



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

March 2022



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

What's Happening

General Assembly Collecting Capital Appropriations Requests

MORPC is working closely with our Central Ohio General Assembly Delegation and regional partners to ensure the State Capital Budget bill maximizes economic and sustainable development opportunities for our region.

It is expected that the Ohio General Assembly will be deliberating upon a capital appropriations bill in the coming months. The Ohio General Assembly Finance Chairs have set a deadline of March 18th for capital requests to be into legislative offices. The expectation is that the bill with new project funding will be passed later than usual so that re-appropriations for agencies can be done first.

These capital requests, financed through state issued general obligation bonds and appropriated through state agencies, can be utilized for the construction or renovation of projects that can benefit a community as long as eligibility criteria are met. Community project appropriations need to have a nexus through a state agency and a state general obligations bond fund.

For further information about submitting a capital appropriations request, please contact Joseph Garrity at MORPC or Steve Tugend and Andy Shifflette at Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter.

Work Remains on Bill to Crack Down on Distracted Driving

House Bill 283 picked up several changes in the House Criminal Justice Committee but there were indications that more work will be necessary to get it to the floor weeks after it was scheduled for a possible vote but pulled from the agenda at the last minute.

Last week, the House Criminal Justice Committee heard testimony and accepted the attached amendments into HB 283. The amendments were offered by the bill's joint sponsor Rep. Abrams.

MORPC's Executive Director William Murdock expressed support for the bill to the committee last year in proponent testimony. Murdock conveyed MORPC's support in providing law enforcement the necessary tools to deter distracted driving, while also supporting mechanisms be put in place to deter potential unintended consequences that stricter enforcement on the roads may cause.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



**KEGLER
BROWN
HILL
+
RITTER**

What's Happening

Congressional Offices to Accept Appropriations Requests

With the U.S. Senate having recently passed a stopgap measure to extend government funding through March 11th, Congress must soon pass another measure, likely an omnibus, very soon. The new spending package would unlock billions of dollars in new spending for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), in addition to Congressionally Directed Spending commonly known as “earmarks.”

Under Article I, Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution, no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.

There are two types of federal appropriations requests: programmatic requests and member-directed spending requests.

- » Programmatic requests are requests for Congress to fund an authorized federal program at a specific level or to include language directing a federal agency to implement a program in a specific way.
- » Congressionally Directed Spending requests are requests to fund a specific project or organization.

At this time, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee has not issued any deadlines or updated guidance for FY 2023 Community Project Funding requests. MORPC will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Top News

FY22-23 BUDGET

Income taxes yielded nearly \$200 million more than expected in January, helping tax collections beat forecasts by 10.1 percent for the month, according to preliminary figures from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). Tax collections for January reached \$2.57 billion, \$236 million more than the \$2.34 billion expected. For FY22 so far, collections are up \$816.4 million or 5.5 percent, reaching \$15.8 billion.

Automobile Industry

While he called it a “work in progress,” Sen. Michael Rulli (R-Salem) said new legislation will expand the production of electric vehicles (EVs) in Ohio and provide necessary charging infrastructure for the future. It has the following four elements according to Rulli:

- » Providing \$15 million for factory retooling and \$10 million in education grants for workforce retraining.
- » Encouraging growth in EV usage within Ohio by both individual drivers and corporate fleets.
- » Creating an EV task force to identify how Ohio can stand out among other states in the next 20 years.
- » Providing more EV charging infrastructure, including through use of dedicated federal funds.

Cities

The Columbus Metropolitan Club (CMC) discussed the city's downtown region, following nearly two full years of pandemic effects on its businesses and the local economy. Marc Conte, executive director of the Capital Crossroads and Discovery Special Improvement Districts, opened the forum with details from a year-end report released on Monday. The downtown residential population is a “bright spot” as it rose to 11,200 by the end of 2021 and is at levels not seen since the early 1970's, Conte said. It may grow to almost 15,000 by the end of 2024. The apartment occupancy rate also rose to 92 percent, even as 880 new units came to market. Regarding specific industry sectors, Conte said hospitality data remained “mixed” as traffic begins to rebound but major events hadn't returned in 2021. Several downtown festivals are in store for this year, along with 163 events planned so far for the Greater Columbus Convention Center and more are expected.

