



## CAPITOL REPORT

April 17, 2007

### **SUPPLEMENT 3:00 P.M.**

An Ingham County circuit judge this afternoon dismissed felony perjury and other charges against House Appropriations chair George Cushingberry (D-Detroit). Then, early this afternoon, Cushingberry's committee adopted the Senate Republican \$600 million list of budget cuts and sent it to the full House. On the floor, however, majority Dems are expected to adopt an altered cut list.

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Landscape architects last year attempted to expand their scope of practice to include grading and storm water management, two skills that clearly involve the practice of professional engineering. That effort was thwarted by the design professions and Kelley Cawthorne. Last month, the same bill was reintroduced in this new session. This time, however, it appears landscape architects merely want to change their registration statute to one of licensure and are not pursuing an expansion of their scope of practice.

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Introduction of a bill which would make peer review documents subject to disclosure is causing some concern in the health fields. Senate Bill 307 sponsored by Sen. Roger Kahn, M.D. (R-Saginaw) would codify case law which held last year that peer review decisions are subject to judicial review. In addition, and what is causing the stir, are provisions in the bill which make documents relevant to that review subject to subpoena. One of the strengths of peer review boards has been the confidentiality members have with information gained and recommendations rendered.

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The Legislature is once again getting involved with identity theft and privacy issues. This time it's the concept called file freezing which would allow consumers to tell credit reporting companies to freeze their credit file because they fear identity theft. The problem

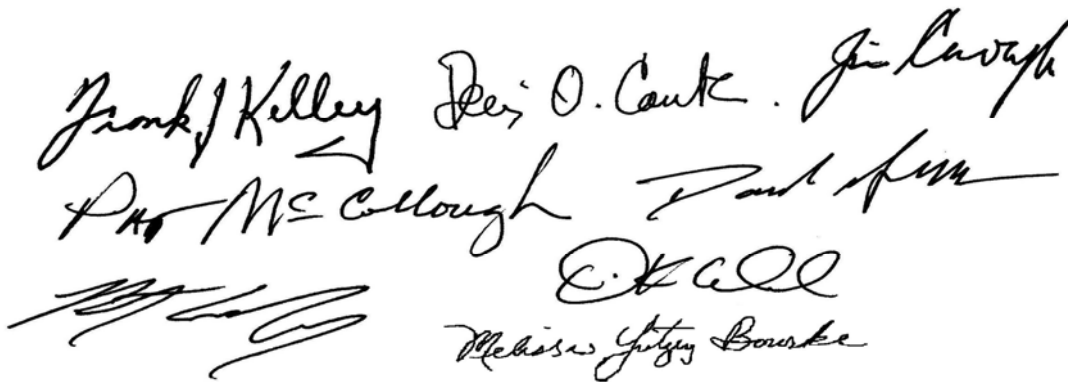
occurs when that consumer wants to get a loan and remembers his/her credit report has been frozen. Two bills (HB 4103 and SB 340) threaten to place burdensome requirements on credit reporting companies to lift or unfreeze the credit report even at the point of sale. Efforts are going forward to make this legislation more workable and consistent with other states.

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Critical to the effective delivery of health care services for the poor, is the viability of health care plans, especially Medicaid health care plans. Fortunately, the Governor's proposed 2007-08 budget recognizes that Medicaid health care plans need to be reimbursed at an actuarially sound rate. Kelley Cawthorne is working to preserve the Governor's recommendation.

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Having passed the House, the bills pushed by the new House Democratic majority repealing Michigan's so called "FDA Defense" law will not see Senate action anytime soon.



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