



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

February 2020



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Joseph Garrity
Director of Government Affairs
(614) 233-4127
jgarrity@morpc.org

What's Happening

New Legislation Impacting Eminent Domain for Recreational Trails

On January 21st, Rep. Don Manning (R-New Middletown) and Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) jointly introduced House Bill 476 to amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency. The bill was referred on January 28th to the House State and Local Government Committee, chaired by Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster). The bill had been scheduled for its first hearing on February 5th, but the hearing was cancelled.

Previously, Rep. Manning introduced House Bill 288, a similar bill that prohibited the use of eminent domain to build a recreational trail. The bill received four hearings in the House Civil Justice Committee, chaired by Rep. Hambley. The bill faced opposition from park districts, municipal governments, and MORPC also submitted opponent testimony. Chair Hambley circulated a proposed substitute bill to appeal to local government entities, but it was never offered in committee.

House Bill 476, as introduced, is Hambley's proposed substitute HB 288. In addition to allowing an owner of real property to appeal to the appointing authority of a park district, the county probate judge, to veto the appropriation of land for the purpose of providing a recreational trail, HB 476 would also allow the property owner to ask for a veto from a board of township trustees or the council of a municipal corporation depending upon the location of the real property.

MORPC opposes House Bill 476 because it leads to creating a precedent that could add restrictions or caveats for other local entities with eminent domain authority. Furthermore, the bill would discourage progress and the ability to expand and improve the Central Ohio Greenways trail network. MORPC is meeting with members of the committee to convey our concerns with the bill. Finally, the bill would create a confusing process where opponents of an eminent domain decision could forum shop and contest it by filing a protest with one of two different elected reviewers.

Top News

Agriculture

Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODAg) Director Dorothy Pelanda announced that \$30 million in H2Ohio funding will be available for Ohio farmers in more than a dozen counties beginning in February. The funds will be awarded as part of DeWine's H2Ohio plan to reduce agricultural phosphorus runoff and prevent algal blooms in Lake Erie.

FY20-21 Budget

According to preliminary figures released by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), state revenues for December came in approximately \$1.8 million or (0.1 percent) below estimates for the month. This was despite the state's personal income tax coming in \$35.6 million or 4.5 percent over estimates. A shortfall in both the non-auto and auto sales tax nearly wiped out that excess alone with the two categories coming in a total of \$34.7 million below estimates. The bulk of this was in the non-auto sales tax, which was \$34.3 million or 3.9 percent below estimates. Both taxes remain over estimates for the first half of FY20 by nearly \$79.5 million or 1.4 percent: the non-auto by \$40.5 million and the auto sales tax by nearly \$39.0 million.

Census

A release from the U.S. Census Bureau details the status of school enrollment. From 2011 to 2018, the number of people enrolled in schools decreased by 2.2 million from 79 million to 76.8 million. Overall enrollment in kindergarten through 12th grade also dropped from 53.7 million in 2011 to 53.1 million in 2018. Enrollment in K-12 private schools was 4.4 million in 2018, not statistically different from the level in 2009, after having fallen 20 percent from 2000 to 2009.

As the 2020 Census approaches, a survey from Pew Research Center shows that while the majority of Americans are aware of the census and intend to participate in it, some people in the most vulnerable demographics say they are unsure whether to participate or not. The survey, released in October 2019, indicates that about 84 percent of U.S. adults say they intend to participate in the census and 98 percent say they have heard of it. However, the survey shows younger adults, black and Hispanic adults, and those with a low income are all significantly less likely to say they will participate in the census.

The Columbus area census office kicked off the 2020 Census with an event highlighting the stakes of the upcoming census for Ohio and announcing updates to the census counting process. For the first time ever, individuals will be able to fill out the 2020 Census online. Kevin Boyce of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners expressed hope that the added convenience would mean a more accurate count for Ohio. Those who do not fill out the census online, by mail, or by phone will be approached by door-to-door census takers.

