



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission *Monthly Legislative Update*

December 2020



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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What's Happening

General Assembly Lame Duck Session Disrupted by COVID-19

While the Ohio General Assembly's "lame duck" session is extremely busy with over 100 bill hearings scheduled for just this week, COVID-19 is playing a factor in disrupting the legislative process.

Three members of the Ohio House of Representatives tested positive for COVID-19, prompting concerns from House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) that holding session could lead to other House members being infected with the virus.

House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) canceled session for Wednesday, December 9th, thus reducing the already limited number of days lawmakers have to vote out remaining legislation for the current General Assembly. In addition, Speaker Cupp also cancelled the "if needed" session for Thursday, December 10th. At this time, only the Thursday, December 16th House session date remains on the calendar with a possible "if needed" session tentatively scheduled for next Wednesday.

With much unfinished business, including school funding, broadband expansion, the capital appropriations bill, and repealing and replacing the House Bill 6 energy reform bill, the dwindling number of session days and calendar days left in the 133rd General Assembly creates some uncertainty regarding whether there will be enough time to achieve such policy goals before the 134th General Assembly commences in January.

DeWine Announces First COVID-19 Vaccine Doses to Be Administered in December

This week Governor Mike DeWine announced that some Ohioans will be receiving the COVID-19 vaccine this month and future doses will be rolled out in phases. DeWine announced that "Phase 1A" will help vaccinate health care workers and some of the state's most vulnerable people and caregivers, with the first batch of the COVID-19 vaccine, developed by Pfizer, arriving around Dec. 15.

DeWine also announced that one week later Ohio will receive COVID-19 vaccine doses from Moderna, assuming everything is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Of the doses from Pfizer, 9,750 vaccines will go to hospitals (prepositioned sites) and 88,725 vaccines will go to Walgreens/CVS for congregate care settings. With the shipment on Dec. 22, the state anticipates receiving 201,000 vaccines from Moderna, which will go to 98 hospitals and 108 health departments.

"Hospitals will vaccinate those dealing with COVID patients. Health departments will vaccinate people like EMS," DeWine said. While it is clear that the initial shipments of vaccine doses will not be enough to cover all Ohioans that are defined in the Phase 1A group, Governor DeWine understands from conversations with Vice President Mike Pence that additional vaccines will continue to be distributed over the coming weeks.

Also not yet determined is which Ohioans will be included in the phase after "Phase 1A" and when members of the general public can become vaccinated if they choose.



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What's Happening

OBM Director Murnieks Testifies on State Capital Bill Appropriations

Without a bill, Office of Budget and Management Director Kim Murnieks presented informal testimony on Tuesday, December 8th before the Senate Finance Committee to outline the proposed \$2 billion capital budget that will make debt financed appropriations for new school buildings, public works construction, college academic facilities, prisons, parks, and community projects.

Governor Mike DeWine's first capital appropriations bill will also include a \$50 million capital grant program to be administered by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections for local jail projects.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) announced at the beginning of Tuesday's hearing that the capital bill is expected to be formally introduced next week. However, due to the compressed timeframe of lame duck session, Chairman Dolan requested that Murnieks provide an overview in advance of the bill introduction.

Murnieks is also scheduled to testify Wednesday, December 9th in the House Finance Committee. While the OBM director's testimony included an itemized list of \$452 million in higher education projects that had been developed through a joint process led by the InterUniversity Council and Ohio Association of Community Colleges, the list of anticipated "community projects" will not be made publicly available until next week's expected bill introduction.

Biden to Nominate Congresswoman Marcia Fudge for HUD Secretary

Multiple media sources are reporting that U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Cleveland) will be nominated by President-elect Joe Biden to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Fudge, has represented Ohio's 11th Congressional District since 2008 and was Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus from 2013-2014. If confirmed by the Senate, Fudge would become the first African-American woman to serve as HUD Secretary.

