



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

Governor Signs Transportation Budget

Gov. Mike DeWine signed the more than \$8 billion transportation budget bill last week. The governor highlighted \$318 million included for highway safety projects, \$2.4 billion for local roadway improvements and \$8 million for electric vehicle charging station grants.

Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) called passage of the bill “a good day for the state of Ohio and people of Ohio,” adding that it was passed on time, within the available revenue, “and without a contentious conference committee.”

The House action came one day after the Ohio Senate adopted an omnibus amendment to the bill and passed it on the floor in a 32-0 vote. The bill funds construction and maintenance of the state’s roadways and bridges, in addition to appropriating \$70 million per year for public transit through a combination of General Revenue Fund and federal flex funds.

However, Governor DeWine’s “Hands-Free Ohio” proposal to increase penalties for distracted driving was removed by the General Assembly upon final passage of the bill. This proposal may be brought forward as a standalone bill later this session. Transportation budgets generally must be passed by the end of March so the non-appropriations sections can become effective 90 days later, by July 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

Biden Announces American Jobs Plan

Last week, President Biden introduced his American Jobs Plan in Pittsburgh. This wide-ranging proposal would invest in transportation infrastructure of all types, affordable housing, public schools, colleges and childcare facilities, VA hospitals, water, electricity transmission, electric vehicles, broadband, workforce development and more.

Plan Overview:

According to the [initial outline released March 31 by the administration](#), the plan seeks to: create millions of good jobs and rebuild the country’s infrastructure. The plan would put significant focus on targeting investment to traditionally underinvested areas, including neighborhoods bisected by interstate highway facilities, rural areas, and more. The plan also focuses heavily on revitalizing American manufacturing, research and development, and worker and workplace protections. The price tag for this initial proposal is estimated at \$2.3 trillion, which represents an investment of approximately 1% of GDP per year for a period of eight years. This would be offset significantly by changes to the tax code, including increases in the taxes that businesses pay.

An important note: the surface transportation funding contained in the bill is not for a reauthorization package but is above and beyond funding through the FAST Act authorization. In a call with stakeholders today, USDOT also indicated these funds would be performance-based and not distributed by formula. So the details on these proposals will be extremely important to understanding who might receive the funds and how they can be used.



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What's Happening

House Sends Nuclear Subsidy Repeal to Governor

The House on March 25th agreed to Senate amendments on a bill that repeals the nuclear subsidies and other significant provisions from House Bill 6 from the prior General Assembly.

House Bill 128 (Hoops-Stein), which repeals portions of HB 6 including the nuclear subsidies, passed unanimously 89-0. Joint sponsor Rep. Dick Stein (D-Norwalk) informed House members that the Senate only added a technical amendment to the bill. It was noted by Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) that the Senate did not add a repeal of subsidies for the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC), and advocated for the General Assembly to address that before the end of session.

Several provisions from HB 6, including the one raised by Rep. Smith, remain and Speaker Cupp has indicated that hearings will be held on those remaining issues in a committee chaired by Rep. Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon).

Cupp released a statement saying, "I commend the House committee members for their thorough and extensive work to produce a bill that Ohioans can be proud of – one that retains carbon free energy in the state, provides additional ratepayer protections and savings and moves Ohio forward. This is sound energy policy."

In addition to HB 128, the General Assembly is deliberating on a number of other energy bills that relate to electricity, natural gas, nuclear, wind, solar, and renewable energy:

- » **HB 6 (Roemer):** Authorizes the expenditure of \$2.9 million in low income energy efficiency ride funds that were accumulated at the end of 2020
- » **HB 118 (Riedel, Stein) & SB 52 (Reineke, McColley):** Makes wind and solar generation facilities subject to referendum
- » **HB 192 (Cutrona):** Prohibits counties, townships, and municipal corporations from prohibiting energy generation from fossil fuels and gas pipelines
- » **HB 201 (Stephens) & SB 127 (Lang, Rulli):** Prevents local governments from prohibiting citizens from using natural gas
- » **SB 10 (Romanchuk):** Makes refunds to electric customers
- » **SB 29 (Hoagland):** Eliminates automatic enrollment into utility aggregation
- » **SB 89 (Dolan):** Extends the renewable portfolio standard, increase solar energy benchmarks, and extend the property tax exemption for qualified energy projects that use renewable energy resources

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FY22-23 Budget

The House sent the transportation budget on to Senate. Rep. Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton), the sponsor of transportation budget HB74 and chair of the House Finance Committee, said the bill will provide \$7 billion over the next two fiscal years for the Ohio Department of Transportation to support infrastructure, highway, road and bridge construction and maintenance as well as public transportation, intermodal and more, including \$100 million for major new road construction projects. It will also provide \$1 billion to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, including an additional \$15 million/year for the Ohio State Highway Patrol. This brings the total General Revenue Fund appropriation for the patrol to \$50 million/year.

