



# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

October 2021



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

**Joseph Garrity**  
Director of Government Affairs  
+ Community Relations  
(614) 233-4127  
jgarrity@morpc.org

## What's Happening

### ***New Energy Efficiency Standards Gain Support in General Assembly***

A bipartisan bill to reinvent Ohio's energy efficiency program (EE) has been introduced and is receiving hearings. House Bill 389, jointly sponsored by Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) and Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), was introduced on August 12th and has received two hearings thus far in the House Public Utilities Committee.

The joint sponsors say the bill, by addressing Ohio's energy efficiency programs, will lead to a cleaner future with strong potential to save money and jobs.

According to Leland and Seitz, HB 389 would revive Ohio's EE standards from those repealed by HB 6 (133rd G.A.) through the following ways:

- No mandates;
- A reduced gross annual energy savings target of 0.5 percent;
- A monthly cost cap of \$1.50 for each participating residential customer;
- Corresponding caps on utility company expenditures;
- Verification by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) that savings exceed costs; and
- "Proven energy efficiency initiatives."

In committee, the bill has been praised by representatives of environmental organizations and American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio, urging members of the House Public Utilities Committee to support the legislation.

According to the Legislative Services Commission, the bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. A substitute bill is being drafted and MORPC plans to weigh in support of the bill once it is offered.

### ***Ohio House Considers Increasing Penalties for Distracted Driving***

MORPC has been a strong proponent of increasing Ohio's penalties for distracted driving as a deterrent and supported a provision in the transportation budget on distracted driving that was later removed by the legislature, preferring instead to debate the issue through standalone legislation. A House bill to expand the texting while driving prohibition to a general prohibition against using an electronic wireless communications device while driving has had three hearings so far in the General Assembly. House Bill 283, jointly sponsored by Rep. Cindy Abrams (R-Harrison) and Rep. Brian Lampton (R-Fairborn), would prohibit drivers from holding or "physically supporting" an electronic wireless communications device, or EWCD, with any part of the body, "with certain exceptions." These exceptions include driver emergencies and for first responders and utility workers responding to an emergency, outage or "circumstance that affects the health and safety of individuals."

The bill was substituted in committee with language to require ODOT to erect distracted driving warnings on certain highways and locations entering Ohio. Included as well is a requirement for drivers to sign a form at the registrar of motor vehicles to

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acknowledge receipt of Ohio's laws on distracted driving. Peace officers would only be allowed to issue written warnings for breaking the law during the first six months after the bill's effective date. Finally, the bill was amended to require drivers' education courses to address the dangers of distracted driving and applicants for driver's license, temporary permit, and motorcycle endorsements would be required to take tests on distracted driving laws.

At the bill's most recent hearing, the bill was further amended to exempt amateur radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from the bill's operation.

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## ***Fy22-23 Budget***

Total General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax receipts for September finished \$94 million (4.5 percent) higher than the budgeted estimate, the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) announced.

## ***Coronavirus***

The FDA authorized a third Pfizer vaccine shot for Americans based on age, health status and occupational risk and Gov. Mike DeWine said the state would make vaccine boosters available to select groups of the population as soon as practical. In alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), ODH said booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are now available for the following populations at least six months after completion of the primary Pfizer series, meaning at least six months after the second dose was administered:

- People 65 years and older or residents in long-term care settings SHOULD receive a booster shot.
- People ages 50 to 64 with certain underlying medical conditions SHOULD receive a booster shot.
- People ages 18 to 49 with certain underlying medical conditions MAY receive a booster shot based on their individual benefits and risks. The CDC has indicated that this is a determination made by the vaccine recipient, but those eligible are encouraged to talk to their health care providers if they have any questions.
- People ages 18 and older who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their job or living in an institutional setting MAY receive a booster shot based on their individual benefits and risks. The CDC has indicated that this is a determination made by the vaccine recipient.

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Bruce Vanderhoff announced the state has doubled the prize money for the Ohio Vax-2-School program to a total of \$2 million in scholarships. In addition, Vanderhoff said the state plans to expand the age group of eligible Ohioans to younger children. Entries opened Monday, Oct. 4 for Ohioans aged 12 to 25, online at [www.ohiovox2school.com](http://www.ohiovox2school.com) or by phone at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

## ***Economic Development***

Ohio military and federal installations generated \$40 billion in gross regional product and 380,500 direct and indirect jobs in 2020, according to an economic analysis released by JobsOhio during the two-day Ohio Aerospace Day forum. At 6 percent of the state economy, this represents \$69 billion in total activity. The Dayton region, home to installations including Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, has \$19.4 billion in total activity and 103,000 jobs. The analysis included a review of U.S. Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Veterans' Affairs (VA) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) installations in the state. It was prepared by Matrix Design Group, and Matrix Senior Research Analyst Matt Schwab detailed the methodology used for the analysis at the forum.

