Ohio’s Biennial Operating Budget

On May 7, 2019, the Ohio House Finance Committee accepted a substitute bill to House Bill 166, the main operating budget. Among the provisions, the House version:

» Provides $300 million in tax relief for low- and moderate-income Ohioans. It makes other changes to the tax code that the House estimates will result in a net tax cut of $100 million over the biennium.
» Re-establishes the Rural Industrial Park Loan Program, providing $25 million for loans and loan guarantees for the development and improvement of industrial parks in rural areas of Ohio.
» Provides $5 million in each of the next two years to be distributed to community colleges, state community colleges, technical colleges and Ohio Technical Training Centers for non-credit job-related workforce training programs.

On May 3, 2019, MORPC Executive Director William Murdock appeared to testify before the House Finance Committee to encourage House members to:

» Reinvest in local communities by increasing the Local Government Fund percentage from 1.66% of General Revenue Fund (GRF) dollars to 2%.
» Ensure an accurate U.S. Census count in Ohio by making a $2.5 million appropriation in the Development Services Agency’s budget so Ohio can maximize its number of Congressional seats and draw down additional federal dollars.
» Help more low-income families weatherize their homes by increasing the percentage of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds targeted for weatherization from 20% to 25%.
» Protect the $70 million in dedicated GRF transit dollars that have been allocated.
» Invest in rural Ohio by allocating $6 million for use by the state’s six Regional Transportation Planning Organizations for critical infrastructure programs in rural communities.

Budget Schedule

The week of May 6th, the House Finance Committee has held three days of public testimony hearings on HB 166. Amendments for the House Omnibus Amendment to HB 166 were submitted last weekend and the House Finance will likely accept the omnibus amendment on Wednesday, May 8th and vote the bill out of committee the same day. The amended budget bill could appear for a House floor vote as early as Thursday, May 9th.

Meanwhile, the Ohio Senate has been holding informal hearings on the operating budget since April 24th and Ohio Senate Finance subcommittees were hearing presentations from state agencies the week of May 6th. Formal hearings on the operating budget could begin in the Senate as early as the week of May 13th.
**What’s Happening**

**Update on House Bill 6**

Ohio House Bill 6, would create a state program to purchase Clean Air Credits from electric generation facilities that are certified as a Clean Air Resource in order to keep those resources profitable or to incentivize investments in carbon-free or reduced-carbon resources through a mechanism that is an alternative to the existing Advanced Energy Standard. A beneficiary of the bill would be FirstEnergy Solutions, which owns two nuclear power plants in northeast Ohio and is in bankruptcy. However, the bill also contains a provision that allows electricity customers to opt-in to paying energy efficiency and peak demand reduction charges that ultimately would result in a lack of certainty in funding for home weatherization programs for low-income families that have proven successful in helping low-income families save money in energy costs and have better health outcomes.

The Regional Policy Roundtable and Sustainability Advisory Committee worked in coordination in developing MORPC’s oppositional stance to HB 6. This position is consistent with prior MORPC stances. For example, in 2016 MORPC’s commission adopted a resolution that actively opposed the indefinite freeze of Ohio’s Energy Standards. HB 6 would eliminate energy efficiency standards and renewable energy credits (REC) with a new billing rider. The legislation is not consistent with MORPC’s Public Policy Agenda or Regional Sustainability Advisory Agenda.

MORPC has submitted two testimonies in opposition to the bill focusing on the following provisions:

1. The bill would eliminate low-income benefits from the Energy Efficiency program
2. Replace Ohio’s existing energy efficiency standards and renewable energy credits (REC) with a new billing rider
3. Customers can only participate in energy efficiency standards or the renewable portfolio standard if they opt in rather than opting out

**Legislative Update**

**Census**

Gov. Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2019-13D creating a 51-member Census 2020 Complete Count Commission to “develop recommendations and assist in the administration of the decennial census to facilitate the most complete and accurate census count in the year 2020, including implementing strategies to reach hard-to-count populations and hard-to enumerate areas.” Members, to be appointed by the governor, will include a Democrat and Republican from both houses of the General Assembly as well as representatives of state and local government, business, academia, community and nonprofit organizations, ethnic and faith-based communities, elected and appointed officials and the Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA).

