



MEMORANDUM

To: Gary Kellan
From: Matt Solak
Date: January 29, 2021
Re: MAAE Monthly Legislative Report

Overall State Issues

COVID-19

The relationship between Governor Whitmer and the Republican Legislature is arguably at its lowest point, as a result of the Administration's COVID orders. Much of the frustration remains centered around orders related to the restaurant industry. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) extended its prohibition on indoor dining from January 15 through the end of the month. Restaurants can resume indoor dining on February 1st but only at 25% capacity. The Michigan Licensed Beverage Association and Michigan Restaurant Association have slammed the limited capacity as being unworkable for restaurants to make a profit. This has resulted in legislative Republicans escalating their response to the Administration. This week Senate Republicans rejected 13 Gubernatorial appointments as the latest weapon in their strides to be more involved in the pandemic response and to force a wider opening of the restaurant industry.

Governor Whitmer Proposes \$5.6 Billion COVID Supplemental

On January 19, Governor Whitmer proposed an additional \$5.6 billion of spending to address COVID. The plan called for \$275 million in spending from the State General Fund and \$300 million in spending from the State School Aid Fund. Over \$5 billion in proposed spending is from federal dollars that have been provided through various COVID relief packages passed at the federal level. The proposal has received mixed receptions by the Republican legislature. House Appropriations Committee Chair Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) released a \$3.5 billion plan, roughly \$2 billion less than what the Governor proposed. The plan released by the House Republicans tied \$2.1 billion funding in school education to the approval of a law moving the

power to close in-person learning and sports activities away from the Governor's Administration to local health departments. This provision will likely be a deal breaker for Governor Whitmer. Despite both the Governor and House releasing plans there is little agreement on COVID related policy decisions and how to spend the money between the two sides.

Airport Issues

2021-2022 Committee Announcements

House and Senate Committees have been announced for the 2021-2022 legislative session. In the House, Representative Jack O'Malley (R-Lake Ann) will remain as Chair of the House Transportation Committee. The Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will continue to be Chaired by Senator Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte). Committees have just begun meeting. In the House there will likely be introductory hearings to introduce new members to relevant transportation topics.

House Transportation Committee

Jack O'Malley (R-Lake Ann); Chair
Gary Eisen (R-St. Clair Township)
Gary Howell (R-North Branch)
Beth Griffin (R-Mattawan)
Beau LaFave (R-Iron Mountain)
Ryan Berman (R-Commerce Twn.)
Steve Carra (R-Three Rivers)
John Roth (R-Traverse City)
Tim Sneller (D-Burton)
Cara Clemente (D-Lincoln Park)
Nate Shannon (D-Sterling Heights)
Tullio Liberati (D-Allen Park)
Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton)

Senate Transportation Committee

Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte); Chair
Kimberly LaSata (R-Bainbridge Twn.)
Edward McBroom (R-Waucedah)
Roger Victory (R-Hudsonville)
Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes)
Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway)
Erika Geiss (D-Taylor)
Marshall Bullock (D-Detroit)
Adam Hollier (D-Detroit)