



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Monthly Legislative Update

DECEMBER 2018

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Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Top Advocacy Items | 2-3 |
| Top News | 4-6 |
| MORPC Legislative Tracking | 7-13 |



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

KEGLER
BROWN
HILL+
RITTER



TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

| <i>Priority</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|--|---|
| Highlight the Valuable Roles, Duties, and Rights of Local Governments | <p>With the 2020 Census approaching, last week MORPC Executive Director William Murdock submitted a letter to the Central Ohio Congressional delegation in support of fully funding the Census Bureau. Members of Congress are currently deliberating over Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bills during this lame duck session of Congress and attempting to avoid a government shutdown before the end of the year. Fully funding the Census Bureau assists in a fair count of the populace that ensures a proportional representation in Congress. Furthermore, it assists the federal government in allocating critical funds and resources for education, housing, transportation, food and income security, and broadband access.</p> |
| Promote Energy Efficiency and an Abundant Supply of Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Sources of Energy for our Growing Region | <p>The Senate’s work on a substitute version of House Bill 114 appears to be an end. The bill is pending in the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee which has not had a single hearing on it since the beginning of the “lame duck” session after the election. MORPC’s then- Director of Energy and Air Quality Christina O’Keeffe had 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 and prepare for any similar versions in the next General Assembly.</p> |



TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

| <i>Priority</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|--|--|
| <p>Establish MORPC as Top Resource on Transportation Issues</p> | <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>Over the summer, a group of MORPC community leaders and elected officials — rural, urban and suburban representing each level of local government — met several times to put together a working document of state policy recommendations that address current transportation maintenance needs and also plans for future mobility needs. MORPC wasn’t alone in this endeavor as many other state organizations conducted similar efforts. MORPC convened a collaborative meeting, which was an opportunity for a diverse group of stakeholders to find common ground on shared funding priorities and support each other’s efforts. By working together we hope to encourage Governor-elect DeWine and members of the General Assembly to act on maintaining our existing infrastructure, investing in new technology, and positioning Ohio for economic development. Through these collaborative efforts, MORPC decided to join Fix Our Roads Ohio (FOR Ohio). FOR Ohio is a coalition of stakeholders that have united in an effort to educate state leaders on the critical needs of Ohio’s transportation infrastructure and to advocate for a dedicated funding solution that provides long-term, smart investment in Ohio’s transportation system.</p> <p>The following organizations participated in the collaborative meeting at MORPC: American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio, County Commissioners Association of Ohio, County Engineers Association of Ohio, Greater Ohio Policy Center, Ohio Associations of Regional Councils, Ohio Contractors Association, Ohio Mayors Alliance, Ohio Municipal League, and Ohio Township Association.</p> <p>Thea Walsh continued to work with local government officials, particularly in Franklin County, to encourage the establishment of Transportation Improvement Districts, governmental organizations that fuse elements of transportation and economic development.</p> |
| <p>Seek Federal Funding for Regional Projects</p> | <p>Congressional leaders had hoped to pass all 12 appropriations bills by September 30, the end of the fiscal year. Despite their best efforts, Congress was only able to pass two “minibus” or combined appropriations bills. To avoid a partial government shutdown, Congress passed a second continuing resolution (CR) that ensures that federal agencies will be funded through December 22, by which time Congress will have to pass the necessary appropriations bills or adopt another continuing resolution to keep them funded. A delegation from MORPC will be on Capitol Hill during the week of February 11 to share the organization’s new 2019-2020 Public Policy Agenda.</p> |



TOP NEWS

FY20-21 Budget

Key legislators at the forward-looking budget panel for the Impact Ohio conference said they foresee greater partnerships with local governments in the near future, but House Finance Chairman Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) said, for him, that does not mean restoration of the Local Government Fund (LGF). “I do not support any more money going to the Local Government Fund, period,” he said. “And that’s because of the distribution model.”

Business/Corporate

Opportunity zones created by the 2017 federal tax bill represent great potential for Ohio, but the state must take steps to elevate itself over other states to fully benefit from venture capital investments, business leaders said in a forum organized by Montrose Development Advisors (MDA). A lead speaker at the discussion, held at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, was Ohio Business Roundtable President Pat Tiberi, who played a key role in creating the opportunity zones when he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

General Assembly/Statehouse

Ohio’s original and 1851 constitutions are settled in their new home in the Ohio Statehouse and is now open for public viewing. Three former Ohio governors — Dick Celeste, Bob Taft and Ted Strickland — joined current Gov. John Kasich for the exhibit’s unveiling. The new exhibit includes more interactive features. Ohio is the only statehouse in the country to have the state’s current constitution on display.