Top News

FY20-21 Budget

Strong sales tax collections offset a drop in income tax revenue to put the state \$84.8 million or 4.3% ahead of estimates for October, according to preliminary data from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). For the fiscal year to date, tax revenues are up \$347.2 million or 4.2 %, with \$8.62 billion collected through October versus \$8.27 billion expected. Sales tax collections represent the bulk of the overage, coming in nearly \$268 million or 7.3% ahead of projections. Notwithstanding, the current overage, the pandemic and its economic effects are creating significant uncertainty for the coming months, said OBM Director Kimberly Murnieks.

Business/Corporate

Broadband provider Spectrum announced new digital education grants. This year's recipients range from long-standing nonprofits to newer organizations meeting children's educational needs and include the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Inc. (ACEnet) and Central Community House of Columbus.

Census

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments for *Trump v. New York*. The case is the latest attempt by the Trump administration to exclude unauthorized immigrants from the decennial Census count, which is used to allocate congressional House seats to states.

Top News

Coronavirus

With Ohio in the midst of a “third wave” with far higher COVID-19 numbers than the spring and summer, Gov. Mike DeWine told the public that previous health orders on masks and gathering limits are being “reaffirmed” with additional provisions. He continued that another closure of restaurants, bars and fitness centers may be ordered based on how the data changes. The order on masks is being reissued with three new provisions on mandatory signage, requirements for businesses to enforce the order and creation of a state retail compliance unit. First violations will result in a written warning, while a second violation can lead to store closure for up to 24 hours.

Sen. Tina Maharath (D-Canal Winchester) said on Twitter that she had been reinfected with COVID-19 after having the virus in August. “The second wave is coming for my family and I urge you all to take this serious,” she said. “Wear a mask, social distance, and avoid any gatherings. Even if it’s with family.”

DeWine announced the creation of two new dashboards. The first will expand the COVID-19 dashboard through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and will allow Ohioans to view data from their local communities, and filter the data by probable or confirmed case status, county, a specific ZIP code, or a specific time period. Case counts will also be available on a downloadable, filterable chart sorted from the most cases to the least. Case counts for ZIP codes with fewer than five cases or less than 100 total residents will not be displayed. He also announced a new flu dashboard that expands the statewide data that ODH shares on seasonal flu activity each year.

While Ohio health leaders said the state is in the “most significant” level of COVID-19 spread currently, there is a path out of the pandemic with the separate announcement of a Pfizer vaccine candidate that appears to be at least 90 % effective based on initial results. Cleveland Clinic Chief of Medical Operations Robert Wyllie said that means a vaccine should be widely available in “four to six months” and that people should continue safety protocols until then.

The Controlling Board approved four items added late to its agenda, including \$30 million in coronavirus relief funds that will go to local health departments as the state sees a spike in COVID-19 cases. Anthony Perry, the chief financial officer of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), said the bulk of the funds will go to local health departments for epidemiology, support staff and services related to the pandemic. He said each of the local health departments is expected to receive \$200,000 from the fund. Additionally, the funds will allow ODH to provide staff and contract workers to local health departments to help deal with the outbreak.

Gov. Mike DeWine announced a three-week curfew for all residents instead of the anticipated closing of certain businesses such as restaurants and gyms. The curfew, which will run from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., begins Thursday, Nov. 19 and will run for three weeks. At the end of that time, DeWine said he will see where the state stands in regard to the spread of COVID-19 to determine what else might be done. Public health agencies from three of the largest metropolitan areas in Ohio issued stay-at-home advisories on as the state continues to grapple with rapid increases in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and positivity rates. Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) and Columbus Public Health (CPH) were the first to announce the move, joined by health authorities for Cuyahoga County, Montgomery County, and the city of Dayton.

Ohio hospitals are dangerously close to being forced to ration health care like Italy did at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, health officials said. “We are on the doorstep of that,” Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Medical Director Bruce Vanderhoff said during Gov. Mike DeWine’s coronavirus briefing, responding to a reporter’s question.

