



# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

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## What's Happening

### *Local Government Groups and Local Elected Officials Helping Shape State COVID-19 Policies*

Every week, Gov. Mike DeWine talks with mayors across Ohio to learn how the coronavirus outbreak is impacting their cities as well as seek input on mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The governor also is listening to county commissioners and other local officials as the administration balances re-opening the state's economy with ensuring the health of Ohioans. Put simply, amid unprecedented times, local governments are helping to shape the state's policies.

For example, a local government coalition recommended the DeWine administration and the Ohio Legislature use the Local Government Fund (LGF) distribution formula to allocate CARES Act dollars directly from the state to counties, cities, villages, and townships across Ohio. The recommendations were contained in a memorandum issued by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the Ohio Municipal League, the Ohio Mayors Alliance, and the Ohio Township Association.

Ultimately, those proposals were included in Senate Bill 310, the legislative vehicle to distribute CARES Act dollars to local communities. Last week, the Senate passed the measure, and the House Finance Committee is expected on Wednesday to take up the legislation. MORPC submitted a letter to Speaker Larry Householder and the Central Ohio House Delegation urging swift the bill.

The coalition's recommendations came as a result of engagement with Governor DeWine's Local Government Strike Force on distributing CARES Act dollars to local governments under 500,000 in population.

The group believes that allocating a substantial portion of the CARES Act funds through the "COVID-19 Local Government Relief Fund" will help provide immediate relief, and comes at a time when local governments have been hit hard by lost revenue due to the economic downturn.

The local government coalition acknowledged that while the LGF does not reflect the varying impacts that COVID-19 has had on different communities throughout the state, it is a known formula that can easily be modeled to quickly allocate funds to Ohio's local governments.

Because CARES Act funding can be used only on COVID-19 related expenses, the coalition is hopeful Congress or the U.S. Treasury will allow greater flexibility in using CARES Act dollars – or future funds – to help replace lost revenue earmarked for basic services.



# Top News

## ***Attorney General***

The Ohio Attorney General's Office has published a frequently-asked-questions document for government bodies navigating the logistics of open meetings during the public health emergency sparked by the COVID-19 outbreak. The office said it's fielded "many questions" since passage of HB197 (Powell-Merrin), emergency coronavirus legislation that included temporary changes to the open meeting law that are in effect until the end of the public health emergency declaration or until Tuesday, Dec. 1, including greater flexibility for meeting via teleconference or videoconference.

Attorney General (AG) Dave Yost announced a lawsuit against an individual from northeast Ohio and others for allegedly hoarding N95 respirator masks and selling them online for nearly 18 times the retail price. According to Yost, Mario F. Salwan, of Chagrin Falls, and others operated an online store on eBay under the now-defunct user name "Donkey476." As COVID-19 increased the demand for essential products such as N95 masks, hand sanitizer and toilet paper, the group began to accelerate — both in speed and volume — its acquisition of such products, the AG's office said.

Ohio is among a leading group of seven states and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) suing a prison-run pharmaceutical cabal charged with jacking up the cost of life-saving drug Daraprim 5,000 percent and forcing out cheaper generics through a supply-chain monopoly involving Columbus-based Cardinal Health and other national pharmaceutical chains — imperiling immuno-compromised patients and unborn children. Attorney General Yost announced that Ohio is seeking a permanent injunction and monetary damages for anti-trust and unfair trade violations by New York-based Vyera Pharmaceuticals and Swiss parent Phoenixus AG. The 86-page complaint details co-founders Martin Shkreli and Kevin Mulleady's "elaborate" and "comprehensive scheme" to inflate the price of Daraprim and its active ingredient pyrimethamine and to block generic competitors from the market

## ***FY20-21 Budget***

Sales taxes have been a relatively stable source of revenue for states when the economy has turned downward previously, according to the Pew Charitable Trust's state fiscal health project, but the COVID-19 is presenting new challenges to state budgets that are already stressed from higher unemployment as businesses close and furlough workers.