Attorney General

Attorney General Dave Yost announced that he has filed a federal lawsuit seeking to block a provision in the federal stimulus American Rescue Plan Act that prevents states and local governments from using funds in the bill to offset losses from tax cuts or credits. In announcing the lawsuit, Yost's office said the bill "threatens to withhold needed federal funds from Ohio in an effort to handcuff the state's authority to make changes to its tax structure and economic policy." Yost is asking the U.S. District Court of Southern Ohio to bar the enforcement of the provision.

Census

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost announced he has filed a federal lawsuit to compel the U.S. Census Bureau to release population data relevant to the upcoming redistricting process. The lawsuit comes after the Census Bureau announced that the data would not be sent to the states until Sept. 30, citing delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bureau had originally planned to deliver the data to the states by March 31.

Coronavirus

All the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) coronavirus-related public health orders will be removed when the state begins to see 50 cases per 100,000 population for two weeks, Gov. Mike DeWine announced during a statewide address. "I am often asked, 'Mike, when is this going to end? When can we lift the health orders?' I've consulted Dr. Vanderhoff, our department of health's medical director, and a number of epidemiologists as well as other health experts, and they tell me that now, with the vaccine, we can set realistic goals," DeWine said, indicating the goal of 50 cases per 100,000 population is reasonable. Vaccination eligibility expanded to two new sets of groups effective Thursday, March 4, according to an announcement from Gov. Mike DeWine. Phase 1C includes those with certain medical conditions or in several professions, while Phase 2 includes all those ages 60 to 64. In total, he said there are around 246,000 eligible Ohioans in Phase 1C and 695,000 in Phase 2.

Three weeks after Ohio Department of Health (ODH) officials realized they failed to report more than 4,000 COVID-19 deaths from late 2020, ODH Director Stephanie McCloud said the agency will no longer sacrifice accuracy for speed when releasing mortality data. ODH had been reporting Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) mortality data daily, reconciling that information with verified death certificate data from the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS), she said. Going forward, ODH will use death certificate data from EDRS as the sole source of information for deaths reported on the state's COVID-19 dashboards.

Gov. Mike DeWine announced vaccine eligibility expanded to those age 50 and up, as well as people with Type 2 diabetes and end-stage renal disease, starting Thursday, March 11. The governor also announced that the state's new centralized vaccine scheduling system website is now live at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov. The website will serve as a single location for Ohioans to confirm that they are eligible to be vaccinated, identify nearby providers (within 20 miles) and schedule their vaccine appointments.

Gov. Mike DeWine declared Tuesday, March 9 a "day of remembrance" to honor the more than 17,500 people who have died of COVID on the one-year anniversary of the first confirmed case in Ohio.

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The House approved legislation giving more legislative oversight to state health orders and the Senate quickly concurred, sending the bill to Gov. Mike DeWine, who affirmed his plans to veto it. Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) said he would schedule a veto override vote on SB22 (McColley-Johnson) at the next session after DeWine's veto, and House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) expressed confidence he had the votes in his chamber despite being short during the vote, noting several absent members who support the bill and an override. Ahead of the votes, the House State and Local Government Committee accepted a substitute version of the bill incorporating elements of a similar House bill, HB90 (Wiggam-Edwards). DeWine said he's not sure lawmakers fully contemplated the consequences of recently passed legislation to check executive health powers and reiterated his intention to veto it, though he said there's still discussion to be had on changes that could satisfy their desire for more oversight.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced that it has stopped issuing travel advisories for those entering Ohio from states reporting positive COVID-19 testing rates of 15 percent or more. Instead, the department encourages Ohioans to carefully review CDC guidance regarding travel.

