



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Monthly Legislative Update

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Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission





TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
Highlight the Valuable Roles, Duties, and Rights of Local Governments	MORPC representatives participated in the Columbus Region Coalition's day on the Hill and legislative reception. The Columbus Region Coalition is a collaboration of government, business, educational and community service organizations from the Columbus Region that jointly formulate and advocate a regional public policy agenda. William Murdock attended the Columbus Partnership's DC activities and a team from MORPC organized, led and attended the CRC's Hill meetings.
Promote Energy Efficiency and an Abundant Supply of Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Sources of Energy for our Growing Region	<p>The Ohio Senate continues its work on House Bill 114 (Ohio Energy Standards). Last month, a substitute version of the bill was offered and accepted to the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee. As you may recall, MORPC Energy and Air Quality Director Christina O'Keeffe submitted opposition testimony in the fall of last year 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>The substitute version of the bill partially reinstates renewable energy and energy efficiency standards – albeit at lower levels than are currently in effect in Ohio. It also eases the restrictions on setbacks for wind turbines. However, the other items of concern were not addressed.</p> <p>MORPC staff, in consultation with the Sustainability Advisory Committee and Regional Policy Roundtable, will send a letter to Senator Troy Balderson, who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The letter will highlight the progress that has been made in the sub-bill, yet also convey that the sub-bill does not merit a change in MORPC's stance of opposition at this time.</p>



TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
Establish MORPC as Top Resource on Transportation Issues	<p>Virgin Hyperloop One recently hosted officials from Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania as the partners further discussed the potential Midwest Connect corridor and the progression of hyperloop technology. In total, 33 officials participated in some portion of the visit. The visit follows MORPC's announcement in February of a \$2.5 million Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative, which includes a feasibility study to explore potential hyperloop routes connecting Chicago, Fort Wayne, Lima, Marysville, Columbus, and Pittsburgh. The study will include two potential route alignments for evaluation and identify the optimal range of initial implementation and alignment and initial stations and end-points. Additionally, the study will provide estimates of transportation demand and economic benefits, as well as develop a business case, implementation strategy and stakeholder and public engagement strategy.</p> <p>Transportation Systems and Funding Director, Thea Walsh presented to the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee on May 23, 2018. Walsh highlighted the US 33 Smart Corridor, the Regional Corridor Study, Hyperloop, and MORPC's Smart Region Task Force as examples of various smart technologies being implemented throughout the region. Representatives from the Transportation Research Center, Inc. (TRC), the Ohio State University (OSU), and the city of Columbus also presented to the committee.</p>
Seek Federal Funding for Regional Projects	<p>MORPC began working with regional transportation leaders to develop applications for the newest federal transportation grant program known as BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grants. USDOT plans to award \$1.5 billion in grants to transportation projects around the country. This amount is triple what was recently awarded under the program's predecessor program, TIGER. The most that any single project can receive from the program is \$25 million. Applications for this program are due on July 19, 2018.</p> <p>MORPC is also monitoring the FY 2019 federal appropriations legislation. Specifically, it is tracking the appropriations bill for Transportation Housing and Urban Development. The House has adopted its version of the legislation, and the Senate's version has cleared the Appropriations Committee.</p>



TOP NEWS

General Assembly/Statehouse

It took 11 voting rounds and more than two hours, but the Ohio House eventually elected Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Gallipolis) to serve as speaker. Smith, who was immediately sworn in on the floor by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick Fischer, won with a plurality of the vote over House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton), Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) and Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus). In the final round, Smith received 44 votes, Strahorn received 27, Thompson got 13 and Hughes got seven. The speaker's office had been vacant since April 12 following Cliff Rosenberger's (R-Clarksville) resignation amid an FBI inquiry.

The Ohio House squeezed more than two dozen votes into a three-hour session as it started to clear a backlog of bills that had piled up while majority Republicans fought over the speakership vacancy. Rep. Ryan Smith's (R-Bidwell) ascendance to the speaker's office paved the way for 's heavy calendar, where the chamber passed 17 bills, agreed to Senate changes on 11 more and insisted on its own version of drug sentencing proposal SB1 (LaRose), queuing up a conference committee.

