



# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

August 2020



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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## What's Happening

### ***Ohio House Removes Householder as Speaker and Replaces With Cupp; Major Fallout Ensues***

Following the shocking announcement that federal racketeering charges were brought against then Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and four others in a case described as “likely the largest bribery [and] money laundering scheme ever perpetrated against the people of the state of Ohio” by U.S. Attorney David DeVillers on July 21st, the Ohio House of Representatives swiftly voted to vacate the Office of Speaker and voted to fill the vacancy with veteran lawmaker Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) nine days later.

Householder, along with adviser Jeff Longstreth and lobbyists Matt Borges, Juan Cespedes, and Neil Clark, are alleged to have received \$60 million to “pass and maintain” House Bill 6 (Callender-Wilkin), a controversial subsidy of FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) that passed last year. The investigation is ongoing, though DeVillers said the announcement marked a shift from a covert to an overt investigation that will see many more subpoenas served and search warrants executed.

On July 30th, shortly before the House vote to vacate the Office of Speaker, Householder, Borges, Cespedes, and Clark were indicted on a federal racketeering charge, in addition to the 501(c)(4) organization Generation Now. U.S. Attorney David DeVillers said that the investigation remains ongoing, adding that “dark money is a breeding ground for corruption.”

By a unanimous 91-0 vote, the House on July 30th voted to vacate the Office of Speaker. Following the vote, the chamber went into recess and House Republicans caucused to discuss a replacement speaker, with members coalescing around Cupp and Rep. Jim Butler (R-Dayton) as the two candidates. Just before 4 p.m., the caucus emerged with Cupp the winner after a reportedly close vote in caucus.

### ***MORPC Supports Repeal of HB 6: Speaker Cupp Taking Action During Transition***

MORPC staff reached out to the Central Ohio General Assembly delegation to share its support of the bipartisan efforts being led by Sen. Kunze, Sen. O’Brien, Rep. Lanese, Rep. Carfagna and many others who plan to repeal and replace this tainted legislation.

Energy is key to the economic growth and success of Central Ohio, which is on track to be a region of three million people by 2050. To sustain this growth and plan for prosperity MORPC pursues 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. It is in this vein that we opposed HB 6 last year and support its repeal today. MORPC strongly supports an open and fair legislative process as we work together on the appropriate replacement.

MORPC believes that diversifying the energy generation portfolio to include energy efficiency and renewable energy are needed tools for our competitive advantage as a region and a state. MORPC stands ready to be effective partners during



# What's Happening

this unprecedented time.

Since his election, Speaker Cupp has removed himself from all of his committees, adding Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) to his former spot on House Finance Committee. Additionally, Reps. Householder, Butler, Anthony DeVitis (R-Uniontown), Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), and Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) were removed from the House Rules and Reference Committee and Speaker Cupp named himself Chair, in addition to appointing Representatives Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) (Vice Chair), Gary Scherer (R-Circleville), Phil Plummer (R-Dayton), and Ginter. Cupp also replaced Householder as Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and replaced Representatives Butler, Seitz, and Edwards with Representatives Antani, Scherer, and Stephens on the Legislative Services Commission.

Two top aides serving the House GOP Caucus have resigned.

Since the charges were brought against Speaker Householder, Governor Mike DeWine has called for a repeal and a replacement of HB 6. Even though he agrees with the outcome in saving nuclear energy jobs and preserving diverse energy supply, the process to enact HB 6 will be “forever tainted” and therefore those policy goals should be reached through a transparent legislative process.

In addition to HB 6 being revisited, the scandal that resulted in Householder’s removal as speaker has also led to the introduction of legislation designed to bring more transparency to campaign finance contributions. Two bipartisan House lawmakers, Rep. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville) and Rep. Jessica Miranda (D-Cincinnati) just introduced House Bill 737 that would adjust Ohio campaign finance reporting requirements in response to the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision Citizens United vs. FEC. The legislation is similar to a bill originally introduced by Lt. Gov. Jon Husted when he was in the Ohio Senate as Senate Bill 240 (128th G.A.). It would require corporations and labor organizations to report independent expenditures made in support or opposition to candidates in an election.

