



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

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MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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What's Happening

State to Distribute Remaining CARES Dollars to Local Governments

Last month, MORPC submitted proponent testimony to the Senate Finance Committee to swiftly pass Senate Bill 357. The bill disburses the remaining \$650 million CARES relief dollars to local governments under 500,000 people. The bill was rolled into HB 614, which creates the Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council. HB 614 passed both chambers and was signed into law by Governor DeWine last week.

There are a few changes from House Bill 481, which disbursed the first batch of relief dollars to local governments. For example:

- » It does not use the LGF formula but is done by a per capita basis, that is based on 2019 population numbers
- » The bill clarifies that local governments do not need to pass an additional authorizing resolution to receive these funds if they have already passed one
- » It extends the deadline for redistribution of funds if local governments haven't used them from October 15th to November 20th

Secretary of State Previews Election

With the November 3rd general election just weeks away, MORPC hosted the Election 2020 and Voting Update which featured Secretary of State Frank LaRose and Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter. The program highlighted election preparations and what is at stake on this year's ballot.

Facing what is likely the most challenging election of our generation due to the global pandemic, Secretary LaRose outlined how his office is working with county boards of elections to help make the voting process run as smoothly and securely as possible so that voters can be heard.

LaRose said he is encouraging voters to request absentee ballots, as every registered voter in the state was mailed an absentee ballot application. The Secretary implored that voters seeking to vote by mail should not wait too long to mail their applications, as it takes time for ballots to be mailed out to voters and for completed ballots to be returned to the board of elections. Over two million absentee ballot applications have been received thus far by county boards of elections statewide. This includes over 24 thousand requests from military and overseas voters whose absentee ballots began to be mailed two weeks ago. All other absentee ballots will be mailed beginning October 6th.

"We are making it easier than ever for registered Ohio voters to make their voice heard," LaRose said. "Every voter choosing to cast their ballot from the comfort of their own home makes for an even smoother voting experience for those choosing to vote in-person on Election Day. It's a win-win for everyone."

In addition, LaRose said that his office is also working closely with counties to ensure that there will be enough trained poll workers on Election Day to ensure a smooth voting process. More than 44,000 Ohioans have signed up to serve as



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a poll worker on November 3rd. This includes over 19 thousand Democratic poll workers and 17 thousand Republicans. LaRose said that at minimum thirty thousand poll workers are needed but that his goal is to have 55,588 committed and trained poll workers.

LaRose was followed by a presentation by Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter, led by Steve Tugend, covering what is at stake in this election. Not only is the Presidency up for grabs, but also control of the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, the Ohio Senate, and the Ohio House of Representatives. In addition, the Kegler Brown team discussed the important contests on the ballot for two of the Ohio Supreme Court justice seats. Tugend touched upon several specific legislative races, including several in MORPC's region that are expected to be very hotly contested.

House Bill 6 Repeal Efforts Stalled

Legislative efforts to repeal the controversial House Bill 6 (Callender, Wilkin) energy bill remain in abeyance as the October 1st date to repeal the bill in time before the provisions of the bill that would allow for the collection of subsidies from ratepayers takes effect, absent inclusion of an emergency clause, has now passed.

The House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight, chaired by Rep. Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon), has been hearing testimony from invited witnesses through four hearings regarding the feasibility of repealing HB 6 over the past month, but awareness of the complexities of enacting a straight repeal may result in delaying further deliberations until after the November 3rd election.

Chairman Hoops says he plans to open testimony on repeal bills HB 746 (Lanese, Greenspan) and HB 738 (Skindell, O'Brien) to anyone once they return to business, as all testimony to date has come from invited witnesses. The most recent testimony came from Jason Rafeld, executive director of the Utility Scale Solar Energy Coalition (USSEC); Erin Bowser, director of project management for EDP Renewables North America, a wind farm developer and operator; and Jereme Kent, CEO of One Energy, installer of on-site wind turbines for commercial and industrial facilities on the impact a repeal would have on the renewable energy marketplace.

