



## Health Care Coverage For Metabolic Diseases Sought

Legislation has been introduced in the House that would require health care providers to provide coverage for the treatment of rare, inherited metabolic disorders present at birth, such as phenylketonuria (PKU).

House Bills 6268 and 6269 amend the State's insurance code and nonprofit health care corporation reform act to require any health care corporation that provides health care coverage in Michigan, after January 1, 2007, to provide coverage for the treatment of inborn errors of metabolism that involve amino acid, carbohydrate, and fat metabolism and for which medically standard methods of diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring exist.

Such conditions usually require special medical foods, and if left untreated result in mental retardation or death.



Insurance companies would be required to cover expenses of diagnosing, monitoring, and controlling the disorders as well as special medical foods used to compensate for the metabolic abnormality and to maintain adequate nutritional requirements.

The special food needs is such that the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program make it clear that substitutions to the regular meal must be made for children who are unable to eat school meals because of their disabilities when that need is certified by a licensed physician. The schools cannot charge more for the required food substitutions or modifications than they would charge for regular meals or snacks.

Under the legislation, insurance providers could not require a deductible, co-payment, coinsurance, dollar limits or durational limits that are less favorable than those for general physical illness.

The legislation, introduced by Representatives Leslie Mortimer (R-Jackson) and Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) is pending in the House Health Policy Committee.

## Northville Property Lawsuit Dropped If...

Michigan Promise has agreed to dismiss its appeal in the Court of Appeals. Consequently, the sale of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital property by the state to REIS-Northville, LLC, can proceed, and the remaining payment of \$24,999,900 can be received by the state.

The organization has agreed to dismiss its appeal if the sale is completed and \$24,999,900 is paid to the state by November 1, 2006. If payment is not paid in full by cash or certified funds by that date, then any and all agreements regarding the sale of the property to REIS shall be considered null and void.

Michigan Promise Board Member Rick Johnson said the proposal was made because it does not appear Michigan Promise or Michigan taxpayers will receive any positive relief from the court system at this time, nor does it appear an affirmative assistance will be forthcoming from the Legislature "to rectify the wrongs that have occurred in the sale of the property."

Johnson continues to believe that Public Act 6 of 2002 and the Michigan Constitution were violated in several respects involving the sale of the property to REIS during and following the State's bidding process.

After awarding the sale to the company for \$31.5 million (DMB thought the property was worth \$65 million) DMB then negotiated a deal behind closed doors for REIS to purchase the property for \$25 million over four years and the remaining \$6.5 million later.

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## Northville Property Lawsuit Dropped If continued...

From the bench, Ingham County Circuit Judge James Giddings expressed belief that DMB had violated Public Act 6 of 2022, which authorized the sale of the property, and may have violated the State Constitution. The Constitution prohibits the State from extending credit, but Judge Giddings ruled the initial litigant, Grand Sakwa did not have standing to file suit because it did not offer an initial bid to participate in the auction of the property.

"I believe the proposal being offered by Michigan Promise should be satisfactory considering the State and REIS have been blaming the current lawsuit for the taxpayers not yet receiving the remaining payment owed by REIS to the state," Johnson said.

The development company, thus far, has paid the state only \$100 due, in part, to the ongoing litigation.

domestic caregivers and employees at small newspapers, radio and TV stations.

The agreement also calls for a lower minimum wage of \$5.91 for teenagers (SB 1364) and a tax credit for low-income workers (SB 1365); something Democrats have been advocating for some time.

The earned income tax credit would amount to 10 percent of the federal earned income credit in 2008 and 20 percent of the credit in 2009; it will cost the state an estimated \$5 million in 2008 and \$250 million in 2009.

For individuals, it means a tax savings of between \$100 and \$400 by 2009.

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## Baldwin Bill Goes To Granholm

Governor Jennifer Granholm is expected to sign legislation (HB 5800) that would allow the private operator of the recently closed Michigan Youth Correctional Facility (MYCF) in Baldwin to house prisoners from other local, state, or Federal agencies, if it is not being used to house inmates under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC).