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## ***Elections 2021***

Voter registration for the Tuesday, Nov. 2 General Election ended Monday, Oct. 4, 30 days before Election Day. Early, in-person voting and absentee balloting began Tuesday, Oct. 5.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose convened his Ready for November Task Force as early voting for the Tuesday, Nov. 2 General Election began, saying he wanted to have a conversation on voting security as more disinformation and conspiracy theories circulate. LaRose said that he wanted to provide information on how secure Ohio's elections are, adding that many Ohioans don't realize "the care that goes into elections."

## ***Elections 2022***

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Pat DeWine announced he would run for re-election to his current seat on the Court rather than seeking the position of chief justice, a campaign he had been exploring over the past year. His decision leaves Justice Sharon Kennedy as the top Republican candidate to succeed Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, who cannot run for re-election due to age limits. Justice Jennifer Brunner announced earlier this year that she would run for the Democratic nomination for the seat.

## ***Employment/Unemployment***

The nation saw an increase of 235,000 jobs in August and a 0.2 percent drop in the unemployment rate to 5.2 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) said. Monthly job growth throughout the year has averaged 586,000. Notable gains for August were in professional and business services; transportation and warehousing; private education; manufacturing; and other services. The number of unemployed persons fell to 8.4 million, BLS said, following a "large decrease" in July. Unemployment rates declined for adult men (5.1 percent) in August, while the rate for teenagers (11.2 percent) increased. There was little change in rates among adult women (4.8 percent), Blacks (8.8 percent), Asians (4.6 percent) and Hispanics (6.4 percent).

For the week ending Oct. 2, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 9,222 initial traditional unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). That number is lower than last week, when the department reported 10,135 traditional jobless claims.

## ***Energy***

Former Michigan governor and now U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm rolled out the Biden administration's Local Energy Action Program (LEAP) to help coal-rich Appalachia and other low-income communities embrace renewable generation and "environmental justice" as pathways to social equity. Granholm said "Communities LEAP" will work to transition the U.S. to a carbon-free economy, reduce air pollution, increase energy resilience, lower "energy burdens" and utility costs and create good-paying jobs for underprivileged Americans.

## ***Federal***

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) continued his push for the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure bill he helped craft while speaking with reporters. The U.S. Senate passed the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act early last month in a 69-30 vote that included 19 Republican senators. Portman, who played a lead role in crafting the legislation, has been championing the bill since.

Speaking during an event at a Nationwide Children's Hospital parking garage overlooking the I-70/I-71 split in Columbus, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) expressed optimism that President Joe Biden will be signing a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill by the end of the month despite the U.S. House delaying a vote on the bill.

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## ***General Assembly/Statehouse***

Latyna Humphrey will represent the 26th House District, House Democrats announced. Following the recommendation of a screening panel chaired by Rep. Dan Troy (D-Willowick), the caucus voted to appoint Humphrey to fill the vacancy left by former Rep. Erica Crawley (D-Columbus) when she resigned to become a Franklin County commissioner. Humphrey, currently serving as bailiff at the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, is expected to take the oath of office in the coming weeks.

## ***Governor***

Dan McCarthy resigned as legislative director for Gov. Mike DeWine, effective Friday, Sept. 24. In his resignation letter, McCarthy wrote that several of his predecessors in past administrations advised him to commit to the job for no more than two years “because of the pace and grind,” and that now is the right time for him to step down. He’s had the role close to three years, since the outset of DeWine’s term in January 2019. McCarthy, who was president of the Success Group lobbying firm, has come under scrutiny for connections to a political group implicated in the FirstEnergy nuclear subsidy scandal. But DeWine has consistently defended him, most recently in the face of calls for McCarthy to resign by legislative Democrats.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed HB92 (Abrams-Loychik), emergency legislation that originally focused on addressing child abuse and neglect in military families, but was amended by the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee to require the Ohio Redistricting Commission to create a public website that will allow members of the public to share congressional district plans and to clarify that funding provided in the state budget for “law-related education” on judicial candidates applies to all candidates who have filed to run for judicial office in the state. The bill took effective immediately with the governor’s signature.

## ***Housing/Homelessness***

The Ohio Department of Development (DOD) and Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA) recently reminded Ohioans facing foreclosure, eviction or utility shut offs that they can receive assistance through state programs. The Home Relief Grant includes rent, mortgage and utility assistance, and the Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis program provides funds for electric utility bills, central air conditioning repairs and air conditioning unit and/or fan purchases. Ohioans should contact local community action agencies to apply.