Besides revisiting HB 6 and debating campaign finance reform, Election Day is coming up in less than 100 days on Tuesday, November 3rd as Ohioans decide which candidates should represent them in the Ohio House and Senate.

## Top News

### *Agriculture*

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODAg) cleared the way for soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) and other local sponsors to purchase 5,000 acres in farm easements with funding from Clean Ohio to ensure the land remains permanently in agricultural production. The easements overlap 39 family farms in 25 counties with support from local land trusts, counties and SWCDs that manage the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP).

# Top News

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

The state of Ohio still has approximately \$2.13 billion in federal funding available to distribute to agencies responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Kim Murnieks said in an interview. Ohio received a total of \$4.5 billion from the federal Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, but about \$775 million of that went directly to Ohio's most populous local governments -- Franklin, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit counties, as well as the city of Columbus. The other \$3.7 billion went to the state government, and about \$1.2 billion of that is the local portion. The state recently disbursed \$350 million of that through HB481 (Fraizer), an emergency measure signed by Gov. Mike DeWine on June 19. The remaining \$2.49 billion is for the state to distribute as it sees fit to respond to the pandemic, Murnieks said.

The coronavirus pandemic and related disruptions to commerce turned a quarter billion dollar surplus into a \$1.1 billion shortfall in the space of four months, preliminary revenue figures from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) showed. Taxes generated \$22.6 billion in FY20 compared to the \$23.7 billion projected, a 4.6 percent drop. The state brought in 3.7 percent or \$866.4 million less in FY20 than it did in FY19.

## ***Census***

About 85.5 percent of respondents to the U.S. Census Bureau's experimental Household Pulse Survey said they had received or expected someone in the household to receive an Economic Impact Payment or stimulus check. The majority of adults in households that received a stimulus check from the federal government say they used it or planned to use most of it on household expenses. The Household Pulse Survey is designed to quickly and efficiently deploy data collected on how people's lives have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau said.

With about four in 10 households having yet to respond to the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau announced recently it plans to conduct multiple follow-up activities aimed at ensuring a complete count.

The timing of the coronavirus pandemic could not have been worse for 2020 Census operations. COVID-19 hit the U.S. at almost the same time the U.S. Census Bureau was beginning some of its most essential field operations, according to advocates who spoke recently on a webinar hosted by the Center for Community Solutions.

Households with children continue to be hit harder by the financial pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to results from U.S. Census Bureau's experimental Household Pulse Survey conducted in early June. The survey had a total of 73,472 respondents. Nationally, 24.7 million adults in mortgaged or rented households reported a late or deferred housing payment in May. This includes one in eight adults in mortgaged households and one in six adults in rental households.

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced all counting efforts for the 2020 Census will end on Wednesday, Sept. 30, about a month earlier than previously planned. The move comes as statutory relief which would have extended the window for field collection and self-response has apparently stalled in the U.S. Senate. Advocates say they are concerned the change will lead to a less accurate count.

## ***Coronavirus***

Although Gov. Mike DeWine used his appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" to explain the lack of a statewide mask mandate, by Wednesday he had announced one that went into effect at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 23. He cited "abundantly clear" evidence that masks help to halt virus transmission and the expected escalation of additional counties into the higher-risk "red" category of the state's health alert system.

# Top News

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced that laboratory testing has been completed on 13 products for use specifically against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The products are part of in the agency's "List N," which includes products expected to kill the coronavirus, USEPA said.

In a bid to further expand testing capacity, Ohio is joining Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan and Virginia in a multi-state purchasing agreement to expand the use of rapid, point-of-care tests for COVID-19. Gov. DeWine said those tests are "faster, simpler and less expensive" than the type of tests used routinely now.

