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RH RESOURCES

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Week in Review

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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

Friday's meeting of the Ohio Joint Study Committee on Drug Use Prevention Education saw members consulting with experts in the field of adolescent drug use trends and school administrators to discern the best policies and pathways toward childhood health. Led by Ohio Attorney General's Office, the committee heard first from Richard Miech, a professor at the University of Michigan, who informed members about trends and data from his work as the principal investigator of "Monitoring the Future," a nationwide adolescent drug survey.

Ohio chiropractors and a veteran who survived a roadside bombing joined state leaders Tuesday to tout the benefits of chiropractic care as an example of non-drug pain treatments that can help people avoid the addiction risks of opioid prescriptions. "We are in the process of changing the culture," said Attorney General Mike DeWine, who hosted members of the Ohio State Chiropractic Association (OSCA) at his offices for a press conference Tuesday.

While the nation is making progress in addressing the opioid crisis, the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) said during a stop in Ohio Thursday that he expects things to get worse before better. "We have not seen this peak," Francis Collins told reporters after a roundtable at Ohio State University. "Even now."

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine credits Columbus Crew owner and Major League Soccer (MLS) with some positive signals in the developing legal dispute over the location of the team, which Precourt Sports Ventures LLC have expressed interest in moving to Austin, TX. He called it a good first step that Precourt formally stated local interested parties can contact the organization with offers to buy the team.

BALLOT ISSUES

Secretary of State Jon Husted Thursday released an educational video to inform Ohioans about State Issue 1, congressional redistricting reform authorized by the General Assembly through SJR5 (Huffman-Sykes). Complete information, including the educational video, ballot language and arguments for and against Issue 1, can be accessed by visiting the secretary of state's website at www.sos.state.oh.us.

EDUCATION

A proposed overhaul of the state's school report card system was the first item on the agenda of a new workgroup aimed at improving the state's school accountability system Thursday. Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) presented an early draft of his bill to the State Board of Education's Accountability and Continuous Improvement committee, which over the next few months will host a stakeholder workgroup assigned the goal of providing recommendations on changing the report card to the board and legislative leaders.

Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) Executive Director Lauren Monowar-Jones briefed legislators Thursday on her upcoming report on early learning and development, enumerating funding totals and other statistics pertaining to the state's four existing early childhood education programs while answering questions from the committee.

ELECTIONS

While Ohio was Gov. John Kasich's sole primary victory in 2016 as he sought the Republican nomination for president, a new poll from Baldwin Wallace University's Community Research Institute (CRI) suggests Kasich would not be so lucky should he choose to challenge President Donald Trump for the nomination in 2020.

ELECTIONS 2018

The Democratic Governors Association (DGA) announced Friday that it will be reserving \$20 million in television ads in four states, including Ohio, as part of its initiative to elect more Democratic governors.

The Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) Monday announced its fifth debate for gubernatorial candidates and the second since the February filing deadline. The next debate will be Tuesday, April 10, the start of early voting in Ohio. ODP said it is partnering with WLWT-TV, the *Hamilton Journal-News* and Miami University to host the debate.

Rep. Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus) will be allowed to run as a write-in in the 18th Ohio House District in the May primary after Secretary of State Jon Husted broke a county board of elections tie in her favor. Boggs had filed her petition before the Feb. 7 deadline, but withdrew it immediately after she was told that she had failed to sign her name on four of her petitions, which would have invalidated her candidacy and prevented her from appearing on the ballot. In another ruling, Husted refused to let Democrat Nathan Dowds on to the ballot for the 3rd Ohio Senate district. Dowds submitted his petition on time for the Democratic nomination, but the board ruled he was short two valid signatures. The board decided to reconsider the petition and validated one more signature, but tied on the validity of another.