Energy

The Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) is urging the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to permanently ban Verde Energy and PALMCo Energy from the Buckeye State and to reject a proposed settlement negotiated by the Ohio Attorney General's Office that would allow the out-of-state suppliers to resume operations in Ohio. PUCO staff previously declared Texas-based Verde and New York-based PALMCo "managerially unfit" to continue operating as competitive retail electric suppliers (CRES) and competitive retail natural gas suppliers (CRNGS) in Ohio, citing a long list of "unfair, misleading, deceptive or unconscionable tactics" in their operations and marketing. They together account for 40 percent of PUCO's open investigations into supplier-related complaints.

The emerging Energy Harbor Corp. is preparing to relocate downtown from FirstEnergy Solutions' (FES) west Akron campus in the first several months of 2020 after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently approved the transfer of its Ohio and Pennsylvania operating licenses to the new corporate parent, effective with completion of FES' bankruptcy proceedings. FES/Energy Harbor will be the parent of Energy Harbor Nuclear Generation and Energy Harbor Nuclear Corp. Chairman Sam Randazzo of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and his predecessor, Executive Director Asim Haque of PJM Interconnection's State and Member Services, provided a topical overview on electric grid reliability to the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee.

Top News

The coal lobby and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) took up the Senate's ongoing concern with electric grid reliability as part of the upper chamber's "comprehensive energy plan" for the 133rd General Assembly. America's Power, a trade association representing coal-fired generation, and OCC each addressed a different piece of the reliability debate while acknowledging its overall importance during testimony before the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee.

Environment

Williams County will receive \$500,000 in H2Ohio funding for its project to construct a new wastewater collection and treatment system that will serve approximately 90 homes in the unincorporated area of Kunkle, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) announced.

Research out of Ohio State University (OSU) published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* found that nature-based solutions to air pollution might, in many cases, be better and cheaper than technology at combating air pollution. In 75 percent of the counties analyzed, researchers found it was cheaper to use plants to mitigate air pollution than it was to add technological interventions such as smokestack scrubbers to the sources of pollution. In addition, the study showed that restoring vegetation to county-level average canopy cover reduced air pollution an average of 27 percent across the counties.

Central Ohio residents and businesses have reached a 50 percent waste diversion rate for the first time, the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) announced.

About two-thirds of U.S. adults (67 percent) say the federal government is doing too little to reduce the effects of climate change, and similar shares say the same about government efforts to protect air (67 percent) and water quality (68 percent), according to a survey released by Pew Research Center.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced the appointment of Kurt Thiede of Wisconsin as the regional administrator for Region 5, overseeing environmental protection efforts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. Thiede succeeds Cathy Stepp, who is stepping down from her post in the Great Lakes region after several years. The move was applauded by Ohio EPA Director Laurie Stevenson.

Construction projects would face much less scrutiny from environmental regulators under a rule change proposed by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The proposal would update the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), signed into law by former President Richard Nixon in 1970. The law requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed major federal actions. Environmentalists are criticizing the move, saying it would exacerbate climate change and cause harm to Americans' air, water and health. The administration and the fossil fuel industry argue the environmental permitting process needs to be updated to allow projects to move forward more quickly and at lower financial costs.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has finalized its revised "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule, drawing praise from various industry groups and criticism from environmentalists. The revised definition identifies the following four categories of waters that are federally-regulated under the Clean Water Act: the territorial seas and traditional navigable waters, like the Atlantic Ocean and the Mississippi River; perennial and intermittent tributaries, such as College Creek, which flows to the James River near Williamsburg, VA; certain lakes, ponds, and impoundments, such as Children's Lake in Boiling Springs, PA; and wetlands that are adjacent to jurisdictional waters. The final rule also details which types of waters are not subject to federal control, including the following: features that only contain water in direct response to rainfall; groundwater; many ditches, including most farm and roadside ditches; prior converted cropland; farm and stock watering ponds; and waste treatment systems.

Top News

Federal

U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) gave details on which provisions in the FFY20 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report will affect Ohio recently in a series of press releases. The NDAA will provide \$750 billion in national defense spending and was passed by the Senate, sending it to President Trump for his signature. Among the provisions is \$1.7 billion in funding to upgrade 165 Abrams tanks, produced at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC) in Lima and \$120.9 million in funding to finish upgrades to the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) located at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

In a series of press releases, U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) applauded Ohio provisions in the FFY20 Funding Bill passed Thursday, Dec. 19 by the U.S. Senate and expected to be signed into law by President Donald Trump. This legislation comes after the Senate's passage of the FFY20 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report, earlier in the week.

