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RH RESOURCES

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Week in Review

April 13, 2018

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.

ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

In a speech to the Cleveland City Club Monday, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) proposed a broad public health campaign to address the opioid addiction crisis. Brown said the nation should learn the lessons of past campaigns to fight Ebola, smoking, AIDS and heart disease for a three-part effort focused on education and prevention; treatment; and recovery.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced Thursday that a rebate agreement that has saved Ohio agencies more than \$730,000 on the cost of overdose antidote naloxone has been extended for another year. More than \$420,000 has gone to the Ohio Department of Mental Health Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

AGRICULTURE

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODAg) is now accepting proposals for the 2018 Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) program, the department announced Wednesday. The program provides funding for projects to enhance the competitiveness of crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts and nursery crops, the department said in a news release. For more information on the 2018 program, available forms, or a copy of the request for proposals, visit ODAg's website at agri.ohio.gov/apps/odaforms/odaforms.aspx.

Ahead of its annual Statehouse lobbying day this week, the Ohio Farmers Union (OFU) is warning family farmers about "dangers ahead" for the agriculture industry in the state. "Recent events have given farmers reason to be alarmed about several of Ohio's most important farm products -- especially pork and soybeans -- as they ready for spring planting," OFU President Joe Logan said in a news release. "Family farmers continue to operate in an environment of depressed commodity prices and we cannot afford an all-out trade war or backsliding on the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)."

BALLOT ISSUES

Saying the proposed congressional redistricting changes in Issue 1 do not go far enough in reforming the process, the ACLU of Ohio said Monday that it will neither support nor oppose the constitutional amendment. "While there are some benefits to Issue 1, it still allows for partisan gerrymandering. We need a better process -- with better rules -- to ensure Ohio voters are appropriately represented in congressional elections," said Mike Brickner, senior policy director at the ACLU of Ohio.

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

GateHouse Media, owner of the *Columbus Dispatch*, *Canton Repository* and several smaller newspapers in Ohio, announced this week it purchased the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

EDUCATION

During his monthly address to the State Board of Education, Superintendent Paolo DeMaria previewed an upcoming initiative to provide institutional support to school districts looking to establish partnerships with health care providers, as well as took questions on a recent computer error that left more than 5,000 English Language Arts (ELA) exams with incorrect scores.

The two-dozen plus indicators that factor into schools' state report card grades would grow by one under a plan approved Monday by a committee of the State Board of Education. The new chronic absenteeism improvement indicator, included in Ohio's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, will look at how schools are working to reduce the number of students who miss school regularly.

Democratic lawmakers on the House Education and Career Readiness Committee expressed concerns about how major changes to the state school report card system would require significant changes to the state's school accountability system Tuesday. Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) appeared before the committee for an informal hearing on his HB591, which would overhaul the state report card with the express purpose of putting more emphasis on student growth measures and removing a letter grading system that he argued obfuscates true school achievement through obscure measurement and calculations.

The House Finance Committee added \$10 million in school safety funding to HB318 (Patterson-LaTourette), legislation on school resource officers, and sent it on to the full House for passage Tuesday.

Persistent questions about when state test essay questions initially scored by computers should be re-scored by hand led Ohio Department of Education (ODE) staff to back off plans to move forward with rule revisions Tuesday. The State Board of Education's Achievement and Graduation Requirements Committee was scheduled to consider a vote on rule revisions prompted by recent complaints about the results of test scoring by artificial intelligence (AI).

ELECTIONS 2018

Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Bill O'Neill cast himself as a man apart in the Democratic primary for governor, but said there is a path to victory next month with support from "marijuana voters," registered nurses and veterans. "Ideas sell in the Democratic side," O'Neill said, highlighting his landslide victory in the 2012 judicial primary and saying that history would "absolutely" repeat itself. Like the other major candidates on both sides, he was interviewed by Tom Beres, a retired senior political correspondent for Cleveland's WKYC, in a series conducted by the University of Akron's Bliss Institute of Applied Politics.

A new mental health and addiction treatment facility for individuals aged 5 to 17 was the latest stop on the DeWine-Husted campaign's "Ohio's Future" tour, with the Republican candidates praising treatment facilities and drug courts for helping to address the opioid epidemic in the state. Attorney General Mike DeWine and Secretary of State Jon Husted spent part of Monday afternoon at Columbus Springs Dublin's "Changes" outpatient facility, which is scheduled to open on Tuesday.

Lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton Monday announced an initiative that would create an Ohio Commission on Women and Girls under the administration of Richard Cordray, her running mate. Sutton made the announcement at the Ohio Federation of Teachers office in Columbus, saying the proposed commission will be charged with lifting up girls and women and making sure they have opportunities to pursue positions of leadership in their communities.

Former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich touted his political independence and his ambitious plans for statewide change in a wide-ranging interview with reporter Tom Beres as a part of the "Who Should Lead Ohio?" series at the University of Akron's Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics. "Am I a Democrat? Yes. But I'm not a stooge of a political party," Kucinich told Beres.

Ohio Supreme Court candidates on either side of the aisle voiced few public differences in a panel discussion hosted late Friday by the Federalist Society, Ohio Chapters. The hour-plus presentation by Justice Mary DeGenaro, Democrat challenger Judge Melody Stewart of the 8th District Appellate Court, Republican 5th District Appeals Court Judge Craig Baldwin and his own Democratic opponent, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Donnelly, was a study in nuance, with panelists generally characterizing themselves as conservative jurists. Columbus attorney Doug Cole moderated the panel in a series of five questions, beginning with participants' approach to interpreting the Ohio Revised Code and state and federal constitutions. All four said they would moor themselves to the "text" and then take up precedent.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich announced an LGBTQ platform that includes adding "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the current hate crime law in Ohio. The Kucinich campaign said it would also lower the burden of proof for hate crimes to make them more effective in deterring bullying and targeting, and would oppose religious freedom legislation, which he said would "legalize homophobia and transphobia."

Democratic state treasurer candidate Rob Richardson announced he is creating an advisory council that will focus on bringing his plan to bring accountability, innovation and opportunity to the state treasurer's office. The Richardson campaign said the council will be made up of public officials and fiscal experts and will be led by former Ohio Treasurer Mary Ellen Withrow, who will serve as honorary chair.

The four main Democratic candidates for governor mostly kept their attacks muted in their second debate, mainly focusing on various platforms of their campaigns while fielding questions about gun violence, infrastructure, opioids and working with President Donald Trump. The debate stage featured former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, former Ohio Supreme Court Justice William O'Neill, and Sen. Joe Schiavoni. The event was held on the campus of Miami University.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray said Tuesday he'd pursue a free community college policy in his administration, saying it would help Ohioans get the skills they need for better jobs and address the shortage of candidates that businesses face for in-demand jobs.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray began airing the first television ad of his campaign on Tuesday. The 30-second ad, titled "Watchdog," will air on television stations around the state, Cordray's campaign said. It features President Barack Obama speaking at a rally and telling the audience that Cordray is standing up for consumers. The ad also highlights Cordray's work as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

After an outside group began running a television ad attacking Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and supporting the candidacy of his primary opponent, Kevin Black, Householder has responded with his own ad.

The Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) put out a press release Wednesday encouraging Democratic primary voters in the 2nd Congressional District to vote for someone other than William "Butch" Smith. Smith, a truck driver, has won two out of the last three primaries in the district, currently held by U.S. Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Cincinnati). Despite his wins, Smith has rarely campaigned for the seat.

If Ohio's government and Legislature stopped looking backward and embraced progressive policies, Ohio could serve as an example for the country. That's the argument Richard Cordray laid out in an interview as a part of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron's "Who Should Lead Ohio?" series. Cordray, former head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and former Ohio attorney general, spoke with Tom Beres, retired political reporter at WKYC in Cleveland, about his career as a public servant, his perception of dysfunction in the General Assembly and his goals for the state.

New polls conducted by Fallon Research on behalf of the 1984 Society show Richard Cordray and Mike DeWine on top in their respective gubernatorial races, but many voters still not sure how they will cast their ballots on Tuesday, May 8.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- The U.S. Senate campaign of Jim Renacci announced the endorsement of the Strongsville GOP.
- The re-election campaign of Rep. Dave Greenspan announced the endorsement of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association.
- NFIB endorsed Bob Gibbs for the Seventh Congressional District.
- The Columbus Dispatch and Findlay Courier endorsed Issue 1.
- The Ohio Society of CPAS issued primary endorsements for Rob McColley, Nathan Manning and Andrew Brenner for Ohio Senate; and Kent Smith, David Greenspan, Jonathan Dever, Fred Strahorn, Niraj Antani, Derek Merrin, Scott Lipps, John Becker, Kris Jordan, Larry Householder and Ron Hood for Ohio House.
- EMILY's List endorsed Christine Fisher, Erica Crawley, Jessica Miranda, Lisa Sobecki, Lorraine Wilburn, Paula Hicks-Hudson, and Rachel Crooks for Ohio House and Lauren Friedman, Louise Valentine, Nickie Antonio, and Sandra Williams for Ohio Senate.

