



# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

December 2021



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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## What's Happening

### ***Biden Signs Federal Infrastructure Bill***

President Joe Biden signed into law a long awaited \$555 billion Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) on November 15th. This legislation directs billions of dollars toward new construction of roads, bridges, airports and seaports. In addition, the act expands the availability of broadband internet access for millions of Americans. Other provisions of the act will replace lead pipes and build electric vehicle charging stations.

The IIJA would not have been signed into law if it weren't for the bipartisan leadership of Senator Rob Portman, Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, and Senator Sherrod Brown. Although the policymaking is over, the real work has just begun. Seeking these funds is no small task, which is why MORPC has created an internal intergovernmental investment team to assist communities across our 15-county region in competing for these dollars. Furthermore, at the outset of the new year MORPC will hire a Grants Officer who will be solely dedicated to bringing this needed investment back to our growing region. To stay apprised on the latest federal investment opportunities please visit Investing in Central Ohio's Future Page .

As part of this package, the Ohio Department of Transportation would expect to receive approximately \$9.8 billion over five years in Federal highway formula funding for highways and bridges. This would be a thirty percent (30%) increase in Ohio's Federal-aid highway formula funding. However, this increase will not be realized until Congress passes their appropriations bills and avoid the continuation of 2021 funding levels under a full-year continuing resolution (CR). Such Congressional action may not take place until February 2022 at the earliest.

The infrastructure package comes at a great time for Ohio, as the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Ohio a C- on its infrastructure report card. In addition to the increase in Federal highway funds, Ohio will:

- » Receive approximately \$61 million in 402 formula funding for highway safety traffic programs over five years, which help states to improve driver behavior and reduce deaths and injuries from motor vehicle-related crashes;
- » Receive about \$1.4 billion over five years to improve public transportation options across the state;
- » Receive about \$140 million over five years to support the expansion of a plug-in electric vehicle (EV) charging network in the state;
- » Be eligible to compete for \$5 billion for rail improvement and safety grants and \$3 billion for grade crossing safety improvements; and
- » Receive approximately \$253 million for infrastructure development for airports over five years.



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**KEGLER  
BROWN  
HILL  
+  
RITTER**

# What's Happening

## ***General Assembly to Debate Capital Bill***

Early in 2022 the Ohio General Assembly will be considering a new state capital appropriations bill for the upcoming biennium. Governor Mike DeWine's administration, through the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), is reviewing capital plans from state agencies in order to make recommendations for the capital appropriations and reappropriations bills.

A portion of the capital bill is likely to be set aside for making appropriations for targeted projects of local or regional importance. These are project with strong community support, most of which also include commitments of local resources.

In Central Ohio, the Columbus Partnership runs a process with the support of MORPC to make recommendations of strong community projects in the region to the General Assembly. It is expected that the Columbus Partnership will announce their recommendations this month. However, any community may approach their state legislative delegation with a community project proposal directly. Those wishing to advocate for a community project, it is recommended that you share it with the General Assembly by early March.

## Top News

### ***Cities***

Remote work, or work-from-home (WFH), will have "significant impacts" on the tax revenue of major Ohio cities as it continues after the pandemic, according to a report released by the Ohio Mayors Alliance (OMA). The report from financial management consultant PFM estimated that a third of the workforce could be remote, based on economic data in a cross section of 10 cities. The fiscal effects for the 10 major cities are projected to range from 6 to 17 percent in lost municipal income tax revenue from the general fund, with the report giving high, medium and low projections for each. Dayton could lose the most at 17 percent, followed by Fairfield, 15 percent; Elyria, 14 percent; and Cincinnati, Columbus and Kettering at 12 percent.

### ***Elections 2021***

Cuyahoga County Councilwoman Shontel Brown and lobbyist Mike Carey easily won special elections for the 11th and 15th Congressional Districts. Brown had more than 80 percent of the vote over Republican Laverne Gore early on, and her margin remained around that number for the rest of the evening. Meanwhile, Carey easily defeated Democrat Allison Russo in the 15th Congressional District. Of the 12 counties in the district, Russo only won Franklin County. This race had received more attention nationally, with former Vice President Mike Pence and U.S. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy visiting the district to stump for Carey. Former President Donald Trump also endorsed Carey and had touted his candidacy throughout the election. Russo, who had slightly outlasted Carey in the most recent filing, was endorsed by President Joe Biden this week.

