



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

March 2020



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

What's Happening

COVID-19

Earlier this week, Governor Mike DeWine announced the state's first confirmed cases of the new coronavirus that has sickened people around the globe. DeWine declared a state of emergency, an action which allows the state to buy health-related supplies without first seeking bids. He also banned unnecessary travel by state employees and canceled a state insurance fund for injured workers' conference which was scheduled to bring 8,000 to Columbus beginning Wednesday. The state Health Department said the cases were confirmed as part of testing done last week. Eight people had previously tested negative after exhibiting symptoms of pulmonary virus either after travel to China or coming into contact with someone with the disease known as COVID-19, according to Health Department records.

An investigation is underway to identify and reach out as many people as possible who have come in contact with the three people who tested positive. "This is certainly no ordinary time," DeWine said. "It's important for us to take aggressive action to protect Ohioans. And the actions that we take now will in fact save lives. That we are sure of."

Meanwhile, The Ohio State University President Michael V. Drake issued a statement late Monday canceling classes saying the best way to prevent the spread of viral illness is to minimize the circumstances in which individuals may interact and transmit disease. "We are suspending face-to-face instruction in lectures, discussion sections, seminars and other similar classroom settings and moving to virtual instruction, effective immediately and through at least Monday, March 30," the statement said. All university-sponsored international travel is also suspended.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

Distracted Driving Legislation Introduced in the Senate

On February 18th Senators Sean O'Brien (D-Cortland) and Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) introduced Senate Bill 285, a bill to revise the laws relative to distracted driving and the use of an electronic wireless communications device while driving. The legislation is in response to Governor Mike DeWine's "Hands-Free Ohio" plan to make distracted driving a primary offense, meaning an officer could pull over a motorist for that reason alone, rather than requiring them to see another violation first. The bill would also increase penalties for people convicted of distracted driving multiple times, or for people who injure or kill someone while distracted. While Ohio currently has a law to punish distracted driving as a secondary offense, Governor DeWine believes that tougher penalties will reduce fatal crashes by deterring people from using their electronic devices behind the wheel whether they are caught by law enforcement or not.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



What's Happening

MORPC staff were in attendance at the Governor's news conference last month when he announced the proposal. Also in attendance were Senators O'Brien and Kunze, as well as people with family members who had been killed in distracted driving-related crashes.

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee MORPC is looking to partner with the Governor in effort to make Ohio's roadways safer, while ensuring the bill doesn't have any unintended consequences.

Constitutional Amendment Targeting Ohio Legislative Term Limits Could Appear On November Ballot

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's office certified a summary of a proposed constitutional amendment to change Ohio General Assembly term limits on Thursday, February 27th. Under the proposed constitutional amendment, state lawmakers would have a lifetime limit of 16 years they could serve in either the House or Senate. The Attorney General certification does not reflect whether Yost agrees with the measure, but his office has concluded that the certified summary is a fair and truthful statement of what the amendment would do if passed.

This proposed amendment would change current law, approved by state voters in 1992 as a constitutional amendment, under which there is no lifetime cap. Rather, current term limits bar lawmakers from serving more than eight consecutive years in either chamber, but allow them to switch back and forth between the House and Senate.

Under the new proposal, the clock on term limits would begin ticking on Jan. 1, 2021, apparently wiping out any previous accumulated time. For example, it appears this would allow House Speaker Larry Householder, who otherwise would have to leave the House at the end of 2024, to stay through 2036. However, it would be too late for currently term-limited lawmakers, like Senate President Larry Obhof, to stick around, since it only applies to those eligible to run for election or re-election this November.

After Yost's certification, the initial signatures on the proposal will be verified by county elections boards. Once that happens, petitioners may start collecting signatures across the state. This effort will require roughly 443,000 valid voter signatures from 44 of Ohio's 88 counties by July 1 for the measure to make the November ballot.

On March 2nd the Ohio Ballot Board certified that the proposed amendment shall appear on the statewide ballot as one issue, provided that enough valid signatures are collected on time.

Two other proposed constitutional amendments also are possible for the November election. One, backed by organized labor groups, seeks to hike the state's minimum wage to \$13 an hour by 2025. A second, backed by the Ohio ACLU, seeks to expand Ohio's ballot-access laws.