President Donald Trump authorized continued federal support of National Guard operations due to the pandemic, though the Ohio Adjutant General's office. The continued specific types of support will reflect Gov. DeWine's assessment on what is needed. The federal government had been paying 100 percent of the costs for guard operations, though the presidential memorandum ends that for all states except Florida and Texas effective Friday, Aug. 21. Instead, the federal government will pay 75 percent and each state will pick up the remaining 25 percent.

## ***Elections 2020***

Former Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced his choice of U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris to serve as his vice president if he is elected president. Mr. Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, selected the lawmaker from California, who he described as "a fearless fighter for the little guy, and one of the country's finest public servants." Ms. Harris was one of several Democrats who vied for their party's presidential nomination.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose announced that his office will be sending \$40,000 to each of Ohio's 88 county boards of elections to help implement a new security directive he issued aimed at fending off malicious attacks and promoting accessibility for the November presidential election. The directive details how counties must utilize federal funds to strengthen their election security and accessibility for disabled voters. The \$40,000 disbursements are part of a nearly \$13.7 million block grant authorized by the federal government through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). LaRose said the funds build on a directive he issued last week that allocated \$11.2 million in CARES Act funding tied to helping election boards prepare for the presidential election during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ***Employment/Unemployment***

For the week ending July 25, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 27,937 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). This is the first time the state has reported fewer than 30,000 weekly jobless claims since Ohio's COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were put in place.

## ***Energy***

The state is redoubling its call for a competitive, "market-based" approach to post-HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) energy efficiency (EE) programs while leaving the door open for Ohio's largest electric utility to charge all ratepayers -- whether standard service offer (SSO) or competitive supply customers -- what is officially referred to as "shared savings" but what the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) calls "code name for utility profits."

After having another 24 hours to think about the "repugnant and disgusting" actions detailed in the charging documents against House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and others involved in the HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) racketeering case, Gov. Mike DeWine said the nuclear subsidy law will be "forever tainted" and therefore the Legislature should repeal and replace it. During his opening remarks at his coronavirus briefing, the governor emphasized that he still supports the underlying policies in the bill, but said those policy goals should be reached through a transparent legislative process.

# Top News

A member of House leadership, Assistant Majority Floor Leader Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) called for a return to “free-market principles” Thursday with the repeal of HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) and passage of a new Ohio energy policy not driven by government graft and expensive, legacy generation technologies but rather the energy innovation she says will lower Ohioans’ bills. She called the bill a “one-off” that departed from business as usual in the General Assembly. She joined Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville), co-sponsor of pending House repeal-and-replace legislation, and Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard), joint sponsor of a companion Senate bill to overturn nuclear and coal subsidies, in a Statehouse news conference aimed at righting the Republican record on state utility priorities. All three had opposed passage of HB6.

## **Federal**

Over the past few weeks leaders in congress and the Trump administration have been negotiating over the next round of federal relief related to the COVID-19 pandemic. They did not reach a deal in advance of their self-imposed deadline last week. And due to this the President signed executive orders signed four orders that will provide an additional \$300 per week in unemployment benefits, suspend payments on some student loans through the end of the year, protect renters from being evicted from their homes, and instruct employers to defer certain payroll taxes through the end of the year for Americans who earn less than \$100,000 annually.

However these EO’s [are now mired in constitutional questions and accusations of overreach](#), although the directives don’t go as far as the president originally promised. For example, the White House wants to use tens of billions of dollars in disaster relief funding to cover 75 percent of \$400 weekly unemployment payments, with states paying the rest — an untenable position for governors already facing huge revenue shortfalls. Another order asks federal agencies to “consider” a moratorium on evictions, instead of providing outright protections for renters.

Gov. Mike DeWine has ruled out the state kicking in an additional \$100 a week on top of a White House plan to provide COVID-19-impacted unemployed workers with an additional \$300 a week in federal assistance. Ohio instead plans to move forward with a version of the plan that provides \$300 a week in federal funds, in addition to state benefits, to the unemployed, Tierney said. Ohio’s \$100 share required under Trump’s order can be covered from the state’s existing unemployment payments.