Addressing concerns about missing the October 1st date to repeal, Chairman Hoops said he regards the ongoing hearings as a "fact-finding" opportunity for members, adding that an emergency clause could be added to a repeal bill to prevent the collection of subsidies from ratepayers.

"Even though we may not be meeting these next few weeks, the next two or three weeks, we will still be working on this bill," Hoops said.

Part of the calculus is trying to determine whether Energy Harbor, formerly FirstEnergy Solutions, who operate Ohio's two nuclear power plants is able to continue their operations without the subsidy provisions of HB 6. Hoops said his preference would be to see an audit before Energy Harbor receives any subsidies, raising the possibility lawmakers could delay when the subsidy charges commence to achieve that.

Attorney General Dave Yost is urging state lawmakers to have Energy Harbor and FirstEnergy Corp representatives provide testimony to disclose whether the two nuclear power plants set to receive a \$1.3 billion ratepayer bailout actually need the money, as so far they have refused to disclose any financial data on their profitability.

On September 22nd, Yost filed a lawsuit in Franklin County seeking to prevent Energy Harbor from receiving \$1.3 billion in expected revenue in January under HB 6.

Governor Mike DeWine has said that Yost is right to call for companies to show they need the money provided under the bill and reiterated that HB 6 needs to be repealed because the process to pass the law and block the referendum effort was "so flawed."

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FY20-21 Budget

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) released August 2020 preliminary revenue data showing that total General Revenue Fund tax receipts finished the month \$69.0 million or 3.2 percent above the budgeted estimate. Specifically, the auto sales tax collections were \$14 million or 9.9 percent above estimate for August, but down \$26 million from July. The non-auto sales tax collections were also above estimates for August, coming in \$23 million or 2.9 percent above estimate for the month, but were down \$147 million from July's record revenues.

Ohio may not see a full a recovery from the economic toll of the coronavirus pandemic until 2022, according Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Deputy Director for Budget and Planning Dan Baker.

Census

The coronavirus pandemic has drastically changed the operations of the census, which was originally scheduled to be completed by July 31. For a time, it seemed counting operations would be extended until the end of October, but after statutory relief which would have allowed for this extension stalled in the U.S. Senate, the deadline was set for a month earlier Sept. 30. However, that date may be changing again as a federal district court for the Northern District of California has issued a temporary restraining order in the case of National Urban League v. Ross, which prevents the Census Bureau from winding down or altering any field operations until the court conducts a hearing on the plaintiffs' request for a court order that would require counting through the end of October. That hearing is expected next week.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducted special operations to count people experiencing homelessness across the country. They trained census takers to count people at shelters, soup kitchens and mobile food van stops in an operation called Service-Based Enumeration (SBE). Census takers will also count people who live outdoors, in transit stations, and at other locations where people are known to sleep in an operation called Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations (TNSOL).

Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced a target date of Oct. 5, 2020, to conclude 2020 Census self-response and field data collection operations, according to a tweet from the U.S. Census Bureau. The counting deadline for the census has been subject to major shifts in recent weeks, with litigation ongoing over the matter.

A federal judge has issued an order to clarify that, for now, the U.S. Census Bureau must continue counting for the 2020 census through Oct. 31.

Coronavirus

The state's coronavirus website now includes a dashboard displaying case data by race and ethnicity, Gov. Mike DeWine announced during his COVID-19 briefing. The information on coronavirus.ohio.gov can be broken down by age/county and compared to the overall Ohio population, the governor said. "Improving data collection and reporting, as well as creating a publicly-available dashboard, were recommendations from the COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force," DeWine said. "This dashboard will help better track health inequities and disparities, and we believe this data will also help put critical decisions into context for policymakers."

"Gov. DeWine committed offenses of terrorism, inducing panic, bribery and engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity among other misdeeds as part of his coronavirus response," Rep. John Becker (R-Cincinnati) said in an affidavit seeking to have charges filed against him. DeWine's office brushed off Becker's accusations. "If this were serious, I would have a comment. Because it is patently absurd, I do not," said DeWine spokesman Dan Tierney.