### ***Elections 2022***

Mayor of Cincinnati and candidate for the Democratic nomination for Ohio governor John Cranley told reporters how he would reform the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), pledging to fire all five commission members if he were elected next year.

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) announced on social media that he will be running for the Ohio 10th District Court of Appeals in 2022. Leland, who is term-limited next year, posted his campaign announcement on Twitter, along with a link to his campaign website.

# Top News

Conservative activist and attorney Scott Pullins announced that he is exploring a run for the Ohio House next year, eyeing the new 98th District created by the Ohio Redistricting Commission. However, that map is currently the subject of litigation. If approved by the Ohio Supreme Court, the 98th District would cover all of Knox County and parts of Morrow and Holmes counties.

## *Energy*

Ohio oil and gas production hit its lowest point since 2017 in the second quarter of 2021, with total barrels sliding nearly a third since 2020's high mark and natural gas falling more than 8 percent from the previous year. The Ohio Oil and Gas Association (OOGA) had expressed uncertainty about the Biden administration's energy policies going into the new year, as the president and Democratic Congress have pursued solar and wind energy expansion while rolling back fossil fuel production from traditional and "fracking" wells.

The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) has approved up to \$215 million in bond financing for a solar project in Northwest Ohio. Aurora Solar LLC's Powell Creek Solar Project in Putnam County will use the funding to assist with the installation of a large solar electric system in Palmer and Liberty townships, according to OAQDA.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's (OFBF) director of energy development told the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) Governing Board that the expansion of solar, wind and natural gas generation statewide is providing a growing number of local officials, residents and businesses with the opportunity to participate in the siting of energy infrastructure. House members gave an early thumbs-up to energy efficiency (EE) reboot HB389 (Leland-Seitz) Wednesday despite the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and Ohio Manufacturers' Association's (OMA) continued opposition to its narrow opt-out requirement on all but the largest commercial customers and a peak energy savings program they say should be governed by the free market, among other concerns. The House Public Utilities Committee passed the bill 12-0 with several changes, including one requested by OMA, after final opponent testimony from OCC. Speaking on behalf of the consumers' counsel, former Sen. Jeff Jacobson said most of the agency's problems with HB389 remain after "minor improvements" in late October. He reaffirmed that the benefits of EE are readily available in the free market, and without government-mandated subsidies.

The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) cleared six more solar fields planned for 15 square miles of rural Ohio along with a wind farm destined for another 50 square miles in Huron and Erie counties. OPSB approved applications filed by Cadence Solar Energy, Marion County Solar Project, Sycamore Creek Solar and Juliet Energy Project to construct photo-voltaic farms in Union, Wood, Crawford and Marion counties, respectively.

Gov. Mike DeWine is urging President Joe Biden to intervene in Michigan's Enbridge pipeline dispute with Canada to spare the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes states from a major economic blow as the nation recovers from COVID-19. DeWine and Lt Gov. Jon Husted wrote Biden a letter dated Friday, Nov. 19 to explain Line 5's importance to the region. The governor says Ohio would lose roughly 20,000 jobs and \$13.7 billion in economic activity, with Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania facing a combined loss of 33,755 jobs and \$20.8 billion. Those figures would have "widespread implications" for the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes region's gross state product (GSP), worker earnings and tax revenues.

# Top News

## Environment

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) awarded \$1.7 million in low interest loans to three Ohio communities to improve wastewater and drinking water infrastructure and to make water quality improvements. The three projects received an interest rate ranging from 1.51 percent to 1.73 percent. For October, the following Ohio communities receiving funding from OWDA's Fresh Water Loan Program:

- » The city of London in Madison County is receiving \$827,888.00 at 1.73 percent for five years for the design of 20,000 feet of sanitary sewer, a new lift station, and upgrades to the Sharp Avenue lift station to facilitate further development and growth within the northeast corner of the city.
- » Northwestern Water & Sewer District is receiving \$552,736.52 at 1.51 percent for 20 years for the construction of 1,600 feet of waterline along Wales Road in Wood County to replace aging waterlines.
- » The city of Rittman in Wayne County is receiving \$375,049.00 at 1.70 percent for 30 years for the construction of 2,000 feet of waterline along Grant, Seneca, and South State streets to replace aging waterline.

