



# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

## Monthly Legislative Update

MARCH 2018

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Mid-Ohio Regional  
Planning Commission





## TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
<b>Highlight the Valuable Roles Duties, and Rights of Local Governments</b>	<p>MORPC Executive Director William Murdock submitted proponent testimony on House Bill 529, the state capital budget bill, to the Ohio House Finance Committee on March 6. Since last fall, MORPC staff have worked closely with other regional agencies and partners to ensure the capital budget bill maximized economic and sustainable development for our growing region. The bill passed the House Finance Committee on March 6th and is expected to be voted out of the legislature before the end of the month.</p> <p>Murdock also submitted opponent testimony on House Bill 371 to the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee, which proposes a property tax exemption for increased value of unimproved land subdivided for residential development from the time that the land is subdivided to the time that either residential construction begins, or the land is sold. MORPC joined a coalition of local government advocates that are opposed to House Bill 371. As a result of its position, MORPC was invited to an interested parties' meeting to discuss the legislation. The bill is analogous to Senate Bill 235, a bill that proposed to freeze the taxable value of commercial property that MORPC and a coalition of local government advocates were successful in defeating.</p> <p>On February 28th the House informally passed HB 371, meaning the bill in all likelihood did not have enough votes to pass and therefore did not receive a vote on the floor. MORPC staff will continue to reach out to members of the Central Ohio House delegation and urge them to vote no on the bill if and when the bill comes up for a vote again.</p> <p>There are several pieces of legislation moving rather quickly at the statehouse related to broadband and small cell wireless technology. One of these bills is House Bill 378 which MORPC Regional Data &amp; Mapping Director Aaron Schill submitted proponent testimony to the House Finance committee. The bill creates a grant program for the expansion of broadband into unserved areas. An interested party meeting was held February 21, which MORPC staff attended. In order to provide members of each committee with additional insight on bills related to expanded broadband and small cell technology, MORPC staff will convene a joint meeting of the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC), Regional Policy Roundtable and Smart Region Task Force in the near future.</p>



## TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
<p><b>Promote Energy Efficiency and an Abundant Supply of Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Sources of Energy for our Growing Region</b></p>	<p>The Senate continues its work on House Bill 114. MORPC Energy &amp; Air Quality Director Christina O’Keeffe provided written opposition testimony to the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the bill. O’Keeffe expressed MORPC’s opposition to the elimination of the state’s energy efficiency requirements, how opt outs lead to increased costs, and how energy efficiency benchmarks would be reduced to 17.2 percent from 22.2 percent by 2027 in the bill.</p> <p>MORPC supports inserting language into the bill that would increase the available federal funding available to the Ohio Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP), specifically requesting the annual transfer of LIHEAP funding (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or “HEAP”) to be maxed out at 25% (from 20%) allowable under the program requirements and believes the bill can be enhanced by including incentives in the bill such as energy special improvement districts (E-SIDS).</p> <p>MORPC staff will continue to monitor the bill and will continue to seek common ground on this critical issue for our region and state. It is expected to see significant attention by the Ohio Senate in January. Also, MORPC is evaluating Senate Bill 264, introduced by Senator Matt Dolan, that reduces the state’s setback requirements for wind turbines.</p>
<p><b>Establish MORPC as Top Resource on Transportation Issues</b></p>	<p>House Bill 415 which would divert a portion of surplus revenues realized by the State of Ohio to transportation funding passed the Ohio House of Representatives on February 28. The bill would allocate 50% of the state’s surplus revenue each year to a newly-created Local Government Road Improvement Fund that would be distributed to counties. The legislation had bipartisan support by a 81-15 margin. This legislation now goes to the Ohio Senate for consideration. Staff will continue to monitor it through the legislative process.</p> <p>House Bill 95 which would create an enhanced driving penalty for “distracted driving” that only comes into play when a driver is pulled over for another moving violation, was voted out of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously a few weeks ago. The bill was voted out of the House in June and MORPC Executive Director William Murdock submitted written proponent testimony to both the House and Senate committees. Senate President Larry Obhof said he needs to further discuss the bill with his caucus prior to a vote on the senate floor.</p>



## TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
<p><b>Seek Federal Funding for Regional Projects</b></p>	<p>MORPC’s board and staff leadership recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to share MORPC’s regional priorities with the Central Ohio congressional delegation and attend the annual National Conference on Regions. While in Washington, the Trump Administration unveiled its infrastructure proposal. MORPC board members and staff used this as an opportunity to express how federal investment, within the proposal, would advance <a href="#">Competitive Advantage Projects</a>, rural projects within the <a href="#">Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (RTPO)</a> and the <a href="#">Hyperloop Midwest Connect Initiative</a>.</p> <p>As an agency serving local governments, MORPC leaders also voiced their concern with the reduced federal share in projects and the increase in the financial burden for states and localities in the proposal. The plan calls for \$200 billion in federal spending, with the remaining \$1.3 trillion to be generated by state and local governments, as well as private investors.</p> <p>Current highway funding programs usually require a local share of 20-40 percent; this proposal calls for the federal share to be 20 percent. While this is great leveraging for the federal government, it might provide hardships to communities that are already struggling to address their infrastructure needs.</p> <p>Furthermore, in order to pay for the plan, funds would be cut in FY18 and FY 19 for programs such as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) both of which provide needed federal investment in our growing region. Central Ohio has succeeded in national competitive grant programs such as TIGER and the Smart City Challenge, and keeping TIGER provides a competitive advantage for the region rather than solely formula-based funding programs.</p>

## TOP NEWS

### ***FY19-20 Capital Appropriations Budget***

Lawmakers introduced the \$2.6 billion capital budget for FY19-20, highlighting a \$222 million portion dedicated to addiction and other health and human services purposes. Both chambers held hearings this week on their respective measures — SB266 (Oelslager) and HB529 (Ryan) — as the General Assembly looks to make quick work of the bill. To that end, Budget Director Tim Keen briefed both committees, reviewing in greater detail major spending proposals for prisons, schools, dam safety and health and human services facilities. Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) told reporters he hopes to finish work on the bill in the third week of March. The House version is expected to be the final vehicle.



## TOP NEWS

### ***Local Government***

Counties would get nearly \$115 million in state money to replace aging voting machines in time for the 2019 election under a bill expected to pass the legislature this spring. Total funding largely matches the estimate of what it would cost to replace all voting machines in Ohio with the lowest cost paper-ballot machines known as optical scan. However, the bill by Sen. Frank LaRose, R-Hudson, allows counties to choose their own machines, whether they involve paper, more-expensive touch-screen machines known as DREs, or hybrid models.

A Franklin County judge ruled that municipal net profits tax provisions in the biennial budget do not run afoul of constitutional home rule protections for cities and villages, rejecting claims brought by dozens of municipalities against the state. The communities sued last year to challenge provisions in HB49 (R. Smith), the budget, as well as 130-HB5 (Grossman), an earlier law meant to reform municipal tax collections. In the budget, lawmakers gave taxpayers the option to file a single return with the state for municipal taxes levied on business income, rather than file in each individual community in which they did business. Kent Scarrett, executive director of the Ohio Municipal League, told Hannah News in an email that they plan to appeal Wednesday's decision and "to brace for the attack on municipal revenues."

Downtown Columbus continues to grow, with the number of people living in downtown expected to pass 10,000 by 2020, according to a new report released by Capital Crossroads and Discovery Special Improvement Districts in downtown Columbus.

### ***Addiction/Substance Abuse***

The latest figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show an intensification of annual drug overdose deaths in Ohio amounting to almost triple the national average, which is likely related to the state's ongoing opioid crisis. According to the National Vital Statistics System's recently released Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts report, 5,232 drug overdose deaths were reported between July, 2016 and July 2017, up significantly from the 3,763 overdose deaths reported for the same period the previous year for a 39 percent increase.

### ***Auditor of State***

State Auditor Dave Yost wants to help local governments and Ohioans fortify themselves from digital threats and fend off cyberattacks by offering a free, on-demand 90-minute webinar. The webinar follows popular training sessions held in communities throughout Ohio in 2017. Training sessions are geared toward helping government officials prevent and deal with cyberattacks.

