

WEEKLY **UPDATE**

April 23, 2021



43% of Michigan adults have received first vaccine dose in Michigan

Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the appointment of Henry L. Williams, Jr. as executive director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board.

Henry L. Williams, Jr. currently serves as the deputy director of the casino operations division for the Michigan Gaming Control Board. In his role, he provides oversight of the Enforcement Section, Employee Licensing, Gaming Lab, and the Disassociated Persons program. Williams has worked for the board since 2001, previously serving as a regulation and enforcement officer, regulation manager of the employee licensing section, and then acting deputy director before becoming deputy director of the casino operations division. Prior to his time with the MGCB, Williams was a social worker and served in various positions within state government as a juvenile justice worker, family independence specialist, protective services worker, and probation officer.

Williams is the board president for the Detroit Recovery Project, Inc. and a long-time participant of the Adopt-A-Child Program. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Marygrove College. Henry lives in Detroit with his wife Juvette and their daughter.

Williams is appointed for a six-year term which will commence after the approval of the Senate by a record roll call vote. He succeeds Richard Kalm who has served as the Executive Director of the MGCB since 2007, first appointed by Governor Granholm and then reappointed by Governor Snyder in 2013.

The Michigan Gaming Control Board shall ensure the conduct of fair and honest gaming to protect the interests of the citizens of the state of Michigan. It provides Detroit commercial casinos gaming operations licensing and regulation, licenses and regulates online gaming and sports betting operators, platform providers and suppliers, regulates pari-mutuel horse racing and casino-style charitable gaming, and audits tribal gaming compact agreement compliance. The executive director performs duties assigned by the five-member board related to the regulation of three casinos in Detroit and supervises the employees of



Gov. Whitmer Signs Bipartisan Bills Extending State and City Income Tax Return Payment Deadlines to May 17, 2021

Governor Whitmer signed two bipartisan state House bills that will update state and city income tax filing and payment deadlines.

House Bill 4569 amends the Uniform City Income Tax Ordinance to extend the April 15 or April 30 city income tax return or payment deadlines given the Internal Revenue Service's extension of the federal income tax filing or payment deadline. Within the tax year, the new deadline will follow the IRS or 15 days after, whichever is applicable for the city administering the income tax. Taxpayers will not be subject to interest and penalties during city income tax deadline extension periods.

This bill was sponsored by state Rep. Andrew Beeler (R-Fort Gratiot) and state Rep. Matt Hall (R-Emmett Township). A copy of HB 4569 can be found [here](#).

House Bill 4571 codifies the state income tax deadline from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021. In addition, if the IRS again extends the federal income tax filing and payment due date for the 2020 tax year, the state income tax deadline will also be automatically extended to match the federal income tax deadline. Taxpayers will not be subject to interest and penalties during state income tax deadline extension periods.

This bill was sponsored by state Rep. Tenisha Yancey (D-Harper Woods) and state Rep. Matt Hall (R-Emmett Township). A copy of HB 4571 can be found [here](#).

On March 19, **Gov. Gretchen Whitmer secured bipartisan support to give Michiganders more time to file their income tax returns.** Changes to city income tax deadlines required state legislation.

Governor Whitmer attached a signing letter to HB 4569, noting a constitutional problem with automatically extending the city income tax deadline in future years. The problem does not affect this year's deadline extension.



BSC Party Line Vote Rejects Unlock MI's Sigs

The Board of State Canvassers deadlocked today on a vote to certify the Unlock Michigan petitions to repeal the 1945 emergency powers law the Governor used to shutter activity during the pandemic's early days.

The 2-2 vote was along party lines and will lead to litigation, Unlock Michigan spokesperson Fred WSZOLEK said.

A Republican-heavy Supreme Court struck down the 1945 emergency powers law as unconstitutional in a decision that also split along party lines, but as of January, the Democrats comprise the majority of justices.

Opposition committee Keep Michigan Safe is legally challenging Unlock Michigan's tactics to collect signatures. Attorney General Dana **Nessel's** office also investigated the group's signature-gathering methods and concluded that while it was unethical, it didn't violate any Michigan criminal laws. Litigation will likely commence.

Senate's K-12 Budget Tops Whitmer On Basic Funds, Lower Overall

School districts would see slightly more money toward their basic foundation allowance under the Senate's proposed budget released Thursday for the 2021-22 fiscal year than what **Governor Gretchen Whitmer** recommended but some districts would be left in the lurch with the budget rejecting the governor's recommendation for declining enrollment districts.

Before the **Senate Appropriations K-12 and Michigan Department of Education Subcommittee** Trackwere **SB 83**, which outlines the Senate-proposed budget for the School Aid Fund, and the proposed budget for the Department of Education detailed in **SB 84**.