Released population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate Ohio could lose a congressional seat after the 2020 Census, according to an analysis of the data by the consulting group Election Data Services. The Census Bureau estimates Ohio's population at 11.7 million as of July 2019. This is a 1.3 percent increase since the last decennial census taken in April 2010. Ohio has the seventh largest population in the country. Despite the population increase, Election Data Services predicts Ohio will join nine other states, including neighboring Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, in losing one congressional seat.

Governor

Gov. Mike DeWine will deliver his 2020 "State of the State" address before a joint session of the General Assembly on Tuesday, March 31, beginning at 12 p.m. It will take place in the chambers of the House of Representatives. This will be DeWine's second "State of the State" address -- the first coming last year on March 5, 2019 ahead of the introduction of his first budget later that month.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed a bill that eliminates certain employment barriers for military families stationed in Ohio at a ceremony held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton. According to the governor's office, SB7 (Hackett-Lehner) gives military members and their spouses better employment opportunities by simplifying the process to transfer their occupational licenses to Ohio. The bill mandates state licensing agencies to issue licenses or certificates to military members and spouses who already hold a valid license to practice a trade or profession in another state. The new law becomes effective in 90 days.

Housing/Homelessness

Federal and local leaders working to reduce homelessness in general, and among veterans specifically, met at the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) for a series of three announcements by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD Midwest Regional Administrator Joseph Galvan said first that CMHA and the city of Columbus will be one of 34 designees in HUD Secretary Ben Carson's initiative to create "Envision Centers," which Galvan defined as "a joint effort to connect low-income households with a variety of resources offering pathways to economic opportunity and self-sufficiency." The other programs promote family self-sufficiency and provide supporting housing for veterans.

Top News

Local Government

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther announced the selection of Interim Police Chief Thomas Quinlan as the city's next police chief. Ginther highlighted the extensive national search the city undertook to find the replacement for former Police Chief Kim Jacobs, who retired in February. Quinlan has been the interim chief since then. He was one of two finalists, along with former Seattle Police Assistant Chief Perry Tarrant.

The Ohio Mayors Alliance recently adopted its public policy agenda for 2020, which includes the following, among other items: prioritizing community reinvestment and local economic development and protecting home rule authority for Ohio's local communities.

Natural Resources

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) will provide more than \$6.64 million in grants to improve trails for hiking, biking, walking, running and other activities. The grants are being awarded through the Clean Ohio Trails Fund, according to a news release from ODNR. The funding will benefit 20 trail projects in Ashtabula, Clinton, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lorain, Medina, Summit, Warren and Williams counties.

Sunday, March 1 is the deadline to apply for an ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft grant to improve boating access for hand-powered watercraft at public facilities across the state. A total of \$500,000 is available for this purpose. Applicants may request up to \$75,000 for a single project during the grant period, which runs from May 1, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2021.

Poverty

A new report by the Center for Community Solutions shows that residents who live in poor areas of Ohio are likely to have significantly shorter life expectancies than those who live in wealthier areas. The study notes that part of Columbus's South Franklinton neighborhood has the lowest life expectancy in the state, or 60 years of age.

Technology

The InnovateOhio initiative announced an Ohio broadband strategy providing a comprehensive plan for "aggressively expanding and enhancing the state's broadband network." The lack of a statewide strategy had previously led the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to limit Ohio's share of Connect America Funds, and InnovateOhio had taken action to encourage greater expansion efforts in rural areas of Ohio in June through potentially opening public rights of way. The document has also been submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and if approved would enable local governments to receive 20 additional points on applications for federal ReConnect funding. InnovateOhio is also working with Connected Nation Ohio to produce broadband availability maps with interactive GIS map layers to aid journalists, researchers and legislators.

With SB52 (Gavarone) effective Friday, Jan. 24, the Ohio Adjutant General's Department is forming the first two of 10 planned teams in the new Ohio Cyber Reserve (OhCR), a civilian element of cybersecurity professionals who can provide training and emergency assistance. Gov. Mike DeWine signed SB52, which created the OhCR and contained provisions regarding election security, in October. Mark Bell, adjutant general's department cybersecurity outreach coordinator, told Hannah News that the first teams are being established in the Central and Southwest Ohio regions by month's end.