Ohio EPA's experience with litigation over listings of brownfield sites prompted the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee to revise a proposal to catalog such sites, instead directing the attached funding toward a voluntary program to assess the potential for contamination. Under SB83 (Rulli-Williams), Ohio EPA was to use \$150,000 to conduct a study of where brownfield sites are throughout the state, in conjunction with public universities. The legislation was paired with SB84 (Rulli-Williams), which is meant to provide additional funding for brownfield remediation, but lawmakers instead put funding toward that purpose in the biennial budget, HB110 (Oelslager). Under an adopted amendment, Ohio EPA will instead use the funding for Phase I property assessments, a no-cost service to communities that can help them determine what's wrong with a site. This includes historical record searches, interviews with neighbors and past owners and site visits that can help to identify areas that might require sampling.

## Federal

White House officials and U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg provided an overview Monday of spending priorities in the infrastructure funding deal approved by Congress, noting the substantial sums for roads and bridges are accompanied by money for everything from lead water line replacement to orphan well plugging to cybersecurity response to transit to electric vehicle charging, resiliency in response to climate change and more. Ohio elected officials noted the bill's potential to address the aging Brent Spence Bridge, a major interstate link between Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, among other benefits. The deal includes \$1.2 trillion in total spending. Both U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) noted inclusion of details from the bipartisan Bridge Investment Act, with \$12.5 billion in competitive grants for projects that improve bridge conditions and the safety, efficiency and reliability of moving people and freight.

Vice President Kamala Harris visited Columbus along with U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Marty Walsh to tour and speak at a union hall. Harris and Walsh visited Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 189 and met with people in an apprenticeship program. Ohio Democratic Party Chair Elizabeth Walters praised the vice president's visit as a chance to celebrate the recently passed federal infrastructure spending measure, noting billions of dollars are set to flow to Ohio for roads, bridges, water, sewer and broadband projects.

Gov. Mike DeWine is suspending pre-approval requirements for heavier truck loads as part of a joint effort among numerous governors to address supply chain issues during the holiday season, an effort in which they're also urging federal action. DeWine's office said he's directed the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to resume the pandemic-era practice of allowing trucks to haul loads of up to 90,000 pounds so long as they report where they traveled after their trips, suspending the requirement for pre-approval of shipments over 80,000 pounds. "Supply chain issues have led to shortages of raw materials and goods from factories to stores, and simple actions, like modifying weight limits, adjusting hours of service for truck drivers, and removing some non-safety-related restrictions on commercial drivers licenses will help ease a record-shortage of truck drivers and allow more goods to flow to market," said DeWine in a statement. "I'm calling on President Biden to review and revise any federal regulations that are hindering our efforts."

# Top News

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

Both the House and Senate released their tentative legislative calendar for 2022, the second year of the 134th General Assembly. Both plan to resume voting sessions in January on Wednesday, Jan. 19. The final session day of the 134th General Assembly is projected to be Wednesday, Dec. 21. All Senate sessions are on Wednesdays and begin at 1:30 p.m. House sessions, for the most part, dovetail the Senate calendar, although it has the possibility of two additional session days. There are no sessions set for July, August and October.

## ***State Government***

Gov. Mike DeWine announced the second round of grant funding in the Ohio Broadband, Utilities and Infrastructure for Local Development Success (Ohio BUILDS) program, saying that 28 projects will receive nearly \$44 million. This brings the funding to around \$137 million — out of an eventual \$250 million — and there are now funded projects benefitting all 88 counties. The first round had \$93 million provided to 54 projects. Third round results will be announced at a later date. The second round focused on infrastructure projects for drinking water and wastewater.

## ***Telecommunications***

The Department of Development (DOD) decided to re-file a rule addressing non-compliant grantees in the state's new broadband expansion program, shortly before it was considered by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). Lawmakers created a program to fund expansion of broadband into unserved and underserved areas earlier this year in HB2 (Carfagna-Stewart).