### ***Columbus Crew***

Attorney General Mike DeWine Monday joined the city of Columbus to file a lawsuit seeking to block the move of the Columbus Crew SC to Austin, TX, claiming the owner/operator of the team has not followed the proper procedures put into state law after the Cleveland Browns moved to Baltimore in 1996. DeWine filed the lawsuit in Franklin County against Anthony Precourt, the operator/investor of the Crew and the chief executive officer of Precourt Sports Ventures LLC, as well as Don Garber, the commissioner of Major League Soccer (MLS). Precourt announced in October that he would be moving the team from Columbus to Austin, TX, if the city or private investors could not guarantee him that a new downtown stadium will be built for the team. Garber has endorsed the move, and DeWine's lawsuit noted that MLS had agreed to the move when Precourt signed an operator/investor agreement in 2013 and had intentionally not made that fact public.



### TOP NEWS

Under Ohio Revised Code 9.67, sports owners whose teams use tax-supported facilities and accept financial assistance from the state of Ohio and its localities cannot move those teams elsewhere unless they give at least six months advanced notice of the intention to move and give the city, an individual, or group of individuals, who live in the area an opportunity to purchase the teams.

#### ***Economic Development***

Amazon announced that it has whittled the 238 cities that applied to be the site for the company's second headquarters in North America to 20, and Columbus is on the list. The Kasich administration's newest round of Job Creation Tax Credits breaks down to a 2:1 ratio of jobs retained and jobs created, costing the state an estimated \$4.652 million in tax abatements. Six private businesses recommended by JobsOhio and approved by the Ohio Tax Credit Authority hope to create 656 positions compared to 1,365 retained, resulting in over \$35 million in new payroll. The projects are also expected to spur \$30 million in additional investments in Ohio.

#### ***Elections 2018***

Democratic candidates for statewide office outraised their Republican counterparts, according to new campaign finance filings released, though Republicans had more in their campaign accounts. The Ohio House Republican Organizational Committee (OHROC) reported \$2.2 million in contributions and has \$4.5 million as it goes into an election year defending its supermajority. The Ohio House Democratic Caucus reported \$405,078 in contributions and has \$484,058 on hand. The Republican Senate Campaign Committee reported nearly \$1.1 million in contributions and has a balance of \$2.8 million. Senate Democrats reported \$67,850 in contributions and \$42,405 on hand.

Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor said he will run for the Democratic nomination for Ohio's 12th Congressional District, which has been vacant since former U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Columbus) stepped down last month.

#### ***Environment***

A new Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) grant program will help heavy duty vehicle owners convert their engines to compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) or liquid petroleum gas (LPG). The grants will apply to diesel or gasoline-powered class seven and class eight vehicles weighing at least 26,000 pounds, the agency said.

Researchers at the University of Cincinnati (UC) have been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop better ways of detecting deadly bacteria in sources of drinking water. The grant is funded by the CBET Division of Chemical Bioengineering Environmental and Transport Systems of NSF. The goal is to develop highly-selective and fast-responding sensors for the detection and quantification of toxins in drinking water and its sources.

The \$75 million the state gained following Volkswagen's emissions scandal would be used for a variety of projects aimed at reducing nitrogen oxides (NOx) under a mitigation plan drafted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).

Ohio and its cities would stand to benefit immensely if they made a modest reduction in energy usage and invested in energy efficient technologies and materials according to a new report "Saving Energy, Saving Lives: The Health Impacts of Avoiding Power Plant Pollution with Energy Efficiency." Released by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), it says that if Ohio were to make a 15 percent reduction in annual electric consumption, it would save around \$1.2 billion, or \$137 per person, in annual health harms, whether they be fewer trips to the emergency room for heart attacks or asthma, or reductions in respiratory illnesses treatment.



## TOP NEWS

### *Federal*

U.S. Reps. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus) and Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus) are leading an effort to increase civil discourse in Washington D.C. and across the country. They announced the creation of the “Congressional Civility and Respect Caucus” during a Columbus Metropolitan Club event. Stivers, who chairs the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), said members of the caucus will need to pledge to be civil and spread that message in their communities, pointing to high schools as a starting place.

