



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	<p>In partnership with the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC), MORPC worked in hosting the OARC Candidates Forum on July 10 at the Columbus Hilton Downtown.</p> <p>Both major party candidates, former Director of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau Richard Cordray and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine provided speeches and were asked a variety of questions on how they'd grapple with aging roads and bridges, inadequate mass transit and other challenges. The event highlighted the critical role regional councils play, throughout the state, in assisting local communities with a diverse range of services from transportation to community development and to serve as a forum for collaboration. Both Cordray and DeWine promised, if elected governor, to empower local communities to help guide their administration's approach to infrastructure, workforce development and other pressing local issues.</p>
Promote Energy Efficiency and an Abundant Supply of Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Sources of Energy for our Growing Region	<p>The Senate continues to work on a substitute version of House Bill 114 which is pending in the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. MORPC Energy and Air Quality Director, Christina O'Keeffe submitted written opposition on House Bill 114 to the Senate Committee on June 20. O'Keeffe expressed how the sub-bill is an improvement from the House passed version, yet at this time it didn't merit a change in MORPC's opposing stance.</p> <p>In her testimony, O'Keeffe highlighted MORPC's support of certain provisions in the sub-bill. For example, no longer eliminating energy efficiency requirements and the inclusion of wind setback provisions that should spur wind energy development. However, she also conveyed areas of concern such as: the decrease in energy efficiency benchmarks, opt outs that significantly increase costs for consumers, and the removal of language that would provide additional funds to Home Energy Assistance Programs that would help low income residents reduce their energy costs. Staff will continue to monitor the bill as it goes through the legislative process.</p>



TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
Establish MORPC as Top Resource on Transportation Issues	<p>One of MORPC's primary public policy goals is to achieve an advanced and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio's people and products to the world. Yet this goal isn't achievable without the necessary funding resources.</p> <p>As a convener of local governments, MORPC is strategically aligned to address this issue. This summer, we created the Leadership Strategy Group, to discuss funding mechanisms that can measurably improve our transportation network in the region and state. The group includes various past and present leaders on MORPC's board, including elected officials, city managers, development officials, and others. Ohio's next governor, the Ohio General Assembly, and the United State Congress will all begin their work anew in January 2019. This provides the opportunity to create and spark a narrative around maintaining existing infrastructure, investing in new technology, and positioning Ohio for economic development. The group will finish its work in September, with the goal of sharing its conclusions with key stakeholders at the state and federal levels later this year.</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 (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery). The most that any single project can receive from the program is \$25 million.</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 Senate has passed its version of THUD for FY 19 but the House has not. The House and Senate agreed to launch a formal conference of a spending bill package including THUD.</p>



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Elections 2018

Republican gubernatorial candidate Attorney General Mike DeWine and Democratic gubernatorial nominee Richard Cordray separately addressed attendees of a candidates' forum hosted by the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC). DeWine said that while he is not an expert in all areas of public policy, his administration will rely on the state's thought leaders to tackle persistent challenges ranging from transportation infrastructure to Lake Erie water quality to the opioid crisis if he is elected. Later in the day, Cordray promoted his plan to improve infrastructure in Ohio and to work more collaboratively with local governments. The Democrat said it "will be a fundamentally different Ohio" if he is elected as opposed to electing DeWine.

Steve Dettelbach, Democratic candidate for attorney general, said that he would allow workers' compensation for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), regardless of whether there was a related physical injury, as part of the second element to his public safety platform.

Republican State Sen. Troy Balderson (Zanesville) hung on to his slim lead in Ohio's 12th Congressional District to win the unexpired term for the remainder of 2018 over Democrat Danny O'Connor in the Aug. 7 special election. The Franklin County Board of Elections (FCBOE), which as the most populous county in the district, certified the results from the precincts spanning seven counties that are included in the sprawling district. It reported that Balderson received a total of 104,328 or 50.12 percent of the votes to O'Connor's 102,648 (49.32 percent). Green Party candidate Joe Manchik received 1,165 votes for .56 percent of the votes cast. Balderson's winning margin of 0.8 percent exceeds the 0.5 percent threshold that would have triggered a recount.

Secretary of State Jon Husted said that his office will begin mailing absentee ballot applications to voters ahead of November's General Election. Applications should start arriving in mailboxes shortly after the Labor Day holiday.