Top News

Ballot Issues

The legal and political battle over energy subsidy bill HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) came to an official end as the Ohio Supreme Court granted Ohioans Against Corporate Bailouts (OACB) and Secretary of State Frank LaRose's joint request to dismiss five certified questions from the U.S. District Court on referendum efforts during the 90-day period between a bill's signing and effective date.

Census

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) issued a reminder to Ohioans recently that they can use the computers at local libraries and OhioMeansJobs centers to complete the 2020 U.S. Census survey once it is available on Wednesday, April 1. This marks the first time the census survey can be completed online, and each household will receive a card in the mail with a password and instructions for submitting information online, over the phone or by mail. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, and all responses are confidential, though only one person should complete it per household.

Over 73,600 Ohioans are at risk of being missed in the 2020 Census according to a report by the Urban Institute, "which will spell big trouble for the Buckeye State," says the Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition (OCAC). To address that, OCAC awarded 45 mini-grants to community organizations in Hamilton, Franklin and Cuyahoga counties to support "census get-out-the-count" efforts to reach hard-to-count communities.

Environment

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) is now accepting financial assistance applications for drinking water infrastructure improvements through the state's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA), Gov. Mike DeWine has announced. In order to be considered for program year 2021 funding, all project nomination forms and supporting information must be submitted by email to defamail@epa.ohio.gov by Wednesday, March 4, according to Ohio EPA.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) announced two infrastructure projects aimed at improving the quality of drinking water in areas with deteriorating or no public water systems. The projects in Pike and Coshocton counties will receive a total of \$1.5 million as part of Gov. Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, according to Ohio EPA.

Ohio EPA announced \$500,000 in funding to help improve sanitary sewer services for hundreds of residents in Miami County. The agency said it is providing the funding to the village of West Milton as part of Gov. Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, noting the money will support a planned project to construct sanitary sewers in the village of Ludlow Falls, where failing home sewage treatment systems have caused high coliform readings in nearby Ludlow Creek.

Higher Education

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and Ohio University (OU) recently announced a partnership designed to encourage more public-sector professionals to pursue a graduate degree, while also providing students with practical experience in local government. Through the partnership, MORPC will promote OU's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs' Executive Master of Public Administration (MPA) and online MPA programs to MORPC's local government members. Employees who work at MORPC and for its member governments are eligible to receive a \$1,000 incentive scholarship for their first academic term in either program.

Top News

Judicial

While cautioning that nothing has been finalized, Gov. Mike DeWine said that he is “very enthusiastic” about a potential plan on how to split potential opioid lawsuit settlement money among the state and local communities. Asked about it during a press conference, DeWine said he is cautious about the plan but satisfied with where they are on negotiations right now. Under the plan, DeWine said local communities would get 30 percent of all settlement money right away. Another 55 percent would go into a trust fund where the local communities collectively would have control of how it is spent “by a significant number.”

The Supreme Court of Ohio has issued its first-ever bench book for the one class of courts not included in the state judiciary. So-called mayor’s courts, presided over as they are by the executive branch, are not courts of record but still follow rules sanctioned by the General Assembly and promulgated by the Supreme Court. The state is providing the 86-page guide to help mayors’ courts comply with day-to-day responsibilities “more smoothly and efficiently,” the Court says.

Local Government

The Ohio Township Association (OTA) recently elected Tim Lynch, a trustee in Liberty Township in Seneca County, as the association’s president. Other officers include First Vice President Ed Huff, Jr., Brown Township/Darke County; Second Vice President Scott Fabian, Steubenville Township/Jefferson County; and Secretary-Treasurer Ron Miller, Holmes Township/Crawford County.

Nonprofit Organizations

The Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) recently released its Public Policy Platform for 2020-2021, “Building a Greater Ohio.” The 2020-2021 Public Policy Agenda focuses on three priorities: investing in brownfields; innovating mobility and transportation; and empowering Ohio’s legacy cities.

Public Safety

Pedestrians at crosswalks without special lights or signage could secure their right-of-way by stepping up to the curb rather than when they first enter the road under legislation approved unanimously in the Senate. Sen. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell) said his SB73 stemmed from concerns brought to him by Delaware City Police about the safety of pedestrians at such crosswalks near Ohio Wesleyan University.

Transportation/Infrastructure

The Ohio Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) Program has awarded seven grants totaling almost \$7 million for replacing 29 aging diesel transit buses with newer, cleaner diesel technology or alternative fuel technology. Nine of the new buses will be electric, 11 will be powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) and nine are powered by cleaner diesel technology.

