



# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

February 2022



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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## What's Happening

### ***MORPC to be Represented at NARC Conference***

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) will be kicking off its annual National Conference of Regions in Washington, DC on February 6th through February 8th and representatives from MORPC will be front and center.

The conference is for councils of government, metropolitan planning organizations, their leaders and board members, professional staff and local elected officials and draws a national audience consisting of elected city, county and state officials, diverse professionals, academics and private sector representatives.

MORPC representatives will have the opportunity to engage with members of the Congressional delegation and their staff to discuss relevant topics important to communities across Central Ohio. Such topics include:

- » What is in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for regions;
- » New opportunities for broadband funding;
- » Federal transportation and infrastructure policy;
- » Potential environmental policy and regulatory changes under new legislation; and
- » Future of workforce development programs and how regions can benefit.

Notably, this conference precedes NARC's 56th Annual Conference & Exhibition which will be in Columbus from June 12th through the 15th. MORPC looks forward to hosting the June conference and Executive Director William Murdock had a speaking role at this month's NARC conference in Washington to provide a preview of this exciting upcoming event.

### ***Congressional Mapmaking Poised to Restart Ahead of Sunday's Next Deadline***

A day before lawmakers are set to publicly renew talks over new congressional districts, Democrats remain frustrated with the process. And a new legal argument from Democrats – that a four-year partisan map is no longer an option – sparked pushback from Republican leaders who accused their counterparts of creating a “false narrative.”

The friction between the caucuses comes as Republicans in both chambers are set to unveil their map proposals at committee meetings Tuesday and Wednesday. That is in advance of a midnight Sunday deadline by which the General Assembly must adopt a 10-year map or hand the job over to the Ohio Redistricting Commission Track for another 30-day time limit.

To pass a map that will take effect before the May 3 primary, though, the legislature must include an emergency clause – a prospect that would require two-thirds support in both chambers and Democratic buy-in in the House. Potentially complicating the matter is the Ohio Supreme Court's late Monday decision that again struck down state legislative districts. That ruling calls for a new map to be adopted by Feb. 17 and filed with the court the next day. With House Democrats unlikely to settle for anything less than a 9-6 map – the same breakdown they offered during mapmaking negotiations last year – Republicans face an uphill climb generating that support.



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KEGLER  
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HILL  
+  
RITTER

# What's Happening

“They need our help on the emergency clause and if they present a map that is basically like the one they did before with a couple tweaks...we will likely oppose it,” said Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester), ranking member on the House Government Oversight Track Committee, which will vet the House map plan.

Alternatively, lawmakers could move the primary election date, but Republican leaders so far have said the appetite for such a disruptive move is lacking in their caucuses.

Advocate groups spent the weekend mobilizing supporters to testify and as of Monday afternoon Democrats in both chambers had yet to be given a look at the Republican map proposals and were calling for more transparency. “There is a clear path to producing a fair, constitutional map that allows for the equal representation that all Ohio voters deserve,” House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) said. “Now, it is the duty of this General Assembly to uphold our constitutional responsibility and deliver a fair map.”

Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) added: “It’s time for us to work together as a legislature to create a bipartisan plan that doesn’t divide our communities or unduly favor any political party.” But Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) bristled at Democratic leaders’ legal argument that Republicans can no longer fall back on a four-year partisan map. The Democratic leaders argued that the Constitution provides no impasse procedure for mapmakers seeking to comply with a court order once an initial map is invalidated.

The General Assembly is the only body capable of creating a four-year map and only after initial rounds of mapmaking in the legislature and then the commission have failed, they argue. This round, the path ends at the commission and the Constitution is silent on what happens should the commission fail to meet that 30-day deadline.

Sen. Huffman pushed back on that conclusion, arguing that Article 11 – which governs legislative redistricting – gives the commission the authority to act with a majority vote. “It is important that the constitutional amendment passed by voters is not misrepresented by a false narrative promoted by special interest groups interested in clouding the process,” Sen. Huffman said. “If needed, the Redistricting Commission may send the Supreme Court a map to review based on a simple majority vote, because at this point we are at the end of the exercise, not the beginning.”

Tuesday’s House hearing focused on a congressional map bill that was used to conduct hearings on the earlier maps in November. The bill is marked for a potential amendment but no vote, opening the possibility of hearings being scheduled for later in the week.