Though not exact, results of antibody testing have found that hundreds of thousands of Ohioans have already contracted COVID-19 and millions more remain susceptible, Ohio State University (OSU) Associate Professor Abby Norris Turner told reporters during Gov. DeWine's update.

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Economy

Recent surveys of downtown Columbus business and property owners found that nearly 40 percent of employees are not expected to return to fully working in offices until Jan. 1, 2021, or the rollout of a vaccine. Seventy percent of first-floor tenants also reported losses due to unrest and protests in the area.

A survey published by Scioto Analysis found only eight of 36 Ohio economists believe legislation that shields businesses and organizations from liability relating to injury and death resulting from COVID-19 will be effective in speeding up the state's economic recovery. This came as Gov. Mike DeWine signed HB606 (Grendell), which grants civil immunity to individuals and other entities from lawsuits arising from exposure, transmission, or contraction of COVID-19 as long as they were not showing reckless, intentional or willful misconduct.

The week ending Sept. 26 saw the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) report 17,944 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), an increase of around 500 claims compared to the previous week's number. The week ending Sept. 19 had 17,435 initial claims, while the week ending Sept. 12 had 16,294 and reflected several weeks of declining numbers.

Elections 2020

Despite his best efforts to convince them otherwise, all four Republicans on the Controlling Board Monday voted down a request from Secretary of State Frank LaRose that would allow him to use funds from his own office to pay for postage on absentee ballots. This came after Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) switched out a Senate Republican who supported the LaRose proposal with one who did not. LaRose appeared himself at the meeting, which was held through video conference, and stressed that he has the authority to pay for postage, he just needed the authorization to transfer the funds to do so. He also argued that doing so will get voters to send back their ballots to boards more promptly, which is more important this year because of the pandemic.

Franklin County Judge Richard Frye ruled that Secretary of State Frank LaRose's directive limiting the number of secure dropboxes for absentee ballots to one per county is "arbitrary and unreasonable" and that Ohio law does not forbid multiple dropboxes. Frye's ruling came in a lawsuit filed by the Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) against LaRose challenging his Directive 2020-16, which limited the dropboxes to one per county. A separate lawsuit has been filed by voting groups on the issue in federal court. Frye Wednesday granted ODP's motion to prevent LaRose from enforcing his directive limiting counties to only one drop box for absentee ballots. Frye had ordered LaRose earlier in the day to explain why his office indicated he would not follow Frye's ruling issued Tuesday finding that Ohio law allows for multiple dropboxes of absentee ballots. In response, LaRose's office noted that Frye had not officially ordered it to do so, and asked the judge to rule so that the secretary could appeal it.

Meanwhile, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor issued a statement condemning the Ohio Republican Party after it sent an email to supporters in response to Frye's decision questioning the judge's motivation and saying he "colluded" with ODP. "Every one of Ohio's 722 judges, 800 magistrates, and numerous active-retired judges should be greatly concerned and voice their dismay at the irresponsible Republican Party allegation that politics controlled the judge's decision. This is a blatant and unfounded attack on the independence of the Ohio judiciary," O'Connor said in a statement. Secretary of State Frank LaRose joined representatives of veterans' groups at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus to promote his statewide poll worker recruitment campaign known as "Second Call to Duty." LaRose, a former Green Beret, said the program was one of the initiatives a working group came up with when he took office knowing the need to recruit more poll workers even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. His office is looking to recruit more than 55,000 poll workers for the November election, and LaRose said they have about 40,000 Ohioans committed already.