As designated in the CARES Act, every unemployed person received an additional \$600 per week in addition to their standard UI benefit. The benefit ended at the end of July.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced a U.S. Senate resolution he is sponsoring along with U.S. Sens. Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) that would declare racism a public health crisis. He cited implicit biases in health insurance markets and the broader health care system, as well as biases in the criminal justice and legal systems, as contributing toward health outcomes among African Americans that are comparatively worse to other populations, and said passage of the resolution would recognize the systemic barriers that Black people continue to face.

## **General Assembly/Statehouse**

Noting the rarity of such charges, federal officials said House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) had been charged as part of a racketeering case in which he and four other defendants allegedly received \$60 million to “pass and maintain” HB6 (Callender-Wilkin), a controversial subsidy of FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) that passed last year. Also charged were Matt Borges, a lobbyist and former chairman of the Ohio Republican Party; Juan Cespedes, co-founder of the Oxley Group; Neil Clark, president of Grant Street Consultants; and Jeff Longstreth, an adviser to Householder.

The news led to widespread calls for Householder’s resignation from Gov. Mike DeWine and bipartisan legislative and state party leaders. Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose also announced that he had referred 19 “apparent or alleged” violations of state campaign finance law related to the federal charges to the Ohio Elections Commission (OEC).

# Top News

A day after Householder was arrested on federal charges, members of the House on both sides of the aisle, including those who helped to install him as speaker, said he should step aside to focus on his legal issues and that the pending case will make it hard for him to continue to lead the chamber.

The day before HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) passed in the House, an unnamed representative met with FBI agents to voice his concerns about the unusual process involved. Their conversation is detailed in the criminal complaint unsealed Tuesday following the arrest of Householder and four others as part of an ongoing federal racketeering investigation. The 82-page document authored by FBI Special Agent Blane Wetzel alleges how approximately \$60.89 million was provided by "Company A" to Generation Now, a 501(c)(4) organization purportedly controlled by Householder, with the funds used to support the election of his affiliated candidates in 2018, ensure passage of HB6 and prevent it from being overturned by ballot initiative.

As a result of the revelations surfacing following Householder's arrest over alleged racketeering actions around HB6, the Ohio Legislature is mounting a bipartisan/bicameral effort to repeal the energy subsidy law as Democrats and Republicans work on several proposals. Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Cortland) joined Rep. Michael O'Brien (D-Warren), co-chair of the House Energy and Natural Resources Energy Generation Subcommittee that launched HB6 and Rep. Gil Blair (D-Mineral Ridge), a fellow member of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee and subcommittee, in announcing efforts Wednesday to overturn the taxpayer-supported subsidy. Sens. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) and Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) have also joined the efforts.

House Republicans voted to remove House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) from his leadership position and elect Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) as his replacement. Several candidates had emerged in the race to succeed Householder, who's been charged along with four others in a bribery conspiracy related to his ascension to leadership and the passage of HB6, and was indicted by a federal grand jury Thursday as well, as were co-defendants Matt Borges, Juan Cespedes, Neil Clark and Jeff Longstreth. Other contenders included Speaker Pro Tem Jim Butler (R-Dayton) and Reps. Rick Carfagna (R-Columbus), Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Tim Ginter (R-Salem). House Republicans had met at a Columbus hotel Tuesday for a caucus meeting at which they voted informally to remove Householder. Ahead of that vote, Attorney General Dave Yost had sent House Republicans a letter outlining their options for removing Householder under state law and the Ohio Constitution. Carfagna, Ginter and Riedel withdrew and threw their support to Cupp, making it a two-person race. After voting unanimously to remove Householder, the House took a break for Republicans to try to agree on a leader, and they emerged hours later after a reportedly close caucus vote with Cupp the victor. The vote for Cupp on the floor was sufficient to elect him but was not unanimous. All House Democrats voted against his candidacy, as did Reps. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati), Bill Dean (R-Xenia) and Candice Keller (R-Middletown). Cupp said one of the first priorities of the House under his speakership will be to take a new look at HB6, though he did not set a timetable as to when that will happen. A former state senator and Ohio Supreme Court justice, Cupp said he never intended to seek a leadership position when he returned to the Legislature, and instead wanted to focus on public policy like school finance reform. After Householder was arrested, Cupp said several other legislators approached him and asked if he would be willing to step in. Democrats proposed but Republicans tabled a motion to expel Householder as a House member as well. Cupp noted double-jeopardy protections that prevent a person from being expelled twice for the same reason, which is relevant because Householder is unopposed on the ballot and could be re-elected despite the charges against him.