That afternoon, the Senate General Government Budget Track Committee will continue the debate with public testimony on that chamber’s placeholder map bill. The Senate panel is scheduled to meet again at 10 a.m. Wednesday for all testimony, amendments and a potential vote. Both chambers meet in voting session Wednesday and an if-needed House session remains on the schedule for Thursday. Either chamber could also recess at any time, enabling members to reconvene on a different day.

## ***Ohio’s Candidate Filing Deadline More Chaotic than Most Years***

This year’s candidate filing deadline for the 2022 Primary Election was certainly unique due to a delay in legislative map drawing. Candidates wishing to appear on Ohio’s May 3rd Primary had to file their candidate petitions by February 3rd. While candidates for statewide office, including Governor, Ohio Supreme Court, and U.S. Senate filed their petitions with the Ohio Secretary of State, candidates for county office and the Ohio General Assembly were required to file their petitions with the county boards of elections. Recent legislation pushed Ohio’s deadline for candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives to file their petitions to March 4th.

# What's Happening

Following the U.S. Census, Ohio is required to redraw legislative districts for the 99 Ohio House districts, 33 Ohio Senate districts, and U.S. House districts. However, candidates filing for the Ohio House and Ohio Senate this month did not necessarily know what their district will actually look like at the time of petition filing. This is because the Ohio Supreme Court, which already struck down approved Ohio Redistricting Commission maps once is contemplating new litigation on the latest Ohio General Assembly maps.

Bipartisan legislation allowed Ohio General Assembly candidates to collect signatures anywhere in the county where they lived, even if those signing their candidate petitions may or may not live in the district that the candidate may eventually represent.

This situation also caused some confusion among local elections officials receiving the candidate petitions. Many boards of elections made publicly available a list of candidates that filed petitions, giving their best guess as to which Ohio House or Senate district the candidates would compete. However, the Summit County Board of Elections listed all Ohio House candidates in a generic race without attempting to put a candidate into a district that may or may not be the final district. The Ohio Supreme Court also invalidated the U.S. House District maps that the Ohio General Assembly passed. Efforts to approve a new version of Ohio's 15 Congressional districts are just beginning as U.S. House candidates work to file valid petitions by their March 4th deadline.

## Top News

### ***FY22-23 Budget***

Ohio collected nearly a quarter billion dollars more in tax revenue than expected in December, setting records for income tax withholding and non-auto sales tax collections, according to preliminary data from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). "Overall, this is just another indicator that we're going in the right direction," said OBM Director Kim Murnieks. Total tax receipts reached \$2.29 billion in December, \$243.6 million or 11.9 percent higher than expected. Year-to-date collections of \$13.21 billion are \$580.3 million or 4.6 percent above projections. Sales tax collections were \$90.7 million or 8.4 percent above estimate; the non-auto sales tax made up the bulk of the overage, bringing in \$80.6 million or 8.5 percent more than expected. Auto sales tax collections were up \$10.1 million or 7.8 percent versus estimates. Year-to-date collections are up \$212.1 million or 3.4 percent over estimates.

### ***Cities***

The Ohio Mayors Alliance announced it is launching a new podcast series titled "Local Solutions. Statewide Impact." The monthly podcast will feature mayors from both parties discussing the challenges and opportunities of Ohio's cities and the importance of working together.

### ***Civil Rights***

The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission held its 37th annual commemorative celebration at noon on Thursday, Jan. 13, according to the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS), which provides administrative support to the commission. The celebration includes an award ceremony, with new criteria for the year. More information can be found at <https://das.ohio.gov/mlk>.

# Top News

## ***Economic Development***

Gov. Mike DeWine and Intel Corporation announced the largest single private-sector investment in Ohio history, saying the tech company will invest more than \$20 billion in the construction of two new chip factories in Central Ohio. “Today’s announcement is monumental news for the state of Ohio,” DeWine said. “Intel’s new facilities will be transformative for our state, creating thousands of good-paying jobs in Ohio manufacturing strategically vital semiconductors, often called ‘chips.’ Advanced manufacturing, research and development, and talent are part of Ohio’s DNA, and we are proud that chips — which power the future — will be made in Ohio, by Ohioans.” Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger said the investment will help boost production to meet the country’s surging demand for advanced semiconductors. Planning for the first two factories will start immediately, with construction expected to begin late in 2022. Production is expected to come online in 2025, when the fab will deliver chips using the industry’s most advanced transistor technologies, Intel said. The Ohio project is Intel’s first new manufacturing site location in 40 years.