Members of the House State and Local Government Committee pondered the role of county government in Ohio as proponents provided testimony on a bill that would require voter approval for any increase in county sales tax, a power that currently lies with county commissioners. Under HB720 (Antani-T. Smith), voter approval would be necessary for a board of county commissioners to increase sales and use tax. Currently, when a rate increase is approved by the commissioners and not sent to the voters for approval, it can be appealed through a referendum process.

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) is the new chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) announced.

Senate Republicans said they’ve picked Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) to fill the vacant 20th District seat, previously held by U.S. Rep. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville). It’s the second time Hill, a former Muskingum County commissioner, has been appointed to replace Balderson. House Republicans appointed him to a House seat in 2011 after Balderson took an appointment to replace Sen. Jimmy Stewart (R-Albany) in the Ohio Senate.

Governor

Gov. John Kasich told reporters that his position on two controversial bills that cleared the Ohio House last week has not changed and indicated he would likely veto the “stand your ground” and heartbeat bills if they reach his desk. Kasich has previously threatened to veto HB228 (LaTourette-Johnson), which would remove an individual’s duty to retreat in a self-defense situation, calling for the passage of other gun legislation first, such as his proposed “red flag” law that would prevent individuals who are deemed a threat to the community from obtaining a weapon. He also vetoed a previous version of HB258 (Hagan-Hood), which would ban abortions when a fetal heartbeat can be detected.



TOP NEWS

Governor-Elect

Speaking to associations representing county commissioners and county engineers Monday, Gov.-elect Mike DeWine said he wouldn't make promises on whether he would restore cuts to the Local Government Fund made under the Kasich administration, but said he would look at it and promised some services will get more state support. "We are a local government state. I like that. I'm not going to change that," DeWine told the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the County Engineers Association of Ohio Winter Conference on Monday. "We are going to try to be a good partner." DeWine addressed the groups Monday along with House Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina). DeWine said that he is fully aware that counties have been hit with cuts to the fund as well as the opioid crisis, which he said has caused strains on children services, emergency responders and local jails that have become detox centers. He said while he wouldn't make promises on the Local Government Fund, he will be significantly increasing the amount of money going to counties for children's services, noting that Ohio is 50th in states that send state money to children services. He also said that his administration will be looking to fund more multi-county task forces that will go after Mexican drug cartels and other suppliers of the drug crisis. DeWine also highlighted some of the programs he has previously talked about, including those to help early childhood and aimed at decreasing the skills gap. He said local governments will find that he is a good listener, and that he will be traveling around the state as governor to hear their issues.

Gov.-elect Mike DeWine announced the first members of his administration's staff saying Laurel Dawson will serve as chief of the transition committee. During a Statehouse press conference, DeWine also said Lisa Peterson will be communications director and LeeAnne Cornyn will direct children's initiatives across state agencies. DeWine told reporters he expects to announce more cabinet appointments in a few more days.

Judicial

A billion-dollar-plus industry employing nearly 4,000 Ohioans in 80 counties is once again asking the Ohio Supreme Court to intervene in a dispute with local governments over zoning ordinances that the industry says threaten economic and infrastructure development statewide and violate the General Assembly's policy goal of shielding surface mining from overregulation. Considered Ohio's largest surface mining company, Shelly Materials Inc. has been scheduled for oral arguments in a zoning battle with the Cleveland-area suburb of Streetsboro and has appealed a second dispute with Harrison Township in Pickaway County to the Supreme Court.

Local Government

Voters approved hundreds of township levy requests, according to the Ohio Township Association (OTA). On election day several types of levies were voted, including additional, renewal and replacement. Renewal levies, which simply reinstate all or part of an existing levy, totaled 345, with 99.7 percent passing and only one failing.

Natural Resources

Construction work has concluded on the new 4.1-mile dam at Buckeye Lake State Park, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) announced. The \$107 million project was completed nearly two years earlier than initially expected and more than \$40 million under the projected cost, ODNR said.



TOP NEWS

People

Heidi Fought has been selected to become the next executive director of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), the organization announced November 21. Matthew DeTemple, the current executive director, is set to retire at the end of 2019 after serving in the role for nine years.

Poverty

A recent report from the Center for Community Solutions (CCS) analyzing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) data across racial lines concluded that participation rates in the program are closely related to racial disparities in poverty. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey showed that between 2012 and 2016, white Ohioans comprised a majority of SNAP participants, while black and Hispanic or Latino Ohioans had higher per capita participation rates. Asian Ohioans had lower per capita participation rates than whites.