Gov. Mike DeWine announced that his administration will be reducing General Revenue Fund spending by \$775 million for the remainder of FY20 as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect state revenues. Preliminary April revenue data released by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) showed the state finished the month \$866.5 million, or about 35.3 percent, below estimates. While the state was running ahead of estimates throughout the fiscal year into February, with that month exceeding estimates by \$100 million, OBM Director Kim Murnieks told reporters on a call that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to nearly \$1 billion swing in the opposite direction over the last two months.

## ***Ballot Issues***

In a short meeting that was its first ever done by video conference, the Ohio Ballot Board unanimously approved the proposed Secure and Fair Elections amendment as one issue after the Ohio Supreme Court had rebuked the board for splitting it into four separate issues at its last meeting. The Court had ruled that the board had overstepped its authority when it split the proposal into four separate amendments addressing the topics of casting a ballot, registering to vote, the right of citizens with disabilities to vote and audits to ensure election integrity. Some justices sided with an opinion that said the proposal has the overarching issue of elections, while others signed on to an opinion arguing that a single subject rule does not apply to citizen-initiated constitutional amendments. The Ballot Board's actions allow supporters of the amendment to begin collecting signatures. To make the November ballot, they have until Wednesday, July 1 to collect 442,958 valid signatures.

# Top News

## ***Business/Corporate***

Honda, which previously suspended production at all automobile, engine and transmission plants in the U.S. and Canada through May 1, announced that “the majority” of salaried and support associates at U.S. Honda operations would be furloughed for two-weeks. In Ohio, affected facilities include auto plants in Marysville and East Liberty, the Performance Manufacturing Center in Marysville and powertrain plants in Anna and Russells Point.

The Ohio Restaurant Association (ORA) said that its national counterpart had completed a second survey of restaurant owners and operators and found 40 percent had closed at least temporarily. In Ohio that number was closer to 50 percent, up from 29 percent of temporary closures in the first survey. Three percent of restaurants nationally have closed permanently, and five percent anticipate doing so within the next 30 days. Fifty-six percent of operators anticipate off-premise traffic during the next 30 days.

## ***Census***

Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) Director Lydia Mihalik, Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) and several Southeast Ohio mayors discussed the importance of high census participation for the region and how that will be achieved, including ways they may adapt to coronavirus concerns.

The Census Bureau announced it is seeking statutory relief from Congress for 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts for the 2020 Census. Under this plan, the Census Bureau would extend the window for field data collection and self-response to Oct. 31, 2020 (originally July 31, 2020), meaning apportionment counts would be delivered to the president by April 30, 2021, and redistricting data would be delivered to the states no later than July 31, 2021. Ohio ranked 11th out of all 50 states for 2020 Census response rates. Ohio’s self-response rate is 57.7 percent, up from 54.3 percent last week.

The U.S. Census Bureau announced it will begin a phased restart of some 2020 Census field operations in select areas this week. All returning staff will receive safety training to observe social distancing protocols, and the bureau has ordered personal protective equipment (PPE) for all field staff, including those that work in a field office.

## ***Elections 2020***

Ohio’s presidential primary finally came to a close as voters who received last-minute absentee ballots dropped them off at their county boards of elections, and some who never received their ballots showed up to cast in-person provisional ballots. Counting went slowly into Tuesday evening in the larger counties, as reports said that thousands of ballots came into boards on the last day, and elections workers had to match the signatures on the ballots with those on record. In the races themselves most incumbents survived their primaries. Some races were very close in preliminary results, including the contests between appointed Rep. Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) and Thaddeus Claggett; former U.S. Rep. Jean Schmidt’s race versus Joe Dills in the 65th House District; and a three-way race between Adam Bird, Nick Owens and Allen Freeman in the 66th House District. In the Senate races, Reps. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), George Lang (R-West Chester) and Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) won primaries in their quests to move to the other chamber.

## ***Environment***

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) approved 22 requests for “regulatory flexibility” as local governments and businesses deal with fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio EPA spokesperson Heidi Griesmer told Hannah News. According to a spreadsheet provided by the agency, a total of 29 entities have asked the Ohio EPA to provide flexibility so far. All public water systems in the state are prohibited from disconnecting customers due to non-payment of fees and charges during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an order from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Director Laurie Stevenson. Coronavirus omnibus legislation HB197 (Powell-Merrin) authorized the Ohio EPA director to issue such an order for the duration of the coronavirus state of emergency declared by Gov. Mike DeWine, but not beyond Tuesday, Dec. 1.