Vaccine eligibility expanded to those age 40 and up on Friday, March 19 and will open to all Ohioans over the age of 16 starting Monday, March 29, Gov. Mike DeWine announced during a press conference at Ohio's first mass vaccination clinic in Cleveland. The announcement puts Ohio ahead of President Joe Biden's target for states to open vaccination to all adults by May 1, something DeWine's office said it was on pace to beat when Biden announced it.

Employment/Unemployment

For the week ending March 27, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 54,343 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). That number is lower than last week's, when the department reported 69,368 job-less claims. ODJFS said potentially fraudulent claims are likely inflating the totals from this week and recent weeks.

Energy + Utilities

The Senate voted unanimously to repeal the nuclear generation subsidies of 133-HB6 (Callender-Wilkin), continuing the chamber's strategy of unraveling the controversial energy law piece by piece. Sen. Michael Rulli (R-Salem), speaking about his SB44 (Rulli-Cirino), said Energy Harbor, operator of Ohio's two nuclear power stations, is likely in a better financial position after exiting bankruptcy, and energy policies "brewing" in Washington, D.C. appear to be more favorable to nuclear plants.

The end of mandated energy efficiency (EE) programs created by the recession-era 127-SB221 and rescinded by energy subsidy bill 133-HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) is not the final word on electric savings after all. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is preparing to launch a series of stakeholder talks on the future of energy efficiency and peak demand reduction (PDR) programs that shift consumption to overnight hours through an "Internet of Things" (IOT) including smart thermostats and appliances. PUCO closed the books on energy omnibus 127-SB221's 13-year-old EE and PDR requirements on electric distribution utilities (EDU). Embattled 133-HB6 allows those programs to sunset when Ohio's four EDUs — American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio, FirstEnergy, Duke Energy Ohio and Dayton Power & Light (DP&L) — reached a cumulative average of 17.5 percent energy savings or Dec. 31, 2020 at the latest. Commissioners said last week that AEP, FirstEnergy, Duke and DP&L had managed 19.8 percent energy efficiency by the end of 2020.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) responded to recent FirstEnergy disclosures by widening the state's audit of company payments to vendors and consultants and their possible illegal charge-off to consumers in support of 133-HB6's (Callender-Wilkin) nuclear bailout, profit guarantees, and coal subsidies benefitting all four of Ohio's electric utilities, including FirstEnergy.

Environmental, education and health care leaders discussed a new study on energy waste reduction, saying that greater

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investments in the field could generate billions in savings and create thousands of jobs. Speakers also noted that the House had voted Wednesday on legislation repealing parts of 133-HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) and its effects on energy issues. The study was conducted by energy research firm Gabel Associates and released Thursday by national sustainability nonprofit Ceres, E2, the Environmental Law & Policy Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) and the Ohio Hospital Association (OHA).

AEP Ohio filed an agreement Friday, March 12, in its rate case that is signed by the staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and several other groups. The agreement will mean small rate decreases for residential ratepayers, both AEP and OCC said. AEP said the agreement would result in a 71 cent decrease in costs for a residential customer using 1,000 KWh per month, versus \$5.68 in AEP's original application, and would reduce the monthly customer charge from \$10 to \$8.40.

FirstEnergy admitted sending millions of dollars through a subsidiary to the dark money group that has pleaded guilty in a scheme related to the passage of nuclear subsidy 131-HB6 (Callender-Wilkin). The lawsuit was filed last year after former House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and four others were charged in an alleged racketeering scheme where a dark money group that prosecutors allege was controlled by Householder received \$60 million to help pass 133-HB6 and defend it from efforts to rescind it via referendum.

Former U.S. Attorney David DeVillers provided an update on the public corruption case targeting former House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and associates and energy subsidy bill 133-HB6 (Callender-Wilkin). While not free to speak in detail on pending developments in the ongoing investigation, he described the federal grand jury process that could lead to Householder or, potentially, FirstEnergy's plea deal, jury trial, conviction, appeal, corporate suspension and/or ordered restitution. Much more is coming, at any rate, he told the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) Governing Board.

The fossil fuel industry lobbied the Legislature on the contributions of oil and gas to Ohio's economy and the importance of its policy priorities going forward. The Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee took testimony from the Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA) and American Petroleum Institute (API) of Ohio. OOGA President Matt Hammond said Ohio is now fifth in the production of natural gas and 12th in crude oil and has the seventh-largest crude oil refining capacity in the U.S.