ENERGY

American Municipal Power Inc. (AMP) has received the 2018 GreenSpotLight Award from the city of Columbus in recognition of exemplary sustainability practices by a large business. The award follows the completion of several efficiency projects undertaken by AMP throughout 2017, as well as continued sustainability practices throughout the organization.

Wind farms in Paudling, Van Wert and Hardin counties have generated \$54 million in payments to landowners and local governments and schools in recent years, but Ohio is losing potentially billions in new facility investments because of turbine setback restrictions that make new farms unfeasible, Northwest Ohio officials said Wednesday at a Statehouse press conference. The result of the halt in development related to the 2014 setback change is a have and have-nots situation in neighboring counties and school districts, local officials from that region said.

GAMING/GAMBLING

Ohio's four casinos combined and seven racinos combined reported earning more revenue in March than in any other month since they opened, according to new figures released Monday.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) announced Tuesday he'll resign from the House, after acknowledging over the weekend he'd hired a defense attorney because the FBI is asking questions about him. Speaker Pro Tem Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) assumed leadership duties on an interim basis and said after Wednesday's session there's no timetable set for a new speaker election.

Reps. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Larry Householder (R-Glenford) have been battling to succeed Rosenberger, who would have left at year's end because of term limits, and have competing candidates running in the May primary election in some districts. The House added a session day for May 16, the week after the primary, but Schuring said he's unsure if there'll be a leadership election then, saying the extra session reflects the amount of work to be done before summer break. Three top Republican officials -- Attorney General Mike DeWine, Auditor Dave Yost and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor -- urged Rosenberger to resign immediately rather than at month's end.

GOVERNOR

Gov. John Kasich shared his concerns about partisanship, division and the pursuit of truth in a "post-truth environment" at the 38th annual Governor's Holocaust Commemoration on the Statehouse lawn Thursday. Kasich addressed a variety of participants including members of the Ohio Jewish Communities and Jewish Family Services, calling for unity between opposing ideological groups and a return to rational communication.

Appointments made during the week include the following:

- David Scholl of Athens (Athens County) reappointed to the Third Frontier Commission for a term beginning April 4, 2018 and ending April 1, 2021.
- Kimberly A. Thomas of Richmond Heights (Cuyahoga County) to the State Cosmetology and Barber Board for a term beginning April 4, 2018 and ending Oct. 31, 2021.
- Michael A. Frederick of Cleves (Hamilton County) reappointed to the Commercial Dog Breeding Advisory Board for a term beginning April 4, 2018 and ending March 12, 2021.
- Joshua J. Joseph of Powell (Delaware County) to the Commission on Minority Health for a term beginning April 5, 2018 and ending Sept. 2, 2019.
- Gary Z. Lindgren of Loveland (Warren County) reappointed to the Third Frontier Commission for a term beginning April 5, 2018 and ending April 1, 2021.
- David M. Hix of Hilliard (Franklin County) and William G. Stanley of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the Forestry Advisory Council for terms beginning April 10, 2018 and ending Feb. 27, 2022.
- Rachel D. Cummings of Seaman (Adams County) to the Southern State Community College Board of Trustees for a term beginning May 12, 2018, and ending May 11, 2024.
- Trisha D. Farrar of Logan (Hocking County) to the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board for a term beginning April 11, 2018, and ending Dec. 23, 2020.
- Ann Rittgers of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) to the Third Frontier Advisory Council for a term beginning April 11, 2018, and ending March 14, 2020.
- Gregory W. Stype of Columbus (Franklin County) to the State Council of Uniform State Laws for a term beginning April 11, 2018, and ending June 5, 2020.