Top News

Transportation/Infrastructure

A joint legislative study committee looking at the future of transportation in Ohio turned its attention to a different funding mechanism during its hearing, but questions remain on how to implement an alternative to the gas tax and whether such a mechanism would violate privacy. The Road to Our Future Joint Legislative Study Committee heard about the possibility of Ohio's moving to a vehicle miles traveled tax instead of a gasoline tax.

Two senators announced they will be introducing legislation that will encourage the purchase of electric vehicles (EVs) in Ohio. Sens. Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta) and Michael Rulli (R-Salem) said they believe full electric is the future of vehicles, noting that automobile manufacturers are already spending considerable resources on developing electric vehicles.

Utilities

A study out of Ohio State University (OSU) suggests that economic and conservation benefits associated with time-of-use electricity billing could be achieved at the expense of some of the most vulnerable citizens: people with disabilities and the elderly. Under a time-of-use system, energy prices are higher during high-demand "on-peak" times, a practice intended in part to create incentive for people to reduce their electricity use when it's more expensive, according to OSU's website.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled that it lacked jurisdiction to address the Ohio Consumers' Counsel's (OCC) challenge to an electric utility billing rider because OCC had not first broached the underlying argument with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). The ruling, written by Justice Sharon Kennedy, stated that the Federal Power Act did not divest the PUCO with the authority to consider a challenge to its right to approve the PPA. The consumers' counsel could have raised the issue with the PUCO, and the commission could have agreed with the argument by the consumers' counsel. But because it was not raised with the PUCO, the consumers' counsel cannot now raise the issue with the Ohio Supreme Court, the opinion stated. Because the consumers' counsel did not follow the PUCO process, the Court stated that it does not have jurisdiction to consider the challenge and dismissed the claim.

Legislative Updates

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.

HB54 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.
Current Status: 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-54>

HB72 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.
Current Status: 2/20/2019 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-72>

HB84 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.
Current Status: 3/27/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-84>

HB92 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: 3/13/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-92>

HB124 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.
Current Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Agriculture and Rural Development
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-124>

HB133 MILITARY-TEMPORARY LICENSURE (PERALES R, WEINSTEIN C) 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 military duty.
Current Status: 10/2/2019 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-133>

HB149 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.
Current Status: 4/10/2019 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-149>

HB152 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.
Current Status: 4/10/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-152>

Legislative Updates

- HB163** WATER AND SEWER PRACTICES (BRINKMAN T) To create a process for withholding local government funds and state water and sewer assistance from municipal corporations that engage in certain water and sewer practices with respect to extraterritorial service.
Current Status: 1/29/2020 - BILL AMENDED, House Public Utilities, (Sixth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-163>
- HB218** PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PATTON T) To authorize certain public entities to enter into public-private initiatives with a private party through a public-private agreement regarding public facilities.
Current Status: 6/19/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-218>
- HB242** CONTAINER USE RESTRICTIONS (LANG G, JONES D) To authorize the use of an auxiliary container for any purpose, to prohibit the imposition of a tax or fee on those containers, and to apply existing anti-littering law to those containers.
Current Status: 12/11/2019 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 58-35
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-242>
- HB252** LAND REUTILIZATION (GREENSPAN D) To create the Land Reutilization Demolition Program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 6/30/2019 - Re-Referred to Committee
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-252>
- HB287** MEDICAID WAIVER-MILITARY (RUSSO A, PERALES R) Regarding Medicaid home and community-based waiver services for relatives of active duty military.
Current Status: 11/13/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-287>
- HB311** COUNTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (GREENSPAN D) To authorize counties to request and obtain a county inspector general to investigate wrongful acts or omissions in county and other political subdivision government.
Current Status: 10/23/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-311>
- HB382** PROHIBIT INCOME TAX-MUNICIPAL NONRESIDENTS (JORDAN K) To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident.
Current Status: 11/6/2019 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-382>
- HB440** SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS-MANUFACTURING (MIRANDA J, CARRUTHERS S) To authorize sales tax exemptions for property and services used to clean or maintain manufacturing machinery and for employment services used to operate manufacturing machinery.
Current Status: 1/28/2020 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-440>