Top News

Economic Development

The state of Ohio's incentive package for attracting Intel to the Buckeye State totals nearly \$2 billion and is in addition to incentives provided by JobsOhio and the local communities, explained Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik in a news conference. Mihalik said the state's package falls into the following "three buckets":

- » An "onshoring" incentive grant to Intel of \$600 million.
- » A \$691 million investment for the local infrastructure. These funds were further broken down with \$101.2 million for water and wastewater capacity upgrades; \$290 million for road work; and \$300 million for a "state of the art" water reclamation facility.
- » A \$650 million Job Creation Tax Credit over 30 years.

Gov. Mike DeWine's administration announced the approval of assistance for nine projects expected to create 982 new jobs and retain 1,640 jobs statewide. The projects are expected to collectively result in more than \$64.9 million in new payroll and spur more than \$76 million in investments across Ohio.

Gov. Mike DeWine's administration announced the approval of tax credits for 13 mixed-use development projects expected to result in more than \$2.1 billion in new payroll and spur over \$1.4 billion in investments across the state. The projects will be located in Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Delaware, Elyria, Hamilton, Mentor, Newark, Van Wert and Wooster. They are part of the first round of the Transformational Mixed-Used Development Program, created by 133-SB39 (Schuring). A second round will open in the "coming months." The Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) approved a total of \$100 million in tax credits for the projects, which include construction or redevelopment of more than 5.8 million square feet of transformational space. Projects were recommended by the Ohio Department of Development (DOD), which administers the program.

General Assembly/Statehouse

In other action, the House voted 88-1 to concur with Senate amendments to HB51 (Lampton), which allows public bodies to continue meeting virtually through the end of the fiscal year. The bill was also amended in the Senate to include federal tax conformity changes for certain water and sewer utilities. The emergency clause attached to the bill was approved by a vote of 86-3.

Three people submitted applications to House Republicans by the deadline to express interest in replacing former Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville), including his predecessor. Carfagna officially resigned from the 68th District Seat to take the role of vice president of government affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, a move he announced earlier. Applicants included former Rep. Margaret Ann Ruhl of Fredericktown, who left the House because of term limits at the end of 2016, and who previously held this seat; Beth Lear of Galena, vice president of government affairs for Associated Builders and Contractors; and Shawn Stevens of Sunbury, owner of a title company and former member of the Delaware County Board of Elections.

People

Former House Speaker Bill Batchelder (R-Medina), who served nearly four decades in the Ohio House, passed away at the age of 79. "William G. Batchelder III passed away peacefully Feb. 12, 2022, at Western Reserve Masonic Home in Medina, OH, after a long illness," states an obituary posted on the website of Waite & Son Funeral Homes Medina Chapel. Batchelder served as the state representative from Medina County from 1968 through 1999, and later returned to the Ohio House in 2007, serving as the chamber's 101st speaker from 2011 to 2014. Batchelder practiced law for many years, and also served as a judge on the Medina County Common Pleas Court and on the Ninth District Court of Appeals. The funeral service was Feb. 18th, with a memorial service to honor his legacy being planned to take place in Columbus "in the near future."

Top News

Telecommunications/Broadband

The Ohio Broadband Expansion Program Authority voted to accept 114 application challenges during its meeting, leading to 79 applications suspended temporarily pending review and affecting around 212,000 addresses. According to the Department of Development, there were 217 total applications as part of the grant program aimed at expanding broadband service in unserved and underserved areas.

BroadbandOhio released a new mapping resource that “more accurately shows how many of the state’s households are connected to high-speed Internet” and provides a better look at availability gaps. It can be found at <https://broadband.ohio.gov/view-maps>, and includes profiles for all 88 counties. BroadbandOhio previously released a map of existing service that includes counties and the legislative districts in place for 2012 to 2022. The map on availability gaps used 15 months of speedtest records to measure four different Internet speeds in Megabits per second (Mbps): under 10, under 25, under 50 and 50 to 100 or more. This supplements the other currently available data to provide more information to the public, state and federal officials, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other stakeholders.

Transportation/Infrastructure

Saying he wants Ohio “to get more than its fair share” out of the bipartisan infrastructure law, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) held a virtual conference so that U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) officials could brief local officials on the various programs that will be funded through the bill. 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.”

A survey of academic economists in Ohio found the overwhelming majority disagreed that repealing increases to the state gas tax would benefit Ohio’s economy. In December, Sen. Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City) introduced SB277, a bill that would suspend for five years the increases to the state gas tax that became effective in 2019. The tax hike of 10.5 cents per gallon of gasoline and 19 cents per gallon on diesel was implemented to raise an additional \$1 billion annually for Ohio Department of Transportation road and bridge maintenance projects.