GREAT LAKES

U.S. District Judge James Carr has ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to make clear -- within 30 days -- its position on the impairment of Lake Erie's open waters. The Chicago-based Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) and the Toledo-based Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie (ACLE) sued the federal agency for approving the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (Ohio EPA) 2016 Integrated Report, even though it allegedly didn't follow requirements set by the Clean Water Act.

JUDICIAL

A candidate for state attorney general, Auditor Dave Yost proposed major systemic changes in the criminal justice system Friday when he said judges -- not the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) -- should have full authority to decide when inmates leave prison as well as when they enter. Speaking at a Federalist Society colloquium, Yost said such a paradigm shift could be combined with a revival of indeterminant sentencing to give courts the power to shorten or lengthen incarceration based on an offender's original sentence and amenability to rehabilitation.

Ohio Supreme Court Justice R. Patrick DeWine and Special Disciplinary Counsel Brad Frick debated the meaning of Supreme Court rules and the reach of a disciplinary body's authority in their latest punch and counter-punch in the ethics complaint against DeWine. In his previous motion to dismiss the complaint before a three-judge panel, the freshman justice accused the Columbus lawyer Frick of violating his legal rights and issuing an improper call for DeWine's recusal from Supreme Court cases involving his father, Attorney General Mike DeWine, and the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office.

MARIJUANA

The first batch of certificates to recommend (CTR) medical marijuana was awarded to 36 physicians during Wednesday's State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) meeting.

Saying his "thinking on cannabis has evolved," former U.S. House Speaker John Boehner (R-West Chester) announced he's joining the Acreage Holdings Board of Advisors. "I'm convinced de-scheduling the drug is needed so we can do research, help our veterans, and reverse the opioid epidemic ravaging our communities," Boehner tweeted on Wednesday.

Campaigners submitted signatures for a "Marijuana Rights and Regulations" constitutional amendment to the attorney generals' office this week, proposing to give those 21 and older the rights to use the drug. Meanwhile, pot entrepreneurs Jimmy Gould and Ian James -- leaders of a failed 2015 legalization amendment campaign -- are now shooting for the 2020 ballot for their next attempt.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Lake Erie anglers will likely experience another year of diverse fishing opportunities in 2018, according to Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). "Great walleye hatches from 2014 and 2015 are expected to contribute to exceptional fishing opportunities in Lake Erie this year," the department said in a news release, adding that anglers pursuing yellow perch in the Western Basin will likely find excellent numbers and size.

The Ohio Controlling Board on Monday approved initial funding requests from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to purchase land for the Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area.

Several witnesses scheduled to testify as opponents to SB257 (Uecker-O'Brien) on Tuesday ended up speaking in support of the bill after lawmakers accepted an amendment reducing the discount for multi-year hunting and fishing licenses. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously reported out the legislation, which makes a number of changes to hunting and fishing policies carried out by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife (DOW).

Twenty-four Ohio communities will receive \$565,000 to support local marine patrol units in 2018, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Provided by the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft, these assistance funds represent a continuing effort to keep Ohio waterways safe and enhance recreational boating experiences, the department said in a news release.

Anthophiles across the state can follow spring wildflower bloom developments by checking out a weekly report from the Ohio Department Natural Resources (ODNR) "Ohioans will soon be treated to a spectacular display of native spring wildflowers during the months of April and May," the department said in a news release.

PENSIONS

Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) and Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) joined Monday to ask a new congressional panel on pension challenges to schedule a field hearing in Ohio. Both of Ohio's U.S. senators, Democrat Sherrod Brown and Republican Rob Portman, are members of the Joint Select Committee on the Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans created in February's congressional budget act. It includes 16 members, with four Democrats and four Republicans from both chambers of Congress. The committee is to issue findings and recommendations by the end of November.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) outlined Wednesday what he said were the causes of the pension crisis and spoke to what his actions will be as co-chair of the Congressional Joint Select Committee on the Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans. According to Brown, who spoke to reporters and the public at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. Wednesday, as many as 10 million workers and retirees nationwide are facing cuts to their pensions, many of which are facing insolvency in the next decade.

PEOPLE

Meghan Wadsworth has been named director of legislative affairs for the Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA). Prior to DSA, Wadsworth was a legislative liaison for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and before that a liaison between the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the State Board of Education, where she was responsible for managing communication between the board members and the department, coordinating public meetings, and managing board relations with the General Assembly.