In a letter to the House Republican caucus Sunday, Rep. Stephen Hambley (R-Brunswick) called for all in leadership positions -- including committee chair and vice chair roles -- to commit to stepping down upon the election of a new speaker. Hambley's letter included an announcement of his intent to step down as chair of the House Civil Justice Committee.

Federal agents searched Ohio House offices Friday in connection with the investigation of former Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford).



# Top News

## **Governor**

Governor DeWine expressed relief upon learning that two PCR test results revealed he does not have the coronavirus, which followed a positive test result from an antigen test that was revealed prior to a planned gathering with President Trump on Thursday in Cleveland. Dr. Peter Mohler, chief scientific officer at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center, explained the difference between the two types of coronavirus tests DeWine received Thursday.

- » PCR test: The polymerase chain reaction test that DeWine took Thursday afternoon is the "gold standard," and is like a high-powered telescope that magnifies viral material so it can be seen. Mohler says that this testing method is the most accurate.
- » Antigen test: This test, which DeWine took before President Trump's visit, gives results quickly and can be distributed more easily, but is more likely to give false negatives and false positives. Mohler compared the test to a pair of binoculars that can give you a quick look but "you might miss some stars."
- » Mohler said no test is 100% accurate.

Following questions from reporters, DeWine conceded that it is fair for the public to wonder how the Governor received his test results so quickly when it still takes Ohioans several days or weeks to receive test results. Additionally, DeWine said antigen tests have not so far been part of Ohio's strategy, and they'll have to "think long and hard" about how to deploy it. DeWine announced earlier in the week Ohio would soon purchase 500,000 rapid tests as part of a six-state collaboration.

## **Public Safety**

Ohioans are now no longer required to have a license plate on the front of their cars, a change that sparked battles for years in the Legislature before it was passed and signed into law as a part of the transportation budget, HB62 (Oelslager).

## **State Government**

At the Controlling Board, members amended an appropriation of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to include funding for organizations including veterans groups, public libraries, rape and domestic violence crisis centers, and others. In addition, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) added an item to the agenda to appropriate \$50 million toward expansion of broadband Internet access in a dollar-to-dollar matching grant program between the state and districts for hotspots, in-home Internet, and Internet-enabled devices. Veterans agencies received about \$5 million; rape and domestic violence crisis centers received over \$8 million; the Ohio Attorney General's Office received \$1 million for consumer protection programs related to protecting citizens against fraud and scams related to COVID-19; and the Ohio deputy registrar received \$4 million for continued operations of driving exam locations..

## **Taxation**

The Buckeye Institute recently filed a lawsuit against the city of Columbus and the state, claiming the city's taxation of income from workers who do not live in Columbus, and were prohibited from working within the city's jurisdiction during Ohio's stay-at-home order, is unconstitutional. The lawsuit was filed by three employees of the conservative think tank in Franklin County Common Pleas Court, claiming that when employees are required to work outside of the city, the direct fiscal relation between the employee and city is severed. It challenges language adopted by the General Assembly earlier this year in HB197 (Powell-Merrin) that states that work performed by an employee at his or her home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic would be deemed to have been performed, for municipal tax purposes, at the employee's regular place of business.