Bob Paduchik, the co-chairman of the Republican National Committee and Ohio director for Donald J. Trump for President in 2016, Thursday blasted Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor's gubernatorial campaign, saying its attack ad against primary rival Attorney General Mike DeWine "is both false and misleading." Michael Duchesne, a spokesman for Taylor, responded by saying DeWine "and his D.C. swamp cronies" are using name calling and slander to distract from DeWine's record.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- The campaign of gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray announced the endorsements of the following Democratic Party chairs: Linda Stepp, Adams County; John Haseley, Athens County; Ken McNeely, Brown County; Ann Reno, Clinton County; Judy Craig, Fayette County; Carole Roush, Gallia County; Dinah Phillips, Highland County; Bill Henderson, Hocking County; Joe Gilliland, Jackson County; Craig Allen, Lawrence County; David Dewitt, Pike County; Dustin Proehl, Ross County; Randy Basham, Scioto County; and Nick Rupert, Vinton County.
- The campaign of congressional candidate Grant Goodrich announced the endorsement of U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge for the 16th Congressional District.
- Ohio Right to Life endorsed Mike DeWine for governor; Robert Sprague for state treasurer; Jim Renacci for U.S. Senate; Steve Chabot, Jim Jordan, Bob Latta, Bill Johnson, Bob Gibbs, Patrick Pickus, W. Benjamin Franklin, Kevin Bacon, Troy Balderson, Melanie Leneghan, Chris DePizzo and Anthony Gonzales for the U.S. House of Representatives; Rob McColley, Steve Wilson and Andrew Brenner for Ohio Senate; and Jim Trakas, Tim Barhorst, Stu Harris, Mike Rasor, Niraj Antani, Kenneth Henning, Derek Merrin, Reggie Soltzfus, Sara Carruthers, Jamie Callendar, Scott Lipps, Randy Law, John Becker, Kris Jordan, Larry Householder, Rick Perales, Ron Hood, John O'Brien, Jena Powell, George Lovett, James Hoops, Jon Cross, Travis Faber, Nino Vitale, Tracy Richardson, Riordan McClain, Brian Baldridge, Gina Collinworth, Beth Ellis, Shane Wilkin, Bob Mazerowski, Fiona Ruminiski, Shane Gunnoe and Brett Hillyer for Ohio House.
- The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Locals 17A, 75, 880, 1059, the International Chemical Workers Union and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) endorsed Richard Cordray for governor. - The Patriots PAC endorsed Kathleen Clyde for secretary of state.

GAMING/GAMBLING

The Ohio Casino Control Commission unanimously passed a package of rules to regulate skilled games in Ohio Wednesday while turning its attention to its next mandated task by the General Assembly - to oversee fantasy sports in Ohio.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at noon, Wednesday, April 4 in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. The free public ceremony titled "50-Year Legacy: an MLK Memorial Event" will celebrate King's life and legacy.

Legislation removing the cap on state sports event grants racked up a high number of assists from Ohio sports organizations on Tuesday. Representatives from the Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Cavaliers, Cincinnati Reds, Futbol Club Cincinnati, Columbus Blue Jackets and Columbus Clippers were on hand to provide proponent testimony on HB531 (Schuring-Greenspan) during its second hearing in the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee.

Legislation that aims to increase access to affordable prescription drugs by improving price transparency and the payment process received its first hearing on Tuesday, as public officials continue to scrutinize the practices of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). "This bill largely seeks to reduce the administrative burden placed on pharmacists by PBMs, which act as third-party intermediaries between pharmacies and insurers," Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) told the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee during sponsor testimony on HB479 (Lipps-West).

Tuesday afternoon's hearing of HB530 (Hambley-Arndt) in the House State and Local Government Committee saw lawmakers at odds with four 2017 opinions issued by Ohio Attorney General (AG) Mike DeWine (AG Opinions 2017-34, 2017-35, 2017-36, 2017-37). According to several county commissioners and association representatives who testified, passage of the bill would overturn DeWine's opinions stating that serving on a Convention and Visitors' Bureau (CVB) board as a county-elected official is a conflict of interest.

Comprehensive juvenile justice reform bill HB394 (Rezabek) received a new version Tuesday in the form of a substitute bill as judges testified that it was time to update Ohio's laws, including the elimination of mandatory bind-overs for juvenile offenders that they said don't allow judges to take all of the circumstances in a case under consideration.