A collection of organizations focused on housing, finance, health and human services is urging Gov. Mike DeWine and the General Assembly to dedicate nearly \$400 million of the state’s \$5 billion-plus in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) COVID relief money to address affordable housing needs. “The recent economic upheaval, combined with rapidly increasing housing costs, have put many of our neighbors in precarious circumstances. Even before the pandemic, nearly 400,000 Ohio households were spending over half their income on rent, and that number has surely increased during the past year and a half,” states a letter signed by 181 organizations including the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), Ohio Bankers’ League, Ohio Credit Union League, Ohio Council of Churches, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, multiple Medicaid managed care plans and numerous local entities.

Ohio Realtors reported recently that Ohio home sales in August were one percent above where they’d been a year earlier, but average prices were up double digits.

## ***Immigration***

Gov. Mike DeWine announced the state has been notified by the federal government that it is receiving 855 Afghan evacuees through the U.S. Department of State’s Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) Program. The first group of Afghan evacuees totals 37,000 individuals nationwide. The federal government has told Ohio that the placements will be to eight local resettlement agencies located mainly in Northeast and Central Ohio, the governor’s office said.

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## ***Judicial***

The U.S. Supreme Court recently upended the Biden administration's latest eviction moratorium by vacating a stay of a lower court ruling on the topic. Ohio housing advocates said it's now up to Ohio judges to slow evictions in order to allow rental assistance funding to get to tenants in need. After expiration of an earlier moratorium, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) instituted a new one covering counties with substantial or high levels of COVID-19 transmission. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, however, found the moratorium unlawful in a case brought by the Alabama Association of Realtors and other plaintiffs, but stayed its ruling at the request of the Biden administration. Justices lifted that stay Thursday, Aug. 26.

## ***Poverty***

Using its "Ohio Poverty Measure (OHPM)," public policy group Scioto Analysis found 9.68 percent of state residents are living in poverty, including 3.66 percent in "deep poverty." That group has a median income of \$4,918, the group continued in a report. Nearly one in four Black Ohioans live in poverty, Scioto Analysis continued, while the ratio for White Ohioans is one in 12. The poverty rate for children is 13.3 percent, and the highest rates are focused in cities and Southeast Ohio.

## ***Public Safety***

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Columbus State Community College (CCCC) Police Department called on the state to make diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) a cornerstone of Ohio law enforcement. The Ohio Community-Police Collaborative Advisory Board heard from Franklin County DEI Director Napoleon Bell and Columbus State Police DEI Senior Advisor Dr. Renee Hill, who said the state already has three out of only a dozen DEI officers in the U.S. and has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in shaping the 21st century workplace.

## ***Telecommunications/Broadband***

Applications for the Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program are now being accepted. A total of \$250 million in grants is being offered to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for construction of broadband projects improving access in unserved and underserved areas. The period runs through Monday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. Applications will be reviewed by the Ohio Department of Development and BroadbandOhio, then sent to the Broadband Expansion Program Authority for approval and funding.

The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) and BroadbandOhio launched efforts to build the workforce needed for expansion of broadband and 5G access, with Lt. Gov. Jon Husted speaking at the Tri-County Career Center in Nelsonville regarding its new Fiber Optic Technician program.

"In Ohio and across the nation there is a sense of urgency to expand high-speed Internet, but you can't expand the infrastructure without a workforce to build it," said Husted, who leads the OWT. He added that the new program can provide the necessary skills and certificates in as little as six and a half weeks.

## ***Transportation/Infrastructure***

Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced that the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will provide Ohioans with valid credentials the ability to make one online order of a driver's license or ID card reprinting. This had previously only been an option in person at a deputy registrar location, and the new service could save an average of 500,000 visits per year. The reprint represents an exact copy of the last-issued credential, with no changes to personal information. It is not available for changes to a name, address or other identifier, though customers visiting the BMV can benefit from "Get In Line, Online" queuing.