**Disasters**

Gov. Mike DeWine announced that local governments, state agencies and certain private, nonprofit organizations in 20 southern Ohio counties affected by severe weather in February are now eligible for federal funds to help pay for damage repair and extra costs incurred as a result of severe storms, flooding, and landslides. Following a request from the governor for the federal disaster declaration, President Donald Trump made the federal funds available. Counties named in the disaster declaration are Adams, Athens, Brown, Gallia, Guernsey, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, and Washington.

**Economic Development**

Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted opened a presentation to local leaders, investors and economic development professionals on Ohio’s opportunity zones, including the release of an online marketing portal created by the Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA).
Legislative Update

Elections 2020

Rep. Bill Reineke announced that he will seek the Republican nomination for Ohio’s 26th Senate District in 2020. The seat is currently held by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), who is term-limited. In his announcement, Reineke highlighted his work in workforce development. Melissa Ackison, who finished third in a Republican primary for U.S. Senate in 2018, announced she is running for the Ohio Senate in 2020. Ackison, the co-owner and a managing partner of Ackison Surveying LLC, announced on Twitter that she is running for the District 26 seat. She said her campaign will focus on job creation, promoting small business, and strengthening the state’s depleted vocational schools and skills training. The seat is currently held by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), who is term-limited. Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) also has announced a run for the seat, setting up a possible primary with Ackison.

Energy

Draft energy legislation has surfaced on Capitol Square that would grant the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) “sole discretion” in issuing payments from a newly created Ohio Clean Air Program to generation facilities making a “significant, historical contribution” to state air quality, excluding government aggregators. Subsidized power plants would be ranked according to the “greatest quantity of carbon dioxide-free electric energy” and would identify the “level of financial assistance needed from the Ohio Clean Air Program,” to be funded by consumers statewide. The draft bill, which has been submitted to the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) but identifies no sponsors or cosponsors, would require customers of Ohio’s four major electric utilities to pay a monthly fee capped at $2.50 (residential), $20 (commercial) or $250 (industrial), and would exempt them from existing renewable energy and energy efficiency/peak demand reduction charges unless consumers opt back into those programs in a written notice to their local electric company and to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

PJM Interconnection provided House members “unbiased data and facts” Tuesday showing the state is more than replacing uncompetitive power plant baseload with new gas-fired generation and only imports energy from out of state — not because it doesn’t produce enough electricity of its own — but because the 13-state wholesale electric market can find Ohio cheaper, more reliable sources elsewhere. Stu Bresler, senior vice president of operations and markets for the regional transmission organization (RTO), told the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee that PJM’s competitive market has saved Ohioans $1 billion over the last five years, primarily through an influx of gas-fired plants in- and outside the state, and that the RTO has embraced long-term planning as its primary task.

House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford), joined by HB6 sponsors Reps. Jamie Callender (R-Concord) and Shane Wilkin (R-Hillsboro), told reporters he was finally ready to unveil the “mysterious energy bill we’ve been working on for quite a while.” Under the bill, energy consumers would participate in the “Ohio Clean Air Program” (OCAP) instead of the state’s currently-mandated renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. At sponsor testimony in the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday, Callender and Wilkin acknowledged the energy bill not only offers price supports for zero-carbon generators but also for “cleaner” versions of coal- and gas-fired power plants — an unknown quantity to be determined by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA). Wilkin dubbed it an “economic incentive bill” that Callender said would reduce Ohio’s carbon footprint and ratepayers’ bills at the same time. Then on Wednesday in the Energy Generation Subcommittee, FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) Government Affairs Vice President Dave Griffing said the “Ohio Clean Air Program” (OCAP) as proposed in HB6 would allow the state’s two nuclear plants to remain open while saving residential customers nearly $2 per month on their utility bills.

Reps. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) and Casey Weinstein (D-Hudson) announced legislation to create an electric vehicle infrastructure study committee that would set statewide electric vehicle infrastructure standards to encourage investment and economic growth. In announcing their joint sponsorship of HB202, they noted a report by the Clean Energy Trust and Environmental Entrepreneurs that suggests Ohio is well positioned to be a national leader in advanced energy job growth and economic development. The report said the state added almost 5,000 clean energy jobs in 2018 at a 4.6 percent job growth rate, even though the state overall experienced a 0.08 percent growth in total jobs.
Legislative Update

Opponent and interested party testimony on HB6 [Callender-Wilkin] was wide-ranging and often contradictory, as various speakers claimed “Clean Air” price supports for nuclear, renewable and “reduced emissions” generators would increase or decrease consumer costs, increase or decrease carbon pollution, and increase or decrease economic activity in Ohio, depending on the stakeholder group.

