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**Week in Review**  
Monday, December 14, 2015

As a service to the clients and friends of Governmental Policy Group, Inc. and RH Resources we would like to extend the following weekly update of events happening around Capitol Square.

**AUDITOR OF STATE**

After nearly two decades of financial monitoring, a Northeast Ohio school district was downgraded to fiscal emergency status, triggering creation of a state oversight commission. Coventry Local Schools in Summit County was declared to be in fiscal emergency by Auditor Dave Yost. That decision will spark the creation of a three-member Financial Planning and Supervision Commission to assume some or all of the Coventry Board of Education's powers. Yost's office will also conduct a "full financial analysis" and certify its deficit.

**CHILDREN/YOUTH**

The state cited increasing national attention in proposing criminal justice reforms sought by child advocates in the state since at least 2011: the end of youth shackling in juvenile court without a

judge's finding that physical restraints are necessary to prevent escape or to protect the child and others from harm. The Supreme Court of Ohio published the proposed section of the *Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio* for public comment after announcing in August that a subcommittee of its Advisory Committee on Children & Families would recommend possible changes to the mandatory practice of shackling juvenile court detainees in all but three Ohio counties.

Ohio is collecting child support payments at a rate not seen since before the recession and delivering more money to the children who deserve it, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015, which ended on Sept. 30, Ohio collected 69 percent of current child support owed, significantly higher than the national average of 64 percent.

## **EDUCATION**

Just one person was nominated by Wednesday's deadline for submitting candidates to be Superintendent Richard Ross' interim successor: Lonny Rivera, associate superintendent and already deemed next in line in Ohio Department of Education (ODE) contingency plans.

Three Republican legislators announced a new bill that will address Ohio's lack of data on students who don't show up for school and that seeks to improve early intervention plans for truancy already required in law. Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), House education committee chairman, said HB 410 (Hayes-Rezabek) is more along the lines of "tweaking" current law requiring school districts to intervene when students have excessive absences.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) this week delivered its second set of responses on charter school oversight to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), which is seeking assurances on the state's ability to administer a recent \$32 million grant to expand and improve the charter sector. The latest letter from Superintendent Richard Ross to USDOE Charter Schools Program Director Stefan Huh focuses on state auditing procedures for charter schools.

## **ELECTIONS**

Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) and the law firm of Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP, sued the office of Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted on behalf of three blind Ohio voters and the National Federation of the Blind, alleging that some voting services in Ohio are not accessible. The suit, filed Monday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, holds that this violates Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **ELECTIONS 2016**

The Republican State Central and Executive Committee of Ohio voted to endorse every congressional incumbent and all but three General Assembly incumbents running for reelection in 2016. The committee did not endorse state Reps. Paul Zeltwanger (R-Mason), Nino Vitale (R-Urbana) or Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton). Ohio Republican Party (ORP) Chairman Matt Borges said Zeltwanger and Vitale "have decided, essentially, to not be part of the caucus" and were not recommended for endorsement by House leaders. Borges said because Retherford has not yet

decided on whether he will file for reelection after losing the Butler County GOP's endorsement to former Rep. Courtney Combs, it would be "inappropriate" to endorse him at this time.

## **EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor said total non-farm payroll employment increased by 211,000 in November, and that the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent. Job gains occurred in construction, professional and technical services, and health care. Mining and information lost jobs.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

A significant amount of carbon pollution could be eliminated by 2020 with a moderate growth in wind power in Northern Ohio, according to a new report from Environment Ohio. Using data from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, "Turning to the Wind" shows that as much as 2,287 megawatts (MW) of wind power could be built in the state in the next five years with certain policies in place -- enough to power about 105,000 homes.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

The main event for last Wednesday's final legislative sessions for 2015 was HB 340, a legislative fix for the Local Government Innovation Council that turned into a Christmas tree budget corrections measure. The Senate Finance Committee rolled out a 247-page substitute bill on Tuesday but then recessed until Wednesday and accepted a shorter version that dropped proposed changes to the workforce development system. Provisions that made the final version included clarified spending authority for school district tangible personal property tax supplements, addressing charter school employees whose employer was contributing both to pensions and Social Security, and specifying that OSU Extension should pay 4-H volunteers' fees from fingerprinting if OSU policy requires the background check. The House passed the measure 91-1, and the Senate approved it unanimously.