# Top News

## **Technology**

The lieutenant governor also announced the launch of a new e-permitting system through InnovateOhio and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to make it easier to get broadband in the ground and to unserved or underserved communities. He said the online process will be more convenient for permit requesters and is expected to reallocate 24,000 hours of labor per year.

The pandemic has put a spotlight on the importance of technology access, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted said during a meeting of the CyberOhio Advisory Board, and there is a “huge digital divide behind the haves and the have-nots.” That includes abilities for telework, telehealth and distance learning, he said, but cybersecurity is also an important aspect of the increased shift toward more technology. That is the mission of the group, Husted added in his brief opening remarks. Board members noted that the shift to distance learning in K-12 schools has involved various types of technology and a general lack of security standards regarding them.

## **Transportation/Infrastructure**

A new study from DriveOhio, an initiative of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), outlines a statewide strategy to expand electric vehicle (EV) access throughout the state. The study, Electric Vehicle Charging Study, identifies various sites to build EV-friendly corridors throughout the state with a key recommendation to have EV charging stations installed at least every 50 miles at strategic locations along interstate, state and U.S. route corridors.

In coordination with DriveOhio’s study, the Ohio EPA opened the application process for \$3.5 million in grant funds to install publicly accessible “Level 2” chargers in counties that Ohio EPA has identified as eligible to receive funds from the grant program. Those counties include Ashtabula, Butler, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Hamilton, Lake, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Medina, Montgomery, Ottawa, Portage, Sandusky, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Warren.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio State Highway Patrol recently announced the designation of a portion of U.S. 33 as the second distracted driving safety corridor. The corridor is a 12-mile stretch of U.S. 33 in Fairfield County. ODOT said its crews have installed signs along the route to alert drivers when they enter the corridor and to remind motorists to “ditch the distractions.”

## **Unemployment Compensation**

For the week ending Aug. 1, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 25,952 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). This is the second straight week that the number of weekly jobless claims totaled fewer than 30,000. Ohioans filed 404,434 continued jobless claims last week, which was 371,868 fewer than the peak earlier this year, ODJFS said. The total number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last 20 weeks (1,583,739) is more than the combined total of those filed during the last four years.

## **Utilities**

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) held off a major push by distribution utilities to impose more 127-SB221-sanctioned billing charges on Ohioans for a lead role in the build-out and regulation of electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) supporting the growth of alternative-powered vehicles. Commissioners ruled 5-0 that EVCS operators do not supply electricity for “power purposes” and are not public utilities subject to state regulation, granting victory to a long list of consumer-interest stakeholders including Industrial Energy Users-Ohio (IEU-Ohio), Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE), Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) and Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC), among others.



# Top News

The Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) is urging the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to reimpose an across-the-board ban on door-to-door energy marketing as the state reaches "the most critical point in our battle against the coronavirus," according to Gov. Mike DeWine. OCC has joined the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), Ohio Poverty Law Center (OPLC), Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC), Pro Seniors Inc. and Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (SOLS) in calling for the reverse of PUCO's June 17 order to resume in-person cold-calling by competitive retail electric service (CRES) and competitive retail natural gas service (CRNGS) suppliers.

In a pair of reports detailing the company's environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives released earlier this year, Duke Energy said while it plans to add "large amounts" of renewable energy to its portfolio to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, continued use of natural gas and nuclear energy is necessary to allow for system reliability as more coal plants are retired.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) held a virtual stakeholder discussion on electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, with PUCO Chairman Sam Randazzo noting near the start that PUCO had found there are no laws on public utilities that interfere with public or private sector decisions on charging stations. Randazzo also said charging stations do not represent a "one-size-fits-all" situation, as they are often dependent on the specific local government. He also commented that it represents an opportunity for private sector innovation, and that they may see solutions for "range anxiety" -- fear of running out of power during a trip -- and the ability to change batteries rapidly.