Lawmakers heard a wide range of opinions on energy bill HB6 [Callender-Wilkin] as interested party and opponent testimony continued, with major Ohio business and consumers’ groups citing serious problems with the legislation. While representatives of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the Columbus Partnership offered more gentle criticisms of HB6 while speaking to the House Energy and Natural Resources Energy Generation Subcommittee, the bill was lambasted as a “bailout” of the nuclear plants by the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC), Ohio Manufacturers’ Association (OMA) and natural gas electricity generation company Clean Energy Future LLC. Additionally, while the organization didn’t testify, AARP Ohio announced its opposition to HB6 and said the bill would create an “unfair and unnecessary annual $300 million nuclear bailout tax.”

A split House subcommittee sent a substitute version of Clean Air Program legislation HB6 [Callender-Wilkin] back to the full House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The revised bill lowers the proposed billing charge for residential and commercial customers in the first year but otherwise keeps the monthly electric rider at $2.50 and $20, respectively, in perpetuity. It also makes it easier for smaller renewable energy facilities to qualify as a clean air resource and removes the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority’s (OAQDA) “sole discretion” in administering the program, at the same time requiring the authority to perform a 10-year review on whether program continuation is “in the public interest.” “This is not a be-all, end-all document. There are ongoing conversations and considerations,” Co-Chairman Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) of the House Energy Generation Subcommittee said, projecting more amendments during the two meetings scheduled in the full committee.

FY20-21 Budget

Given the short time line the Legislature is working under this year to get a biennial budget approved by July 1, the Ohio Senate will begin its hearings a couple of weeks before the House deadline of May 2 - 4 to pass its proposed version of the FY20-21 budget, HB166 [Oelslager]. According to Ray DiRossi, director of finance and budget for the Senate Majority Caucus, hearings will begin in the full Senate Finance Committee the week of April 22 with the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), Legislative Service Commission (LSC), Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education to testify on Wednesday, April 24. That will be followed on Thursday, April 25 with testimony from the departments of Medicaid, job and family services, mental health and addiction services and developmental disabilities. The Senate also released the agency assignments to each of the four committees/subcommittees that will be hearing the budget proposals.

One element complicating deliberations on the FY20-21 budget is an obscure, 2006 state law known as the State Appropriation Limitation — SAL for short. Passed 13 years ago by the Legislature to head off a statewide vote on the Tax Expenditure Limitation (TEL) constitutional amendment supported by then-secretary of state and one-time gubernatorial candidate J. Kenneth Blackwell, the SAL limits growth in the General Revenue Fund (GRF) basically to 3.5 percent per year with some exceptions, as explained in Gov. Mike DeWine’s “Blue Book” for FY20-21. The budget laid out in HB166 [Oelslager] spends nearly up to the SAL limit, coming in $3.3 million below in FY20 and $1.2 million in FY21. However, with the Legislature’s including GRF appropriations of $35 million for the Department of Public Safety in FY21 and $70 million each year for public transit in the just passed transportation budget — HB62 [Oelslager] — proposed GRF spending is now over the limit.

The House Finance Committee adopted changes to the state budget bill that would shrink Ohio’s pass-through business tax cut to finance income tax cuts in the bottom brackets, add $125 million to wraparound services funding to drive more resources to address poor rural districts, establish a single pharmacy benefit manager contract for Medicaid and increase Medicaid provider rates. Another round of changes is expected next week before House passage. The substitute version of HB166 [Oelslager] offers a net tax cut of $100 million, according to House Republicans, eliminating income tax liability for anyone earning less than $22,500 and cutting taxes by 4.7 percent for those earning from $22,500 to $88,800.
Legislative Update

The income tax deduction threshold for small business income of pass-through entities such as LLCs will be cut from $250,000 to $100,000. In addition, the speaker said the House intends in next week’s omnibus amendment to also repeal a tax break that allows those pass-through businesses to pay a flat 3 percent tax rate on earnings over $250,000, rather than the typical income tax rate for earnings of that level of just less than 5 percent. Also the substitute bill eliminates several other tax expenditures.