Gov. Mike DeWine appointed former Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Jenifer French as a new member and chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Her term will run through April 10, 2024 if confirmed by the Senate.

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) say Ohio's largest electric utility apparently is violating state standards that require the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation's (OVEC) mid-century coal plants to "run in a manner consistent with competition." They are asking the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to force American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio to comply with the commission's standard for full disclosure and provide depositions on its OVEC operations. OCC and OMA filed a joint motion with PUCO last week tallying OVEC subsidies at \$159 million between 2017 and 2019 under pre-133-HB6 (Callender-Wilkin) customer charges and an even higher rate of \$700 million by 2030. The filing reminds commissioners what their previously ordered AEP audit uncovered.

The former chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), Vice President Asim Haque of State and Member Services for PJM Interconnection, assured the Legislature that the 13-state regional transmission organization (RTO) encompassing Ohio enjoys a diverse energy portfolio dominated by incoming solar projects as well as plenty of reserves to handle severe weather like the recent Texas winter, a cataclysm he did not attribute to an overreliance on renewable generation. Haque provided the new General Assembly an overview of PJM operations and policies and addressed several leading concerns for the regional and national energy market heading into the third decade of the millennium.

Over a hundred opponents of HB118 (Riedel-Stein) and SB52's (Reineke-McColley) wind referendum option flooded the

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House and Senate with testimony attacking limits on the burgeoning commercial demand for renewable energy and proponents' "misinformation" campaign around the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) approval process and the industry's engagement of affected property owners.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) imposed a \$100,000 civil forfeiture on a competitive supplier of electricity and natural gas for "slamming" customer accounts and failing to provide mandatory enrollment information. The action against Reliant Energy Northeast came in addition to a compliance order and contingent forfeiture of \$50,000 aimed at the Perry County utility Foraker Gas. PUCO said Reliant, while doing business as NRG Home, NRG Business, and NRG Retail Solutions, was enrolling customers without their permission and, in some instances, had failed to provide copies of their contracts.

Federal

President Joe Biden made his first trip to Ohio since taking office next week when he visited Columbus on Tuesday, March 23 to promote his \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act.

General Assembly/Statehouse

Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) resigned as the No. 2 in minority caucus leadership in light of his formal entry into the campaign for mayor of Cincinnati. At session, the chamber voted to move Minority Whip Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) up to the role of assistant minority leader and Assistant Minority Whip Tina Maharath (D-Canal Winchester) up to the role of whip. Sen. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) was elected to join the Senate Democratic leadership team as the new assistant whip. In addition to passing a proposal to repeal nuclear subsidies via SB44 (Rulli-Cirino), the Senate voted to approve SB36 (Manning-S. Huffman), regarding victim compensation programs; SB21 (Antonio-Manning), regarding stroke treatment protocols; and SB42 (Schaffer), designating the second week of November as "Ohio Diabetes Awareness-Heart Connection Week."

Local Government

It's unclear whether Ohio townships will directly receive funds from the American Rescue Plan (HR1319) because of changes made between the U.S. House and U.S. Senate versions of the legislation, according to the Ohio Township Association (OTA). The bill, which allocates \$350 billion to states and local governments, was recently passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden.

Local governments in Ohio would be unable restrict the use of coal, oil, natural gas and petroleum under legislation being considered in the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The committee, which met for the first time in the 134th General Assembly, heard sponsor testimony from Rep. Al Cutrona (R-Canfield) on HB192, which prohibits any political subdivision from banning or limiting the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation. It would also prohibit local governments from banning or limiting the construction or use of a pipeline to transport oil or natural gas.

Polls/Studies

The Center for Community Solutions (CCS) released a collection of community fact sheets regarding "data on poverty, education, employment, income, health coverage, health outcomes, enrollment in safety net programs and more." However, CCS noted the data is from 2019 and said it can only provide a pre-pandemic "baseline" for conditions that have likely worsened. The data is broken down by Ohio's congressional and legislative districts. CCS has previous fact sheets for all 88 counties, large cities, Cuyahoga County cities and council districts, neighborhoods, and wards in Cleveland, and the "status of women" in the state.