## **GOVERNOR**

The governor made the following appointments during the week:

- Jennifer E. Reams of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) and David E. Slatzer of Somerset (Perry County) to the Underground Technical Committee.
- Mark N. Resanovich of Uniontown (Summit County) and Thomas E. Allenstein of Lewis Center (Delaware County) reappointed to the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services for terms beginning Dec. 7, 2015 and ending Nov. 12, 2018.
- Dr. David W. LeBourveau of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) to the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board for a term beginning Dec. 7, 2015 and ending Jan. 15, 2018.
- Sondra M. Hash of Portsmouth (Scioto County) to the Shawnee State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning Dec. 7, 2015 and ending June 30, 2019.
- Benny G. Mitchell of Glenford (Perry County) to the Hocking Technical College Board of Trustees for a term beginning Dec. 8, 2015, and ending Aug. 26, 2018.

- Brian M. Weaver of Grove City (Franklin County) reappointed to the State Board of Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics for a term beginning Dec. 8, 2015, and ending Dec. 6, 2018.
- Caprice H. Bragg of North Olmsted (Cuyahoga County) to the Ohio Arts Council for a term beginning Dec. 8, 2015, and ending July 1, 2020.
- Dr. Farid Naffah of Cortland (Trumbull County) to the Ohio Arts Council for a term beginning Dec. 8, 2015, and ending July 1, 2018.
- Dr. Stephen E. Markovich of Dublin (Franklin County) to the JobsOhio Board of Directors for a term beginning Dec. 9, 2015, and ending July 5, 2019.
- J. Brandon Davis of Fairview Park (Cuyahoga County) reappointed to the Oil and Gas Commission for a term beginning Dec. 9, 2015, and ending Oct. 14, 2020.
- David P. O'Brien of Westlake (Cuyahoga County) to the Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning Dec. 9, 2015, and ending May 17, 2024.
- George R. Berlin of Canfield (Mahoning County) to the Ohio Standardbred Development Commission for a term beginning Dec. 10, 2015 and ending June 30, 2019.

## **PEOPLE**

Following Gov. John Kasich's move of Dawn Larzelere from his Office of Workforce Transformation to a senior leadership position in his office, Ryan Burgess, the assistant director of the Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA), was named the new director of the workforce transformation office.

Rep. Christina Hagan (R-Alliance) gave birth to a daughter on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Weighing in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce, Josaphine Jane is the first child for Hagan and her husband Adam Nemeth.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce announced that Brandon Ogden has joined its government affairs staff as the director of the Ohio Small Business Council.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

The newly created Grace Commission called a brief first meeting last Thursday to review the broad scope of its statutory charge to review FY15 spending in search of lessons for efficiency and managerial improvements, with expectations of developing a game plan in time for its January gathering.

## **TAXATION**

State tax revenues came in about \$11.9 million or 0.6 percent above estimates for the month of November, putting Ohio almost even for the year-to-date, having brought in only \$3.9 million less than estimated. So far for the year-to-date, Ohio has collected \$9.06 billion from all tax sources, according to figures released by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM).