### *Judicial*

The Ohio Supreme Court addressed whether cities and other political subdivisions can be held liable for damages when foliage obstructs traffic control devices, leading to auto accidents. The case, *Pelletier v. City of Campbell et al.*, had drawn friend-of-court briefs from the Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Township Association, County Commissioners Association of Ohio, County Engineers Association of Ohio, Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, city of Canton, other municipalities and townships and additional parties.

### *Natural Resources/Events*

Construction on the Buckeye Lake Dam remains on schedule and is expected to be completed in late 2018, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) spokesperson Matt Eiselstein told Hannah News. A number of homeowners were recently notified that their structures encroached on state land and are obstructing the state’s planned construction path.

### *Pensions*

A union for school employees this week sued the state and the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) over a freeze in cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), alleging the funding difficulties that drove it arose from poor investment decisions and “extravagant” payments to actuaries and investment professionals, among other claims. SERS’ attorneys are reviewing the case, “but we believe that all actions taken by SERS were legal and prudent with regard to the COLA changes,” system spokesman Tim Barbour wrote in an email.

Public workers and retirees argued that their state pension system is strong enough to avoid proposed cuts to inflationary benefit payments, but system leadership insisted the cuts are necessary for long-term stability. Several people, including Public Employee Retirees Inc. (PERI) President Geoff Hetrick, urged the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee to reject HB413 (Scherer), which proposes a reduction in annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). But Karen Carraher, CEO of OPERS, said system leadership is “unwavering” in its belief the changes are necessary.

### *People*

The Ohio Public Transit Association announced recently that it has hired W. Curtis Stitt as its executive director. Stitt, recently retired CEO of the Central Ohio Transit Authority, will be responsible for executing OPTA’s strategic plan, managing programs, and coordinating government affairs with OPTA’s lobbyists. Other duties include membership development and overseeing administrative duties.



## TOP NEWS

### ***Redistricting/Reapportionment***

Ohioans will vote May 8 to change how the state draws congressional districts to a process supporters say will be more fair, transparent and bipartisan. The General Assembly's [proposed constitutional amendment](#) will be Issue 1, the only statewide issue on the May primary election ballot.

Redistricting sponsor Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) called the deal “historic,” during the Senate session, noting the proposal requires “significant” bipartisan cooperation and is the first of its kind in the U.S. The plan specifies that 65 counties cannot be split at all, 18 can be split once and five can be split twice. The cities of Cleveland and Cincinnati would remain whole within their districts. Any map would be subject to a governor’s veto or voter referendum.

### ***Taxation***

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a case on whether states can require businesses to collect sales taxes for online purchases. The case could have implications for Ohio’s budget, as Ohio leaders have shifted more of the tax burden to sales taxes and away from income taxes in recent years. In *South Dakota v. Wayfair Inc. et al*, South Dakota is defending a law it passed that directly challenges the Supreme Court’s precedent in *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*, which found online sales tax collection was a matter of interstate commerce and thus up to Congress, not state legislatures, to decide. Under *Quill*, a state can only require collection of sales taxes from businesses with a physical presence in the state.

### ***Telecommunications***

Legislation resolving differences between local governments and wireless companies on the deployment of small cell technology passed the House 76-15. “A coalition of over 90 municipalities negotiated over the past three months with representatives from the wireless industry. The product of that hard work is substitute HB478 (LaTourette-R. Smith),” Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland) said.

### ***Transportation***

Saying he was “signing the future,” Gov. John Kasich issued an executive order to unify infrastructure and connected and autonomous vehicle research within DriveOhio, a center initially housed within the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) approved additional funding for 12 construction projects in Ohio. The new funding commitments total \$58.8 million, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).



### TOP NEWS

#### *Utilities*

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) sought comments on the impact of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on the tax rates of public utilities regulated by the state. Comments were due Feb. 15, 2018.

In the final of five scheduled public hearings on a six-year extension and modification of its electric security plan, American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio drew vocal support for proposed smart grid technology and a job-rich solar installation expected to produce 400 megawatts (MW) of solar energy at a soon-to-be announced location in Appalachian Ohio. The hearing follows PUCO approval of modifications to AEP Ohio's current ESP last fall, when the utility agreed to replace its scuttled power purchase agreement (PPA) with a scaled-down version benefiting the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC). In addition to the solar installation, the ESP approved on Nov. 3 also provided for 500 megawatts of wind power in the AEP portfolio; smart energy technologies including public safety micro-grids, electric vehicle charging stations and smart street lighting; replacement of aging infrastructure and "aggressive" vegetation management; and a new dispatch system and security upgrades at substations.