In an unprecedented move, the Ohio House Democratic Caucus voted to remove Rep. Bernadine Kennedy Kent (D-Columbus) as a member, according to a report in the Columbus Dispatch.

The FBI searched former House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger's (R-Clarksville) home and storage unit in Clinton County, seizing material. In addition, House GOP spokesperson Brad Miller told Hannah News that some materials from state offices were provided to the FBI later in the day.

FY18-19 Budget

The end of the tax filing season saw Ohio income taxes bring in almost \$100 million more than forecast, and preliminary April figures also show stronger sales tax collection as well, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) said. Tax receipts for April were \$2.05 billion, \$130.8 million or 6.8 percent ahead of the expected revenue of \$1.92 billion.

With a month remaining in FY18, the state's revenue remains above estimates for the year by 2.1 percent, according to preliminary figures released by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). In fact, revenues for May were 2.9 percent over estimates, bringing in a total of nearly \$2.1 billion, nearly \$58 million over estimate. For the year-to-date, revenues have totaled \$20.2 billion and are nearly \$418.7 million over estimates. Most of that additional revenue can be attributed to the personal income tax, which is \$401.9 million over estimates for FY18.

Business/Corporate

The state business environment reflects ""positive economic growth and high optimism,"" a recent survey by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce found, but business leaders were significantly concerned about the political environment. The chamber said that it was the first time the state's political environment was a ""top concern"" and nowhere was that felt more than in Central Ohio. While the cost of health care was the number one concern for all regions, Central Ohio was the only one to name politics number two.



TOP NEWS

Energy

While a substitute bill for HB114 (Blessing) was accepted in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Chair Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) stressed beforehand that there is no intention of reporting it out next week for swift passage. Balderson said he wanted to be ““very, very, very clear”” on that as he said there was ““apparently”” word going around about it. He said that the changes were part of an ongoing ““conversation.”” Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City), who introduced the sub bill, said it stemmed from many interested party meetings where opinions and suggestions were offered about the direction of the bill.

Conservatives for a Clean Energy Future delivered over 4,000 signed letters to 10 members of the Ohio House as a representative sample of lawmakers who are considering legislation proposing shorter wind turbine setbacks. The bills — SB238 (Dolan), HB114 (Blessing) and HB604 (Strahorn) — would return the setback to what it was before mid-biennium review (MBR) 130-HB483 (Amstutz). The required distance is currently 1,125 feet from the nearest property line, which under the proposed bills would be measured instead from the nearest habitable residential structure.

The country’s largest bank joined forces with Walmart and Case Western Reserve University to call for investments of more than \$26 billion in Ohio’s clean energy economy. Twenty-one thousand new jobs depend on it, according to JPMorgan Chase. The bank’s vice president of global philanthropy, Alex Derkson, gathered with partners near Capitol Square to announce the release of the report ““Powering Ohio,”” which focuses on the development of solar and wind energy, energy efficiency, 21st century transportation, and needed corporate leadership to make it happen.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee took wide-ranging testimony on the substitute version of HB114’s (Blessing) rewrite of utility standards for renewable energy, energy efficiency and wind turbine setbacks. Those were the main topics of concern among proponents and interested parties, who had their first opportunity to address the substitute bill accepted on May 16.

Environment

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) will consider funding proposed projects worth approximately \$473 million through the 2019 Drinking Water Assistance Fund (DWAFF), the agency announced. Loan funds are available to all applicants that meet the program requirements, Ohio EPA said, noting two public hearings on the draft program management plan will take place, June 19. Program year 2019 runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The fund provides financial and technical assistance for a variety of projects that help improve or protect the quality of Ohio’s drinking water.

A study of drinking water in Appalachian Ohio has found no evidence of natural gas contamination from recent oil and gas drilling. Geologists with the University of Cincinnati (UC) examined drinking water in Carroll, Stark and Harrison counties, a rural region in Northeast Ohio where many residents rely on water from private underground wells, according to the university. The time-series study was the first of its kind in Ohio to examine methane in groundwater in relation to natural gas drilling, UC said. The results were published in the journal *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*.

