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Week in Review

March 24, 2017

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.

EDUCATION

Sen. Matt Huffman's (R-Lima) proposal to establish a unified school voucher program and educational savings accounts (ESAs) creates a "state preference for private schools," Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said Wednesday.

ELECTIONS 2018

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Wadsworth) ended speculation about his 2018 plans Monday, becoming the second Republican to officially enter the gubernatorial race, with at least two more expected to follow him. Renacci, a supporter of President Donald Trump, adapted Trump's "America First" slogan with an "Ohio First" theme to his campaign. In his announcement, he said that career politicians in Washington and Columbus have been looking out for themselves for too long.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The Senate unanimously passed the \$7.8 billion transportation budget during a brief session on Wednesday. The Ohio House set up the transportation budget, HB 26 (McColley), for conference committee Wednesday after denying concurrence on Senate changes.

The conference committee for HB 26 (McColley) will hold its first meeting Monday at 3 p.m. in Room 313 of the Ohio Statehouse. Members will include Reps. Ryan Smith (R-Gallipolis), Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) and Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) and Sens. Frank LaRose (R-Copley), Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton) and Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus).

GOVERNOR

The governor made the following appointments during the week:

- James R. Smail of Wooster (Wayne County) reappointed to the Banking Commission for a term beginning March 17, 2017, and ending Jan. 31, 2020.
- Will Lucas of Toledo (Lucas County) reappointed to the Ohio Casino Control Commission for a term beginning March 17, 2017, and ending Feb. 21, 2021.
- Jason Clark of Miamisburg (Montgomery County) reappointed to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for a term beginning March 17, 2017, and ending Jan. 31, 2023.
- Randall W. Leite, Ph.D. of Pickerington (Franklin County) reappointed to the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood for a term beginning March 17, 2017, and ending July 30, 2018.
- Mark Johnson of Chillicothe (Ross County) to the Ohio Rail Development Commission for a term beginning March 17, 2017, and ending Oct. 20, 2021.
- Dr. Kim G. Rothermel of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the State Medical Board for a term beginning March 20, 2017 and March 18, 2022.
- Michael Miller of Powell (Delaware County) reappointed to the Ohio Public Works Commission for a term beginning March 20, 2017, and ending March 18, 2021.
- Dennis M. Bartels of Gahanna (Franklin County) reappointed to the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools for a term beginning March 20, 2017, and ending Nov. 20, 2021.
- James C. Oda of Piqua (Miami County) to the Edison State Community College Board of Trustees for a term beginning March 23, 2017, and ending Jan. 17, 2023.
- David M. Reynolds of Solon (Cuyahoga County) to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning March 23, 2017, and ending May 1, 2025.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Baby Box Co., the company behind the global program Baby Box University, recently announced that Ohio is the second U.S. state to launch a universal program where all expecting and new parents can receive a free Baby Box by completing online parenting education. Baby Box University aims to improve family health care outcomes and reduce Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS).

Gov. John Kasich announced Monday that he is appointing Lance Himes to serve as acting director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Himes currently serves as the department's chief legal counsel and served as acting director earlier in the administration. Himes replaces the department's

current director, Rick Hodges, effective Friday, March 31. Hodges announced that he is leaving to pursue new opportunities outside of the administration.

Upward of 50 witnesses appeared before the House Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee Wednesday afternoon and evening, some supporting provisions included in the proposed budget while others sought funding for their agency or cause. Others sought changes.

HOUSING

The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) is hosting the annual Housing Ohio conference in Columbus from April 10-12. Housing Ohio 2017 offers the choice of 30 workshops presented by practitioners and national experts said to have taken innovative approaches to a wide variety of homelessness and affordable housing issues.

TRANSPORTATION

Ohio Trucking Association President Tom Balzer joined several legislators and other industry representatives Wednesday in announcing upcoming steps to address a growing job shortage in the industry.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said Wednesday that workers' comp coverage for first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) could proceed as an amendment to the agency's budget or emerge in a standalone bill; on Thursday, Sens. Frank LaRose (R-Copley) and Edna Brown (D-Toledo) introduced legislation that would provide PTSD benefits to police and firefighters without the need for an accompanying physical injury.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

HOUSE:

PASSED BY HOUSE

- HB12** HISTORICAL DESIGNATION-BARN (Rep. Anne Gonzales) To designate the barn as the official historical architectural structure of the state.
Vote 96-0
- HB52** DEED SOLICITATION REGULATION (Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds.
Vote 96-0
- HB100** HIGHWAY DESIGNATIONS-BILL JOHNSON (Rep. Scott Lipps) To designate a portion of State Route 73 in Warren County as the "Officer Bill Johnson Memorial Highway."
Vote 96-0
- SB23** OMPHALOCELE AWARENESS DAY DESIGNATION (Sen. Louis Terhar) To designate January 31 as "Omphaloccele Awareness Day."
Vote 96-0

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB26 TRANSPORTATION-PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET (Rep. Robert McColley) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

House Does Not Concur, Vote 0-88

SENATE:

PASSED BY SENATE

HB26 TRANSPORTATION-PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET (Rep. Robert McColley) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

Vote 33-0

SB6 OHIO BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (Sen. Frank Hoagland) To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program.

Vote 33-0

SB37 POLICE CHIEFS TRAINING (Sen. Cliff Hite) To require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for newly appointed village, city, and township chiefs of police.

Vote 33-0