



LEGISLATORS RETURN TO LANSING NEXT WEEK; GUN BILL STILL DORMANT

The Michigan legislature returns from its summer recess Tuesday.

Here's a recap of what happened over the spring and summer:

- Legislators left for the break without doing hardly anything. For instance, they couldn't agree on a plan to fix our roads – arguably the most important, far-reaching issue before them this year.

- Lawmakers told MCO S.B. 909, which would arbitrarily cap the state prison population, will probably not come up for a vote.

Who knows what they might cook

up during the lame duck session after the November election.

MCO will keep members posted on important bills.

Still no action on gun bill

On Nov. 12th, 2013 the Michigan House of Representatives passed House Bill 4133, a law that would allow current and retired state corrections officers to carry guns in pistol free zones. MCO supported the bill and testified on its behalf.

MCO also testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was

reported out, without amendment, on Dec. 4th, 2013.

Nine months later, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville has yet to take a vote, despite lobbying and hundreds of letters, phone calls and emails from MCO members.

Had enough? Call Randy Richardville and demand he quit stalling and start taking action.

Contact Richardville at (517) 373-3543 or at SenRRichardville@senate.michigan.gov. His mailing address is: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536.

AROUND THE STATE: CO ASSAULTED AT BROOKS; SPUD JUICE FLOWS AT ECF

An LRF inmate punched an officer at least seven times in the chow hall Tuesday.

The CO went to a hospital, but returned to work later in the week. His injuries were not serious, another officer said. The prisoner did not

have a weapon.

The inmate, a Level IV, had to be Tased to stop the assault. He was taken to segregation before being transferred to ICF.

About 40 gallons of spud juice

and five weapons were found in the last month in one housing unit at the Oaks.

The spud juice was found in about a dozen cells in unit 6, a Level II. There are 96 cells in the unit. One weapon was just uncovered yesterday.

MDOC WILL PROVIDE ACADEMY TUITION ASSISTANCE

MDOC has announced it will pay 50 percent of the training academy tuition, up to \$2,000, to attract applicants.

A recruit will pay half of tuition up front, and if the Department decides to hire him or her, MDOC will pay the college the rest of the tuition.

The obvious take away here is that requiring recruits to fund their own training hasn't worked. CO shortages are worsening as officers retire but aren't replaced.

MCO has always been opposed to

the unpaid training, worrying many good applicants would be priced out of the academy. Paid training drew people to corrections careers.

MCO has asked the Department to reimburse officers who already shelled out cash or took out loans for classes earlier this year. MCO is also exploring other options for tuition assistance for prospective COs.

For more info on recruitment, visit michigan.gov/corrections and click the MDOC Careers tab.

IN MEMORIAM:



CECIL PEDRIN

Cecil Pedrin, 42, passed away Aug. 31. Pedrin was a corrections officer for 16 years and the former

Chippewa chapter president.

Services were Wednesday in Sault Ste. Marie.

MCO hopes Pedrin's friends and family find peace in this difficult time.

Rest in peace, Officer Pedrin.