Both were referred to the **Senate Appropriations Committee** Trackon 4-0-3 votes with minor discussion. The Democratic members of the committee – **Sen. Rosemary Bayer** of Beverly Hills and **Sen. Dayna Polehanki** of Livonia – and **Sen. Lana Theis** (R-Brighton) chose to pass in both instances.



SB 83 (S-1) would increase spending by \$248 million—compared to **Governor Gretchen Whitmer's** recommendation for a \$327.9 million increase – with the Senate proposing \$15.77 billion in gross funding (\$63.4 million General Fund).

Of the biggest changes, the bill would give a greater per-pupil allowance than what Ms. Whitmer had initially allotted, with the Senate proposing \$308 million to provide \$125 to \$250 per pupil. The governor's recommendation used \$203 million to provide \$82 to \$164 per pupil.

The minimum foundation allowance would still utilize a 2 percent increase, but a minimum amount would be \$8,361 and the target foundation allowance \$8,654 for fiscal year 2021-22. This would make the gap between the highest and lowest funded districts \$293 under the Senate-proposed budget, as opposed to the \$336 gap that occurs under the governor's recommendation.

Under the bill, \$165,000 in funding would also be provided to Muskegon Heights and Highland Park with the foundation allowances they would have received had they not converted to public school academies.

The Senate's budget, however, did not include any funds for districts seeing declining enrollment.

Ms. Whitmer's budget proposed \$200 million in the 2021-22 fiscal year for enrollment stability support, which would provide a payment equal to 70 percent of a district's pupil membership loss from the calculated superblend in the 2020-21 fiscal year to the more normal 90/10 blend in the coming fiscal year.

Senate DHHS Budget Adds Funds For Local Public Health

Local public health departments beleaguered by the coronavirus pandemic would see a 10 percent increase in funding from the state under the 2021-22 fiscal year budget for the Department of Health and Human Services approved Thursday by a Senate subcommittee.

Overall, **SB 79** from the **Senate Appropriations Community Health/Human Services Subcommittee** Tracktakes a far lighter touch with Governor Gretchen Whitmer's recommendation for spending at DHHS in the upcoming fiscal year than the House budget, which saw many programs and priorities of the governor axed.



The House budget in **HB 4399** was \$3 billion below Ms. Whitmer's recommendation (\$1 billion less General Fund), as some of the funds would be spent quarterly. However, the Senate budget of \$31.6 billion (\$5.24 billion General Fund) is just \$37 million under Ms. Whitmer's (\$40 million less General Fund). The Senate budget would be a 10 percent increase from the current year (0.2 percent increase General Fund).

Among the most dramatic difference was while the House did not include an extension of a \$2 per hour raise for direct care workers that Ms. Whitmer recommended, the Senate budget went beyond Ms. Whitmer's and calls for adding another 35 cents per hour onto the existing \$2 per hour raise. Further, the Senate includes a new \$2 per hour increase for front-line workers employed by child care institutions.

The total cost for those moves would mean a \$210 million increase in spending from the current year (\$94.5 million more General Fund) compared to the \$110 million Ms. Whitmer's continuation of the \$2 raise would mean (\$54.7 million General Fund).

There's the 10 percent increase for local public health departments that costs \$5 million (all General Fund) that is in neither the House budget nor Ms. Whitmer's recommendation.

Governor Whitmer Announces State of Michigan Offices Will Procure 100% Renewable

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that state-owned facilities will utilize 100% renewable energy by 2025, which is made possible through partnerships with DTE, Consumers Energy, and Lansing Board of Water and Light.

The state's clean energy target will protect public health and our environment, while attracting more clean energy jobs to Michigan. Actions like this along with the MI Healthy Climate Plan will be key to reducing the harmful impacts of climate change within the next 10 years. In addition to moving towards 100% renewable energy for state-owned buildings, the state is also launching an interagency team across state government departments to identify our potential solar footprint and develop and implement a plan to deploy solar across our state-owned lands and properties.

Previously, Governor Whitmer signed Executive Directive 2020-10 and Executive Order 2020-182 and announced that Michigan is now on a path to decarbonization by 2050. Michigan joins eight other states to be committed to 100% economy-wide carbon neutrality.





Construction Angels hosted their 2021 Trade Clay Shoot last FRiday in Grand Blanc. C.A. is a Non-Profit Organization providing financial assistance and grief counseling to the children and spouse of left behind when a construction worker has a fatality on the job site. Operating Engineers 324 and William Miller sponsored the event.

Advisory Board for the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center for Homeland Security

Kimberly Buddin, of Novi, is the policy council for ACLU of Michigan. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Psychology from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor degree from the Michigan State University College of Law. Ms. Buddin is reappointed to represent a resident of this state who represents a statewide, non-profit organization advocating for civil liberties and privacy protections, for a term commencing April 23, 2021 and expiring April 11, 2025.





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Social Media

-  [Khoury Johnson Leavitt](#)
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Additional Resources

- www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com
- www.michigan.gov/ag
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com
- www.michiganbusiness.org

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