## **Workforce**

The electric distribution (EDU) utility serving over half of all Ohio households should not be allowed to resume account disconnections suspended during COVID-19 without the same regulatory scrutiny faced by other regional utilities not linked to the Statehouse corruption scandal, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) and Ohio Poverty Law Center (OPLC) say in a new filing with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). OCC, COHHIO and OPLC say PUCO's failure to issue a direct order that utilities provide emergency and transition plans in response to its March 12 ruling has allowed FirstEnergy to slip through the cracks.

The Governor's Executive Workforce Board held its first meeting of the year, with Gov. Mike DeWine offering brief remarks on the pandemic response and answering member questions. Lt. Gov. Jon Husted also discussed how the coronavirus has affected workforce development efforts. DeWine opened by saying they are looking at the pandemic through the lenses of safety and restarting the economy, adding that the two are linked and both necessary. He also pointed to spikes in Texas and Florida as examples of what they do not want to see as the state reopens.

# 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:** 5/20/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House State and Local Government, (Third 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:** 5/27/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 23-9  
**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:** 5/20/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0  
**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:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
**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>
- HB631** REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCES (ROGERS J, HAMBLEY S) To authorize municipal corporations to establish regional economic development alliances for the sharing of services or resources among alliance members.  
**Current Status:** 5/19/2020 - Referred to Committee House Economic and Workforce Development  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-631>
- HB670** REAPPROPRIATE CAPITAL FUNDS (MERRIN D) To make capital reappropriations for certain agencies for the biennium ending June 30, 2022, and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 6/3/2020 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-670>
- HB704** COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREAS LAWS (CROSS J, FRAIZER M) To modify the law governing Community Redevelopment Areas and the terms under which property may be exempted in such areas.  
**Current Status:** 6/15/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-704>
- HB705** PUBLIC NUISANCES, BLIGHT FORECLOSURE ACTIONS (MILLER A) To amend the law regarding public nuisances and blight foreclosure actions and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 6/23/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-705>
- HB709** RECORDS DATABASE - LAW ENFORCEMENT (DENSON S, UPCHURCH T) To establish a database of records of use of force by law enforcement officers.  
**Current Status:** 6/25/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-709>
- HB710** PROHIBIT BIASED POLICING (UPCHURCH T, DENSON S) To prohibit police officers from engaging in biased policing and other status-based profiling and to require the attorney general's office to establish rules regarding such police practices.  
**Current Status:** 6/25/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-710>
- HB712** LAW ENFORCEMENT DATABASE (SHEEHY M, HICKS-HUDSON P) To require the Attorney General to create a database of information regarding law enforcement officers who have been terminated or resigned under certain circumstances and to require law enforcement agencies to access the database to determine employment eligibility of those officers.  
**Current Status:** 7/1/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-712>

# Legislative Updates

- HB714** PROHIBIT USE OF DRONES FOR TRESPASSING (CROSSMAN J, HOLMES A) To prohibit using an unmanned aerial vehicle to commit trespass, voyeurism, and stalking.  
**Current Status:** 7/1/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-714>
- HB716** LAW ENFORCEMENT STRANGULATION OFFENSE (LEPORE-HAGAN M, GALONSKI T) To create the offense of strangulation by a law enforcement officer.  
**Current Status:** 7/1/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-716>
- HB717** TRAINING SCHOOLS - PROSPECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT (CMILLER J, UPCHURCH T) To allow the chief of police of a municipal corporation to conduct training schools for prospective law enforcement officers.  
**Current Status:** 7/1/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-717>
- HB720** FIRE, POLICE CHIEFS' RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (INGRAM C, HICKS-HUDSON P) To allow a municipal corporation to require its fire chief or chief of police to reside within the municipal corporation during the chief's first five years.  
**Current Status:** 7/1/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-720>
- HB722** GARBAGE, DEBRIS - PUBLIC NUISANCE (MILLER A) To add the accumulation of garbage and debris to the conditions that may constitute a public nuisance.  
**Current Status:** 7/7/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-722>
- HB731** OVERTIME LAWS - SALARY THRESHOLDS (SMITH K, KELLY B) To raise the salary threshold above which certain employees are exempt from the overtime law.  
**Current Status:** 7/21/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-731>
- HB734** DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS (ROGERS J, HICKS-HUDSON P) To modify some delinquent property tax foreclosure proceedings and to prohibit certain tax-delinquent persons and associates from purchasing any tax-foreclosed property or delinquent tax certificates.  
**Current Status:** 7/27/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-734>
- HB741** ADD OFFENSES-PUBLIC RETIREMENT BENEFITS (MANNING G, GREENSPAN D) To add extortion and perjury and certain federal offenses to the offenses that may result in forfeiture or termination of public retirement system benefits.  
**Current Status:** 7/30/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-741>