Gov. Mike DeWine said that Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Stephanie McCloud had signed the health order he announced encouraging people to stay at home during specified hours unless they are working or engaged in an essential activity. “As COVID-19 continues to spread in Ohio, we need a stronger response to minimize the impact on Ohio’s health care and hospital capacity and ensure health care is available to those that need it,” said DeWine in a prepared statement. “With this order we are discouraging get-togethers and gatherings to minimize the spread of the virus while minimizing the economic impact of a complete shutdown.

Top News

The state of Ohio has about \$870 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars left to distribute entering the holiday season. With Controlling Board approval of an additional \$68 million in state CARES Act funding and the Ohio Arts Council's recent distribution of \$20 million to arts organizations, the remaining state share of dollars that have been appropriated — but not expended or encumbered — is about \$610 million.). That means there is about \$260 million that has not yet been appropriated. OBM Director Kimberly Murnieks said that the DeWine administration is still hopeful that Congress and the Trump administration will extend the deadline for using the funds, which is currently Wednesday, Dec. 30. Under current law, if the funds are not used by that time, the money goes back to the federal government.

Legislation that was originally aimed at giving university board of trustee members the ability to attend meetings virtually became an omnibus bill late in the legislative session to address continuing issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, including extending a number of deadlines that had previously been lengthened earlier this year.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has created a new position of chief health opportunity advisor to support the findings and recommendations of the COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force. Jamie Carmichael, deputy director of public affairs at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), will fill the position according to a release from ODH.

COVID-19 hospitalizations are at an all-time high in Ohio, causing hospitals to make "difficult decisions" about who they can or cannot treat due to capacity concerns and staffing issues, Ohio State University (OSU) Wexner Medical Center Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Andy Thomas said. "COVID patients are going to start crowding out other people who need that level of care as these numbers continue to rise," Thomas said during Gov. Mike DeWine's coronavirus briefing. "COVID patients are going to start crowding out other people who need that level of care as these numbers continue to rise," Thomas said during Gov. Mike DeWine's coronavirus briefing.

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) announced that the Ohio Checkbook now provides data on federal funds awarded and spent in Ohio to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The dashboard, developed with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Business Intelligence team, is available at checkbook.ohio.gov/Coronavirus.

Following through with his threat, Gov. Mike DeWine Thursday vetoed SB311 (McColley-Roegner), saying the bill is "not in the best interest of protecting the health and safety of Ohioans." The bill would place limits on the authority of the state health director in issuing certain health orders as well as give the General Assembly more oversight on those orders. Meanwhile, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina), who suggested that his chamber would immediately take up a vote to override the veto, softened his stance on, saying his comments the previous day were "three or four seconds of commentary for an issue that is more complex than that." In a statement, Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) expressed disappointment with the veto and said he will be discussing the next steps with members of his caucus.

Gov. Mike DeWine was joined by three doctors during his briefing, all of whom stressed the looming crisis Ohio faces with having sufficient hospital beds — and staff — to treat COVID-19 patients as well as other Ohioans in need of medical care. Dr. Andy Thomas of the OSU Wexner Medical Center said their biggest concern is with the increasing number of intensive care unit (ICU) patients, noting hospitals have limits on the number of ICU beds and staff. He said he has already seen the need for hospitals to share ventilators and some facilities are beginning to cut back on non-emergency (although not elective) surgeries.

Elections 2020

Secretary of State Frank LaRose officially certified the results of the 2020 Presidential General Election, saying the total number of ballots broke the record that was previously set in 2008. Subsequently, Gov. Mike DeWine signed Ohio's Certificate of Ascertainment, which identifies the appointed electors and the final vote count in Ohio for each candidate in the election, showing President Donald Trump getting the most popular votes and earning the state's 18 electoral votes. However, Democrat Joe Biden has been certified the winner in enough states to make him president-elect, breaking Ohio's streak of voting for the winner of the presidential election dating back to 1960.

Top News

Employment/Unemployment

The nation added 638,000 nonfarm payroll jobs in October, and the national unemployment dropped to 6.9 %, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced. BLS said the improved jobs numbers “reflect the continued resumption of economic activity that had been curtailed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it.”