The House Criminal Justice Committee Tuesday heard from a dozen witnesses representing bail agents, who argued that HB439 (Dever-Ginter) is not needed because the current system works.

The Senate will consider setting a reduction target for regulatory restrictions and instituting a rule to limit growth in rules, President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Wednesday at a press conference where he shared the stage with a researcher who highlighted Ohio's relatively high number of regulatory restrictions.

The \$2.6 billion capital budget is now on its way to Gov. John Kasich's desk after passing the Senate on a 32-1 vote Wednesday. The construction spending measures, HB529 (Ryan), funds projects

spanning from K-12 and higher education facility construction, local road, water and sewer projects through the Public Works Commission, dam safety upgrades and state park improvements, prison renovations and a variety of health and human services purposes, with a specific focus this biennium on spending to address the addiction crisis.

Other action in the Senate Wednesday included concurrence on House amendments to SB226 (Bacon), the sales tax holiday bill, HB24 (Ginter), regarding tax exemptions for veterans organizations, and SB22 (Peterson), tax conformity legislation; and passage of SB216 (Huffman), an education deregulation measure; SB244 (Dolan-Manning), increasing penalties for promoting prostitution; HB98 (Duffey-Boggs), regarding career information for students; and SB158 (Wilson), regarding elder fraud.

Wednesday's House session included passage of HB410 (Seitz-Butler), regarding traffic cameras; SB226 (Bacon), the sales tax holiday bill; HB451 (Retherford), regarding privacy of records that compromise a crime victim's bodily privacy; HB345 (Butler), to establish a multi-state compact to provide awards for disease cures; SB170 (LaRose), regarding commercial driver's licenses; HB343 (Merrin), regarding property valuation challenges; HB506 (Hill), regarding dog breeders; HB351 (Perales-Butler), regarding tax exemptions for the pay of certain federal employees; HB392 (Stein), granting immunity to beekeepers; HB405 (Perales), regarding counterfeiting; HB190 (Lepore-Hagan-Schuring), regarding railroad crossings; and SB143 (Eklund), designating Sept. 25 as "International Ataxia Awareness Day."

Teenagers have the ability to make significant cultural changes to protect themselves and their peers from human trafficking, Reps. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) said Thursday. "My message to the public and to the legislators in the state and to the governor is -- let them lead," Fedor told reporters during a Statehouse press conference featuring high school students across the state advocating for passage of HB461 (Fedor-Galonski), which would change Ohio law to mirror federal law with regard to trafficking minors aged 16 and 17. The bill has received one hearing in the House Criminal Justice Committee.

In other legislative action, House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee reported out HR298 (Sprague-Hill), regarding alfalfa; House Criminal Justice Committee reported out HB30 (Koehler), regarding penalties for crimes where victims suffer disabling harm; House Education Committee reported out HB477 (Koehler), to eliminate certain education programs; and HB491 (Edwards), regarding substitutes; House Finance Committee reported out HB380 (Smith-Cera), regarding broadband; House State and Local Government Committee reported out HB139 (Perales-Keller), regarding public disclosure exemptions; House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committee reported out SB81 (Terhar), regarding concealed carry licenses; House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee reported out HB494 (Antani), regarding franchise laws; HB406 (Lanese), regarding forensic examinations; and SB163 (Wilson), regarding county investments; House Health Committee reported out HB131 (Gavarone-Reineke), regarding physical therapy; and HB485 (Antani), designating Jan. 30 as "Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Awareness Day"; and Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee reported out SB221 (Uecker), regarding rulemaking.

