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## 2019 CONFERENCE RECAP

The Burglar Fire Alarm Association of Michigan (BFAAM) held its Annual Conference in Mid-October at their headquarters in Lansing. The sessions focused on regulatory changes coming from the state of Michigan, industry changes coming from the private sector and an update on the state budget situation here in our state.

### DON'T SLEEP ON THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THE 3G NETWORK....

From 2007-2017, data traffic on AT&T's wireless network has increased more than 360,000 percent. Because of this, AT&T intends to shut down its 3G network effective 2/2/22 in an attempt to reallocate capacity to their more advanced wireless networks. These are official deadlines however the industry has seen pockets where upgrades have already started.

Dean Belisle of Resideo presented to the conference attendees on this change and urged companies to get out in front of this deadline so they can negotiate bulk pricing from manufacturers, utilize the efficiency of their technical staff, and reduce the overall burden on operations.

"Some are seeing this change as a silver lining to engage clients and sell additional services," Said Belisle.



## MANDATORY PAID SICK LEAVE AND MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE COMING TO MICHIGAN. BUT IN WHAT FORM?

Jennifer Fields from the Wage and Hour Division at the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) spoke to BFAAM membership about the changes coming for employers and employees as it relates to mandatory paid sick leave, or the “Paid Medical Leave Act” and the increase in the minimum wage, or “Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act.”

Both of these acts were passed by Michigan voters in the 2018 election. Following their passage, the Michigan legislature amended the new laws prior to their implementation. This led to a lawsuit that now sits in front of Michigan’s Supreme Court. Unless there is a ruling from the court, LEO will continue to regulate the acts as amended by the legislature.

For more information on how the acts are currently being enforced, contact BFAAM by calling 517-485-4832.

## STATE BUDGET IN FLUX....EVEN FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER 1ST DEADLINE

In late September, Gov. Whitmer signed the state budget but not before line-item vetoing 147 funding projects for a total of nearly \$1 billion. Frustration had been mounting for months between the Governor and Legislature over a lack of a long-term road funding solution and a breakdown in talks surrounding the budget.

Staff from Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield’s office were on hand at the conference to explain the budget process, discuss the vetoes and attempt to predict a path moving forward.

### WHAT WAS VETOED?

- \$375 million in additional road funding dollars
- \$171 million to hospitals across the state

- \$38 million in Michigan Tuition grants
- \$37.5 million out of Pure Michigan
- \$35 million in increases to the public school academies
- \$16 million in Career and Technical Education
- \$15.3 million payment in lieu of taxes
- \$13.074 from Secondary Road Patrol

Following the vetoes, Governor Whitmer directed the State Administrative Board to shift \$625 million within state departments, a move that irked legislative leaders. She has since scheduled two meetings of the State Administrative Board presumably to rescind those transfers.

### WHAT’S NEXT?

The Michigan Senate (Democrats and Republicans) is working on several proposals for a “Supplemental Budget” prior to the end of 2019 that would restore several (if not all) of the cuts. Meanwhile leaders in both the House and Senate want assurances from the Governor that transfers aren’t going to become the “norm” for the appropriations process.