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) said that Ohio’s unemployment rate for October dropped to 5.6% from a revised 8.3% in September as the state added 30,800 jobs over the month. ODJFS said the state’s nonagricultural wage and salary employment went from a revised 5,191,500 in September to 5,222,300 in October 2020. The number of workers unemployed in Ohio in October was 324,000, down from 469,000 in September, ODJFS said. The number of unemployed has increased by 86,000 in the past 12 months from 238,000. The October unemployment rate for Ohio increased from 4.1 % in October 2019.

Federal-State Extended Benefits (EB) will be discontinued on Saturday, Dec. 12 for individuals who were eligible to receive up to 20 weeks of the program, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced. Additionally, individuals currently receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) will not qualify for seven additional PUA weeks after Dec. 12, according to ODJFS. “Ohio’s October unemployment rate dropped drastically, triggering federally mandated changes in both the EB program and PUA,” the department said.

For the week ending Nov. 28, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 27,750 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). That number was slightly fewer than what was reported during the prior weekly period, which was 30,177. That report broke a four-week streak of rising new jobless claims in the state.

Energy/ Utilities

The Senate pressed ahead with subsidy-neutral energy legislation still to be heard in the House following Gov. Mike DeWine’s repeated calls for the lame-duck repeal of HB6 (Callender-Willkin). Numerous witnesses also urged passage of SB346’s (O’Brien-Kunze) alternative proposal to kill nuclear, coal and solar subsidies while retaining renewable energy and energy efficiency (EE) mandates and other provisions predating HB6, although former senator and Ohio Consumers’ Counsel advisor Jeff Jacobson said OCC prefers HB772’s (Romanchuk) “agnostic” approach to competing energy sources. Rep. Mark Romanchuk’s (R-Mansfield) bill — introduced on Sept. 30 but still lacking House sponsor testimony — began “informal” hearings in the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee.

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) told the House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight that HB772, his “partial” repeal of HB6 (Callender-Wilkin), would remove “bad policy that harms Ohioans.” He also said the bill was limited in scope to ensure passage this year. Romanchuk opened with a history of Ohio law regarding electric generation, particularly the 1999 passage of 123-SB3 (B. Johnson). That act was “historic legislation,” he said, to “deregulate the electric generation portion of our electric bills and use competitive ‘markets’ for the purpose of lowering utility bills and improving services.”

Sam Randazzo resigned as chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), following events over the week that raised questions about his connections to FirstEnergy and by inference to the HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) nuclear bailout scandal. Randazzo left with parting thoughts about the direction of Ohio’s energy policy, while his critics attacked his clean energy stances and said the resignation is further proof of the need to repeal HB6. Federal agents searched Randazzo’s Columbus home Monday, Nov. 16. FirstEnergy said in a federal Securities and Exchange Commission filing Thursday that its recent firing of ex-CEO Chuck Jones and other executives was tied to a \$4 million payment in 2019 to a company connected to an unnamed person “who subsequently was appointed to a full-time role as a government official directly involved in regulating the Ohio [FirstEnergy] companies, including with respect to distribution rates.” Randazzo said the events would raise suspicion about decisions he’d make as chair and said he didn’t want to serve as a distraction to Gov. Mike DeWine during the challenges of the pandemic.

Top News

The state's four electric distribution utilities (EDU) will charge five million Ohio ratepayers over \$170 million in "tainted" nuclear subsidies in 2021 without an immediate intervention by the embattled Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to subject HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) charges to a rare customer refund, the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) said in a round of commission filings. That figure breaks down to more than \$68 million in "corporate welfare" aimed at FirstEnergy's 2.1 million customers, more than \$57 million at American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio's 1.5 million customers, over \$26 million at Duke Energy's 718,000 customers, and more than \$18.5 million at Dayton Power and Light's (DP&L) 519,000 customers, Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston explains in four separate dockets for the Ohio EDUs.

