: KHOURY JOHNSON LEAVITT

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