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (AHAS) recently placed Ohio among the worst states for its highway traffic laws in the group’s annual report grading all 50 states and the District of Columbia on their laws. The 17th edition of the report found 395 proven measures have not been enacted by states, which the group said could be saving lives.

Top News

Utilities

Lawrence Friedeman will get his first full term as commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) after Gov. Mike DeWine re-appointed him to the body.

A new solar and electric vehicle charger co-op can now be joined by home owners and business owners in Franklin and Delaware counties, nonprofit organization Solar United Neighbors (SUN) announced.

Veterans

Joined by legislators, cabinet directors and veterans, Gov. Mike DeWine signed HB18 (Vitale-Crawley), which exempts disability severance payments received by honorably discharged veterans from the state income tax. The bill sponsors, Reps. Nino Vitale (R-Urbana) and Erica Crawley (D-Columbus), were present along with several of their family members. Both spoke as well.

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: 2/12/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
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: 3/4/2020 - Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee, (Second Hearing)
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: 2/26/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, 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: 2/12/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-444>
- HB487** TAX-FORFEITED LAND (GREEN D, WEST T) To increase, from one to six years, the interval within which county auditors must offer tax-forfeited land for sale and to give county auditors more discretion as to how and where such sales are conducted.
Current Status: 2/26/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-487>
- HB505** AUTHORITY ELIMINATION - RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (BECKER J, CROSSMAN J) To eliminate the specific authority of residential facilities to operate within residential zoning districts.
Current Status: 2/19/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-505>
- HB507** DELINQUENT TAX LIEN PAYMENTS (MANNING D) To prohibit enforcement of delinquent property tax liens against owner-occupied homesteads and to require that any delinquent tax be paid before the title to a homestead may be transferred.
Current Status: 2/19/2020 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-507>
- 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: 2/12/2020 - BILL AMENDED, House Economic and Workforce Development, (Seventh 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>

Legislative Updates

- 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: 3/4/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 29-1
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>
- SB289** CONDOMINIUMS (BLESSING III L) Regarding condominiums and planned community properties.
Current Status: 3/4/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government and Agency Review
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-289>

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>
- HB295** ELECTRIC SCOOTERS (HOOPS J) To establish requirements governing low-speed electric scooters.
Current Status: 2/12/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Sixth 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: 2/11/2020 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-468>
- HB476** EMINENT DOMAIN (MANNING D, HAMBLEY S) To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 2/12/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-476>

Legislative Updates

- 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: 2/11/2020 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-490>
- HB501** ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS (WIGGAM S, KICK D) To clarify the law governing slow-moving vehicles and to revise the lighting and reflective material requirements applicable to animal-drawn vehicles.
Current Status: 2/19/2020 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-501>
- HB546** REGISTRATION FEES - ELECTRIC VEHICLES (MILLER J, WEINSTEIN C) To alter the definitions of “plug-in electric motor vehicle” and “hybrid motor vehicle” under the motor vehicle law and to halve the additional registration fees for those two types of motor vehicles.
Current Status: 3/10/2020 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-546>
- SB73** PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS (BRENNER A) To alter the law governing yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.
Current Status: 2/26/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0
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: 2/25/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Finance, (Third 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: 2/11/2020 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-257>

Legislative Updates

- SB279** PROHIBIT PHONES WHILE DRIVING (MAHARATH T) To generally prohibit the use of electronic wireless devices while driving.
Current Status: 3/4/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-279>
- SB285** DISTRACTED DRIVING (O'BRIEN S, KUNZE S) To revise the laws relative to distracted driving and the use of an electronic wireless communications device while driving.
Current Status: 3/4/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-285>
- SB291** ELECTRIC VEHICLE FEES (LEHNER P, HOTTINGER J) To provide for the proration of the plug-in electric and hybrid motor vehicle registration fees.
Current Status: 3/4/2020 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-291>

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: 2/19/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Energy and Natural Resources, (Fourth 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: 2/26/2020 - BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
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>
- HB522** WASTE DISPOSAL - CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS (SOBECKI L, SWEARINGEN D) To authorize conservancy districts to provide for the collection and disposal of solid waste.
Current Status: 2/21/2020 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-522>
- 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: 2/19/2020 - BILL AMENDED, House Energy and Natural Resources, (Fifth 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: 2/11/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Third 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>

For more information please contact:

Joseph Garrity | Director of Government Affairs + Strategic Initiatives | 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