# 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>
- HB63** AMEND EMINENT DOMAIN LAWS (CUTRONA A, STOLTZFUS R) To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 3/2/2021 - House Civil Justice, (Second Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-63>
- HB66** REVIEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS (HOOPS J) To require the reporting of information on and legislative review of property tax exemptions.  
**Current Status:** 10/5/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
**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>
- HB77** PERMIT HIGHER ED BOARD OF TRUSTEES ATTEND ELECTRONICALLY (MANCHESTER S, SWEENEY B) To allow the board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to adopt a policy allowing the trustees to attend a board meeting via means of electronic communication.  
**Current Status:** 5/26/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Workforce and Higher Education  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-77>
- 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:** 6/8/2021 - Senate Finance, (Tenth 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>
- HB228** STATE-ADMINISTERED MUNICIPAL NET PROFIT TAXES (ROEMER B) To make changes related to the state administration of municipal net profits taxes and the municipal taxation of retirement benefits.  
**Current Status:** 9/28/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
**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:** 6/16/2021 - Re-Referred to Committee  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-237>
- HB264** MODIFY TAX RULE FOR EMPLOYEES OF TEMPORARY WORKSITE (SMITH M, SOBECKI L) To amend Section 29 of HB197 of the 133rd General Assembly to modify the municipal income tax withholding rule for employees working at a temporary worksite.  
**Current Status:** 4/22/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-264>
- HB275** EXPAND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION JOINT PURCHASING AUTHORITY (LAMPTON B) To expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.  
**Current Status:** 5/12/2021 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-275>
- HB290** EXPRESS INTENT FOR SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA (MCCLAIN R, JOHN M) To express the intent of the General Assembly to establish a school funding formula that allows families to choose the option for all computed funding amounts associated with students' education to follow them to the public and nonpublic schools they attend.  
**Current Status:** 5/11/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-290>
- HB357** INDEX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AMOUNTS (STEPHENS J, LARE J) To index the homestead exemption amounts to inflation.  
**Current Status:** 10/12/2021 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-357>
- HB364** WATERWORKS INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION (PATTON T) To make changes to the application process for the waterworks infrastructure improvement surcharge.  
**Current Status:** 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-364>
- HB365** DRINKING WATER SAFETY RULES (LIGHTBODY M, RUSSO A) To require the Director of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing maximum allowable contaminant levels in drinking water and water quality standards for certain contaminants.  
**Current Status:** 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Agriculture and Conservation  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-365>
- HB377** CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY (HALL T, SWEARINGEN D) To amend Section 220.11 of H.B. 168 of the 134th General Assembly to make an appropriation related to coronavirus local fiscal recovery.  
**Current Status:** 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-377>

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- HB386** REQUIRE FIRE, POLICE CHIEF RESIDE IN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (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:** 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-386>
- HB422** BILLING - MUNICIPAL SERVICES (FRAIZER M, WEST T) To limit the amount municipal corporations can recover from property owners of non-owner-occupied properties for unpaid municipal utility and other service rates and charges and to create an appeals process for improper billing of municipal services.  
**Current Status:** 9/29/2021 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-422>
- HB430** PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (CROSS J) Relating to property development.  
**Current Status:** 9/21/2021 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-430>
- 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>
- SB24** FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS (GAVARONE T, PETERSON B) To enact the First-time Home Buyer Savings Act, authorizing income tax deductions for contributions to and earnings on savings accounts designated for the purchase of a home.  
**Current Status:** 6/8/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-24>
- 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:** 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Economic and Workforce Development  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-105>
- SB172** TAX CREDIT-NONRESIDENT TAXPAYERS (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:** 5/4/2021 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-172>
- SB193** UNPAID WATER CHARGES (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit political subdivisions from placing a lien on property for unpaid water charges.  
**Current Status:** 6/2/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-193>



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**SCR7** MEMORIALIZE PJM INTERCONNECTION (ROMANCHUK M) To memorialize PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to urge the preservation of the Minimum Offer Price Rule for the PJM capacity market.  
**Current Status:** 9/8/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SCR-7>

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## 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:** 9/30/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)  
**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:** 6/22/2021 - BILL AMENDED, House Transportation and Public Safety, (Fourth 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:** 5/6/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-70>
- 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:** 5/11/2021 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)  
**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>
- HB283** EXPAND DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS (ABRAMS C, LAMPTON B) To expand the texting while driving prohibition to a general prohibition against using an electronic wireless communications device while driving, with certain exceptions, and to create data collection requirements based on associated violations of the distracted driving laws.  
**Current Status:** 9/23/2021 - BILL AMENDED, House Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-283>
- HB346** REGARDING ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLES (MILLER J, WEINSTEIN C) To alter the definitions of "plugin electric motor vehicle" and "hybrid motor vehicle" under the motor vehicle law and to halve the additional registration fees for those two types of motor vehicles.  
**Current Status:** 6/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-346>
- HB347** REQUIREMENTS FOR REPLICA MOTOR VEHICLES (FOWLER S) To establish requirements relative to the titling and use of replica motor vehicles.  
**Current Status:** 6/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-347>

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- HB361** UNLAWFUL BLOCKS OF RAILROAD CROSSING (HALL T, MIRANDA J) To establish new requirements and increased penalties that apply to a railroad company that unlawfully blocks a railroad crossing.  
**Current Status:** 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-361>
- 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.