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Taxation

The House Ways and Means Committee heard opponent and interested party testimony on HB157 (Jordan-Edwards), legislation that would modify the municipal income withholding rules for COVID-19-related work-from-home employees. The two sponsors had previously testified before the committee. Ohio Municipal League Executive Director Kent Scarrett spoke against the bill, saying it would cause a “sudden repeal” of Section 29 in 133-HB197 (Powell-Merrin), which instructed municipalities to continue withholding income tax at the place of work during the pandemic state of emergency and for 30 days after its conclusion despite the work from home shift.

Transportation/Infrastructure

Auditor of State Keith Faber Friday released the second phase of a performance audit of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), saying his office found millions in potential savings. The audit, the fifth performance audit of ODOT since 2011, reviewed pavement, bridges, maintenance, fleet, overhead and strategic information. The areas have an annual cost of \$1.4 billion, Faber’s office said, adding that even small improvements in efficiency could have a large impact on ODOT’s finances and operations. The auditor’s office said that each 1 percent improvement across all the areas could result in a \$13 million financial impact.

Transit systems are launching new services to meet workforce and health care needs and drawing down substantial federal grants thanks to last transportation budget’s funding bump, but those efforts are in jeopardy without continuation in the new budget, local officials told the Senate Transportation Committee.

The Senate Transportation Committee unveiled its latest version of the transportation budget, increasing the amount of funds going to public transit by \$13.85 million each fiscal year. With the changes in the House, General Revenue Funds going towards public transit funding in HB74 (Oelslager) are now at \$37 million per year after Gov. Mike DeWine’s budget proposal recommended a significant cut over funding from the last biennium. Describing the changes in the substitute bill, Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hillard), the committee chair, said the additional GRF funds for public transit is in addition to the federal “flex funds” and federal public transportation dollars already included in the bill.

The transportation budget, HB74 (Oelslager), cleared the Senate with amendments negotiated in concert with the House, allowing it to win that chamber’s concurrence Thursday and avoid a conference committee. Before the full Senate took up the bill, the Senate Transportation Committee accepted an omnibus amendment that made a number of changes, including removing language that would increase force account amounts, a provision pushed for by local governments who said they want to be able to perform more small road and bridge projects using their own labor rather than contracting it out. Instead, the committee added an amendment that would add a prospective 3 percent biennial inflator and that creates a joint study committee.

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.

- HB43** PUBLIC BODIES - ELECTRONIC MEETINGS (SOBECKI L, HOOPS J) To authorize public bodies to meet via teleconference and video conference.
Current Status: 2/11/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-43>
- HB66** REVIEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS (HOOPS J) To require the reporting of information on and legislative review of property tax exemptions.
Current Status: 3/10/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-66>
- HB71** EXEMPT CERTAIN HOUSING FROM PROPERTY TAXATION (PLUMMER P, HICKS-HUDSON P) To exempt from property taxation qualifying housing for individuals diagnosed with mental illness or substance use disorder and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 2/23/2021 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-71>
- HB110** OPERATING BUDGET (OELSLAGER S) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.
Current Status: 3/11/2021 - House Finance, (Seventh Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-110>
- HB143** REGARDS THE CLEAN OHIO PROGRAM (HILLYER B) Relating to the Clean Ohio Program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-143>
- HB177** ALLOW GOVERNMENTS TO USE BLOCKCHAIN (CARFAGNA R, FRAIZER M) To allow a governmental entity to utilize distributed ledger technology, including blockchain technology.
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - House Technology and Innovation, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-177>
- HB206** PERMIT TOWNSHIP POLICE ENFORCE CERTAIN OFFENSES ON INTERSTATE (GHANBARI H, O'BRIEN M) To permit a township police officer who serves a population between 5,000 and 50,000 to enforce specified traffic offenses on interstate highways within the township if authorized by that township's board of trustees.
Current Status: 3/23/2021 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-206>
- HB228** STATE-ADMINISTERED MUNICIPAL NET PROFIT TAXES (ROEMER B) To make changes related to state-administered municipal net profits taxes.
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-228>

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- HB237** REQUIRE ELECTRONIC MEANS OF RECORDING INSTRUMENTS, INCREASE FEES (HILLYER B) To require counties to provide an electronic means of recording instruments and accessing them, to allow county recorders to charge a document preservation surcharge, to increase recording fees for certain instruments, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-237>
- SB20** COUNTY UTILITY SUPPLY CONTRACTS (HACKETT R) To exempt county utility supply contracts entered into under a joint purchasing program from the 10-year maximum period for such contracts and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-20>
- SB45** TAX INDUCEMENTS CERTAIN BUSINESSES (PETERSON B, KUNZE S) To enhance state and local tax inducements for businesses making substantial fixed asset and employment investments and their suppliers.
Current Status: 2/23/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-45>
- SB105** MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (SYKES V, SCHURING K) To require political subdivisions to recognize state certifications of minority business enterprises.
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-105>

Legislative Updates

Goal 2: Achieve an advanced, inclusive, and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio's people and products to the world.