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

### **HOUSE:**

### **PASSED BY HOUSE**

- HB219** THYROID HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH (Rep. John Barnes, Jr.) To designate January as "Thyroid Health Awareness Month."  
*Vote 92-0*
- HB243** ARCHITECT TRAINING (Rep. Tim Schaffer) To make changes governing the architects board and the landscape architects board regarding continuing education requirements.  
*Vote 92-0*
- HB299** CUSTODIAN-AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP (Rep. Louis Blessing III, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To permit the temporary, legal, or permanent custodian of a qualified child to apply for an Autism Scholarship.  
*Vote 92-0*
- HB300** DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSION (Rep. Nan Baker, Rep. Nathan Manning) To modify the law governing the termination or modification of a lifetime driver's license suspension or a class two suspension that exceeds fifteen years and to specify that a class one driver's license suspension for a specified aggravated vehicular homicide offense begins upon the offender's release from prison.  
*Vote 92-0*
- HB303** DOLLAR DEED PROGRAM (Rep. Jonathan Dever, Rep. Robert McColley) To create the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed Program.  
*Vote 92-0*
- SB11** JASON GRESKO ACT (Sen. John Eklund, Sen. Frank LaRose) To enact the "Jason Gresko Act."  
*Vote 92-0*
- HB187** FIRST RESPONDERS-INJURED ANIMALS (Rep. Tim Ginter) To authorize a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic, emergency medical technician-intermediate, emergency medical technician-paramedic, or volunteer firefighter to stabilize an injured animal in an emergency.  
*Vote 92-0*
- HB229** FAMILY TRUST COMPANY (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Heather Bishoff) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act.  
*Vote 84-8*
- HB230** CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY SERVICES (Rep. Robert Sprague) Regarding the practices of chemical dependency counseling and prevention services.  
*Vote 92-0*
- HB338** HIGHWAY DESIGNATION (Rep. Mark Romanchuk) To designate a portion of I-71 in Richland County as the "Lt. Col. Albert L. Allen, Jr. Memorial Highway."  
*Vote 92-0*
- SB161** PROBATE JUDGE-WARRANT ISSUE (Sen. Scott Oelslager) To authorize probate judges to issue search warrants.  
*Vote 92-0*

**SB190** HIGHWAY NAME DESIGNATION (Sen. Randy Gardner) To designate a portion of United States Route 6 within the city of Sandusky as the "Army Specialist Charles E. Odums II Memorial Highway."

*Vote 92-0*

**SB223** HEALTH COVERAGE LIMITS-EXCLUSIONS (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To make changes to the health coverage benefit limits and coverage exclusions for life and health insurance guaranty associations.

*Vote 92-0, Emergency Clause Passed 90-2*

## CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

**HB124** VENEREAL DISEASES-PRESCRIPTION AUTHORITY (Rep. Terry Johnson, Rep. Stephen Huffman) Regarding the authority to prescribe without examination a drug for a sexual partner of a patient diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis.

*House Does Concur, Vote 87-5*

**HB131** ANIMAL DISEASES LAW-PESTICIDE LICENSING (Rep. Dorothy Pelanda) To include diseases of concern within the scope of the Animal Diseases Law, and to make changes to the laws governing weights and measures, livestock dealers, and auctioneers, the membership of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, and the pesticide licensing renewal process.

*House Does Concur, Vote 92-0*

**HB56** PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT-CRIMINAL RECORDS (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Stephen Slesnick) To limit the use of criminal records in the hiring and employment practices of public employers.

*House Does Concur, Vote 91-1*

**HB188** PHARMACIST CONSULT AGREEMENTS (Rep. Nathan Manning, Rep. Stephen Huffman) To revise the laws governing pharmacist consult agreements and the laws governing the circumstances under which a pharmacist may dispense or sell a drug without a prescription.

*House Does Concur, Vote 92-0*

**HB237** TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Robert Hackett) To regulate transportation network companies and transportation network company services.

*House Does Concur, Vote 92-0*

**HB259** CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE (Rep. Scott Ryan) To regulate certificates of insurance prepared or issued to verify the purchase of property or casualty insurance coverage.

*House Does Concur, Vote 92-0*

**HB340** LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION COUNCIL (Rep. Ron Amstutz) To extend the operation of the Local Government Innovation Council, make budget corrections and declare an emergency.