Local Government

The Ohio Mayors Alliance called local leaders' relationship with the current governor and Legislature "difficult" but projected better things for the next state executive, whether that is Democrat Richard Cordray or Republican Mike DeWine. The alliance — or two key members of its board of directors — said both candidates are responding positively to its concerns, laid out in two new reports, and both are riding platforms favorable to local governments. The alliance, comprising 20 Democratic and 10 Republican mayors, held a press conference in Columbus to announce the release of five recommendations to DeWine and Cordray as well as a second report on the importance of Ohio's metropolitan areas to Ohio's overall economy.

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) doubled down on urging the next governor and General Assembly to restore local government funding following the recent briefing by the Ohio Mayors Alliance. Fresh off the CCAO board's meetings with gubernatorial candidates Richard Cordray and Attorney General Mike DeWine, association leaders said Ohio counties are at a tipping point without major intervention by the new governor and Legislature.

The Ohio Municipal League (OML) and Ohio Township Association (OTA) both called for the use of a projected state surplus for infrastructure, public safety and anti-addiction efforts, rather than additional contributions to the Rainy Day Fund or a cut in tax withholding, as Gov. John Kasich proposes. Their statements follow similar sentiments expressed by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio sent a letter to 69 Ohio municipalities urging a repeal on panhandling bans, which the group said are unconstitutional. The letters were part of a nationally coordinated effort by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. The ACLU said that since the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in



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Reed v. Town of Gilbert that addressed content-based restrictions on signs, every case brought against panhandling ordinances has led to those ordinances being found unconstitutional.

Taxation

The administration plans in November to reduce the amount of income tax withheld from Ohioans' paychecks, Gov. John Kasich and Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Tim Keen announced.

Reps. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) and Todd Smith (R-Washington) announced that they will be introducing legislation (HB720) which they said will require a vote of the people to approve a county sales tax increase. The legislators said their bill is in response to a recent sales tax increase by the Montgomery County commissioners, as well a failed referendum effort to overturn that tax.

Attorney General

Attorney General Mike DeWine joined a bipartisan group of 52 state and territorial attorneys general in urging Congress to help end the opioid epidemic and close a loophole that allows fentanyl traffickers to dodge law enforcement with ever-evolving variations on the deadly drug. The letter to U.S. House and Senate majority and minority leaders supports "swift passage" of S1553 (Johnson) and HR4922 (Sensenbrenner), the Stopping Overdoses of Fentanyl Analogues (SOFA) Act, to eliminate a current loophole that keeps the statutory schedule of controlled substance one step behind illegal manufacturers of fentanyl derivatives. The law would allow the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to schedule all newly-modified analogues to make them illegal as soon as they are manufactured.

FY18-19 Budget

The state's Rainy Day Fund (RDF) now sits nearly at its statutory maximum of \$2.7 billion after Gov. John Kasich announced a deposit of \$657.5 million from the FY18 surplus. That fund, which is characterized as the state's "savings account," is also known as the Budget Stabilization Fund. It now totals \$2,691,554,191.27. In addition, \$162.4 million from the FY18 surplus funds an ending balance that equals one-half of one percent of the FY18 revenues as provided for in Ohio Revised Code Sec. 131.44 while \$30 million was transferred to the Medicaid Local Sales Tax Transition Fund to be distributed to counties and transit authorities to help mitigate the loss of the managed care organizations (MCO) sales tax that is no longer being collected under provisions in the FY18-19 budget bill, HB49. Those groups received a total of \$207 million last year at the end of FY17.

Tax receipts held close to projections in July for the first month of FY19, with a small dip in personal income tax collections and a modest bump in sales tax collections versus forecasts. Preliminary revenue reports from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) show tax receipts ahead of estimates by \$11.6 million, or 0.7 percent, reaching \$1.67 billion for the month. Since it's the first month of FY19, those are the relevant figures for year-to-date revenues as well.

Ohio's Office of Budget and Management (OBM) in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) increased the state's projected revenue for FY19 by \$531.1 million. The changes are predicated on "the performance of tax revenues in FY18, new economic data or assumptions, law changes and any other relevant new information that has come to light since the passage of HB49 [R. Smith] in June 2017," OBM explained in its "Monthly Financial Report" for July. While not all of Ohio's taxes are projected to increase this fiscal year, which started July 1, 2018, the state's three major taxes are all estimated to increase over the levels set when the two-year biennial budget was passed now a little over a year ago. Those include the personal income tax, sales tax and Commercial Activity Tax.