A video conference hosted by the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Foundation featured a conversation with Secretary of State Frank LaRose, who touted Ohio's voting accessibility, while Black political leaders, including Al Sharpton, emphasized the importance of the 2020 presidential election and encouraged voter engagement. Event moderator and former Ohio

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Rep. Alicia Reece said Black voter turnout in 2012 was the highest in history, at 66 percent, but that number decreased to 59 percent in 2016 — the first time it had fallen in 20 years. She said that seven percentage point decline amounted to 765,000 votes, a fact she said further highlighted the importance of voter engagement.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose announced partnerships with Ohio companies to assist in the upcoming election. LaRose attended an event in Columbus to announce a collaboration with Anheuser-Busch and the Columbus Distributing Company to provide close to 3,000 gallons of hand sanitizer to Ohio polling locations and voters during the Nov. 3 election. The secretary of state said at the event that partnerships like the one he was announcing will mean elections officials will have the supplies they need for the election, and said voters who are comfortable going to the grocery store should be comfortable going to the polls.

Employment/Unemployment

JobsOhio Chief Investment Officer J.P. Nauseef joined Gov. Mike DeWine's briefing to describe the new Ohio To Work initiative, which will match out-of-work people with a career coach to help identify their skills and direct them toward new careers and the training they'll need to get a job. The effort will launch in Cuyahoga County, with more than 30 employers participating at the outset, and DeWine said he hopes to expand the program statewide. The initiative will also coordinate virtual career fairs. More information is available at ohiotowork.com.

For the week ending Sept. 12, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 16,294 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Last week, ODJFS reported 17,893 new jobless claims. "Ohioans filed 320,532 continued jobless claims last week, which was 455,770 fewer than — or less than half (about 41 percent) — of the peak earlier this year," the department said.

The state unemployment rate dropped to 8.9 percent in August, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) said Friday, down from a revised 9.0 percent in July. The 45,500 non-agricultural wage and salary jobs added in the month, however, again trailed June numbers after previously slow gains in July. ODJFS said the number of workers unemployed in Ohio in August was 510,000, unchanged from July. The number of unemployed has increased by 269,000 in the past 12 months from 241,000. The August unemployment rate for Ohio increased from 4.2 percent in August 2019.

Energy

Less than three weeks after joining the Coalition to Restore Public Trust (CRPT), Ohio's top petroleum lobby is leaving the HB6-repeal group to launch a separate campaign to overturn the energy subsidy bill and replace it with a "comprehensive" energy portfolio. The Ohio Oil & Gas Association (OOGA) was a prominent piece of CRPT's "broad-based" launch to cancel HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) in August. Members include the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF), combined-cycle investor Rockland Capital and other members of the natural gas industry, in addition to wind and renewable advocates. CRPT had identified OOGA as a coalition "funder," but the association corrected that claim.

Members of energy efficiency advocacy groups came together to call for the immediate repeal of HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) — the day before the House Energy Policy and Oversight Select Committee was scheduled to meet to hear testimony on three bills addressing what to do about the energy bailout law at the center of the \$60 million bribery scheme involving former Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford). Chris Neme, principal at Energy Futures Group, Trish Demeter, chief of staff for the Ohio Environmental Council, and Tom Bullock, executive director of Citizens Utility Board of Ohio, focused on debunking the cost savings arguments that helped pass HB6 and that are cited by supporters of the legislation.

Bipartisan sponsors of companion House bills urging the immediate repeal of HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) told the opening meeting of Speaker Bob Cupp's (R-Lima) House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight that concerns emerging before and after the legislation's passage show FirstEnergy, former FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) and its successor, Energy Harbor, did not need billions of dollars in collective subsidies to survive the sale of nuclear- and coal-fired plants and continue operation in a competitive market. Chaired by Rep. Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon), a veteran of energy deregulation bill

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123-SB3, the committee heard “clean repeal” legislation HB746 (Lanese-Greenspan) and HB738 (Skindell-O’Brien) as well as HB740 (Skindell-Denson), an effort to limit utilities’ “significantly excessive earnings.” Republican and Democratic joint sponsors attacked the idea that certain HB6 provisions could be retained as “good policy” while rejecting the legislative “process” that enacted it.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) has initiated a review of recent “political and charitable” spending by FirstEnergy utilities, ordering the companies to show that they didn’t use ratepayer charges to fund their activities on energy subsidy bill HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) or the subsequent referendum effort. PUCO Chairman Sam Randazzo testified to the House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight on Wednesday, facing questions about the investigation and other matters related to HB6.