GOVERNOR

Appointments made during the week include the following:

- Dr. Michael Schottenstein of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the State Medical Board for a term beginning March 15, 2018, and ending March 19, 2023.
- Robert S. Frost of Lakewood (Cuyahoga County) to the Kent State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning March 15, 2018, and ending May 16, 2026.
- Benjamin T. Pesich of Dublin (Delaware County) to the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council for a term beginning March 15, 2018, and ending Dec. 31, 2019.
- Lisa Dodge Burton of Powell (Delaware County) to the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board for a term beginning March 15, 2018, and ending April 22, 2021.
- Christopher J. Ferruso of Westerville (Franklin County) to the Public Benefits Advisory Board for a term beginning March 15, 2018, and ending June 30, 2019.
- Kathryn Bartter Arnold of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Great Lakes Protection Fund Board for a term beginning March 15, 2018, and ending Oct. 10, 2018.
- Jerry P. Lahmers of Newcomerstown (Tuscarawas County) and James A. Tomaszewski Jr. of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) to the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board for terms beginning March 15, 2018, and ending Jan. 15, 2021.
- Gwen Howe-Gebers of Holgate (Henry County) to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending Aug. 21, 2020.
- Neal J. Barkan of Bexley (Franklin County) to the Motor Vehicle Dealers Board for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending Oct. 4, 2019.
- Jack R. Green of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority Investment Board for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending Jan. 30, 2022.
- Steven R. Bergman of Cincinnati (Clermont County) to the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending July 10, 2019.
- Charles W. Dixon of Granville (Licking County) to the State Fire Council for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending Nov. 1, 2018, and Thomas P. Jubeck of Mentor (Lake County) for a term beginning March 20, 2018, and ending Nov. 1, 2020.
- T. Steven Williams of Malta (Morgan County) to the Ohio Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board for a term beginning March 20, 2018, and ending Jan. 10, 2022.
- Phillip L. Parker of Beavercreek (Greene County) to the Oil and Gas Commission for a term beginning March 20, 2018, and ending Oct. 14, 2022.
- Kathleen M. Hamm of Toledo (Lucas County) reappointed to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission for a term beginning March 21, 2018, and ending Aug. 21, 2021.
- Brooke M. Burns of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission for a term beginning March 21, 2018, and ending Aug. 21, 2020.
- Anthony L. Reams of Toledo (Lucas County) to the Ohio Rail Development Commission for a term beginning March 21, 2018, and ending Oct. 20, 2021.
- William C. Elliott of Worthington (Franklin County) to the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority Investment Board for a term beginning March 21, 2018, and ending Jan. 30, 2020.
- Jason K. Walsh of Columbus (Franklin County) to the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services for a term beginning March 21, 2018, and ending Nov. 12, 2019.
- Susie L. Hahn of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Real Estate Appraiser Board for a term beginning March 22, 2018, and ending June 30, 2019. - Sandra C. Hull of Wooster (Wayne County) and Daniel M. Rice of Cuyahoga Falls (Summit County) reappointed to the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board for terms beginning March 22, 2018, and ending Jan. 14, 2021. - Guy

C. Coviello of Youngstown (Trumbull County) to the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission for a term beginning March 22, 2018, and ending June 30, 2023.

- Keenan B. McKee of Eaton (Preble County) and Donald H. Rife Jr. of Delaware (Delaware County) reappointed to the Ohio Board of Motor Vehicle Repair for terms beginning March 22, 2018, and ending Jan. 1, 2021.

- Kristen L. Jackson, MSN, FNP-BC of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) to the Maternity and Newborn Advisory Council for a term beginning March 22, 2018, and ending Oct. 31, 2022.

- Mary Jo Monte-Kaser of New Philadelphia (Tuscarawas County) to the Waterways Safety Council for a term beginning March 22, 2018, and ending Jan. 30, 2020, and Timothy J. Lovett of Lima (Allen County) for a term beginning March 22, 2018, and ending Jan. 30, 2023.

GREAT LAKES

Two Northern Ohio lawmakers, Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) and Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), are seeking to create a new Clean Lake Capital Fund that would be authorized to appropriate up to \$100 million per year for five years to address Lake Erie toxic algae issues. Funding may include establishing facilities to improve manure application processes, projects to reduce open lake disposal of dredged materials, funds to local governments for water-quality-based green infrastructure and water management projects to help reduce nutrient and sediment runoff affecting the lake, among other strategies, according to a news release from the Senate GOP.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) has proposed to designate the open waters of Lake Erie's Western Basin as "impaired" for recreation and drinking water due to harmful algal blooms and microcystin. Previously, only the shoreline area of the Western Basin and drinking water intakes had been designated as impaired. Environmentalists and the International Joint Commission had been calling on the agency to designate the entire basin as impaired.