General Assembly/Statehouse
Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) announced that Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) has been selected to fill the vacancy in Ohio’s 20th Senate District seat, which includes Fairfield, Guernsey, Hocking, Morgan and Muskingum counties and parts of Athens and Pickaway counties. The vacancy was created April 2 when former Sen. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) resigned for a job in the private sector. Schaffer was selected from nearly a dozen applicants for the open seat.

Local Government
The battle over municipal water rates in Ohio’s 1,300-plus townships returned to the Statehouse as the head of the Ohio Township Association (OTA) told lawmakers that residents of extraterritorial areas have no democratic safeguard against inflated charges imposed by neighboring cities under constitutional home rule. HB163 (Brinkman) seeks to remedy that by withholding Local Government Funds (LGF) and state water and sewer assistance from offending municipalities.

Public Safety
Gov. Mike DeWine endorsed Ohio Distracted Driving Task Force findings that urge the General Assembly to enact “hands-free” laws making smart phone use by all Ohio drivers a primary offense with increased fines, penalties and enhancements for “harm caused.” Gathering with Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) leaders, DeWine said he will start by banning both hand-held and hands-free digital devices for all state employee fleet cars.

State Government
The Controlling Board approved funding for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to upgrade its pavement management system, though some lawmakers questioned whether the state had gotten its money’s worth so far.

Gov. Mike DeWine named Nikki Guilford to head the state of Ohio’s new office in Washington, D.C. Guilford is currently the director of NGA (National Governors Association) Consulting. Guilford will start her new position with the state in June, according to the governor’s office.

Taxation
Several local government representatives appeared before the House Ways and Means Committee to voice their support for HB143 (Keller), which would create an income tax credit for volunteer peace officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs). The tax credit would increase over service years with a cap of $2,000 after 11 or more years of service. A volunteer accrues a service year by participating in at least 15 percent of the organization’s emergency runs during a year or by performing tasks other than emergency runs 15 percent of the days in the year.

Transportation/Infrastructure
The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) will require several changes to state law in order to effectively implement a modern toll collection system that utilizes cameras to read license plates, OTIC Executive Director Ferzan Ahmed said. The new system would eliminate EZ-Pass gates but would retain gates for drivers paying with cash and credit cards, Ahmed told members of the House Finance Transportation Subcommittee.
Legislative Update

Gov. Mike DeWine announced that three new phases of the Columbus Crossroads reconstruction and reconfiguration of the Interstate 70/71 corridor are scheduled to proceed, thanks to new funding approved as part of HB62 (Oelslager). DeWine said the next phase, which had previously been approved and will include an area around Nationwide Children’s Hospital, will begin. But he said that if the General Assembly had not approved a gas tax increase as part of the transportation bill, future phases would have been in jeopardy. The upcoming project will fix what DeWine called a “dangerous weave” around the hospital area and will give dedicated lanes that he said will eliminate lane changes by 70 percent. He said most accidents on the freeway through that area are caused by drivers’ changing lanes to get to their destination.

DriveOhio and the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) Tuesday announced their participation in a project that will dramatically improve the way Ohio and Pennsylvania manage work zones and increase safety for employees and the travelling public. The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently awarded a $2.69 million Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) grant to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with the OTIC and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission as co-recipients for their Work Zone Reservation and Traveler Information System (WZRTIS). The new system will replace the existing processes that are used by Ohio and Pennsylvania to improve and streamline coordination between maintenance crews, construction crews and operation managers in work zones.