Great Lakes

Republicans and Democrats in both chambers of the General Assembly officially introduced legislation attempting to comprehensively address the health of Lake Erie. Bills and resolutions from Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green), Sen. Sean O’Brien (D-Cortland), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) and Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) would provide millions of dollars to reduce harmful algal blooms through conservation practices and other initiatives.



TOP NEWS

Immigration

Seeking to make it easier for immigrants to find jobs and assimilate into American life in Ohio, Gov. John Kasich signed an executive order to create a new “Office for Opportunities for New Americans” that will coordinate the efforts of multiple state agencies. The office, housed within the Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) and headed up by DSA Business Services Division Chief Padmini Roy-Dixon, will be made up of 12 members and will work to break down barriers that legal immigrants face when attempting to find employment opportunities, education and other services.

Judicial

The Ohio Supreme Court launched the rulemaking process to formalize a little-remarked program that seeks to resolve conflicts among state, county and local government officials. The Court opened a public comment period on a proposal to outline the duties of the Government Conflict Resolution Services (GCRS) Program.

Local Government

A provision added to HB49 (R. Smith) addressing the rates municipalities charge for water and sewer to township residents that was later vetoed by Gov. John Kasich received its first hearing as a standalone bill. Reps. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) gave sponsor testimony on HB602, which they dubbed the “Clean Water Fair Pricing Act.” Duffey said the legislation addresses growing concerns over the rates that municipalities will charge township residents on water and sewer, sometimes by 50 percent more or higher, even if the township resident is closer and less or the same cost to serve. He also said cities are withholding water and sewer as a means to force annexation or even forcing “pay for play” without requiring annexation but instead demanding a permanent income tax revenue share, without offering services in return.

Attorney General Mike DeWine says the city of Cleveland and its lower courts are once again trying to sidestep the General Assembly’s efforts to bar municipalities from placing residency requirements on public workers — restrictions mirrored by most of Ohio’s largest cities, notes DeWine. The Ohio Supreme Court has accepted his appeal of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and 8th District’s decisions to override 131-HB180 (Maag) as an unconstitutional violation of home rule powers.

Marijuana

A campaign to legalize pot for Ohioans age 21 and older plans to place the “Marijuana Rights and Regulations” constitutional amendment on the 2019 ballot following the Ohio Ballot Board’s certification of the proposal as a single issue.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy (OBP) issued 56 provisional licenses to companies seeking to dispense medical marijuana in the state. While the board is allowed under its administrative rules to award up to 60 licenses, members only approved 56 because three districts — authorized to contain a total of four dispensaries — either did not receive any applications or did not have a viable applicant. All of the 56 provisional licenses were approved by unanimous votes of the board, and there was little discussion from OBP members.

The Medical Marijuana Control Program (MMCP) is “unlikely” to be fully operational by the, Sept. 8 deadline set in 131-HB523 (Huffman), Ohio Department of Commerce (DOC) spokesperson Stephanie Gostomski told Hannah News. The department had been optimistic that one large (level one) cultivator and two smaller (level two) cultivators would receive certificates of operation in May, but that didn’t work out as planned, she said. The level one cultivator did not pass its initial inspection and the department is uncertain as to when the business will receive a certificate of operation. Neither of the smaller cultivators has been inspected yet, as one suffered a construction delay and the other has been dealing with local government issues, Gostomski said.



TOP NEWS

Redistricting/Reapportionment

Ohio's next congressional map will be drawn under rules meant to limit partisan manipulation after voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to reform the process. Issue 1 passed with nearly 75 percent of the vote, according to preliminary results from the secretary of state's office. The vote follows one in 2015 when Ohioans approved similar changes to the process for drawing districts for the Ohio General Assembly. The new rules for both state and federal map drawing will apply to districts created for the 2022 election, based on population data from the 2020 Census.