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) has joined the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE) in asking the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to move forward with its investigation into the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's (TCJA) impact on utility rates. Contrary to the state's electric distribution utilities (EDU), consumer advocates say PUCO has the statutory authority to order immediate billing reductions to prevent "unreasonable, unjust, insufficient, unjustly discriminatory or unjustly preferential" charges to residential and commercial customers.



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

**Goal 1: Promote regionalism at the local, state, and federal levels of government fostering economic growth, prosperity, efficient use of resources, and a high quality of life for Central Ohio residents.**

- HB3** DATAOHIO BOARD CREATION (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make appropriations.  
*Current Status:* 12/12/2017 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-3>
- HB49** OPERATING BUDGET (SMITH R) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.  
*Current Status:* 8/22/2017 - Consideration of Governor's Veto  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-49>
- HB69** LEVY REVENUE REIMBURSEMENT (CUPP B) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district.  
*Current Status:* 12/22/2017 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 90 days  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-69>
- HB122** ESTABLISH ECONOMIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HAMBLEY S, ROGERS J) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.  
*Current Status:* 3/7/2018 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-122>
- HB281** BROADBAND EXPANSION PROGRAM (CARFAGNA R) To establish the residential broadband expansion program within the Development Services Agency to award matching grants for last mile broadband expansion in municipal corporations and townships and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 2/20/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-281>
- HB371** TAXES ON UNSOLD PROPERTY (MERRIN D) To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold.  
*Current Status:* 3/1/2018 - Re-Referred to Committee  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-371>
- HB378** OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (SMITH R, CERA J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 3/6/2018 - House Finance, (Seventh Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-378>



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB478** SMALL CELL WIRELESS (SMITH R, LATOURETTE S) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way.  
*Current Status:* 3/6/2018 - Senate Public Utilities, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-478>
- HB529** CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (RYAN S) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020.  
*Current Status:* 3/7/2018 - Bills for Third Consideration  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-529>
- SB203** MUNICIPAL TAX RULE REINSTATEMENT (DOLAN M) To reinstate the municipal income tax “throw-back rule” used in apportioning business income among municipalities.  
*Current Status:* 11/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-203>
- SB235** SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY CHANGES (EKLUND J) To create a procedure for certain tier II sex offenders convicted of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor to petition a court for reclassification or removal from the sex offender registry and to permit record sealing in those cases.  
*Current Status:* 2/20/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-235>
- SB239** REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (DOLAN M) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments.  
*Current Status:* 3/7/2018 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-239>
- SB266** CAPITAL BUDGET (OELSLAGER S) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.  
*Current Status:* 3/6/2018 - Senate Finance, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-266>

### **Goal 2: Achieve an advanced and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio’s people and products to the world.**

- HB95** DISTRACTED DRIVING PENALTY (HUGHES J, SEITZ B) To establish an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted if the distraction is the apparent cause of the violation and to reenact provisions of law that specified that certain electronic wireless communications device violations were allied offenses of similar import.  
*Current Status:* 10/24/2017 - REPORTED OUT, Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Fourth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-95>



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB190** RAILROAD CROSSING REQUIREMENTS (LEPORE-HAGAN M, SCHURING K) To require vehicle operators to watch, listen, and stop for on-track equipment that may be approaching a railroad crossing.  
*Current Status:* 12/13/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Fourth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-190>
- HB219** SPEED LIMIT SIGN DISTANCES (BOCCIERI J) To specify that a speed limit becomes effective at a reasonable distance from the appropriate sign giving notice of the speed limit.  
*Current Status:* 11/8/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-219>
- HB250** ELECTRIC BIKE REQUIREMENTS (BRINKMAN T) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles.  
*Current Status:* 2/27/2018 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-250>
- HB415** LOCAL GOV ROAD IMPROVEMENT (GREENSPAN D, RYAN S) To allocate one-half of any surplus revenue to a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund, from which money will be distributed directly to local governments to fund road improvements.  
*Current Status:* 2/28/2018 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 81-15  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-415>
- SB6** OHIO BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOAGLAND F) To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program.  
*Current Status:* 12/13/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-6>
- SB61** PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (SKINDELL M) To make appropriations related to public transportation.  
*Current Status:* 12/13/2017 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-61>
- SB113** VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX (COLEY W) To levy an additional registration tax on passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars and trucks beginning on January 1, 2020; to authorize a per-gallon motor fuel retail price reduction for consumers that is equal to the state per-gallon motor fuel tax of \$.28; and to exempt each gallon of motor fuel that is sold at the reduced retail price from the state motor fuel tax.  
*Current Status:* 9/20/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-113>