- HB27** INCREASE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO SECURE VEHICLE LOAD (PATTON T) To increase the criminal penalties associated with failing to secure a load on a vehicle.
Current Status: 2/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-27>
- HB47** ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATION GRANT REBATE (LOYCHIK M) To require the Director of Transportation to establish an electric vehicle charging station grant rebate program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 3/2/2021 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-47>
- HB70** REVISE LAW FOR PASSING SCHOOL BUS (BROWN R) To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus.
Current Status: 2/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-70>
- HB74** ENACT FY22-23 TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (OELSLAGER S) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. immediately
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-74>
- HB111** ALTER USE OF CELLPHONES WHILE DRIVING LAWS (LIGHTBODY M) To alter the law governing the use of a handheld electronic wireless communications device while driving.
Current Status: 2/17/2021 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-111>
- HB141** MAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS (SKINDELL M, UPCHURCH T) To make appropriations related to public transportation.
Current Status: 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-141>
- SB23** ILLEGALLY PASSING SCHOOL BUS (GAVARONE T) To impose a civil penalty when a driver who illegally passes a school bus cannot be identified, to designate the month of August as "School Bus Safety Awareness Month," and to designate this act as the School Bus Safety Act.
Current Status: 2/23/2021 - BILL AMENDED, Senate Veterans and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-23>
- SB32** ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION (RULLI M) To require the Director of Transportation to establish an electric vehicle charging station grant rebate program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 2/17/2021 - Senate Transportation, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-32>

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.

HB6 MODIFY LAWS GOVERNING CERTAIN PROFESSIONS DUE TO COVID-19 (ROEMER B) To amend Section 30 of H.B. 197 of the 133rd General Assembly to modify the laws governing certain health professionals and educator preparation programs due to COVID-19 and other circumstances and to modify the electric utility laws regarding energy efficiency programs; to amend the version of section 4729.92 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 9, 2021, to continue the changes to that section on and after that date; and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-6>

HB10 REPEAL HB6 - REVISE ELECTRIC UTILITY SERVICE LAW (LELAND D) To repeal Section 5 of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to make changes regarding electric utility service law, to allow the implementation of energy waste reduction programs, and to repeal certain provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly.

Current Status: 2/17/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-10>

HB18 REPEAL HB6 (LANESE L) Repeal HB 6 of the 133rd GA

Current Status: 2/17/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-18>

HB57 REPEAL HB6 ENERGY LAWS (SKINDELL M, O'BRIEN M) 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: 2/17/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-57>

HB128 REPEAL HB6 (HOOPS J, STEIN D) To make changes regarding electric utility service law, to repeal certain provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly, and to provide refunds to retail electric customers in the state.

Current Status: 3/31/2021 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-128>

HB192 PROHIBIT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM STOPPING CERTAIN ENERGY GENERATION (CUTRONA A) To prohibit counties, townships, and municipal corporations from prohibiting energy generation from fossil fuels and gas pipelines.

Current Status: 3/24/2021 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-192>

HB201 PREVENT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM LIMITING NATURAL GAS USE (STEPHENS J) To prevent local governments from limiting use of natural gas.

Current Status: 3/24/2021 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-201>