New polling data released by the Coalition to Restore Public Trust shows overwhelming support for the repeal of HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) — the nuclear bailout bill at the center of Ohio’s largest bribery scandal — among Ohioans who are likely to vote. The poll also found dismal favorability numbers for former House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford). An overwhelming majority, about 80 percent, of respondents said they wanted their state lawmakers to repeal HB6. Ohioans were about split on whether they wanted the bill repealed and replaced (35.7 percent) or repealed without replacement (43.9 percent), but only 20.4 percent said they wanted lawmakers to leave the law in place as is.

The Office of Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) has joined other advocates for average and low-income Ohioans devastated by the COVID-19 economy in petitioning the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to order the state’s largest utility to conform its income-based policies to the Ohio Development Services Agency’s (DSA).

The state utility watchdog says the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) has dropped the ball in ordering FirstEnergy to affirm on its own authority that the company and its affiliates did not divert ratepayer dollars to passage and preservation of nuclear and coal subsidies in HB6 (Callender-Wilkin). The Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) has appealed PUCO’s Sept. 15 ruling in favor of a full audit and investigation of “‘Company A’ (generally understood to be FirstEnergy Corp.) and ‘Company A-1’ (generally understood to be FirstEnergy Solutions),” now successor owner of Ohio’s two nuclear plants, Energy Harbor.

The courts should block nuclear operator Energy Harbor from seeing any financial benefit from HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) because of the alleged corruption involved in its passage, Attorney General Dave Yost argues in a civil lawsuit filed Wednesday that also targets former House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford), FirstEnergy and others.

The House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight heard from four more invited witnesses, receiving differing views on what should be done about HB6 (Callender-Wilkin). The four were divided into pairs, with representatives of the Office of the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) and Industrial Energy Users (IEU)-Ohio listed as testifying on HB746 (Lanese-Greenspan) and leaders of the Ohio Manufacturers’ Association (OMA) and Ohio Energy Group speaking to HB738 (Skindell-O’Brien). The testimony was largely focused on addressing replacement of HB6 generally rather than specific aspects of either bill, however.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) lacks jurisdiction to initiate the kind of probe the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) wants it to launch in response to the HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) saga and moreover fails to show evidence to justify such an investigation, FirstEnergy utilities argued in a commission filing. In a second filing, the utility says the powers of the PUCO and OCC are limited to ratemaking and utility service and do not encompass “political contributions” or company expenditures generally, including its own. It argues that the “expansive investigation OCC hungers for” falsely suggests the agencies have statutory authority over the “unregulated holding company” FirstEnergy Corp.

The direction lawmakers take in revisiting the controversial HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) will send important market signals that influence how much renewable energy generation the state will see, wind and solar representatives told the House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight. Hearings in the committee might be on hiatus until after the election,

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Chairman Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon) said after the hearing. The panel has plans to open testimony to all comers, after a string of hearings focused on testimony from invited witnesses, as was the case Wednesday, when members heard from Jason Rafeld, executive director of the Utility Scale Solar Energy Coalition (USSEC); Erin Bowser, director of project management for EDP Renewables North America, a wind farm developer and operator; and Jereme Kent, CEO of One Energy, installer of on-site wind turbines for commercial and industrial facilities.

FirstEnergy Services Company says it is impossible that its affiliated utilities, including Ohio Edison Company, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and Toledo Edison Company, aka FirstEnergy, could have diverted “political or charitable” payments supporting passage of HB6 to customer base rates or associated billing riders and charges, answering the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio’s (PUCO) Sept. 15 show-cause order with an abbreviated “no.”