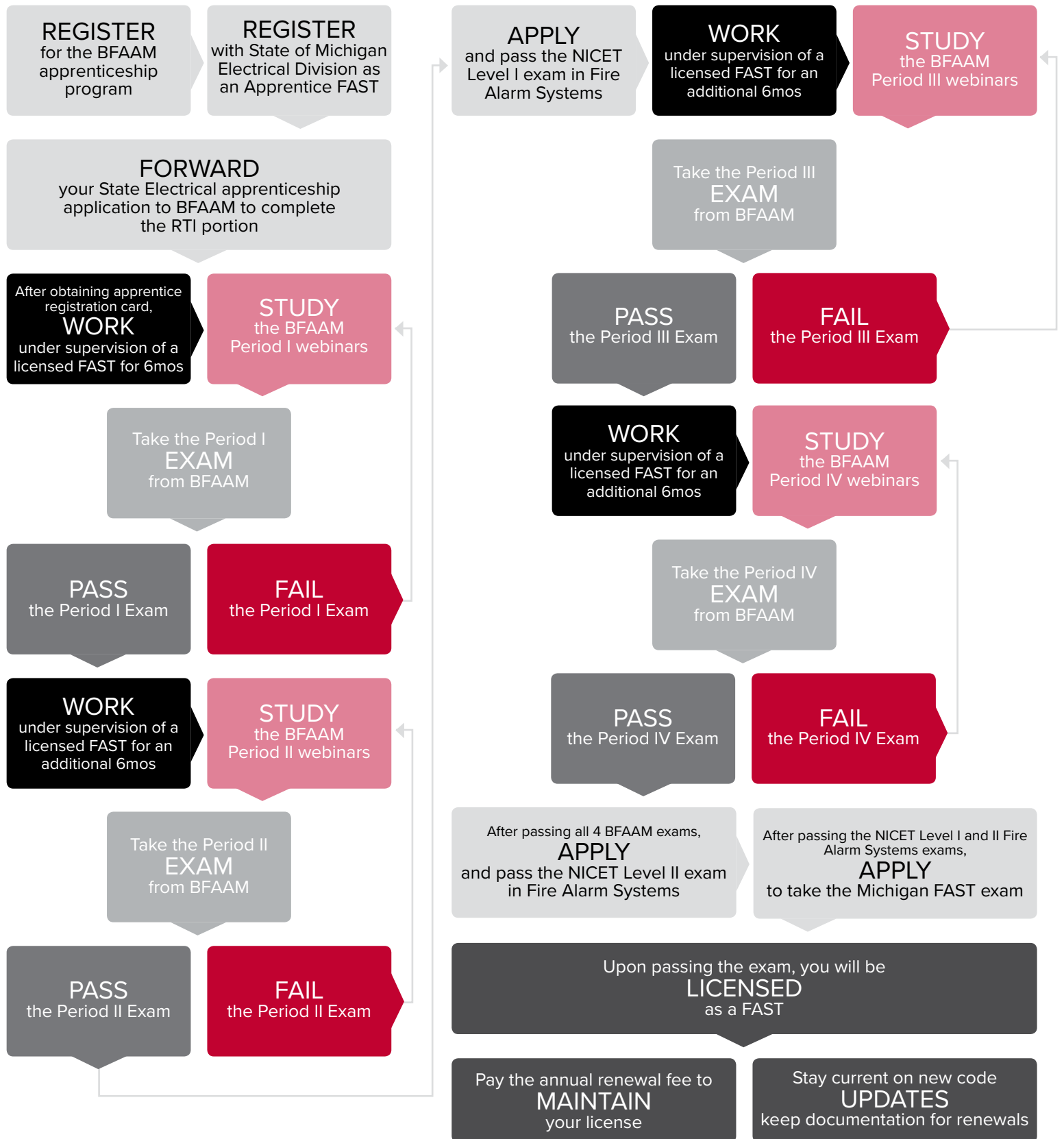
### BFAAM BUSINESS

Tom Kramer, John Romano, Bruce Chapin and Brian Hanley were all re-elected to serve on the BFAAM Board of Directors (BOD) for another 3-year term. Positions within the board will be voted on at the December meeting.

The BFAAM Board of Directors and membership voted to transition the bi-annual newsletter, *BFAAM News*, from a print publication to an electronic only publication beginning in 2020 for cost saving purposes. Check your membership record to make sure BFAAM has the correct email address on file for you and your staff so you can continue receiving the newsletter without interruption. 📧



Steps for new hires to obtain licensing as a Fire Alarm Specialty Technician (FAST):



## BFAAM LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

# Q&A WITH REP. SARAH ANTHONY



State Rep. Sarah Anthony is serving her first full term representing the 68th House District, which encompasses part of the city of Lansing and Lansing Township. She currently serves as the Democratic Caucus Chair for the 2019-2020 session. In November 2018, Anthony was sworn into her partial term, making her the first African-American woman to serve in this capacity in Lansing's

history.

Anthony was born and raised in Lansing and graduated from Everett High School on Lansing's south side. Following graduation, she attended Central Michigan University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and legal studies. Rep. Anthony also went on to earn a Master's of Public Administration degree from Western Michigan University and was later named a fellow of the University of Michigan's New Leadership Academy.

After graduation, she immediately returned to Lansing to work for former State Rep. Joan Bauer. There, she served as a Legislative Assistant, working closely with Lansing residents to streamline government services and with neighborhoods to connect them to vital improvement services and funds. In 2010, Anthony began an eight-year service as Deputy Director with the Michigan College Access Network.

In 2012, Lansing residents elected her to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, making her the youngest African American woman to serve in this capacity in the United States. During

her time as a commissioner, Anthony served in many leadership positions, including chairing the Democratic Caucus and Finance Committee as well as serving as Chair and Vice Chair of the board. She has been a fearless leader for health care access, social justice, services for senior citizens and working families.

Anthony has worked every day to help solve problems for Lansing's residents. She understands the challenges that so many small businesses, families and residents in the district face on a day-to-day basis, and is dedicated to representing their voice in government.

### WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER ONE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY?

My top priority is ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to pursue a postsecondary education or credential—no matter their race, zip code, or socioeconomic status. We have a responsibility to ensure our students and higher education institutions have the support and resources they need to succeed.

### WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The best part of my job is connecting with people in my district and bonding over our shared love for Lansing—whether that means attending neighborhood association meetings, honoring exemplary members of the community, or highlighting local businesses.

### WHAT IS THE BEST HIDDEN GEM IN YOUR DISTRICT?

I'm really excited about the new Rotary Park on the Rivertrail. The beach and electric forest give the park a unique vibe, and it's a great space to hang out Downtown with friends and family.

### WHO IS YOUR MODERN DAY HERO?

Shirley Chisholm. I have one of her campaign posters hanging in my office to remind me to always stay true to my constituents and myself. 🗣️



# THE BFAAM PAC NEEDS YOU!

BFAAM is constantly fighting for our industry, for our livelihoods, and for you! BFAAM cannot do this without support from you. Your membership into the BFAAM PAC is more important now than ever. Become a PAC member TODAY!

- Imagine the impact we could have if **every member contributed to the PAC** protecting their business.
- Imagine the impact we could have if **every employee contributed to their industry PAC** that protects and fights for them.

BFAAM has been very successful in protecting your business interests in previous years – but we can't do this without your support! PLEASE visit [www.bfaam.org](http://www.bfaam.org) and send a contribution today! Large or small, we appreciate any effort you make to help our alarm industry. 📞



Former Governor Snyder signing SB 1025 into law. (L to R): Senator Darwin Booher (R-Evart), BFAAM Lobbyist Jason Wadaga, Governor Snyder, BFAAM Government Relations Chair Dan Decker, Past BFAAM PAC Chair Joyce Schofield, and BFAAM Immediate Past President Dean Belisle. Senate Bill 1025 amended the Electrical Administrative Act and the Skilled Trades Regulation Act (STRA) to allow Fire Alarm Specialty Technicians to design fire alarm shop drawings, instead of having to have the drawings stamped by an Architect or PE when applying for a permit to install a fire alarm system.

## CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE JOB BANK AT BFAAM.ORG

BFAAM members can now share their job postings with the BFAAM community. This is a great way to find qualified candidates for your open positions. If you have a job or posting you would like to submit, please send it to [BFAAM@kdafirm.com](mailto:BFAAM@kdafirm.com).

View the site at  
[bfaam.org/job-bank](http://bfaam.org/job-bank).



## MICHIGAN AG NESSEL JOINS 12 ATTORNEY GENERALS URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTIONS FOR APPRENTICES

To protect the integrity of Michigan apprenticeship programs and ensure adequate training for all apprentices, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel Monday joined 12 Attorneys General in submitting comments to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) urging it to revise its proposed apprenticeship rule to strengthen protections for apprentices.


“Apprenticeships have long been a staple in our state’s economy and a driving force behind sustainable paychecks for families across our state,” Nessel said. “It is our responsibility to do everything we can to protect the rigor of these programs and Michiganders looking to start careers in good-paying jobs.”