- 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>
- HB175** DEREGULATE CERTAIN EPHEMERAL WATER FEATURES (HILLYER B) To deregulate certain ephemeral water features under various water pollution control laws.  
**Current Status:** 10/6/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-175>
- 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:** 5/6/2021 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Third Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-192>
- HB245** EXPAND ELIGIBILITY - COUNTY SEWER DISCOUNTED RATES (INGRAM C) To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges.  
**Current Status:** 4/14/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-245>
- HB351** REPEAL NONBYPASSABLE COST RECOVERY MECHANISMS (LANESE L, STOLTZFUS R) To repeal the nonbypassable cost recovery mechanisms associated with legacy generation resources and to provide customer refunds.  
**Current Status:** 9/29/2021 - House Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-351>
- HB381** ELECTRIC CHARGES - OTHER STRUCTURES (GRENDALL D) To allow for certain structures on a retail electric customer's property to be charged the same as the primary residence.  
**Current Status:** 9/29/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-381>

# Legislative Updates

- HB389** REGARDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY (LELAND D, SEITZ B) To permit electric distribution utilities to establish energy efficiency and peak demand reduction portfolios.  
**Current Status:** 9/29/2021 - House Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-389>
- HB429** CLEAN ENERGY JOBS (WEINSTEIN C, HOWSE S) To establish programs and state policies regarding clean energy jobs and energy justice, to create the Governor's Office of Energy Justice, to make changes to the environmental, electric utility, and other public utility laws, and to make an appropriation.  
**Current Status:** 9/21/2021 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-429>
- SB19** WETLAND MITIGATION-PROPERTY TAX (SCHAFFER T) To establish a property tax exemption for certain property used for wetland mitigation projects.  
**Current Status:** 6/28/2021 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 61-36  
**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>
- 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:** 9/21/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)  
**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:** 6/15/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second 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:** 5/12/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-127>
- SCR7** MEMORIALIZE PJM INTERCONNECTION (ROMANCHUK M) To memorialize PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to urge the preservation of the Minimum Offer Price Rule for the PJM capacity market.  
**Current Status:** 9/8/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SCR-7>

# Legislative Updates

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

- HB278** REVISE MARCS LAWS (HILLYER B) To make changes to laws governing the multi-agency radio communications system (MARCS).  
**Current Status:** 5/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-278>
- HB432** DATA BREACHES (CROSSMAN J, SOBECKI L) Regarding data breaches on state agency computer systems.  
**Current Status:** 9/23/2021 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-432>
- 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:** 4/21/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-72>
- HB341** CREATE BUREAU OF HATE CRIMES ((MILLER A, WEINSTEIN C) To create the Bureau of Hate Crimes in the Office of the Attorney General and to authorize the Attorney General to prosecute a hate crime.  
**Current Status:** 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-341>
- 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:** 6/23/2021 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HCR-6>
- SB48** CULTURAL COMPETENCY-HEALTH CARE (MAHARATH T, ANTONIO N) To require certain health care professionals to complete instruction in cultural competency.  
**Current Status:** 6/16/2021 - Senate Health, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-48>
- 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>
- SB158** EXPUNGEMENT-EVICTION RECORDS (CRAIG H, KUNZE S) Related to expungement of eviction case court files.  
**Current Status:** 9/14/2021 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-158>
- 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>

For more information please contact:

Joseph Garrity | Director of Government Affairs + Community Relations | [jgarrity@morpc.org](mailto:jgarrity@morpc.org) | 614.233.4127



# Your Government Affairs Team



**Steve Tugend**  
Director +Chair, Government Affairs  
(614) 462-5424  
stugend@keglerbrown.com



**Tony Fiore**  
Of Counsel  
(614) 462-5428  
afiore@keglerbrown.com



**Rusty Schuermann**  
Director  
(614) 462-5440  
rschuermann@keglerbrown.com



**Robert Dove**  
Associate  
(614) 462-5443  
rdove@keglerbrown.com



**Mike Culp**  
Government Affairs Advisor  
(614) 462-5477  
mculp@keglerbrown.com



**Andy Shifflette**  
Government Affairs Advisor  
(614) 462-5491  
ashifflette@keglerbrown.com



**Beverly Staten**  
Government Affairs Specialist  
(614) 462-5455  
bstaten@keglerbrown.com