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

### Goal 3: Conserve and enhance the natural resources, water, air and land in our growing region.

- HB62** WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (PATTERSON J, SHEEHY M) To require the Director of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing the Ohio Water Quality Improvement Program, to exempt land enrolled in the Program from taxation, and to reimburse local taxing units for revenue lost due to that exemption.  
*Current Status:* 5/10/2017 - House Agriculture and Rural Development, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-62>
- HB121** PIPE MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS (EDWARDS J) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project.  
*Current Status:* 11/1/2017 - BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, (Fifth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-121>
- HR85** FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OVERHAUL (YOUNG R) To respectfully urge Congress and President Donald Trump to amend the Federal Clean Air Act to eliminate the requirement to implement the E-Check Program and direct the Administrator of USEP A to begin new rulemaking procedures under the Administrative Procedures Act to repeal and replace the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; to respectfully urge Congress and President Donald Trump to pass legislation to achieve improvements in air quality more efficiently while allowing companies to innovate and help the economy grow; to urge the Administrator of USEPA to alleviate burdensome requirements of the E-Check Program and the Clean Air Act if Congress and the President fail to act; and to encourage OEPA to explore alternatives to ECheck in Ohio.  
*Current Status:* 5/24/2017 - ADOPTED BY HOUSE; Vote 72-25  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HR-85>
- SB95** STATE PROJECTS-PIPING MATERIALS (TERHAR L) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project.  
*Current Status:* 10/25/2017 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-95>
- SB112** GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (SCHIAVONI J) To establish the green infrastructure fund and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 9/6/2017 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-112>
- SCR15** YEAR DESIGNATION-TRAILS (O'BRIEN S, WILSON S) To designate 2018 as "Ohio's Year of the Trails."  
*Current Status:* 2/20/2018 - REPORTED OUT, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SCR-15>



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

**Goal 4: Promote energy efficiency and an abundant supply of safe, reliable, and affordable sources of energy for our growing region.**

- HB114** RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS (BLESSING III L) To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program.  
*Current Status:* 1/10/2018 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (Fourth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-114>
- HB247** ELECTRIC UTILITY CONSUMER PROTECTION (ROMANCHUK M) To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged, to eliminate electric security plans and require all electric standard service offers to be delivered through market-rate offers, and to strengthen corporate separation requirements.  
*Current Status:* 1/23/2018 - House Public Utilities, (Sixth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-247>
- SB155** ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COST RECOVERY (TERHAR L, PETERSON B) To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource.  
*Current Status:* 1/10/2018 - Senate Public Utilities, (Seventh Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-155>
- SB184** WIND FARM SETBACK REQUIREMENTS (SKINDELL M) To alter the minimum setback requirement for wind farms of five or more megawatts.  
*Current Status:* 9/27/2017 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-184>
- SB188** WIND TURBINE SETBACK REVISIONS (HITE C) To revise wind turbine setback provisions for economically significant wind farms.  
*Current Status:* 10/11/2017 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-188>
- SB217** OIL, GAS REVISED ENFORCEMENT (SCHIAVONI J) To revise enforcement of the Oil and Gas Law, including increasing criminal penalties and requiring revocation of permits for violations of that Law relating to improper disposal of brine.  
*Current Status:* 11/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-217>
- SB238** WIND TURBINE SETBACKS (DOLAN M) Regarding wind turbine setbacks for wind farms of at least five megawatts.  
*Current Status:* 1/10/2018 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-238>

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