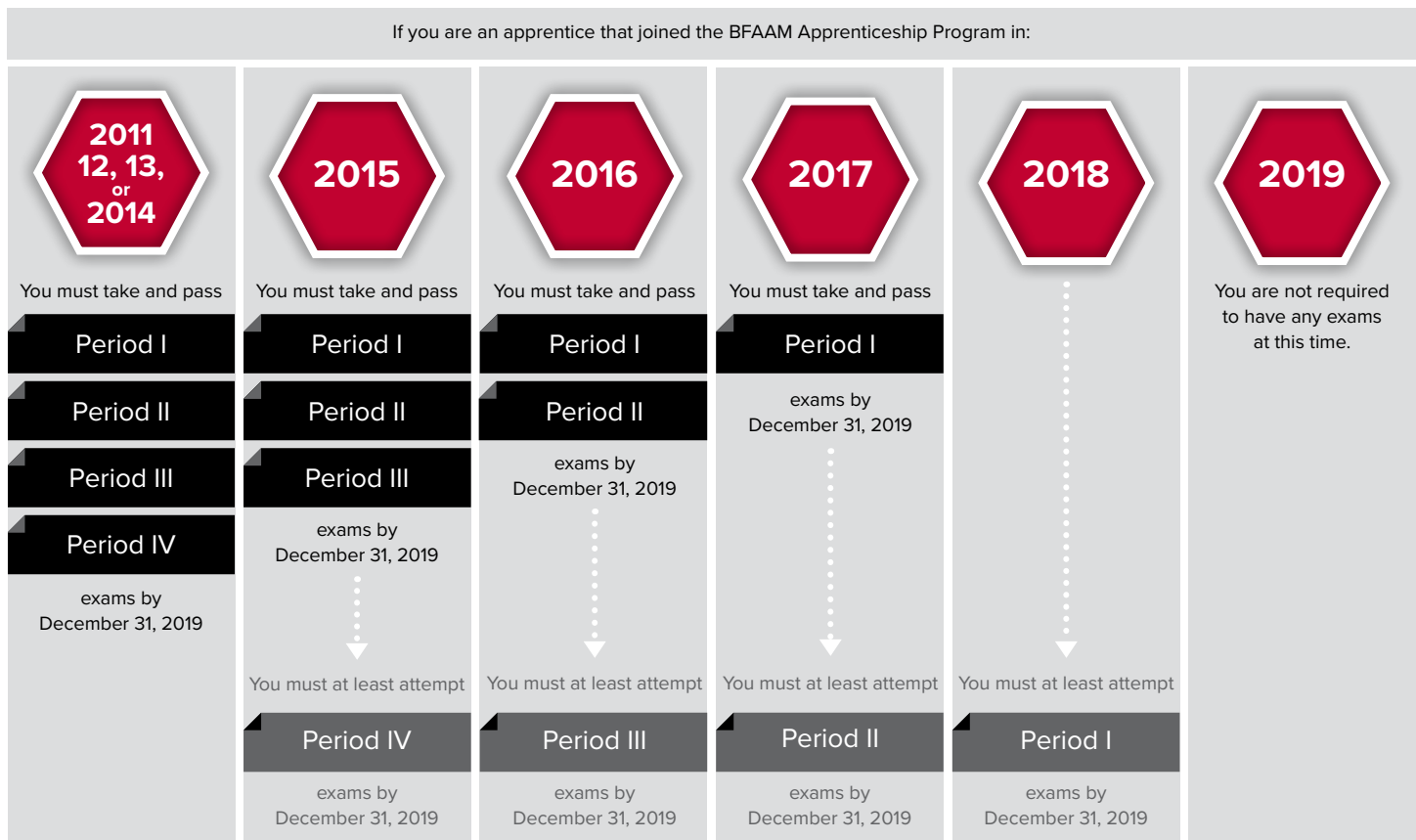
In their letter, the Attorneys General point out three key concerns with the proposed rule:

1. Its failure to include specifics about what an apprenticeship program must include in order to be certified;
2. Its failure to adequately protect apprentices from low-quality programs; and
3. Its failure to provide the USDOL proper enforcement authority to act when programs fall short of providing quality training and education.

In Michigan, apprenticeships are a necessary part of the licensing requirements for many occupations, including electricians, plumbers and boiler operators. Michigan’s apprenticeship regulations contain specifics on the required number of hours and the duration of an apprenticeship program, but sometimes also rely on the USDOL’s certification of an apprenticeship program.

“With more than 1,000 apprenticeship programs in the state and more than 18,000 active apprentices, Michigan absolutely has a stake in strengthening this rule,” Nessel added. “When strict regulations and protections aren’t put in place, some businesses will do everything they can to exploit consumers, taking every advantage of the loopholes half-baked rules leave wide open. I urge the USDOL to revise its rule to make certain these programs remain a viable pathway to endless possibilities for Michiganders and all Americans.”

Nessel co-signed the comment letter with the Attorneys General of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington. 



# The Future of Your Business with LTE



## Maximize Account Longevity

Honeywell Home offers an end-to-end solution that combines hardware and cloud services to help streamline your business. When paired with Honeywell Home panels, sensors and AlarmNet® services, our new LTE communicators deliver optimized reliability, simpler installations, and maximum account longevity.

It's a powerful solution that's quality tested, warranted, and agency-listed to deliver great performance, improved business efficiencies and fewer support calls.



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For more information, please visit [www.security.honeywellhome.com/hsc](http://www.security.honeywellhome.com/hsc) or call 1-800-645-7492.

## Honeywell Home

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# NEWS



## BFAAM News is Going Digital!

The BFAAM Board of Directors and membership voted to transition the semi-annual newsletter, *BFAAM News*, from a print publication to a digital publication beginning in 2020 for cost-saving purposes. Be sure to include your email address in your dues renewal so you can continue receiving the newsletter.

**Attention Advertisers:** As part of this change, *BFAAM News* will now offer full-color ads that can click-through to your website. Check out the new ad kit at [bfaam.org/about/newsletter-advertising](http://bfaam.org/about/newsletter-advertising) for details.