Utility refunds of unlawful customer charges are once again before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) in a request by the Citizens’ Utility Board (CUB) of Ohio for immediate action on FirstEnergy’s “legacy generation resource rider” aka coal-fired power plant subsidy, scheduled to net the Ohio Valley Electric Corp. (OVEC) more than \$132 million through 2030, according to CUB. The group filed two briefs seeking a “minor modification” to the OVEC rider — that PUCO subject the estimated \$12 million FirstEnergy is charging residential customers annually for a coal plant in Madison, IN and a second plant in Ohio to a full refund should the Legislature overturn enabling language in energy subsidy bill HB6.

Environment

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) was selected to receive a \$36,200 P2 Grant to promote pollution prevention in businesses, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced. P2 means reducing or eliminating pollutants from entering any waste stream or otherwise being released into the environment prior to recycling, treatment or disposal, according to a news release from USEPA.

Federal

President Trump signed a stopgap spending bill to prevent a government shutdown. The continuing resolution extends about \$1.4 trillion in government funding until Dec. 11th, which gives congressional leaders more than two months to negotiate a massive spending deal by mid-December. The bill also extends the surface transportation programs for one year at fiscal 2020 spending levels. Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Mnuchin were attempting to make a last-ditch effort at a compromise coronavirus stimulus bill. The House passed a \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief package. This is pared back version of the \$3.4 trillion dollar HEROES bill which passed the House in the spring.

General Assembly/Statehouse

Just a month after taking the gavel, House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) said in a one-on-one interview the biggest surprise to him is how much legislation had stalled as relations between the House and Senate had deteriorated. Cupp was elevated to speaker after former House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) was hit with multiple federal charges alleging a bribery scheme surrounding the passage of energy legislation HB6 (Callender-Wilkin), charges that Householder denies. After the House Republican Caucus agreed to remove Householder from the dais, it held a closed door vote to choose a new speaker in which Cupp emerged as the winner over Rep. Jim Butler (R-Dayton), the House Speaker Pro Tempore, in what was reportedly a close vote. A long-time member of the Senate and former Ohio Supreme Court justice, Cupp said that the leadership role is nothing new to him, having served in the number two position in the Senate. “It has been interesting, and of course, I always like learning new things,” Cupp said of taking the gavel. “One of the pleasures of serving in the Legislature is you’re always learning new things, and it’s been quite enjoyable in that regard.”

Aside from action on the above bills, the House approved Senate amendments to HB66 (Merrin), theft restitution legislation amended to allow removal of former House Speaker Larry House (R-Glenford) from the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board; Senate amendments on HB242 (Lang-Jones), which would preempt local plastic bag bans; Senate amendments to HB8 (Manchester-Galonski), regarding foster caregiver training; Senate

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amendments to HB211 (Arndt), regarding abandoned watercraft titles; Senate amendments to HB339 (Merrin), regarding insurance law; and conference reports on HB160 (Ingram), regarding liquor laws, and SB163 (Kunze), a license plate omnibus. In a web convention hosted by the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, members discussed the importance of voting to achieve positive outcomes in racial justice and urged political participation at the local level in order to gain influence and contribute to policy decision-making. Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) told attendees to form a “voting plan” in order to ensure their voices are heard in the upcoming November election. Williams said her own plan involves absentee early voting and dropping her ballot off at her county’s ballot drop box, as well as subsequently calling her county board of elections to ensure her ballot was received.

House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) announced that he has named Christine Morrison as chief of staff for the House of Representatives, removing the “interim” tag he had given her shortly after he was elevated to the dais. Other hires include Chris Albanese as policy director; Sheila Willamowski Boehner as deputy chief of staff and executive counsel; Paul Disantis as chief legal counsel; and Heather Blessing as deputy chief legal counsel.

Governor

Gov. Mike DeWine signed HB606 (Grendell) into law during a virtual event. The legislation grants civil immunity to individuals, schools, health care providers, businesses, and other entities from lawsuits arising from exposure, transmission, or contraction of COVID-19 as long as they were not showing reckless, intentional, or willful misconduct.

