



*Public Sector Reports*

## Michigan ROUNDUP

### *Legislative Week in Review*

- Governor Engler will unveil Monday details of his plan to trim more than \$1 billion from the state budget. The proposal adds a half-billion in cuts and other adjustments to the \$536 million in cuts voted by the legislature last December. Michigan's Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) program is likely to be one casualty of the deep budget slashes, according to the *Detroit Free Press*. Some 8,000 state employees could face layoffs under the cuts. Engler's executive order will require approval by a majority of both the House and Senate appropriations committees.
- The clock continues ticking on a package of pay raises for top elected officials that become effective February 1 unless the legislature votes rejection by a two-thirds majority. Increases range from 13 to 16 percent over two years and would not begin until next October. Pay hikes, along with mileage and other reimbursement increases, were recommended in late December by the State Officers Compensation Commission, a constitutionally mandated review panel whose proposals have never been overturned in its 22-year history. Sentiment against salary boosts for the governor and legislature is fueled largely by the looming state budget deficit, which already has prompted cuts in current year spending averaging 9.2 percent across the board.
- In response to the budget crunch, House Democrats previously had announced staff layoffs of 51 full-time and 11 part-time employees and have scheduled 15 mandatory days off without pay for remaining staff.
- John Engler's New Year's Day inaugural marked the first time in 115 years that a sitting legislator captured the Michigan governor's chair, reports Gongwer News Service. Departing Governor Blanchard was the only Democrat to occupy the post since 1962.
- Eleven new state senators and 22 representatives were sworn in Wednesday when the 86th session of the Michigan Legislature convened for opening day formalities. The Senate adjourned to January 24, while the House will reconvene on January 31.

### *Political News*

- Former Lansing city attorney Michael Cavanaugh was elected unanimously as chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. This vote was among the first items of court business for Justice Conrad Mallett, Jr., appointed last month by then-Governor Blanchard to succeed Dennis Archer. The latter returned to private law practice in Detroit amid rampant speculation about his availability for the city's 1993 mayoral contest.
- With the unanimous approval of the State Board of Education, Superintendent Donald Bemis began a paid leave of absence from the top public instruction post. Governor Engler has expressed interest in offering the position to someone else. Bemis's next job evaluation is scheduled for May. In his last review, there was a 4-4 board deadlock along party lines; Republicans have since picked up a seat. Deputy Gary Hawkes has been named temporary acting superintendent.
- Governor Engler has filled most top cabinet posts in his administration. Recent appointments include: Department of Agriculture director—former Congressman and recent U.S. Senate candidate Bill Schuette; Department of Labor director—Michigan Bell community relations director Lowell Perry; Department of Social Services director—Gerald Miller, former state budget director and chief fiscal adviser to the National Governors' Association; Department of Public Health director—Vernice Davis-Anthony, currently Wayne County assistant executive for health and community services; Department of Mental Health director—Jim Haveman, former Kent County community mental health director; Department of Commerce deputy director—former state Sen. Norm Shinkle; Michigan Business Ombudsman—former state representative and unsuccessful Secretary of State candidate Judith Miller; Office of Services to the Aging director—former state Rep. Nancy Crandall; Office of the State Employer director—William Whitbeck, Lansing attorney and former Romney staffer; Public Service Commission chairman—Steven Fetter, Governor Blanchard's Republican appointee to the commission. Currently serving as interim directors of state departments are: Commerce—former Central Michigan University president Arthur Ellis; Transportation—current chief deputy G. Robert Adams; and Licensing and Regulation—current deputy director Hal Ziegler. Heads of several state departments must be named by state commissions, not by direct gubernatorial appointment. *Public Sector Consultants soon will mail to all subscribers a complete updated list of major executive branch staff, including key aides and telephone numbers.*