Legislative Updates

- HB444** CHANGES TO TOWNSHIP LAW (BALDRIDGE B, ABRAMS C) To make various changes to township law.
Current Status: 2/5/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-444>
- SB7** TEMP STATE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES-MILITARY (LEHNER P, HACKETT R) Regarding temporary state occupational licenses for members of the military and their spouses.
Current Status: 1/27/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-7>
- SB8** TAX CREDITS-OHIO OPPORTUNITY ZONE (SCHURING K) To authorize tax credits for investments in an Ohio Opportunity Zone.
Current Status: 5/8/2019 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-8>
- SB39** MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS-TAX CREDIT (SCHURING K) To authorize an insurance premiums tax credit for capital contributions to transformational mixed use development projects.
Current Status: 2/5/2020 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Fifth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-39>
- SB114** NOISE REGULATION-TOWNSHIPS (HOTTINGER J) To expand the authority of a township to regulate noise within the unincorporated area of the township.
Current Status: 5/21/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-114>
- SB206** MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS-TAX CREDIT (SCHAFFER T) To require municipal corporations with more than \$100 million in annual income tax collections to provide a tax credit to nonresident taxpayers.
Current Status: 11/19/2019 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-206>
- SB212** AUTHORIZE TOWNSHIPS-EXEMPT PROPERTY TAX (SCHURING K) To authorize townships and municipal corporations to designate areas within which new homes and improvements to existing homes are wholly or partially exempted from property taxation.
Current Status: 2/4/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-212>
- SB222** PROHIBIT TAX-PLASTIC BAGS (RULLI M) To authorize the use of an auxiliary container for any purpose, to prohibit the imposition of a tax or fee on those containers, and to apply existing anti-littering law to those containers.
Current Status: 12/3/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-222>

Legislative Updates

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

- HB48** LOCAL GOVT ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND (GREENSPAN D) To provide for a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund for local governments to fund road improvements.
Current Status: 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-48>
- HB93** PUBLIC TRANSIT INVESTMENT (SKINDELL M, UPCHURCH T) To make appropriations related to public transportation.
Current Status: 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-93>
- HB97** MINORS-BIKE HELMETS (SKINDELL M) To require bicycle operators and passengers under 18 years of age to wear protective helmets and to establish the Bicycle Safety Fund.
Current Status: 3/12/2019 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-97>
- HB116** TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH (BRINKMAN T) To make an appropriation related to transportation planning and research.
Current Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-116>
- HB202** ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE (SMITH K, WEINSTEIN C) To establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study Committee.
Current Status: 10/1/2019 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-202>
- HB288** EMINENT DOMAIN (MANNING D) To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 10/1/2019 - House Civil Justice, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-288>
- HB295** ELECTRIC SCOOTERS (HOOPS J) To establish requirements governing low-speed electric scooters.
Current Status: 2/5/2020 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Fifth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-295>
- HB384** PERMITTING STOP SIGN REQUESTS (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: 1/28/2020 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-384>
- HB468** HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE WHILE DRIVING (LIGHTBODY M) To alter the law governing the use of a handheld electronic wireless communications device while driving.
Current Status: 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-468>

Legislative Updates

- HB476** EMINENT DOMAIN (MANNING D, HAMBLEY S) To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 2/5/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-476>
- HB490** ELECTRIC/ HYBRID VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES (GREENSPAN D, SHEEHY M) To provide for the proration of the plug-in electric and hybrid motor vehicle registration fees.
Current Status: 2/4/2020 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-490>
- SB73** PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS (BRENNER A) To alter the law governing yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.
Current Status: 12/17/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-73>
- SB85** SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS (MAHARATH T) To establish signage requirements for indicating school zones for speed limit purposes, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 9/17/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-85>
- SB132** GAS TAX-LOCAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATION (WILLIAMS S) 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.
Current Status: 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-132>
- SB161** PEER-TO-PEER CAR SHARING (HOTTINGER J, DOLAN M) To specify requirements related to peer-to-peer car sharing in Ohio.
Current Status: 6/13/2019 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-161>
- SB204** AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SCHURING K, SYKES V) To authorize the creation of an airport development district for the purpose of funding public infrastructure improvements and attracting airlines and additional flights to a qualifying airport.
Current Status: 12/10/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-204>
- SB257** ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS (O'BRIEN S, RULLI M) To authorize tax incentives for the purchase of plug-in electric motor vehicles and charging stations.
Current Status: 2/4/2020 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-257>

Legislative Updates

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.