The Ohio Municipal League sent a letter to Gov. Mike DeWine asking him to veto HB242 (Lang-Jones), which prohibits local governments from taxing auxiliary containers such as plastic bags and other single use plastic products. However, DeWine said Tuesday he will sign the bill because it is temporary and the pandemic has increased the need for single-use containers for carryout meals and grocery shopping.

Local Government

The Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) announced that it would be providing \$9.1 million in grant funding to help local governments with community improvement projects on water and sewer infrastructure, street reconstruction and flood and drainage remediation. The 19 grants are part of the Residential Public Infrastructure and the Critical Infrastructure programs, and will benefit over 33,000 Ohioans. The first program will provide three grants while the second will deliver funds to 15 local governments, including two grants for Preble County.

Nonprofit Organizations

The Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) recently released a revised version of its public policy platform, updating the one issued in February to account for effects of the pandemic and economic downturn. The year has been “a period of unprecedented challenges for Ohio and the nation,” GOPC said in a release, but that presents opportunities for reform and growth. The three “priority areas” of the initial version — investing in brownfields, innovating infrastructure and transportation and empowering Ohio’s legacy cities — are retained, but the release noted the pandemic has highlighted the importance of the infrastructure and transportation improvements.

Poverty

Data released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau show Cleveland is the poorest large city in the country, overtaking Detroit, MI. Cleveland also ranks number one for the share of children living in poverty. The data, part of the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey results, reflect poverty rates from 2019, before the pandemic hit. It shows that last year, 30.8 percent of Cleveland’s population (more than 114,000 people) lived in poverty, meaning a family of three makes no more than \$21,330 per year.

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Public Safety

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) announced recently that it would be partnering with the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Aviation Section in a pilot project to enforce work zone violations from the air. According to ODOT, there were more than 6,500 work zone crashes in 2019, and in 2020 there have been about 3,140 as of Sept. 21. The department further explains that it's difficult to enforce traffic laws from the ground inside work zones.

Transportation/Infrastructure

In recent written testimony submitted to the Road to Our Future Joint Legislative Study Committee, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) outlined the current ways it leverages its assets to bring more revenue for road projects, but said there are obstacles to going beyond those. The committee was created in HB62 (Oelslager), the transportation budget, and is scheduled to submit a report on various study topics regarding ODT by Dec. 1, but has not held hearings because of the pandemic. Instead, ODOT submitted written testimony recently on the exploration of innovative financing techniques and asset leverage and conditions.

The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission was briefed on two new technological projects that commission staff are exploring, including the possible installation of solar technologies on turnpike-owned property. According to a report presented by Brian Kelley, the commission's chief technology officer, the agency will be sending out a request for information to look at the possible installation of solar technologies. Commission staff has identified 255 acres along the turnpike where solar fields could potentially be established, including at existing turnpike facilities such as toll plazas, maintenance buildings and service plazas.

The East Liberty-based Transportation Research Center (TRC), in partnership with Ohio State University, has been granted eligibility by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to compete for research projects aimed at reducing the number and severity of large truck and motorcoach crashes on U.S. roadways.

Unemployment Compensation

The national unemployment rate dropped once again and is down to 8.4 percent for August, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), though the number of new nonfarm jobs declined again. June saw 4.8 million jobs added, followed by 1.8 million in July and now 1.4 million. BLS also noted that increased government employment in August "largely reflected" temporary hiring for the 2020 Census.

Utilities

Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) Bruce Weston says the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) must launch an independent audit of FirstEnergy to ensure the distribution utility and former FirstEnergy Solutions (FES) did not illegally funnel state-approved customer charges to former House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and cohorts in an effort to win votes for HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) which provides subsidies to FES nuclear facilities and Ohio Valley Electric Corp. (OVEC) coal-fired plants owned by FES successor Energy Harbor. Weston points to the references to "Company A" and Company A-1" in the 82-page federal indictment of Householder and four others for bribery and racketeering-influenced and corrupt organization (RICO) violations.