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Ballot Issues

A proposed constitutional amendment intended to reduce criminal penalties for some drug offenses and promote rehabilitation over incarceration will appear on the November ballot as Issue 1, but a separate proposal on dialysis clinic regulations needs several thousand more valid signatures before it can be certified. Secretary of State Jon Husted's office said the campaign supporting the Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection Amendment, which would require regular inspection of clinics and cap their profits, collected 296,080 valid voter signatures, versus the 305,591 required to qualify for the ballot. Supporters have until Aug. 2, to make up the difference.

With Ohioans set to weigh in on a constitutional amendment that among other things would reduce penalties for certain drug crimes, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) and House Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) said they don't believe Issue 1 should be in the Ohio Constitution.

The Ballot Board approved ballot language for Issue 1, a proposed constitutional amendment mandating that criminal offenses of obtaining, possessing or using any drug cannot be classified as felonies, but only misdemeanors. If passed, it would also prohibit jail time as a sentence for obtaining, possessing or using drugs, and it would require sentence reductions of incarcerated individuals by up to 25 percent if the individual participated in rehabilitative, work or educational programming, except individuals incarcerated for murder, rape or child molestation. In response to testimony from petitioners and opponents, the board modified the amendment's draft language prepared by board staff to reflect a greater clarity and accuracy of the measure.

Economy

Using data recently published in a national report from the Economic Policy Institute, Policy Matters Ohio produced a statewide analysis detailing income inequality in Ohio, finding it to be the 29th most unequal state in the country.

Environment

Harmful algae isn't just a problem for high-profile bodies of water — it poses serious, toxic threats in small ponds and lakes as well, new research has found. A team of researchers from Ohio State University (OSU) examined water samples from two dozen ponds and small lakes in rural Ohio and found plenty of cause for concern, with particularly high levels of toxins at one lake.

Federal

U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Urbana) announced that he will run for speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in the next term. Jordan made the announcement on social media, citing President Donald Trump's efforts to change how Washington works. He said Congress has not held up its end of the deal, but that he hopes to change that by running for speaker.

A project to build a new 2.5 million gallon per-day water treatment plant for the city of Logan is receiving a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant (USDA) and loan, the federal agency announced. The project is one of 103 that received a portion of \$267 million in funding through the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program.

Health + Human Services

State data from a report released recently from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) showed that food insecurity in Ohio is higher than the national average. According to a Gallup survey that interviewed 336,690 households between 2016 and 2017, 16.2 percent of Ohio households in 2017 said there had been times in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money to afford food for themselves or their families, compared to 15.7 percent of households nationwide.



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Housing/Homelessness

A recent report from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) states that 47 percent of Ohio renters are cost burdened, meaning that they spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities, a key indicator of housing insecurity. According to the group's annual "Housing Needs Assessment," housing insecurity is on the rise in Ohio due to stagnating wages and a lack of affordable housing for the lowest-income earners.

Judicial

The Supreme Court of Ohio will determine whether law enforcement agencies and political subdivisions around the state can be held liable for the negligent hiring, training and supervision of peace officers involved in high-speed chases that end badly. The Supreme Court has accepted the appeal of the Coitsville Township Police Department and township Board of Trustees, which say the Mahoning County Common Pleas Court and 7th District Court of Appeals erred in finding Officer Donald Dudley was engaged in an improper high-speed pursuit of a fleeing suspect's car when he ran a red light and struck the vehicle of Renee McConnell, a wife and mother of four who was severely injured.

The Supreme Court of Ohio allowed Duke Energy to intervene in the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and Ohio Manufacturers' Association's (OMA) suit against the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) — an attempt to stop the utility from charging customers hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies to prop up the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation's (OVEC) aging coal plants.

Natural Resources

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is accepting new grant applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) until Nov. 15.

Public Safety

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) announced that 106 fire departments would be receiving a total of nearly \$1.1 million in grants from the Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements program, which aids in purchase of safety gear, exhaust systems and specialized washing machines. The program provides a 5-to-1 match up to \$15,000 for public and private employers with annual payroll of at least \$500,000 and no match for employers below that payroll level.

Transportation/Infrastructure

Central Ohio is one step closer to becoming home to the world's largest, most comprehensive contained testing site for automated and connected vehicles. Gov. John Kasich — joined by representatives of the administration, JobsOhio, Ohio State University (OSU) and the General Assembly — met in a tent at the secretive Transportation Research Center (TRC) in East Liberty to break ground on the 540-acre "SMARTCenter." Funding for the facility was announced in January 2017.

Regional planning officials announced that a proposed high-speed route connecting Pittsburgh and Chicago is moving forward with feasibility and environmental studies. Meanwhile, the company behind the proposed Hyperloop tube transportation network said it hopes to start construction on its next phase sometime at the beginning of the next decade.