Taxation

Policy Matters Ohio's Zach Schiller testified before the Senate Ways and Means Committee on HB469 (Schuring), urging the legislators to defer action on the bill which would create a new tax credit for insurance companies that invest in "transformational mixed-use development projects" valued at \$50 million or more. He added that, "During this session, the General Assembly has approved new tax expenditures including a rural business growth credit, a sales-tax exemption for eyeglasses, an expanded business income deduction for compensation paid by professional employer organizations, a retroactive sales-tax exemption of certain property used in oil and gas production, a permanent sales-tax holiday, a sales-tax exemption for songs downloaded from a commercial digital jukebox and a kilowatt hour tax break on electricity used in chlor-alkali production. Until this session, there was only one tax expenditure allowed exclusively for insurance taxes; if this bill passes, there will be three (other tax expenditures also allow insurance companies and others to make use of them)."

Transition

Ohio Gov.-Elect Mike DeWine unveiled the website for his transition team, GovElect.Ohio.gov. The site features a link that allows users to apply for positions within the DeWine-Husted administration.

Transportation/Infrastructure

Joung H. Lee, policy director for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) provided the Senate Ways and Means Committee with an overview of the current status for funding highway infrastructure needs, telling the members that the nation is facing a 2020 deadline. That is when the funding provided through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act — which was passed in December 2015 — expires. He said that, to keep funds available at the same levels as the FAST Act, adjusted for inflation, will require Congress "to identify \$89.9 billion in additional revenues for a five-year bill through 2025; \$114 billion would be needed to support a six-year bill through 2026."

Treasurer of State

Ohio has become the first state in the nation to allow businesses to pay taxes via blockchain and the associated cryptocurrency Bitcoin, though the state government will not itself hold the cryptocurrency, Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced. While the payments will be accepted as Bitcoin, the blockchain ledger will enable businesses to track payments in real-time, and only the user can transfer Bitcoin to others. The state is partnering with BitPay, which will serve as a third-party payment processor transferring the Bitcoin into U.S. dollars that the state receives.



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>
- HB36** MINISTERS-MARRIAGE (VITALE N) To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial.
Current Status: 11/29/2018 - BILL AMENDED, Senate Judiciary, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-36>
- 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>
- 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>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- 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: 12/12/2018 - Senate Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
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: 12/4/2018 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Third Hearing)
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: 12/6/2018 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 29-0
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>
- HB716** TEMPORARY LICENSING-MILITARY (BUTLER, JR. J) To require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military and spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for active duty.
Current Status: 11/28/2018 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 89-0, Bill Amended on Floor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-716>
- 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: 12/6/2018 - House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-720>
- HB727** OHIO OPPORTUNITY ZONE TAX CREDIT (SCHURING K) To authorize an income tax credit for investments in an Ohio Opportunity Zone.
Current Status: 11/13/2018 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-727>
- HB731** BIENNIAL PROPERTY TAX REVIEW (HOOPS J) To require the Tax Commissioner's biennial tax expenditure report to include information on property tax exemptions and to require the Tax Expenditure Review Committee to periodically review each property tax exemption.
Current Status: 11/13/2018 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-731>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB736** LEVYING TAX-BOARD OF ONE (BRINKMAN T) To require certain subdivisions governed by a board comprised of at least one unelected official to obtain the approval of the legislative body that created the subdivision before levying a tax.
Current Status: 11/13/2018 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-736>
- 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: 11/13/2018 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
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: 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>
- SB320** TEMPORARY LICENSES-MILITARY (BEAGLE B, LEHNER P) To require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military and spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for active duty.
Current Status: 12/6/2018 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-320>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

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

- 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 - REPORTED OUT, 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: 12/7/2018 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
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: 12/12/2018 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second 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: 12/12/2018 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-519>
- 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-HB-699>
- HB746** AEV INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY (SMITH K) To establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study Committee.
Current Status: 11/13/2018 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-746>
- 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 USEPA 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: 11/13/2018 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
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>
- 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>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

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>
- HB774** SOLAR PANEL RESTRICTIONS (BLESSING III L) To prohibit condominium, homeowners, and neighborhood associations from imposing unreasonable limitations on the installation of solar collector systems on the roof or exterior walls of improvements.
Current Status: 11/27/2018 - Referred to Committee House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-774>
- 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>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

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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