Transportation/Infrastructure

Ohio is positioned to remain a leader in transportation innovation, technology and safety as multiple entities work to keep the state on the forefront of automated driving and connected "smart" systems, according to a panel of industry experts who testified before the House Transportation and Public Safety committee. Representatives from the Mid-Ohio Regional Transportation Commission (MORPC), Transportation Research Center, Inc. (TRC), the Ohio State University (OSU), and the city of Columbus detailed their organizations' advancements and collaborations for members of the committee during its final Autonomous and Connected Vehicles Study hearing.



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: [w://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-3](http://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-3)
- 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: 5/2/2018 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-122>
- HB168** CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND REGISTRATION (STEIN D) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 2/27/2018 - REPORTED OUT, Senate Finance, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-168>
- 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: 4/11/2018 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 85-11
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: 5/2/2018 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-478>
- HB500** TOWNSHIP LAW (CARFAGNA R) To make various changes to township law.
Current Status: 4/10/2018 - BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-500>
- HB602** WATER AND SEWER RESTRICTIONS (DUFFEY M, LANESE L) To penalize a municipal corporation for engaging in certain actions related to its provision of water and sewer services outside of its territory by reducing or withholding payments the municipal corporation receives from the Local Government Fund and rendering the municipal corporation ineligible for state water and sewer development funds.
Current Status: 5/23/2018 - House Finance, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-602>
- SB135** SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION-VOTING PROGRAM (LAROSE F) To make supplemental operating appropriations for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium and supplemental capital appropriations for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium to implement a voting machine and equipment acquisition program.
Current Status: 06/07/2018 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 87-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-135>
- 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>
- SB225** OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (SCHIAVONI J, EKLUND J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 3/6/2018 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-225>
- SB239** REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (DOLAN M) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments.
Current Status: 4/11/2018 - Bills for Third Consideration; Vote 33-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-239>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

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>
- 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: 4/11/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
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: 4/18/2018 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Third 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: 3/21/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-415>
- HB436** NEIGHBORHOOD STOP SIGNS & SPEED LIMITS (BOGGS K, LELAND D) To permit a local resident, neighborhood association, or neighborhood organization to request the erection of a stop sign at an intersection and to support a request for a lower prima facie speed limit on certain streets and highways.
Current Status: 2/14/2018 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-436>
- HB676** TRAFFIC NOISE ANALYSIS (BARNES, JR. J) To require the Director of Transportation to conduct a traffic noise analysis and to construct noise barriers under specified circumstances.
Current Status: 6/5/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-676>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB685** DRONES NEAR AIRPORTS (BARNES, JR. J) To regulate the operation of drones near airports and to impose certain record-keeping requirements on retail sellers of drones.
Current Status: 6/5/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-685>
- HB699** AUTOMATED COMMERCIAL VEHICLES (LEPORE-HAGAN M, HUGHES J) To specify the requirements for operating an automated commercial motor vehicle in the state.
Current Status: 6/5/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-113>
- 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>
- HB643** LAKE ERIE PRESERVATION EQUIPMENT (ARNDT S, PATTERSON J) To allow equipment for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie to be purchased with proceeds from the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund and to appropriate funds for projects enhancing water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin.
Current Status: 5/23/2018 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-643>
- 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>
- HB643** CLEAN WATER BONDS (ARNDT S, PATTERSON J) To permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund clean water improvements.
Current Status: 5/15/2018 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HJR-16>
- 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>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- 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>
- SB299** LAKE ERIE PROTECTION APPROPRIATIONS (GARDNER R) To allow equipment for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie to be purchased with proceeds from the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund, and to appropriate funds for projects enhancing water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin.
Current Status: 6/6/2018 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 33-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-299>
- SCR15** YEAR DESIGNATION-TRAILS (O'BRIEN S, WILSON S) To designate 2018 as "Ohio's Year of the Trails."
Current Status: 06/07/2018 - ADOPTED BY HOUSE; Vote 87-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SCR-155>
- SJR6** CLEAN WATER BONDS (GARDNER R, O'BRIEN S) If adopted by a majority of the electors voting on this proposal, Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio shall take effect immediately.
Current Status: 5/10/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SJR-6>



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>
- 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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