- HB7** H2OHIO PROGRAM (GHANBARI H, PATTERSON J) To create the H2Ohio Trust Fund for the protection and preservation of Ohio's water quality, to create the H2Ohio Advisory Council to disburse money from the Fund for water quality programs, and to create the H2Ohio Endowment Board to make recommendations to the Treasurer of State regarding the issuance of securities to pay for costs related to the purposes of the Fund.
Current Status: 10/22/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-7>
- HB20** SOLAR PANEL LIMITATIONS (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: 6/26/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-20>
- HB104** NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT (STEIN D) To enact the Advanced Nuclear Technology Helping Energize Mankind (ANTHEM) Act by establishing the Ohio Nuclear Development Authority and the Ohio Nuclear Development Consortium and authorizing tax credits for investments therein.
Current Status: 10/30/2019 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-104>
- HB246** PUCO/OCC REFORM (VITALE N) To reform and modernize the Public Utilities Commission and the Consumers' Counsel.
Current Status: 5/21/2019 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-246>
- HB247** RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE LAW (STEIN D) Regarding the competitive retail electric service law.
Current Status: 10/23/2019 - House Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-247>
- HB260** CLEAN ENERGY JOBS (DENSON S, WEINSTEIN C) To maintain operations of certified clean air resources, establish the Ohio generation and jobs incentive program and the energy performance and waste reduction program, and make changes regarding wind turbine siting.
Current Status: 5/28/2019 - Referred to Committee House Energy and Natural Resources
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-260>
- HB264** WATER DEVELOPMENT-LOAN REFINANCING (WILKIN S, O'BRIEN M) To allow the Ohio Water Development Authority to provide for the refinancing of loans for certain public water and waste water infrastructure projects.
Current Status: 12/12/2019 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 86-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-264>
- HB343** EMERGENCY WATER AND SEWER (PATTERSON J) To make an appropriation related to emergency water and sewer system funding.
Current Status: 10/2/2019 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-343>

Legislative Updates

HB401 TOWNSHIP REFERENDUM - WIND FARMS (REINEKE W) To require inclusion of safety specifications in wind farm certificate applications, to modify wind turbine setbacks, and to permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm certificates.

Current Status: 12/3/2019 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-401>

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: 1/28/2020 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-2>

SB234 WIND FARMS (MCCOLLEY R) To require inclusion of safety specifications in wind farm certificate applications, to modify wind turbine setbacks, and to permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm certificates.

Current Status: 1/28/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-234>

SJR1 CLEAN WATER IMPROVEMENTS (GAVARONE T, O'BRIEN S) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund clean water improvements.

Current Status: 10/1/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SJR-1>

Legislative Updates

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

- HB13** RESIDENTIAL BROADBAND (CARFAGNA R, O'BRIEN M) To establish the residential broadband expansion program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 6/19/2019 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-13>
- HB46** STATE GOVT EXPENDITURE DATABASE (GREENSPAN D) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database.
Current Status: 1/22/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate General Government and Agency Review, (Seventh Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-46>
- 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
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-190>

For more information please contact:

Joseph Garrity | Director of Government Affairs | jgarrity@morpc.org | 614.233.4127

Your Government Affairs Team



Steve Tugend
Director +Chair, Government Affairs
(614) 462-5424
stugend@keglerbrown.com



Tony Fiore
Of Counsel
(614) 462-5428
afiore@keglerbrown.com



Mike Miller
Of Counsel
(614) 462-5468
mmiller@keglerbrown.com



Rusty Schuermann
Director
(614) 462-5440
rschuermann@keglerbrown.com



Mike Culp
Government Affairs Advisor
(614) 462-5477
mculp@keglerbrown.com



Andy Shifflette
Government Affairs Advisor
(614) 462-5491
ashifflette@keglerbrown.com



Bev Staten
Government Affairs Specialist
(614) 462-5455
bstaten@keglerbrown.com