Citizens for Community Values (CCV) announced Curtis Wilson as its new vice president of advancement. Wilson will spearhead CCV's efforts to support and serve Ohio churches, build strong ties with community allies, and cultivate support with families throughout the state who financially support the ministry.

Jennifer Miller has been selected to lead the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) as executive director, the organization announced Tuesday.

The Ohio Legislative Correspondents Association (OLCA) met Thursday for an election to fill a vacancy on its board. Noah Blundo of *Hannah News* was elected as secretary, replacing Melissa Dilley of *Gongwer News Service*, who left for a position with the American Association of Service Coordinators.

POVERTY

Governments "need to quit picking on the poor," Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA) Executive Director Philip Cole said Thursday, releasing the association's "State of Poverty in Ohio" report for 2017. "...They need to realize that sometimes, as a society, we have a duty to help the least among us." Cole covered a range of topics in discussing the report, including transportation, education, childcare and health care, particularly the Medicaid expansion. He said that in order to reduce "real poverty," those issues should be focused on, and said that the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is inaccurate compared to the self-sufficiency standard of the amount of household income needed to meet basic needs without public or private support.

TAXATION

The Tax Expenditure Review Committee created by 131-HB9 (Boose) held its first meeting Wednesday with an examination of \$4.03 billion in forfeited tax revenues, the lion's share consumed by the sales and use tax exemption on tangible personal property whose buyers manufacture other tangible personal property for sale.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The House Public Utilities Committee agreed to major changes to telecom bill HB402 (Hill) Tuesday in response to opponents' objections, but it was not enough to swing a single vote from the Democratic side of the aisle. Members accepted a substitute bill that reduces the amount a local telephone company could raise basic service rates each year from 20 percent to a flat \$2, as compared to the current \$1.25 limit. The substitute version also restores legal protections around "adequate and reliable" phone service.

Scammers who use phony caller ID information to trick people into answering calls that look like they're from reputable sources or neighbors would face criminal penalties under legislation announced Wednesday. Reps. Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Jonathan Dever (R-Madeira) and Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville) are introducing companion measures on the subject, drawing the support of Auditor Dave Yost and Attorney General Mike DeWine.

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

Car insurance companies are going to need in-depth access to automated driving systems (ADS) data in order to develop appropriate policies as consumers move toward autonomous vehicles, a panel of insurance industry representatives said Wednesday.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Seventy-three Ohio employers will share \$1,521,059 in workplace safety grants from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) to purchase equipment designed to substantially reduce or eliminate workplace injuries and illnesses.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

SENATE:

BILLS FOR THIRD CONSIDERATION

- HB115** DATABASE-PERSONS WITH COMMUNICATION DISABILITY (Rep. Theresa Gavarone, Rep. Scott Wiggam) To establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification.
Vote 33-0
- HB122** ESTABLISH ECONOMIC STUDY COMMITTEE (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. John Rogers) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.
Vote 32-0
- HB195** TRANSPORTING DISABLED PERSONS (Rep. Catherine Ingram, Rep. Bill Seitz) To modify the provisions concerning the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances.
Vote 33-0
- HB251** BOND AND OBLIGATION MATURATION (Rep. Dave Greenspan) To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys.
Vote 33-0
- HB354** TIFFIN-FOSTORIA ADDICTION PROGRAM (Rep. William Reineke) To provide the Tiffin-Fostoria municipal court with concurrent jurisdiction with the Seneca County court of common pleas in operating a drug addiction recovery program.
Vote 33-0
- HB478** SMALL CELL WIRELESS (Rep. Ryan Smith, Rep. Sarah LaTourette) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way.
Vote 26-7