## ***Economy***

The Columbus Metropolitan Club (CMC) hosted a discussion on the economic forecast for 2022, with panelists offering their views on how the local economy could recover from the pandemic as well as the challenges that may impede growth. Bill LaFayette, owner of Regionomics, predicted there will be a 2.8 percent growth in local employment, totaling 30,100 new jobs. He expects increases in professional and technical services, transportation and the “catch-all” field of other services. State government employment declined in 2021 and is expected to drop again, though he said there may be less of a decline in 2022. National forecasts expect growth between 3.8 and 4 percent, but LaFayette said that implicitly assumes a level of workforce growth which could be “overly optimistic.” The “workforce problem,” along with the continued pandemic, remains “the big question mark” for area recovery after COVID.

## ***Energy***

Ohio could be among the “top states” for utility scale solar development in future decades, according to a release and report by the Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy (CICE). The report examined the “significant impact” of clean energy industries on the state’s economy, finding Ohio is “well on its way” to a “cleaner, stronger economy with onshore wind, solar and battery storage.” It also said there is “potential for a thriving electric vehicle industry and the first offshore wind project in the Great Lakes.”

With corporations’ use of renewables growing, the state has an opportunity to provide “good paying careers, steady income for landowners and reliable income for communities across the state” through these industries, according to CICE.

The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) approved an application filed by Union Ridge Solar, LLC to construct a solar-powered electric generating facility in Licking County. The board also approved an application filed by American Transmission Systems Inc. (ATSI) to construct the Beaver-Wellington Transmission Line Project in Lorain County.

## ***Environment***

A new study published recently by University of Toledo (UT) researchers suggests overuse of road salts to melt away snow and ice is threatening human health and the environment as they wash into drinking water sources. The study, titled “Road Salts, Human Safety, and the Rising Salinity of Our Fresh Waters,” published in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, also calls on policy makers and environmental managers to adopt a variety of solutions. The university notes that while usage varies by state, the amount of salt applied to icy roads annually in some regions can vary between approximately three and 18 pounds of salt per square meter, about the size of a small kitchen table. The study also found the use of deicing salts has tripled over the past 45 years, leading to dramatic increases of salt concentrations in streams, rivers, lakes, and other freshwater sources.

# Top News

## *Ethics*

The Ohio Ethics Commission said they have sent a strong recommendation to the General Assembly to increase state ethics law penalties for persons or entities convicted of providing unlawful gifts or payments to any public official or employee in state or local government. The recommendation calls for adding a prohibition from participating in any future public contracts for five years for any person or entity convicted of providing unlawful payments to a public official. Additionally, the commission said courts should be given the authority to order additional fines equal to such payments, noting that violations currently only carry a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or six months in prison.

## *Federal*

Ohio's U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown recently detailed Ohio-related provisions in the FY22 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which was passed on Dec. 15. The military funding bill "mattered greatly for Ohio" and will support jobs in the state. He specifically highlighted support for Lima's Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Youngstown Air Reserve Station and installations in Springfield, Mansfield and Toledo. Brown also said the bill expands U.S. Department of Defense research funding at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including Wilberforce University and Central State University in Ohio, through an amendment he offered.

A recent analysis by Pew Charitable Trusts found that federal grants to the states increased 93 percent from fiscal years 2008 to 2020, with much of that growth coming in the last year of that span due to federal COVID-19 relief funds. The analysis said that with relief packages passed in FY20 and FY21, COVID-19 funding is likely to "significantly alter state and local revenue and spending for years to come."

According to Pew, pandemic-related spending made up the largest share of federal grants in FY20 in eight states and was the second-largest in the rest. The coronavirus relief funding, which states used to address urgent needs such as coronavirus testing and housing assistance, supplemented the normal federal grants states receive. Those normal grants typically make up a third of state revenue and help pay for education, transportation, public safety, social services, environmental protection, and other programs, Pew said.

The Democratic members of Ohio's congressional delegation held a virtual press conference touting the bipartisan infrastructure bill while urging cooperation by state and local entities in order to capture more of the funding in the bill being distributed through a competitive grant process. U.S. Reps. Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus), Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), Shontel Brown (D-Cleveland) and Tim Ryan (D-Niles) as well as U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) praised President Joe Biden for passage of the bill, and said it will deliver results for communities.

President Joe Biden signed the bipartisan legislation in November of last year. Ohio is expected to receive nearly \$10 billion for infrastructure improvements including about \$483 million over the next five years to make improvements to some of Ohio's more than 3,000 bridges statewide. Brown said the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has already received \$96.7 million in bridge funding. He explained most of the federal funding will flow through ODOT, which he said already has priority projects in mind, while other funds may be given directly to communities through grants.