Under the current Corrections Code, the operation of the privately owned MYCF can be used only for youth offenders under the DOC's jurisdiction.

The facility is owned by the GEO Group and housed youth offenders from the late 1990's until the fall of 2005, when the State terminated its contract with the GEO Group and transferred the prisoners housed at the MYCF to state-operated correctional facilities.

Under the legislation, the facility must be accredited, employees must meet certain training standards, serious injuries are to be reported to the county sheriff and the State Police, and agencies will be allowed to send inmates to the facility to monitor conditions of confinement.

The DOC would not have oversight responsibility and the State would not be civilly liable for the facility's operation.

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## No Saving SOS Petition, But MCRI Stays

Barring late court intervention, the Stop Over Spending (SOS) ballot proposal will not be on the November ballot. The Bureau of State Elections and the

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## The Fix Is In On The "Fix-It" Bill

Corrective legislation (HB 6213) addressing flaws in the new minimum wage law, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, awaits Governor Granholm's signature.

Earlier this year, when the GOP-controlled Legislature passed legislation to increase the State's minimum wage, wording was omitted that would have kept some longstanding overtime exemptions in place.

Recognizing a chance to leverage Republicans on some issues, Democrats stalled support for corrective changes in the flawed legislation that would raise the minimum wage from the current \$5.15 to \$6.95 an hour next month. More hikes are scheduled in the next two years.

In negotiations with Democrats and the Granholm administration, the compromise reached allows home health care and daycare workers to qualify for overtime, but excludes overtime for auto and boat dealership

salespeople and mechanics, truck and motorcoach drivers, movie theater employees, live-in babysitters,



Board of State Canvassers determined the ballot initiative was short on valid signatures.

The proposal would limit State spending to a formula based on population growth and inflation. It would also eliminate lawmaker pensions.

Meanwhile, a federal judge rejected vigorous efforts to keep the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI) from appearing on the November ballot. He ruled the law did not give him the power to strike the proposal.

U.S. District Judge Arthur Tarnow, in a 34 page opinion, stated the MCRI organization engaged in "systematic voter fraud", however, he ruled against blocking the proposal from the ballot because the Voting Rights Act is not a law that deals with anti-voter fraud issues.

## MPSC To Hold Consumer Forums

In an effort to provide consumers with the latest information on electric and natural gas rates for the winter and the status of local and long distance telephone service, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) will hold a series of forums around Michigan in October.

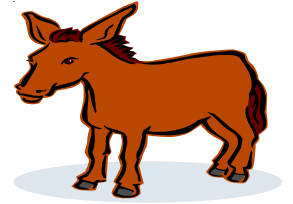
Locations for the forums are:

Oct. 3	Marquette, 6 p.m., Lakeview Arena, 401 E. Fair Ave.
Oct. 4	Petoskey, 6 p.m., Carnegie Building, 451 E. Mitchell St.
Oct. 10	Detroit, 6 p.m., Wayne Co. Community College Downtown Campus, 1001 Fort St.
Oct. 12	Saginaw, 6 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 1315 S. Washington Ave.
Oct. 16	Grand Rapids, 6 p.m., Yankee Clipper Branch Library, 2025 Leonard St., NE
Oct. 19	Riverview, 6 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 14100 Civic Park Dr.
Oct. 25	Canton Township, 6 p.m., Summit on the Park Community Center, 46000 Summit Parkway

## On To November

The political conventions are over, Republicans and Democrats have their slates in place, and the stage is set for the November 7<sup>th</sup> general election.