Workforce

Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced that the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) had approved a \$5 million grant to help Ohio entities with improving defense manufacturing processes and training workers for next-generation jobs. The DoD previously designated Ohio as a "Defense Manufacturing Community (DMC)" as part of the process toward securing the grant. The DMC designation and grant are part of "a program designed to support long-term community investments that strengthen national security innovation and expand the capabilities of defense manufacturing," according to a DeWine administration.

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Lt. Gov. Jon Husted told the Governor's Executive Workforce Board that the state is in a "precarious position" with its economy as more things open up and federal stimulus starts to wane. Husted, speaking during the virtual meeting, said there will need to be some "organic success" in the marketplace to help the state continue its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. He said that he believes the federal CARES Act helped to boost consumer spending, but now that stimulus is starting to run out.

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: 7/21/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities
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: 6/9/2020 - BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-218>
- 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: 6/16/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
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>
- HB444** CHANGES TO TOWNSHIP LAW (BALDRIDGE B, ABRAMS C) To make various changes to township law.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-444>

Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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>
- 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>

Legislative Updates

- HB614** UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION, COVID RELIEF (FRAIZER M, RICHARDSON T) To create the Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council, to revise the claims process and duties related to that process, to require the Auditor of State to examine and make recommendations on the efficiency of the process, to require the Director of Job and Family Services to create a strategic staffing plan for employees who handle inquiries and claims for unemployment benefits, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs, to provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions, to extend the renewal deadline for concealed handgun licenses for ninety days or until June 30, 2021, whichever is later, to allow licensees to apply for or renew licenses with any county sheriff until that date, to authorize the conveyance of certain state-owned land, to provide funding for community projects, to make appropriations, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 10/1/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 10/1/20
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-614>
- 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: 6/11/2020 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House Economic and Workforce Development
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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House Civil Justice
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-705>
- 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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-710>
- 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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-716>

Legislative Updates

- HB717** TRAINING SCHOOLS - PROSPECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT (MILLER J, UPCHURCH T) To allow the chief of police of a municipal corporation to conduct training schools for prospective law enforcement officers.
Current Status: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health
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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor
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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-734>
- HB741** DADD 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: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-741>
- 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>

Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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>
- 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: 9/1/2020 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (Second 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>

Legislative Updates

- 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: 9/1/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
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: 9/22/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-352>
- SB357** COVID RELIEF FUNDS-LOCALITIES (DOLAN M) To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 9/22/2020 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-357>
- SB365** REMOTE MEETINGS (FEDOR T) To extend the authorization for members of a public body to hold and attend meetings or hearings via electronic technology, during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D on March 9, 2020, until the declared emergency is terminated.
Current Status: 9/22/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government and Agency Review
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-365>

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: 6/9/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Third 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: 6/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Economic and Workforce Development
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: 6/9/2020 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third 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: 9/22/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Third 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: 7/21/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-104>
- HB242** BAN PLASTIC BAG FEES (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: 9/23/2020 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 58-35
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-242>
- 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: 6/30/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 29-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-264>

Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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: 9/30/2020 - House Energy Policy and Oversight Select Committee, (Fourth Hearing)
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: 9/30/2020 - House Energy Policy and Oversight Select Committee, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-746>
- HB772** ELECTRIC UTILITY SERVICE LAW/REPEAL PART OF HB 6 (ROMANCHUK M) To make changes regarding electric utility service law, to repeal certain provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 9/30/2020 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-772>
- 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>
- SB222** PROHIBIT TAX-PLASTIC BAGS (RULLI M) To authorize the use of an auxiliary container for any purpose, to prohibit the imposition of a tax or fee on those containers, and to apply existing anti-littering law to those containers.
Current Status: 12/3/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-222>

Legislative Updates

- 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: 9/23/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)
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: 7/21/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First 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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