## ***Transportation/Infrastructure***

The Ohio Traffic Safety Council marked its one-year anniversary during a meeting, saying that while much has been done over the last year, there is still much work to do. Safety for younger drivers continues to be a priority. The panel was formed last year by Gov. Mike DeWine to look into the state's increase in traffic deaths. Ben Suver, director of law enforcement initiatives at the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), noted the focus on youthful driver safety, saying research has shown that increased driver training decreases the potential for accidents. The state is looking for ways to address barriers for training for some younger drivers, and has been talking with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to help identify populations of teenagers that might struggle with these barriers.

Motorcycle Ohio announced earlier this month that \$2.5 million in funding is available for government agencies and nonprofit organizations that are interested in offering certified motorcycle rider training. A division of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), Motorcycle Ohio establishes motorcycle safety and education programs to provide affordable motorcycle rider training courses in order to reduce fatalities and injuries on Ohio's roadways through rider education, public information campaigns and licensing improvement.

## ***Utilities***

The Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) does not plan to support the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel's (OCC) call for a special meeting of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Nominating Council to consider reforms to the nomination process. It does not, that is, in the very near future.

The Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) does not plan to support the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel's (OCC) call for a special meeting of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Nominating Council to consider reforms to the nomination process. It does not, that is, in the very near future. On Friday, OSBA confirmed a meeting of its Public Utilities Committee on Oct. 22 to consider whether its Nominating Council designee, Carpenter Lipps & Leland attorney Kim Bojko, should second fellow council member and OCC Governing Board Chairman Michael Watkins' request for a special meeting, which requires at least two votes. "As an organization, the OSBA has not recommended that our representative, Kim Bojko, second the vote for a special Nominating Council meeting," said OSBA Chief Communications Officer Maggie Ostrowski

# Top News

PUCO staff have agreed to a record settlement for \$306 million in “significantly excessive earnings” to be returned to over two million FirstEnergy residential consumers in addition to commercial and institutional customers. Signed by a dozen parties including the Office of Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC), the agreement follows an appeal by the agency and a 2020 decision by the Ohio Supreme Court overturning the commission’s previous order to shield FirstEnergy profits. The settlement, which still requires commissioners’ approval, would begin by refunding \$96 million to all rate classes based on FirstEnergy’s 2017-19 significantly excessive earnings tests (SEET). That amounts to \$26.91 for the average residential customer and \$2.68 per megawatt hour (MWh) for other ratepayers. Starting in 2022, the remaining \$210 million would be refunded.

PUCO has set a hearing for Tuesday, Dec. 7 to address the Office of Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) and 10 other intervenors’ third bite at AES Corporation’s 2009 electric security plan (ESP I) after the company abandoned ESPs II and III. Commissioners call OCC’s move to quash AES’s proposed rate increase unripe but say its larger push for a rate freeze could be assumed “correct” — even if the company retains the right to file a new rate case for eventual adoption. AES (formerly DP&L) says OCC’s failure to seek a reimplementations of the rate freeze after the utility asked to revive ESP I not once but twice means the agency cannot do so now.

Two retail energy suppliers — Switch Energy and Gasearch LLC — will have a final opportunity to explain why they should be able to continue doing business in the state after Ohio’s electric utilities and Dominion Energy found they had defaulted on their service agreements to operate in the companies’ territories.

PUCO’s energy efficiency (EE) workshop series, originally set for this fall, has been rescheduled for next spring. Five EE workshops will solicit stakeholder feedback on the appropriateness of cost-effective energy efficiency programs in managing electric generation costs and their relationship to Ohio’s competitive electric and natural gas marketplaces. The full list of EE workshop questions can be found [here](#).

The Office of Ohio Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) and Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) say HB317 (Wilkin) is not the reform-minded utility bill ratepayers deserve but instead a transparent repackaging of a 13-year-old ratemaking scheme that has piled ever-increasing distribution charges on Ohioans. Consumers’ Counsel Bruce Weston and NOPEC CEO Chuck Keiper wrote Chairman Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon) and other members of the House Public Utilities Committee to request major changes to HB317 and to commend a couple of bright spots in the bill.