Legislative Updates

- HB245** EXPAND ELIGIBILITY - COUNTY SEWER DISCOUNTED RATES (INGRAM C) To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-245>
- SB19** WETLAND MITIGATION-PROPERTY TAX (SCHAFFER T) To establish a property tax exemption for certain property used for wetland mitigation projects.
Current Status: 3/16/2021 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-19>
- SB29** ELIMINATE AUTO ENROLLMENT-UTILITY AGGREGATION (HOAGLAND F) To eliminate automatic enrollment in governmental electric and natural gas aggregation programs.
Current Status: 2/23/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-29>
- SB44** REVISE HB6 FROM 133RD G.A. (RULLI M, CIRINO J) To repeal the nuclear resource credit payment provisions, and amend, and rename as solar resource, the renewable resource credit payment provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly.
Current Status: 3/9/2021 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-44>
- SB52** WIND TURBINE SETBACKS (REINEKE W, 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 and solar facility certificates.
Current Status: 3/23/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-52>
- SB89** RENEWABLE ENERGY (DOLAN M) To extend the renewable portfolio standard, increase solar energy benchmarks, and extend the property tax exemption for qualified energy projects that use renewable energy resources.
Current Status: 3/3/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-89>
- SB95** REGULATE UTILITY RESELLERS (MAHARATH T) To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged and to regulate certain resellers of utility service.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-95>
- SB96** PREVENT UTILITY DISRUPTION-COVID (WILLIAMS S) To prevent the disruption of utility service during the state of emergency declared regarding COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-96>
- SB117** REPEAL LEGACY GENERATION PROVISIONS-HB6 (ROMANCHUK M, CRAIG H) To repeal the legacy generation resource provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly and provide customers refunds.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-117>

Legislative Updates

- SB127** PREVENT LOCALITIES-LIMIT USE OF NATURAL GAS (LANG G, RULLI M) To prevent local governments from limiting use of natural gas.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-127>

Legislative Updates

Goal 4: Promote effective data policies and the equitable deployment of digital infrastructure that benefit Central Ohio communities.

- HB2** REGARDS BROADBAND EXPANSION (CARFAGNA R, STEWART B) Regarding broadband expansion, including access to electric cooperative easements and facilities, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 3/23/2021 - Senate Financial Institutions and Technology, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-2>
- HB244** TECH BASED EDUCATION - MILITARY CHILDREN (WHITE A, LAMPTON B) Regarding technology-based educational opportunities for, and the enrollment of, military children.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-244>
- SB8** BROADBAND-ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EASEMENTS (MCCOLLEY R) Regarding broadband expansion, including access to electric cooperative easements and facilities, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 2/17/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-8>

Legislative Updates

Goal 5: Raise awareness of racial and social justice issues and work to continually improve communities within our growing region.

- HB72** DESIGNATE HISPANIC, LATINX HERITAGE MONTH (MIRANDA J, CUTRONA A) To designate September 15 to October 15 each year as “Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month.”
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-72>
- HB238** DESIGNATE BUFFALO SOLDIERS DAY (HICKS-HUDSON P, CRAWLEY E) To designate July 28 as Buffalo Soldiers Day.
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-238>
- HB242** DESIGNATE AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH (YOUNG B, WEINSTEIN C) To designate April as “Autism Acceptance Month.”
Current Status: 3/31/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-242>
- HCR6** DECLARE RACISM PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (HOWSE S, CRAWLEY E) To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.
Current Status: 3/17/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HCR-6>
- SB78** 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: 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-78>
- SB125** BIRTH EQUITY (KUNZE S, MAHARATH T) To enact the Save Our Mothers Act regarding birth equity, peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and implicit bias in the health care system and to designate May as “Maternal Mortality Awareness Month.”
Current Status: 3/10/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-125>
- SB137** PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED MORTALITY REVIEW BOARD (KUNZE S, ANTONIO N) To modify the laws governing the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board and to require birthing facilities to report data on severe maternal morbidity.
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-137>
- SB149** BIAS-MOTIVATED CRIME (MAHARATH T, ANTONIO N) To rename the offense of ethnic intimidation to bias-motivated crime; to expand the scope of bias-motivated crime; to require peace officer training on bias-motivated crime; and to require data collection and reporting on bias-motivated crime.
Current Status: 3/30/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-149>

Legislative Updates

- SCR4** DECLARE RACISM PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (CRAIG H, WILLIAMS S) To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.
Current Status: 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SCR-4>
- SCR5** DENOUNCE RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION-COVID-19 (MAHARATH T, THOMAS C) To denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and discrimination occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SCR-5>
- SJR1** PROHIBIT INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE-PUNISHMENT FOR CRIME (THOMAS C) Proposing to amend Section 6 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit involuntary servitude in Ohio for the punishment of crime.
Current Status: 3/17/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SJR-1>
- SR11** RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2021 AS NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH. (FEDOR T, KUNZE S) Recognizing January 2021 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.
Current Status: 2/2/2021 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SR-11>

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