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Utilities

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) moved to expand the state's 14 area codes with a new one affecting nearly one fourth of Ohio counties, including Montgomery County/Dayton and Clark County/Springfield. Located in the west central part of the state, the 937 area code will add a 326- overlay and require all calls to include the appropriate area code beginning Feb. 8, 2020.

The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) authorized American Electric Power Ohio Transmission Company (AEP Ohio Transco) to construct two 138 kilovolt electric transmission line projects in southern Ohio, which the board said will "improve the quality and reliability of electric service in the region."

AEP Ohio has established an incentive program to encourage the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at public sites, workplaces and apartment complexes. The \$10 million program provides funding for up to 375 EV charging stations throughout the AEP Ohio service territory, the company said.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) says it will back federal efforts to combat artificial price suppression by subsidized generating plants in Ohio and other states operating under PJM Interconnection's wholesale market, approving draft comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Veterans

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum will hold its grand opening Oct. 27, according to an announcement with Gen. Colin Powell (U.S. Army, Retired) delivering the keynote address.

Workers' Compensation

Cities and townships will enjoy the biggest savings in public employer insurance rates among Ohio's land-based subdivisions next year if the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) approves individual class allocations for government jurisdictions as part of a 12 percent premium cut passed by its board of directors. Townships would pay 16.9 percent and cities 15.4 percent less for state insurance, followed by counties and villages at 9.2 percent and 5 percent less, respectively. Public schools would see an 8.2 percent drop in BWC costs, though the largest reductions — on the order of 20 percent-plus — would go to joint vocational schools, hospitals, libraries and public workers' relief.

Workforce

The state lost 3,023 clean energy jobs from 2016 to 2017, according to a new analysis from Clean Energy Trust (CET) and Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2). The 2018 "Clean Jobs Midwest" report says the 2.7 percent decline was due to significant job reductions in the alternative transportation industry as well as the fact that Ohio was one of two Midwestern states that didn't add renewable jobs.



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: 7/30/2018 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Appropriation eff. 7/30/18, bill eff. 10/29/18
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-168>
- HB175** LIVESTOCK ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (BRINKMAN T) To allow an owner of residential property to keep, harbor, breed, or maintain small livestock on the property, and to prohibit zoning authorities from regulating certain agricultural activities conducted on residential property for noncommercial purposes.
Current Status: 1/30/2018 - House Agriculture and Rural Development, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-175>
- 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: 6/19/2018 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
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>



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- HB378** OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (SMITH R, CERA J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 5/10/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-378>
- HB469** TAX CREDIT-MIXED USE PROJECTS (SCHURING K) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects.
Current Status: 6/27/2018 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 91-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-469>
- HB500** TOWNSHIP LAW (CARFAGNA R) To make various changes to township law.
Current Status: 6/27/2018 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 93-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-500>
- HB522** F LIQUOR PERMIT-OUTDOOR AREAS (LANESE L) To allow an outdoor refreshment area to include F liquor permit holders.
Current Status: 6/20/2018 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 87-6
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-522>
- 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: 6/26/2018 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-602>
- HB720** VOTE ON COUNTY SALES TAX (ANTANI N, SMITH J) To require voter approval of any increase in the rate of a county sales tax.
Current Status: 8/14/2018 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-720>
- 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: 7/30/2018 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 7/30/2018
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>



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- SB225** OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (SCHIAVONI J, EKLUND J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 6/5/2018 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & AMENDED, Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-225>
- SB239** REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS & DESIGNATIONS (DOLAN M) to modify the law concerning regional councils of governments to clarify that a municipal corporation eligible to designate a tourism development district may designate more than one district, to specify that the American Law Institute's approved "Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance" does not constitute the public policy of Ohio, to designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Meigs County as the "Steve Story Memorial Highway," to designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway," and to designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."
Current Status: 7/30/2018 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 10/29/2018
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: 7/30/2018 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 10/29/18
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: 5/23/2018 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Fourth 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>
- HB519** COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY (WEST T, KICK D) To create the Ohio Council on Transportation Technology to make recommendations regarding state policies related to autonomous technology.
Current Status: 2/27/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-519>



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- 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>
- 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-HB-699>
- 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: 6/19/2018 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT, House Finance, (Fourth 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>
- HJR16** 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: 7/11/2018 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Appropriations eff. immediately, language eff. 10/10/2018
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-299>
- 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: 6/27/2018 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (Eighth 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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