Energy efficiency (EE) remains the largest energy sector in Ohio despite losses to COVID-19 and would more than make up for the 2020 downturn with new federal stimulus, a pair of think tanks state in a new report on EE job numbers state-by-state and nationwide. Produced by E2 and E4TheFuture with support from east-/west-coast consultants BW Research Partnership, "Energy Efficiency Jobs in America" puts Ohio's total energy efficiency job losses at nearly 11,000 as of mid-October, wiping out three years of industry gains in the Buckeye State.

The next head of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will face the difficult task of improving on the average 19-month tenures of its last five chairmen — surpassed only by Kasich appointee Asim Haque — and of leading a commission rocked by former Chairman Sam Randazzo's resignation following an FBI raid of his home and a FirstEnergy revelation of \$4 million in "questionable" payments to an unnamed utility regulator. The 12-member PUCO Nominating Council restarted the application process Monday to fill the unexpired term of Randazzo, who was Gov. Mike DeWine's appointment to the chairmanship upon Haque's departure.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) appointed an independent accounting firm to audit FirstEnergy for the period covering the introduction, passage and signing of HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) and the subsequent ballot campaign to overturn it — granting Marcum LLP full authority to examine internal records the utility had sought to protect from the commission and the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC).

In the second hearing of HB798 (Hoops) before the House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight, opponents criticized the bill's delay of HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) nuclear bailout charges to ratepayers by one year as a "timeout" for EnergyHarbor, formerly known as FirstEnergy Solutions, saying the utility would be allowed to collect a subsidy a year later than was planned under HB6.

Environment

Organizations interested in obtaining recycling and litter prevention grants can begin filling out applications, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) announced. The application deadline is Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 at 3 p.m., according to the agency. Interested applicants are encouraged to participate in a Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, webinar to learn about Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant application process and the activities targeted by the grant program. The webinar will take place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register for the webinar](#)

Federal

U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus) announced that she has been elected as the 27th chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

General Assembly/Statehouse

The Senate Republican Caucus unanimously elected Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) as the chamber's president for the 134th General Assembly (GA), the Senate GOP announced. Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) will serve as president pro tempore; Sen. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) will serve as majority floor leader; and Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) will serve as majority whip, according to the caucus. All leadership members will formally be elected by their colleagues and sworn in during the opening session of the Senate on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

Top News

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) released a statement endorsing the re-election of Speaker of the House Bob Cupp (R-Lima) to that office. Then caucus dean, Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati), announced that House Republicans will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 18, in the Vern Riffe Center to select their leadership team for the 134th General Assembly. House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) was unanimously re-elected to serve as speaker for the 134th General Assembly, the House Republican Caucus announced. The caucus also announced that Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) will serve as speaker pro tempore; Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) will serve as majority floor leader; Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) will serve as assistant majority floor leader; Rep. Don Jones (R-Freeport) will serve as majority whip; and Rep. Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison) will serve as assistant majority whip.

House Democrats announced the re-election of Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) as minority leader for the 134th General Assembly. Also re-elected were Assistant Minority Leader Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus), Minority Whip Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) and Assistant Minority Whip Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester). Newly elected to the team as caucus chair is Rep. Phil Robinson (D-Solon).

Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) has been chosen by his colleagues to serve as president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) for the 134th General Assembly, succeeding Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland). West was chosen as president following an official vote by OLBC members in the Ohio House and Senate. Other members of the OLBC leadership team are the following: First Vice President Rep. Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland); Second Vice President Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati); Treasurer Rep. Erica Crawley (D-Columbus); Sergeant-at-Arms Sen. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus); Secretary Rep. Sedrick Denson (D-Cincinnati); and Parliamentarian Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron).

Senate Democrats re-elected Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) as minority leader and Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) as assistant minority leader, also adding Sens. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Tina Maharath (D-Canal Winchester) to the leadership team as whip and assistant whip, respectively.

Governor

Gov. Mike DeWine signed two bills related to COVID-19, one of which extends numerous temporary policies put in place because of disruptions from the pandemic. Originally written to allow university trustees to meet electronically, HB404 (Manchester-Sweeney) was amended in the Senate to extend through July 1, 2021 the ability for public bodies to meet and hold hearings remotely, as well as exemptions to school meal requirements and deadlines for renewing various state licenses, among other provisions. DeWine also signed HB151 (Carfagna), which temporarily grants qualified civil immunity to health care isolation centers to protect medical professionals from liability claims throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill also expands the authority of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to provide medical services in hospitals, if needed.