- SB82** SCHOOL ABSENCES-PARENTAL NOTIFICATION (Sen. Sandra Williams, Sen. Peggy Lehner) To require a public school to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse.
Vote 33-0
- SB116** MILITARY SPOUSE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Sen. Frank LaRose, Sen. Sandra Williams) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.
Vote 33-0
- SB135** SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION-VOTING PROGRAM (Sen. Frank LaRose) To make supplemental operating appropriations for the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium and supplemental capital appropriations for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium to implement a voting machine and equipment acquisition program.
Vote 32-1
- SB201** REAGAN TOKES LAW-INCARCERATION (Sen. Kevin Bacon, Sen. Sean O'Brien) To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law.
Vote 33-0
- SB208** FIREARMS CARRY-LAW ENFORCEMENT (Sen. Louis Terhar) To allow a law enforcement officer or investigator, whether on or off duty, to carry a weapon on certain premises open to the public.
Vote 30-3
- SB221** RULE-MAKING AND REVIEW REFORM (Sen. Joe Uecker) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof.
Vote 30-3
- SB231** SIERAH'S LAW-VIOLENT OFFENDERS (Sen. Randy Gardner) To provide for a violent offender database, require violent offenders to enroll in the database, and name those provisions of the act "Sierah's Law;" to modify the membership and duties of the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and eliminate its repeal; to require halfway houses to use the single validated risk assessment tool for adult offenders that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has developed; and to provide that the notice of release from prison of specified serious offense offenders that is given to sheriffs is to be the same as that provided to prosecuting attorneys and eliminate the notice to sheriffs regarding pardons, commutations, paroles, and transitional control transfers of offenders.
Vote 31-2
- SB239** REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (Sen. Matt Dolan) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments.

Vote 33-0

SB257 HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES (Sen. Joe Uecker, Sen. Sean O'Brien) To make changes to the laws governing hunting and fishing.

Vote 33-0

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB1 DRUG LAWS (Sen. Frank LaRose) To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-related compound, to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of permitting drug abuse, and to add lisdexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances.

Vote 0-33

SB170 DRIVER'S LICENSES-MILITARY PERSONNEL (Sen. Frank LaRose) To require the universal validation sticker available to owners of passenger vehicle fleets to be issued without an expiration date beginning January 1, 2019, and to require the Director of Public Safety to seek approval from the United States Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement a temporary pilot program regarding the waiver of the skills test for a commercial driver's license that applies to present and former military personnel.

Vote 33-0

HOUSE:

PASSED BY HOUSE

HB131 PHYSICAL THERAPY LAWS (Rep. Theresa Gavarone, Rep. William Reineke) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.

Vote 95-0

HB135 DAY DESIGNATION-SUPERMAN DAY (Rep. Bill Patmon) To designate June 12th as "Superman Day."

Vote 86-4

HB263 OUTDOOR DINING-DOGS (Rep. Laura Lanese) To authorize a food service operation or retail food establishment to allow a person to bring a dog in an outdoor dining area of the establishment or operation under specified conditions.

Vote 86-10

HB318 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS-SCHOOL SECURITY (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Sarah LaTourette) With regard to school resource officers, to require the Facilities Construction Commission to study and report on school building security upgrades, and to make an appropriation.

Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 89-1

HB360 ANTI-BULLYING AND HAZING (Rep. Dave Greenspan) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges.

Vote 69-27

HB378 OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (Rep. Ryan Smith, Rep. Jack Cera) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program, to encourage the Department of Transportation to work with telecommunications providers to lay fiber optic cable, and to make an appropriation.

Vote 85-11

HB489 BANKS AND CREDIT UNION REGULATION (Rep. Jonathan Dever) To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection.

Vote 89-6

HB508 OHIOCORPS PILOT PROJECT (Rep. Scott Ryan, Rep. William Reineke) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an appropriation.

Vote 90-4

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB115 DATABASE-PERSONS WITH COMMUNICATION DISABILITY (Rep. Theresa Gavarone, Rep. Scott Wiggam) To establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification.

House Does Concur, Vote 91-0

HB122 ESTABLISH ECONOMIC STUDY COMMITTEE (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. John Rogers) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.

House Does Concur, Vote 89-2

HB195 TRANSPORTING DISABLED PERSONS (Rep. Catherine Ingram, Rep. Bill Seitz) To modify the provisions concerning the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances.

House Does Concur, Vote 94-0

HB478 SMALL CELL WIRELESS (Rep. Ryan Smith, Rep. Sarah LaTourette) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way.

House Does Concur, Vote 72-17

ADOPTED BY HOUSE

HR193 MEDAL OF HONOR-JOHN AND ANNIE GLENN (Rep. Nickie Antonio, Rep. Fred Strahorn) A resolution urging Congress to award a Congressional Medal of Honor to the late Senator John Glenn and Mrs. Annie Glenn.

Vote 92-1

HR299 RELIGION ASSISTING DRUG ADDICTED PERSONS (Rep. Ron Young, Rep. Tim Ginter) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community

in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction.

Vote 92-1