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost lauded the Biden administration's decision to withdraw its coronavirus vaccine mandate for employers with 100 or more workers. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) nevertheless said the policy could return as a proposed federal rule open to public comment. The administration's announcement follows the U.S. Supreme Court's stay of the policy based on the finding Yost was likely to prevail in his multi-state action against the so-called mandate, which in fact would have allowed employees to wear masks and submit to regular testing in lieu of vaccination.

# Top News

## **General Assembly/Statehouse**

House Democrats backed Rep. Allison Russo (D-Columbus) to be the next House minority leader, succeeding Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron), who resigned at the end of last year. Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton), Russo's top rival for leader, will serve as assistant minority leader. Rep. Jessica Miranda (D-Cincinnati) is the new minority whip, while Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester) will continue as assistant minority whip.

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) President Rep. Thomas E. West (D-Canton) and OLBC First Vice President Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) announced the hiring of John Meacham as the organization's new executive director. In that role, he oversees the daily operations of OLBC and works with its executive board to accomplish goals and objectives identified by members. He replaces Tony Bishop, who is now working with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) at the federal level.

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark), who can't run for re-election due to term limits, announced that he doesn't plan to seek elected office this year, ending a 31-year streak of public service. "It has been the honor of my life to serve my community and Ohioans the past 31 years," he said on social media. "Loving, serving and helping people doesn't retire. I look forward to seeing in what capacity God has in store for me in my next chapter." Hottinger began his career in 1991 when he was elected to Newark City Council. He was first elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1994, and has served in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate since then.

Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) announced that he will be resigning his House seat to take a position with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Carfagna will likely begin his new role as the business advocacy organization's senior vice president of government affairs sometime in late February, according to the Ohio Chamber.

Rep. Allison Russo (D-Columbus) was formally elected as minority leader during a recent House session. The 85-0 vote to adopt HR177 (Ginter) also officially elected Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) as assistant minority leader and Rep. Jessica Miranda (D-Cincinnati) as minority whip.

## **Judicial**

In a five-way split, the Ohio Supreme Court has rejected FirstEnergy's claim that municipal power companies violate the Ohio Constitution by selling a single purchased kilowatt outside their city limits and within the statutorily protected territories of local electric distribution utilities (EDU). Upholding the 8th District Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and Justices Melody Stewart and Jennifer Brunner say only that Cleveland Public Power and other municipal utilities may not buy electricity for the "sole purpose" of reselling it within EDU territory or acquire an "artificial surplus" of energy in order to serve as a power "broker." *Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. v. City of Cleveland, et al.* has blossomed into a major turf war between the utility industry, including FirstEnergy, American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio, Duke Energy Ohio, AES Ohio, Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives and Buckeye Power, Inc., on the one hand, and Cleveland Public Power (CPP), Cuyahoga County, the cities of Cleveland and Brooklyn, American Municipal Power (AMP) Ohio, Ohio Municipal Electric Association (Municipal League (OML), on the other. Equally diverse are justices' legal theories.

## **Local Government**

County, municipal and township leaders across Ohio are in various stages of planning, meeting and acting on their charge to build regional organizations that will appoint membership to the board of the OneOhio Foundation, which will oversee the bulk of Ohio's funding from the massive opioid settlement. Most state-level appointments to the foundation board are complete, but the majority of appointees will come from 19 regional bodies representing the local governments who've signed on to the settlement. Of the 29 seats on the foundation board, the remaining 10 come from state-level leaders. Gov. Mike DeWine named his five appointees: Tom Gregoire, dean of Ohio State University's College of Social Work; business leader Lawrence Kidd; Jane Portman, Cincinnati Children's Hospital trustee and spouse of U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH); Christopher Smitherman, former Cincinnati City Council member; and John Tharp, former Lucas County sheriff. Attorney

# Top News

General Dave Yost gets one appointment, which he gave to Dr. Michael Roizen, chief wellness officer emeritus for the Cleveland Clinic. Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) appointed Sen. Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) as his caucus representative while House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) named Rep. Gail Pavliga (R-Atwater). Minority leadership of the House and Senate have yet to name their appointees. Four local government associations — County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO), Ohio Mayors Alliance (OMA), Ohio Municipal League (OML) and Ohio Township Association (OTA) — plan to release a toolkit and convene a webinar for local governments in January to assist with this work.