# Legislative Updates

- 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:** 5/19/2020 - House Ways and Means, (First 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>
- 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:** 5/27/2020 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-305>
- 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:** 6/3/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-309>

# Legislative Updates

- SB321** MUNICIPAL TREASURERS-LIABILITY (WILSON S) To make changes regarding the circumstances in which county treasurers, township fiscal officers and deputy fiscal officers, and municipal treasurers may be held liable for a loss of public funds.  
**Current Status:** 6/10/2020 - 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-321>
- SB333** ODNR PAYMENTS-LAND ACQUISITIONS (SCHAFFER T) To require the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to make payments in lieu of taxes to local taxing units for significant land acquisitions by the department after 2018.  
**Current Status:** 7/21/2020 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-333>
- SB334** DESIGNATE JUNETEENTH LEGAL HOLIDAY (CRAIG H, BRENNER A) To establish the nineteenth of June as Juneteenth, a legal holiday for which government employees receive paid leave.  
**Current Status:** 6/30/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government and Agency Review  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-334>
- SB335** REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES-OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES (CRAIG H) To reduce property taxes on owner-occupied homes to the extent that property taxes increase by more than 3% from the previous year and to name this act the Property Tax Relief and Local Government Support Act.  
**Current Status:** 7/21/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-335>
- SB338** PROHIBIT BIASED POLICING (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit police officers from engaging in biased policing and other status-based profiling, and to require the attorney general's office to establish rules regarding such police practices.  
**Current Status:** 7/21/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-338>
- SB343** EVICTION COURT FILES-EXPUNGEMENT (CRAIG H, KUNZE S) Related to expungement of eviction case court files.  
**Current Status:** 7/23/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-343>
- SB352** MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING (ROEGNER K) To modify municipal income tax employer withholding rules for COVID-19-related work-from-home employees.  
**Current Status:** 8/11/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-352>

# 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:** 6/2/2020 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second 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:** 5/19/2020 - BILL AMENDED, House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second 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:** 5/27/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Second 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:** 6/2/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)  
**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:** 6/2/2020 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)  
**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:** 5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  
**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:** 6/3/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 33-0  
**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:** 5/27/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)  
**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:** 5/27/2020 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Energy and Natural Resources, (Sixth 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:** 5/28/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)  
**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:** 5/13/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)  
**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:** 3/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-522>
- HB738** REPEAL HB6 - REVIVE PRIOR LAWS (SKINDELL M, O'BRIEN M) To repeal Sections 4 and 5 of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to repeal the changes made by H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the laws governing electric service, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and the changes made to other related laws.  
**Current Status:** 7/29/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-738>
- HB746** REPEAL HB6 (LANESE L, GREENSPAN D) To repeal the changes made by H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the laws governing electric service, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and the changes made to other related laws.  
**Current Status:** 8/6/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-746>
- 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>
- SB346** REPEAL HB6 (O'BRIEN S, KUNZE S) To repeal the changes made by H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the laws governing electric service, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and the changes made to other related laws.  
**Current Status:** 7/28/2020 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-346>
- 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:** 6/2/2020 - BILL AMENDED, House Finance, (Sixth 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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