People

U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus) was named the recipient of the Donna A. James Award for her work on behalf of the people, workers, families, and small businesses of Ohio's Third Congressional District, located in Franklin County.

Former Rep. John Schlichter died Thursday, Nov. 19 from what media outlets reported as a possible heart attack. He was 62. He served the 85th District in the Ohio House from 2003 to 2009, and had previously been a Fayette County commissioner, and worked as the deputy director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Most recently, he was serving at the executive director of the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP).

Top News

Public Safety

The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) released provisional statistics on traffic incidents during the Thanksgiving holiday period from Wednesday, Nov. 25 at midnight through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29, saying there were nine deaths in nine fatal crashes. That represented a reduction from 2019's holiday period in which 18 people died in 15 crashes. The nine deaths this year included two pedestrians and four people who were not wearing a seatbelt, according to the release. Two of the crashes involved impaired driving, the release added.

Transportation/Infrastructure

According to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), the expiration date of Ohio driver's licenses, identification cards, and vehicle registrations has been extended until July 1, 2021 after Gov. Mike DeWine signed HB404 (Manchester-Sweeney) this week.

The Road to Our Future Joint Legislative Study Committee approved its final report during its last meeting of the General Assembly, choosing to issue no recommendations. During Tuesday's meeting, Co-Chair Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) said that he intended to have a more robust discussion of the issues before the committee, but the pandemic made it hard to hold more hearings. The joint committee was only able to hold four of its eight planned meetings.

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: 11/18/2020 - House Agriculture and Rural Development, (First Hearing)
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: 11/17/2020 - REPORTED OUT, House State and Local Government, (Fifth 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: 11/10/2020 - REPORTED OUT, House State and Local Government, (Third 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>
- HB404** ALLOW UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES TO MEET ELECTRONICALLY/EXTEND COVID-19 GOVERNMENT RESPONSES (MANCHESTER S, SWEENEY B) To continue essential operations of state and local government in response to the declared pandemic and global health emergency related to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 11/23/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. Immediately
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-404>
- 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: 12/8/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (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>
- 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>
- 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: 11/18/2020 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
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>

Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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>
- 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: 11/10/2020 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
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>
- HB777** REINSTATE HOURS - BARS, RESTAURANTS (LANG G, PERALES R) To reinstate the authorized hours of operation for liquor permit premises that existed prior to the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 11/17/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-777>
- HB791** AUTHORIZE PUBLIC BODIES TO MEET ELECTRONICALLY (CUTRONA A, GINTER 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, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 12/1/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-791>

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: 12/8/2020 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 84-1; Emergency Clause 80-5
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: 12/8/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Ways and Means, (Fifth 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: 12/1/2020 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (Second 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: 11/17/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-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>

Legislative Updates

- 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: 12/8/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
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>
- 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>
- 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: 12/1/2020 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
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: 12/1/2020 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Transportation and Public Safety, (Sixth 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>

Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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: 12/8/2020 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 74-11
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: 11/17/2020 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-546>
- HB786** SUSPEND CERTIFICATION - MAJOR UTILITY FACILITIES (SMITH J) To temporarily suspend the certification of major utility facilities that are powered by solar or wind and economically significant wind farms.
Current Status: 11/17/2020 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-786>
- 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>

Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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: 12/8/2020 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, Senate Finance, (Second 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: 12/1/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Third 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: 10/13/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
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: 11/19/2020 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Not Concur, Vote 0-88
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: 12/8/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-522>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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: 12/1/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Fifth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-346>

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: 12/1/2020 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-13>

HB46 STATE GOVT EXPENDITURE DATABASE (GREENSPAN D) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database.

Current Status: 12/8/2020 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, Senate General Government and Agency Review , (Tenth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-46>

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