## *People*

The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) announced that Bill Faith, its longtime executive director, plans to retire in six months. Faith joined COHHIO as its founding director in 1994 after serving as director of the Ohio Coalition for the Homeless since 1986.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners selected Erica Crawley to serve as president for 2022. Crawley was appointed to the board in July following the retirement of long-time commissioner Marilyn Brown. Crawley previously represented the 26th Ohio House District in the southeastern portion of Franklin County and is a U.S. Navy veteran. She is the first Black woman to serve on the board and the first to serve as board president.

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) announced that Executive Director Ty Marsh will retire on March 31, concluding over eight years leading the organization. According to the organization, his tenure has seen the district achieve a recycling rate of 51 percent, “far exceeding the national average.” Marsh was previously chief of staff to Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman and led the Columbus Chamber of Commerce as president and CEO from 2004 to 2010. He also served as executive assistant to former Speaker Vern Riffe.

## *Politics*

Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) Chair Liz Walters said that the party is filing a new round of public records requests with Gov. Mike DeWine’s office regarding nuclear bailout bill 133-HB6 and threatened a lawsuit if they receive no response. The requests include any communications among DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted and their staff and special interest groups tied to 133-HB6; any communications between those individuals and individuals who were implicated in the scandal; any communications involving the appointment of Sam Randazzo as chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO); any communications between DeWine and/or Husted and statewide officeholders regarding HB6; and the reassignment of Laurel Dawson and the resignation of Dan McCarthy. She said previous requests for records have gone unanswered.

## *Public Safety*

Initial reports from the Ohio State Highway Patrol showed fewer roadway deaths this Christmas compared to last. During the four-day reporting period of Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 23-26, 2021, seven people died in seven crashes; three were not wearing a seat belt, the patrol said. In 2020, nine people died over a four-day holiday period; in 2019, 12 died in a two-day period.

## *Studies/Polls*

Central Ohio alone sends nearly one million pounds of food waste to landfills every single day, according to the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio. However, recent research from Ohio State University (OSU) aims to improve strategies for reducing food waste. The study suggested that explaining the value of misshapen vegetables — that they are just as healthful as any other vegetable and buying them helps reduce food waste - could help improve sales of “ugly” produce.

# Top News

## *Transportation/Infrastructure*

The state's senior senator continues to tout a federal infrastructure law and its ability to transform transportation across the state. U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) on Friday hosted a virtual briefing designed to inform local officials about opportunities to fund projects in their communities.

During the event, Sen. Brown called on state lawmakers to make sure Ohio gets its fair share of funding for public transit, including money available for Amtrak expansion. "Most of those Amtrak dollars will go to the east coast," he told the more than 200 local officials who joined the briefing. "But there will be Amtrak dollars for us."

Sen. Brown noted that Ohio already has Amtrak routes running through Cleveland and Cincinnati. "Columbus is the biggest city in the country not served by Amtrak. We need the legislature and your influence on the legislature and your influence with the business community to apply for those dollars," he said. "There will be a lot of money for Amtrak, and if Ohio doesn't get it, it goes somewhere else. The legislature has never been particularly predisposed toward wanting to fund Amtrak. But it's mostly federal money. We'll need some local match."

Amtrak CEO Bill Flynn said in November that Ohio could be prime for new service through the law, mentioning the possible connection of Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus and Cleveland. The senator also touted funding for bridge repair, maintenance and replacement in the law, saying Ohio is in line for about \$10 billion in formula funding over the next five years. About \$12.5 billion will be available in competitive grants. "That's where I really want to go to bat for Ohio, and I need your help and the legislature's help," he said.

Ohio has about 3,200 bridges in various states of disrepair, according to Sen. Brown, including the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati. Sen. Brown said last month that he believes the law will allow for the replacement of the 58-year-old bridge that carries about 3% of the nation's gross domestic product each day. However, he said Kentucky and Ohio will each have to provide some level of financial support.

The senator was joined on the briefing by Charles Small, deputy assistant secretary for intergovernmental affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation, who highlighted several other portions of the bill, including the approximately \$9.3 billion in formula funding the state will receive over the next five years for highway care. The influx of federal cash has led lawmakers in the upper chamber to propose reducing the state's gas tax over the next five years (SB 277).

But Gov. Mike DeWine said putting the gas tax increase on hold and reducing fees imposed on electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids would be a mistake, specifically citing the need for Ohio to pony up dollars to replace the Brent Spence Bridge. Mr. Small also touted the \$1.4 billion Ohio is set to receive for transit, along with \$253 million for airport terminal modernization and \$140 million for electric vehicle charging stations.