Now that HB62 (Oelslager) is law with its increased gas tax to pay for highway projects around the state, the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) has begun the process of prioritizing which projects will be receiving funding, with an updated list expected later this year, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jack Marchbanks told a House subcommittee. House Finance Transportation Subcommittee Chairman Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) said at the beginning of the hearing that he plans to hold similar hearings with Marchbanks about every eight weeks to get updates on ODOT’s progress on new transportation projects.
**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.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>State Bill Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB54</td>
<td>LGF TAX REVENUE INCREASE (CERA J, ROGERS J) To increase the proportion of state tax revenue allocated to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.53% beginning July 1, 2019.</td>
<td>2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-54">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-54</a></td>
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<td>HB72</td>
<td>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (ROGERS J, CERA J) To create the Supplemental State Capital Improvements Pilot Program funded by a temporary transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund and to make an appropriation.</td>
<td>2/20/2019 - Referred to Committee House Finance</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-72">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-72</a></td>
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<td>HB84</td>
<td>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS-SEWER LATERALS (HOLMES G) To expressly include, as eligible projects under the State Capital Improvements Program, water and sewer laterals located on private property.</td>
<td>3/27/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-84">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-84</a></td>
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<td>HB124</td>
<td>RESIDENTIAL SMALL LIVESTOCK (BRINKMAN T) To allow an owner of residential property to keep small livestock on the property and to prohibit zoning authorities from regulating certain noncommercial agricultural activities on residential property.</td>
<td>3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-124">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-124</a></td>
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<td>HB149</td>
<td>PROPERTY TAX EXEMPT-RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION (MERRIN D) To enact the “Affordable Homebuilding and Housing Act” to temporarily exempt from property tax the increased value of land subdivided for residential development.</td>
<td>4/10/2019 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-149">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-149</a></td>
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<td>HB152</td>
<td>TAX LEVY-SUBDIVISION CREATOR (BRINKMAN T) To require certain subdivisions to obtain the approval of the body that created the subdivision before levying a tax.</td>
<td>4/10/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-152">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-152</a></td>
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<td>HB166</td>
<td>OPERATING BUDGET (OELSLAGER S) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.</td>
<td>5/15/2019 - Senate General Government and Agency Review, (Sixth Hearing)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-166">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-166</a></td>
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<td>SB39</td>
<td>MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS-TAX CREDIT [SCHURING K] To authorize an insurance premiums tax credit for capital contributions to transformational mixed use development projects.</td>
<td>4/2/2019 - Senate Finance, [Second Hearing]</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-39">Link</a></td>
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<td>SB114</td>
<td>NOISE REGULATION-TOWNSHIPS [HOTTINGER J] To expand the authority of a township to regulate noise within the unincorporated area of the township.</td>
<td>4/9/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, [First Hearing]</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-114">Link</a></td>
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### Legislative Updates

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

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<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Current Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>HB62</td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (OELSLAGER S)</td>
<td>To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.</td>
<td>4/3/2019 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days, Taxes eff. 7/1/19</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-62">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-62</a></td>
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<td>SB132</td>
<td>GAS TAX-LOCAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATION (WILLIAMS S)</td>
<td>To modify the amount of revenue derived from any increase in the motor fuel tax rate that is allocated to local governments and to change the manner in which that revenue is divided between municipal corporations, counties, and townships.</td>
<td>5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-132">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-132</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Goal 3: Pursue sustainability solutions that protect and conserve our natural resources and promote a diverse supply of clean, affordable, and reliable sources of energy for our growing region.

**HB6** CLEAN AIR PROGRAM (CALLENDER J, WILKIN S) To create the Ohio Clean Air Program, to facilitate and encourage electricity production and use from clean air resources, to facilitate investment to reduce the emissions from other generating technologies that can be readily dispatched to satisfy demand in real time, and proactively engage the buying power of consumers in this state for the purpose of improving air quality in this state.

**Current Status:** 5/8/2019 - House Energy and Natural Resources, [Third Hearing]


**SB2** STATEWIDE WATERSHED PLANNING (PETERSON B, DOLAN M) To create a statewide watershed planning structure for watershed programs to be implemented by local soil and water conservation districts.

**Current Status:** 2/20/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources


Goal 4: Promote effective data policies and the equitable deployment of digital infrastructure that benefit Central Ohio communities.

**HB46** STATE GOVT EXPENDITURE DATABASE (GREENSPAN D) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database.

**Current Status:** 5/1/2019 - BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, [Fourth Hearing]


**HB190** FIBER BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (SMITH R) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program, to encourage the Department of Transportation to work with telecommunications providers to lay fiber optic cable, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 4/10/2019 - Referred to Committee House Finance


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