The following names will appear on the ballot:

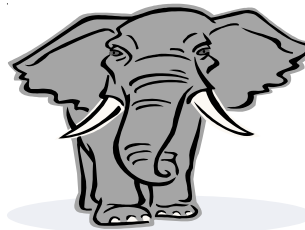


### Democrats:

- Governor: Jennifer Granholm
- Lt. Governor: John Cherry
- Attorney General: Amos Williams
- Secretary of State: Carmella Sabaugh
- U.S. Senate: Debbie Stabenow
- Michigan Supreme Court: Justice Michael Cavanagh, Jane Beckering
- State Board of Education: Reginald Turner, Cassandra Ulbrich
- U of M Board of Regents: Judy Darlow, Katherine White
- MSU Board of Trustees: George Perles, Faylene Owen
- WSU Board of Governors: Debbie Dingell, Eugene Driker

### Republicans:

- Governor: Dick DeVos
- Lt. Governor: Ruth Johnson
- Attorney General: Mike Cox
- Secretary of State: Terri Lynn Land
- U.S. Senate: Mike Bouchard
- Michigan Supreme Court: Justice Maura Corrigan, Marc Shulman
- State Board of Education: Eileen Weiser, Tom McMillan
- U of M Board of Regents: David Brandon, Susan Brown
- MSU Board of Trustees: David Porteous, Dolores Cook
- WSU Board of Governors: John Akouri, Andy McLemore



# Proposals To Appear On November Ballot

Voters will be asked to decide on five statewide proposals appearing on the November ballot. The following wording will appear on the ballot:

## **Proposal 06-1: A proposed constitutional amendment to require that money held in conservation and recreation funds can only be used for their intended purposes**

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Create a Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund within the Constitution and establish existing conservation and recreation accounts as components of the fund.
- Use current funding sources such as state park entrance and camping fees; snowmobile, ORV and boating registration fees; hunting and fishing license fees; taxes and other revenues to fund accounts.
- Establish the current Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund within the Constitution.
- Provide that money held in Funds can only be used for specific purposes related to conservation and recreation and cannot be used for any purpose other than those intended.

Should this proposal be adopted?

## **Proposal 06-2: A proposal to amend the State Constitution to ban affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes**

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Ban public institutions from using affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes. Public institutions affected by the proposal include state government, local governments, public colleges and universities, community colleges and school districts.
- Prohibit public institutions from discriminating against groups or individuals due to their gender, ethnicity, race, color or national origin. (A separate provision of the state constitution already prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.)

Should this proposal be adopted?

## **Proposal 06-3: A referendum on Public Act 160 of 2004 - an act to allow the establishment of a hunting season for mourning doves**

- Authorize the Natural Resources Commission to establish a hunting season for mourning doves.

- Require a mourning dove hunter to have a small game license and a \$2.00 mourning dove stamp.
- Stipulate that revenue from the stamp must be split evenly between the Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- Require the Department of Natural Resources to address responsible mourning dove hunting; management practices for the propagation of mourning doves; and participation in mourning dove hunting by youth, the elderly and the disabled in the Department's annual hunting guide.

Should this law be approved?

## **Proposal 06-4: A proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit government from taking private property by eminent domain for certain private purposes**

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Prohibit government from taking private property for transfer to another private individual or business for purposes of economic development or increasing tax revenue.
- Provide that if government for public use takes an individual's principal residence, the individual must be paid at least 125% of property's fair market value.
- Require government that takes a private property to demonstrate that the taking is for a public use; if taken to eliminate blight, require a higher standard of proof to demonstrate that the taking of that property is for public use.
- Preserve existing rights of property owners.

Should this proposal be adopted?

## **Proposal 06-5: A legislative initiative to establish mandatory school funding levels**

The proposed law would:

- Increase current funding by approximately \$565 million and require State to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, intermediate school districts, community colleges, and higher education (includes state universities and financial aid/grant programs).
- Require State to fund any deficiencies from the General Fund.
- Base funding for school districts with a declining enrollment on three-year student enrollment average.
- Reduce and cap retirement fund contribution paid by public schools, community colleges and state universities; shift remaining portion to state.
- Reduce funding gap between school districts receiving basic per-pupil foundation allowance and those receiving maximum foundation allowance.

Should this proposed law be approved?