He assured local officials there will be no changes to current allocations from existing federally funded programs. "Nothing has changed from a mechanical perspective in terms of the way the funding is sent to your state (departments of transportation)," Mr. Small said. "What has changed is there's a lot more funding."

Sen. Brown said the law can be transformative for Ohio. "Ultimately, this bill will help us bury the term Rust Belt," he said. Saying electric vehicle (EV) adoption nearly doubled in Ohio during 2021, the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) of Ohio offered eight recommendations on how the state can maximize consumer benefits from mass adoption of EVs over the next 10 years. The recommendations are part of a 28-page report. They include a statewide process bringing together stakeholders "to develop a common vision for the future of EVs in Ohio," developing online tools to provide accurate information on EVs and launching outreach programs to educate the public about their benefits to "all consumers." The recommendations also call for incentivizing EV use with lower electricity rates for off-peak and overnight home charging; developing pilot programs to reduce costs and power grid stress; enacting "sensible public charging policies and consumer protections;" providing targeted and equitable programs that make both new and used EVs more affordable; and promoting e-buses and initiatives such as low-cost EV sharing for residents with low or moderate incomes.

# 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:** 2/9/2022 - 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:** 2/9/2022 - House State and Local Government, (Second 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:** 2/8/2022 - House Energy and Natural Resources, (Third 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>
- HB519** MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX FILINGS (ROEMER B, LANESE L) To modify the law regarding extensions for filing municipal income tax returns and to limit penalties for late filings.  
**Current Status:** 2/8/2022 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-519>
- HB546** INVESTMENT FUNDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (GRENDALL D) To allow local governments to establish investment funds and use interest earnings to reduce taxes and special assessments on senior citizen homesteads.  
**Current Status:** 1/24/2022 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-546>
- 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:** 2/9/2022 - House State and Local Government, (Second 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>

# Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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, LLC. 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:** 2/8/2022 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)  
**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>
- HB524** NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY STATE AGENCIES (HALL T) To modify the law governing notifications issued by state agencies.  
**Current Status:** 1/25/2022 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-524>
- HB547** TRAFFIC PHOTO-MONITORING DEVICES (PATTON T) To prohibit a municipal corporation or township that does not operate either a fire department or an emergency medical services organization from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices.  
**Current Status:** 1/26/2022 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-547>
- HB548** TRAFFIC MONITORING DEVICES - POPULATION REQUIREMENTS (PATTON T) To prohibit a local authority with a population of 200 or fewer from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices.  
**Current Status:** 1/26/2022 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-548>
- HB549** TRAFFIC TICKET REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PATTON T) To prohibit a local authority, in any year, from issuing a total number of traffic tickets based on the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices that exceeds two times the population of the local authority.  
**Current Status:** 1/26/2022 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-549>
- HB550** TRAFFIC TICKET REQUIREMENTS - ANNUAL REVENUE (PATTON T) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices.  
**Current Status:** 1/26/2022 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-550>
- HB551** TRAFFIC TICKET REVENUE - LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPENSES (PATTON T) To require 80 per cent of all revenue from a traffic camera ticket be used for law enforcement expenses.  
**Current Status:** 1/26/2022 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-551>
- HB552** PROHIBIT TRAFFIC CAMERAS NEAR INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS (PATTON T) To prohibit placement of a traffic camera within one-half mile of an interstate highway entrance.  
**Current Status:** 1/26/2022 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-552>

# Legislative Updates

- HB553** TRAFFIC CAMERA REQUIREMENTS (PATTON T) To prohibit a local authority, located in a county with a population of one million or more, from using traffic cameras to enforce traffic violations on interstate highways.  
**Current Status:** 1/26/2022 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-553>
- 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:** 12/7/2021 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, 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>
- SB277** FUEL TAXES-TEMPORARY REDUCTION (HUFFMAN S) To temporarily reduce motor fuel excise tax rates and suspend collection of the additional motor vehicle registration taxes on electric and hybrid vehicles, both for five years, and to amend the version of section 4503.10 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 1, 2022, to continue the changes to that section on and after that date.  
**Current Status:** 12/15/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-277>
- SB279** STATE AGENCY NOTIFICATIONS (WILSON S) To modify the law governing notifications issued by state agencies.  
**Current Status:** 1/26/2022 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-279>

# 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 (GRENDLELL 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:** 1/10/2022 - Senate Appoints Managers; L. Blessing Named as Conference Committee Chair. Other Senate Conferees are T. Schaffer & N. Antonio  
**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:** 12/7/2021 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Third 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 or 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:** 1/26/2022 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 92-1

**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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