In sponsor testimony before the Senate Transportation Committee, Sen. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) said his SB277 would suspend the fuel tax increase enacted as a part of the 133-HB62 transportation budget for a period of five years. The bill would also suspend the annual hybrid and electric vehicle fee imposed by 133-HB62 for five years. The legislation would cease the collection of the increases beginning July 1, 2022. The fuel tax provisions of 133-HB62 increased the tax on gasoline by 10.5 cents per gallon and by 19 cents per gallon for diesel fuel, and the registration fee provisions increased the annual fee for hybrid vehicles by \$100 and by \$200 for all-electric vehicles for the purpose of helping maintain Ohio’s highways, streets and bridges.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that it has opened the application process for airports to submit projects for grant funding from the first \$1 billion of the Airport Terminal Program. The program is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and makes available funding for safe, sustainable and accessible airport terminals, “on airport” rail access projects and airport-owned airport traffic control towers. Projects may also include multimodal development. The FAA said it welcomes projects that will improve airfield safety through terminal relocation, replace aging facilities, increase capacity, encourage competition, improve energy efficiency (including LEED accreditation standards) and increase or improve access for passengers with disabilities and historically disadvantaged populations. Projects that relocate, reconstruct, repair or improve an airport-owned air traffic control tower are also eligible. The House Criminal Justice Committee adopted several amendments to distracted driving measure HB283 (Abrams).

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.

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>

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>

Legislative Updates

- 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: 2/15/2022 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
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: 2/15/2022 - House Agriculture and Conservation, (First Hearing)
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>
- 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: 3/2/2022 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-422>

Legislative Updates

- HB430** PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (CROSS J) Relating to property development.
Current Status: 3/2/2022 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 91-0
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>
- 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: 3/8/2022 - House Ways and Means, (Third 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: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-546>
- HB560** TAX CREDIT FOR AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING (HOOPS J, PAVLIGA G) To authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for the construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Families, Aging and Human Services
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-560>
- HB563** LIMIT LOCAL REGULATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROPERTY (FOWLER S, FERGUSON R) To limit local regulation of short-term rental property.
Current Status: 3/9/2022 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-563>
- HB566** VACANT PROPERTY OWNERS - CONTACT INFO (BLACKSHEAR W, WHITE A) To require owners of vacant property to file contact information with the county auditor.
Current Status: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-566>
- HB581** COUNTY CREDIT CHARGES (MILLER J, HOLMES A) To allow county credit card charges for temporary and necessary assistance care provided by a county veterans service office.
Current Status: 3/1/2022 - Referred to Committee House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-581>
- 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: 3/2/2022 - REPORTED OUT, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-15>

Legislative Updates

- 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>
- 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>

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: 3/2/2022 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 84-9
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: 3/3/2022 - BILL AMENDED, House Criminal Justice, (Fourth 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: 2/15/2022 - BILL AMENDED, House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
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: 3/8/2022 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Third 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: 3/8/2022 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)
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>
- HB531** COUNTY PROSECUTOR LEGAL SERVICES (GHANBARI H) To allow a county prosecutor to provide legal services to a metropolitan planning organization, regional transportation planning organization, or regional council of governments.
Current Status: 3/1/2022 - REPORTED OUT, House Civil Justice, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-531>
- 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: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
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: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
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: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
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: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
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: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-551>

Legislative Updates

- 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: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-552>
- 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: 2/15/2022 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
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: 2/16/2022 - Senate Transportation, (First Hearing)
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: 3/2/2022 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)
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 (GREDEL 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: 3/8/2022 - House Agriculture and Conservation, (First Hearing)
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: 2/7/2022 - House Appoints Managers; D. Merrin, R. Stoltzfus & L. Sobecki Named as House Conferees
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>

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.

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>

SB105 MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (SYKES V, SCHURING K) To require political subdivisions to recognize state certifications of minority business enterprises.
Current Status: 3/2/2022 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-105>

Legislative Updates

- 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>

For more information please contact:

Joseph Garrity | Senior Director of Government Affairs + Community Relations | jgarrity@morpc.org | 614.233.4127

Your Government Affairs Team



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



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



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



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



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



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



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