*House Does Concur, Vote 91-1, Emergency Clause Passed 89-3*

**ADOPTED BY HOUSE**

- HR265** TRAVEL ALLOWANCE (Rep. Cliff Rosenberger, Rep. Fred Strahorn) Relative to travel allowance.
- SCR6** EXPORT-CRUDE OIL (Sen. Troy Balderson) The urge the U.S. Congress to lift the prohibition on the export of crude oil from the United States.  
*Vote 67-24*

**SENATE:**

**PASSED BY SENATE**

- HB56** PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT-CRIMINAL RECORDS (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Stephen Slesnick) To limit the use of criminal records in the hiring and employment practices of public employers.  
*Vote 32-1*
- HB71** TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS (Rep. Kristina Roegner) To prohibit certain indemnity agreements in motor vehicle carrier transportation contracts.  
*Vote 32-1*
- HB142** ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH (Rep. Christina Hagan) To designate the month of March as "Endometriosis Awareness Month."  
*Vote 33-0*
- HB188** PHARMACIST CONSULT AGREEMENTS (Rep. Nathan Manning, Rep. Stephen Huffman) To revise the laws governing pharmacist consult agreements and the laws governing the circumstances under which a pharmacist may dispense or sell a drug without a prescription.  
*Amended on the Floor, Bill Vote 33-0*
- HB237** TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Robert Hackett) To regulate transportation network companies and transportation network company services.  
*Vote 32-1*
- HB259** CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE (Rep. Scott Ryan) To regulate certificates of insurance prepared or issued to verify the purchase of property or casualty insurance coverage.  
*Vote 33-0*
- HB340** LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION COUNCIL (Rep. Ron Amstutz) To extend the operation of the Local Government Innovation Council, make budget corrections and declare an emergency.  
*Vote 32-0, Emergency Clause Passed 32-0*
- SB129** INSURER AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS (Sen. Randy Gardner, Sen. Capri Cafaro) To amend the law related to the prior authorization requirements of insurers.

*Vote 33-0*

**SB172** METAL BULLION-COIN INVESTMENT (Sen. Kris Jordan) To exempt from sales and use taxes the sale or use of investment metal bullion and coins.

*Vote 31-2*

**SB184** SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION (Sen. Troy Balderson) To clarify the sex offender registration requirements.

*Vote 33-0*

**SB187** HIGHWAY NAME DESIGNATION (Sen. Troy Balderson) To enact section 5534.52 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of the Nelsonville Bypass of United States Route 33 as the "State Senator C. Stanley Mechem Memorial Highway."

*Vote 33-0*

### **CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

**SB10** MILITARY HEALTH CARE BENEFITS (Sen. Dave Burke, Sen. Frank LaRose) To establish a process for identifying individuals who are medical assistance recipients that may be eligible to receive federal military-related health care benefits.

*Senate Does Concur, Vote 33-0*

**SB190** HIGHWAY NAME DESIGNATION (Sen. Randy Gardner) To designate a portion of United States Route 6 within the city of Sandusky as the "Army Specialist Charles E. Odums II Memorial Highway."

*Senate Does Concur, Vote 33-0*

**SB223** HEALTH COVERAGE LIMITS-EXCLUSIONS (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To make changes to the health coverage benefit limits and coverage exclusions for life and health insurance guaranty associations.

*Senate Does Concur, Vote 33-0, Emergency Clause Passed 33-0*

### **ADOPTED BY SENATE**

**HCR5** LYME DISEASE PREVENTION (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Margaret Ann Ruhl) To urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to take action to improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease.

*Vote 33-0*

**HCR8** AVIATION REPUDIATION (Rep. Rick Perales) To repudiate the claim by the State of Connecticut that Gustave Whitehead successfully flew a powered, heavier than air machine of his own design on August 14, 1901, or on any other date.

*Vote 33-0*

**SCR2** DIABETES RESEARCH-DEVELOPMENT (Sen. Troy Balderson, Sen. Lou Gentile) To urge the United States Congress to increase federal funding for research and development involving advanced medical technology used in the treatment of type 1 diabetes.

*Vote 33-0*



**SCR11** TOXIC EXPOSURE RESEARCH ACT (Sen. Joe Uecker) To urge the United States Congress to pass and the President to sign into law the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015.

*Vote 33-0*