# Top News

## *Ethics*

Information is not deemed private and exempt from public disclosure simply because it's discussed in executive session, but it is private if it meets the statutory conditions requiring it to be, the Ohio Ethics Commission stated in a new advisory opinion. "While the Ohio Open Meetings Act authorizes executive sessions by public bodies under limited circumstances to promote free and open discussion, simply discussing matters in executive session does not make that information confidential, unless certain conditions explained in the opinion are met," said commission Executive Director Paul M. Nick in a statement accompanying the opinion.

## *Federal*

House Democrats on Tuesday released the text of a mammoth coronavirus response plan totaling more than \$3 trillion, cementing their priorities for the next round of congressional negotiations to deliver more pandemic relief and assistance for a cratering economy. The lower chamber is expected to vote on the bill Friday.

The 1,815-page bill — dubbed the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" or "HEROES Act," H.R. 6800 (116) — would provide states and local governments nearly \$1 trillion that could be used to replace drastic revenue shortfalls. That includes \$540 billion for states, territories and tribes, in addition to \$375 billion for cities, counties and local governments.

The package would provide another round of \$1,200 direct payments to Americans, according to a summary of the bill, in addition to \$10 billion in small business grants. About \$175 billion would go to health care providers to reimburse them for coronavirus-related expenses and lost revenue, in addition to supporting testing efforts. The bill would provide more than \$100 billion in additional stimulus funding for education and also calls for up to \$10,000 of loan forgiveness for borrowers of federal and private student loans.

House Democrats would boost funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by \$10 billion and child nutrition programs by \$3 billion, among other food assistance. The bill provides \$75 billion in assistance for homeowners, \$100 billion for emergency aid to help low-income renters avoid evictions and \$750 million for people living in project-based rental assistance properties.

State departments of transportation and transit agencies would each receive about \$15 billion. The struggling Postal Service would receive \$25 billion and the Census Bureau would receive \$400 million to deal with pandemic-related delays to the 2020 count. Congress has already mounted a nearly \$3 trillion response to the coronavirus pandemic over the course of four separate bills, which will result in an expansion of the federal deficit to nearly \$4 trillion this year, the Congressional Budget Office projects.

Senate Republicans aren't in a hurry to launch bipartisan negotiations. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the party is still "assessing what we've done already," while raising concerns about the toll on the federal debt and focusing on designing liability protections for businesses as states look to reopen their economies in the coming weeks.

## *Housing + Homelessness*

Housing advocates urged state and federal policymakers to take more aggressive action to reduce the shortage of 256,875 rental units that are affordable and available to extremely low-income Ohioans. According to a release, The Gap report, released jointly by the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) and the National Low Income Housing Coalition, reveals a severe lack of housing for people working in low-wage jobs. In Ohio, there are only 44 rental units affordable and available for every 100 extremely low-income households

# Top News

## Local Government

On May 6, the Ohio Senate unanimously passed legislation to disburse about a quarter of the state's allocation of federal funding for local governments' pandemic expenses, with leaders saying they hoped to convince Congress or the U.S. Treasury to ease restrictions on how the money can be spent before distributing the remainder. Earlier that day, Senator Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) presented sponsor testimony in Senate Finance Committee detailing the provisions of the bill. Following questions from committee members, the bill was unanimously reported.

Ohio received about \$4.5 billion from the federal CARES Act, with about \$2 billion of that meant for local governments to pay costs related to the pandemic. Of that \$2 billion, nearly \$800 million went directly to six jurisdictions with more than 500,000 residents – the city of Columbus and Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit counties. The roughly \$1.2 billion remaining is to be distributed by the state to less populous jurisdictions, and SB 310 would pay out the first \$350 million of that funding. The funds may only be spent on COVID-19 related expenses that were not previously budgeted for by counties, municipalities, and townships. Ahead of the floor vote, the committee added an amendment requiring that local jurisdictions receiving the money pass a resolution affirming their knowledge of the spending restrictions.