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office says auditors hired by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to probe invalidated FirstEnergy charges provided the commission no “updates” of their interim summary during a six-month contract period. The AG says the Office of Ohio Consumers’ Counsel’s (OCC) request for the never-released audit and/or related communiques between FirstEnergy, the auditor and PUCO is therefore pointless. OCC had asked PUCO for Oxford Advisors’ final audit report and related communications in October after an undated text from former FirstEnergy CEO Chuck Jones surfaced indicating commission staff had begun to question Randazzo’s treatment of the utility. Led by Randazzo, Commissioners Beth Trombold, Lawrence Friedeman, Daniel Conway and Dennis Deters followed by dismissing the audit case without a final report after the Ohio Supreme Court overturned FirstEnergy charges.

# 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:** 10/19/2021 - BILL AMENDED, Senate Ways and Means, (Third 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>
- 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 state-administered municipal net profits taxes.  
**Current Status:** 11/8/2021 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-228>
- 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:** 10/26/2021 - House Finance, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-237>

# Legislative Updates

- 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:** 10/27/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)  
**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>
- 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>



# Legislative Updates

- 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:** 11/16/2021 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Energy and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-430>
- HB463** ELIMINATE HEALTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCILS (STEPHENS J) To eliminate district advisory councils for general health districts, and transfer their duties and responsibilities to boards of county commissioners.  
**Current Status:** 10/26/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-463>
- HB481** COVID VACCINE, PASSPORT PROTECTION ACT (JORDAN K) To enact the COVID-19 Vaccination and Passport Protection Act to prohibit schools, institutions of higher education, employers, and places of public accommodation from requiring COVID-19 vaccines or proof of vaccination.  
**Current Status:** 11/8/2021 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-481>
- SB15** FISCAL OFFICERS-LIABILITY (WILSON S) To change the circumstances in which certain fiscal officers may be held liable for a loss of public funds.  
**Current Status:** 11/17/2021 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-15>
- 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:** 10/19/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Fifth 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>
- 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>

# Legislative Updates

**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>

**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 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:** 11/18/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (Third 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 REPLICATOR 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>

# Legislative Updates

- 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:** 10/26/2021 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-361>
- HB465** ODOT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS-SCHOOLS (SHEEHY M, BIRD A) To establish requirements regarding Department of Transportation projects, specifically as they relate to schools and school zones.  
**Current Status:** 10/26/2021 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-465>
- 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:** 11/30/2021 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)  
**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:** 10/27/2021 - House Public Utilities, (Third 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:** 11/10/2021 - House Public Utilities, (Third 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:** 11/17/2021 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Public Utilities, (Fifth Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-389>
- HB429** CLEAN ENERGY JOBS (WEINSTEIN C) 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:** 10/12/2021 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-429>
- HB464** ELIMINATE WATER SYSTEM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (WIGGAM S) To eliminate public water system asset management program requirements and to require the Director of Environmental Protection to rescind rules governing that program.  
**Current Status:** 10/26/2021 - Referred to Committee House Agriculture and Conservation  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-464>
- SB19** REGARDING PROPERTY TAXATION (SCHAFFER T) To modify the law regarding property taxation and sales and use tax.  
**Current Status:** 11/10/2021 - Consideration of House Amendments; Senate Does Not Concur, Vote 1-32  
**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>

# Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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:** 10/12/2021 - Referred to Committee House Technology and Innovation  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-432>

**HB445** 9-1-1 SERVICES, TRAINING (CARFAGNA R, SMITH K) To make changes to the law governing 9-1-1 service and to repeal program requirements for emergency-service-telecommunicator training.  
**Current Status:** 11/16/2021 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-445>

**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>

## 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>



# Legislative Updates

- SB105** MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (SYKES V, SCHURING K) To require political subdivisions to recognize state certifications of minority business enterprises.  
**Current Status:** 11/17/2021 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Economic and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-105>
- 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:** 11/17/2021 - Senate Health, (First Hearing)  
**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:** 10/19/2021 - Senate Judiciary, (Second Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-158>
- SB243** PROHIBITION ON BIASED POLICING (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit biased policing and other status-based profiling.  
**Current Status:** 10/6/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-243>
- 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>

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