The CARES Act revenue is distributed based on the proportion of Local Government Fund revenue allocated to each county's Undivided Local Government Fund in 2019. Once the CARES Act revenue is paid to the county, the money is further divided between the county and townships and municipalities in the county, except ineligible subdivisions. Once a subdivision receives its share of the CARES Act revenue it must deposit the money in a newly created, dedicated fund called the local coronavirus relief fund and must use the revenue solely for the purposes prescribed in the CARES Act.

The Auditor of State is required to audit this fund during the subdivision's next regular audit to ensure the revenue was used properly. Subdivisions are required to return to the county treasury any CARES Act funding that remains unencumbered as of October 15, 2020. Returned revenue is then redistributed to the county and townships and municipalities in the county, except that no amount may be paid to an ineligible subdivision, a subdivision that also returned its funds, or a subdivision that still has not adopted a resolution affirming its use of the revenue in conformity with the CARES Act. The bill contains an emergency clause, so the provisions will take effect immediately once the Governor signs it into law.

The House Finance Committee is scheduled to hear sponsor testimony on the bill on Wednesday, May 13th for its first hearing. Local governments should be planning for a substantial revenue decline as state government is, Auditor Keith Faber said. Faber's office held a teleconference with 75 of the 88 county auditors to discuss their questions and concerns. "The big message is, they need to start preparing today about how they're going to weather the upcoming fiscal storm," he said. "It's easier to make those adjustments if you plan early."

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther discussed the city's planned coronavirus recovery at a Columbus Metropolitan Club livestreamed forum, a day after he spoke briefly at Gov. Mike DeWine's press conference that focused on how the state will lift restrictions. Echoing his remarks, Ginther told NBC4 anchor Colleen Marshall that Columbus faces public health, human services and business crises and must address the public health crisis effectively in order to address the other two. Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced new guidelines for the Columbus Police Department (CPD) regarding house parties after previous warnings went unheeded, according to a release from Klein's office. "To stop more reckless and selfish conduct, I'm recommending that CPD issue citations to any individuals who defy the state's order prohibiting large gatherings," said Klein. "Our officers have been called to the University District, short-term rentals and other gatherings too often and warnings are no longer enough. To address this community-wide health emergency, we need community-wide compliance."

Gov. Mike DeWine and Attorney General Dave Yost announced that they have worked out an agreement with local governments representing 85 percent of the state's population on a plan to jointly approach settlement negotiations and litigation with drug manufacturers and distributors of opioids. DeWine and Yost said the list of local government entities joining the "OneOhio" agreement includes 73 of Ohio's 88 counties, with participation from rural, suburban and urban areas alike.

# Top News

At a meeting of the House State and Local Government Committee, Ohio townships pushed for passage of HB444 (Baldrige-Abrams), an omnibus of township law changes. The bill would open up industrial development bonds to townships; allow a licensed emergency medical responder (EMR) to be a first responder when an emergency medical technician (EMT) is unavailable in a township; and allow townships to file continuous emergency medical services (EMS) and police services levies. It would additionally make changes in the areas of cemetery territory transfers, township nuisance statutes, and housing authority boards.

## *Military Affairs*

The Ohio National Guard (ONG) issued more details on its work to increase medical care capacity through alternate locations. Joint Engineer Assessment Teams (JEATs), consisting of local officials and members of the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Emergency Management Agency and ONG, have already begun identifying potential locations that could be used in the event the current health care infrastructure is overwhelmed. These sites include unused state-owned facilities, convention centers, large commercial properties and academic sites.

Helping collect personal protective equipment (PPE) has also been added to the ONG and Ohio Military Reserve (OHMR) response to the novel coronavirus, along with providing assistance to foodbanks and increasing medical care capacity. Approximately 30 members of the ONG and OHMR, both entities within the Ohio Adjutant General's Department, are supporting the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) with PPE collection, processing and storage.

## *Utilities*

The Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) is urging the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to divert nearly \$60 million from energy efficiency (EE) programs covering 75 percent of the state's natural gas grid and earmark the funds for billpaying assistance for residents and businesses hard hit by the pandemic. PUCO could save Ohioans the same money by instead halting EE charges outright, the agency says.

However, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAEE) accused OCC of exploiting the coronavirus crisis to push its long-term goal of eliminating energy efficiency (EE) programs. Instead of saving Ohioans money, as the agency claims, OPAEE says cutting EE actually would "kill jobs" and hurt consumers.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) took additional measures to address the governor's declared state of emergency due to COVID-19. Voting remotely for the first time, commissioners responded to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and eased electronic filing during the pandemic. PUCO says the PowerForward investigation into consumer-driven grid modernization — the brainchild of former Chairman Asim Haque — is complete and that the state should now plan for cost-effective investments into electric competition and system innovation.

PUCO's unanimous order says 2018's PowerForward: A Roadmap to Ohio's Electricity Future and follow-up reports from the Distribution System Planning Workgroup (PWG) and Data and Modern Grid Workgroup (DWG) have shed valuable light on industry forecasting, new technologies and regulatory ratemaking.

The Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) Governing Board assessed the pandemic's impact on a large swath of Ohioans' ability to cover utilities and rent going forward as deferred bills become due and job prospects remain cloudy.

Acting for the first time on utilities' emergency response to COVID-19, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) vetoed American Electric Power's (AEP) plan to "socialize" commercial/industrial costs deferred by the state of emergency in charges to all ratepayers, including residential, also rejecting the Ohio Hospital Association's (OHA) request to devote AEP over-charges on all customer classes to struggling medical facilities. The commission ruled on AEP Ohio's seven-point plan addressing a series of emergency PUCO orders in response to the pandemic, including withdrawn disconnections and expedited reconnections, expanded electronic filing, and suspended meter readings and other "non-essential services."

# 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:** 5/13/2020 - House Public Utilities, (Seventh 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:** 5/6/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Second 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>
- HB564** PREVENT UTILITY DISRUPTION DURING COVID-19 (LELAND D) To prevent the disruption of utility service during the state of emergency declared regarding COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-564>
- HB565** EXTEND INCOME TAX FILING DEADLINE (ROGERS J, CROSSMAN J) To extend the filing and payment dates for state, municipal, and school district income taxes by the same period as any federal income tax extension granted in response to the COVID-19 disease outbreak and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/12/2020 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-565>
- HB566** INCREASE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION (ROGERS J, CROSSMAN J) To increase the percentage of revenue to the General Revenue Fund distributed to the Local Government Fund and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-566>
- HB572** STATE OFFICES - FEE, PENALTY WAIVERS (SOBECKI L) To allow the Ohio Public Works Commission, the Ohio Water Development Authority, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, county auditors, and county recorders, during the state of emergency due to COVID-19, to waive certain penalties and late fees, suspend certain reporting requirements, and waive electronic recording fees, and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-572>
- HB582** MAKE APPROPRIATIONS, REAPPROPRIATIONS (CALLENDER J) To make appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, and capital reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2022.  
**Current Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-582>
- HB591** SUSPEND EMPLOYER MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX (ROGERS J) To suspend some employer municipal income tax withholding requirements during the COVID-19 state of emergency and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-591>

# Legislative Updates

- HB594** DEFERRED RETIREMENT - EMERGENCY WORKERS (CROSSMAN J, BALDRIDGE B) Regarding re-employment of a retirant as a police officer, firefighter, or emergency medical worker during a state of emergency, to allow a deferred retirement option plan participant to work past the participant's employment end date during a state of emergency, and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Financial Institutions  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-594>
- 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>
- 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>
- SB305** TELEMEDICINE DURING EMERGENCY (CRAIG H) To require health plan issuers to cover telemedicine services during a state of emergency and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-305>

# Legislative Updates

- SB309** SWIMMING CLASSES (GAVARONE T) To allow certified swimming classes to take place at a private residential swimming pool without requiring the pool's operator to obtain a public swimming pool license and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/6/2020 - 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-309>
- SB310** FEDERAL COVID FUNDING (DOLAN M) To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/13/2020 - House Finance, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-310>

# 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:** 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce  
**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:** 5/12/2020 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Fifth 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:** 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities  
**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>

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