GUNS

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) released a statement Friday apologizing for what he said was a "poor job of communicating my position" in comments to the *Dayton Daily News*. Antani faced reaction and criticism after he told the newspaper he believed that 18-year-old students should be allowed to carry long guns into school if they meet the legal criteria to do so. "A reporter asked me a question about Second Amendment Issues," Antani wrote on Twitter. "I told the reporter I believed that gun-free zones do not work, and that every law-abiding person who is of age has a right to carry to defend themselves. I am not advocating the arming of students. I am not proposing or introducing any bill or legislation dealing with what was in the *Dayton Daily News* and WHIO."

Sens. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) Wednesday announced that they plan to introduce "red flag" legislation "to help make communities safer by preventing gun-related deaths." They were joined at a morning news conference by representatives from Moms Demand Action, which supports the legislation. The senators' bill establishes an "extreme risk protection order" allowing family members or law enforcement to ask a civil court to temporarily remove firearms from a person who is exhibiting "red flags" by acting in an unstable or threatening manner toward themselves or others.

IMMIGRATION

The federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency will add more special agents in Ohio as it works on "identifying, targeting and dismantling" international criminal groups contributing to the opioid epidemic in Ohio, a top official for the agency said Friday. ICE Deputy Director Thomas Homan, joined by Attorney General Mike DeWine, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) and local officials in Dayton, discussed efforts to ramp up the work of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations divisions to disrupt drug trafficking.

JUDICIAL

Franklin County leads the state in the latest round of attorney theft awards, totaling nearly \$40,000 to be repaid to clients. The Board of Commissioners of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection on Wednesday announced total awards of \$80,354 to 25 victims of dishonest attorneys. Eleven former or suspended Ohio attorneys were found to have misappropriated client funds. One attorney, since deceased, also was involved in the claims presented to the Board of Commissioners.

MARIJUANA

The State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) is now accepting applications from physicians who would like to attain a certificate to recommend (CTR) under the Medical Marijuana Control Program (MMCP). Doctors with a full, unrestricted Ohio license are eligible to apply, according to the board. Physicians must complete a two-hour continuing medical education (CME) course approved by the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) or the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA). There is no fee for the CTR.

MEDICAID/MEDICAID REFORM

Before the March 18 deadline for submitting comments for the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to consider in its bid to create work requirements for some Medicaid beneficiaries, groups opposed to the proposal flooded the agency with feedback. Lawmakers directed ODM to file a request with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) seeking a Section 1115 waiver to impose the work requirements. ODM submitted its initial waiver proposal last month for a plan that would subject about 36,000 beneficiaries to the work requirements, kicking off the public comment period.

While scores of people and groups criticized the Kasich administration's federal application to institute work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries, the Buckeye Institute is embracing them while offering a few critiques. Buckeye said its vice president of policy, Rea Hederman Jr., submitted comments on the waiver Friday, ahead of the Sunday deadline for public input on the application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

NATURAL RESOURCES

More than 100,000 rainbow trout are expected to be released this spring in 64 Ohio public lakes and ponds, creating fishing opportunities for anglers all across Ohio, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The first rainbow trout release was earlier this month at Adams Lake in Adams County.

A team of ecologists at the University of Toledo (UT) was awarded a two-year state wildlife grant from Ohio and Michigan to study flagship species of the Oak Openings region to better inform conservation and management strategies.

PAYDAY LENDING

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), top deputy to House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said Thursday he's working with payday lenders and reformers to reach a compromise on new regulations for the industry, but acknowledged agreement on fees and interest rates would be tough to get. A group urging action on payday lending reforms quickly panned his ideas, calling them "toothless" and a "sham."

PEOPLE

Strategic Public Partners (SPP) said this week that Carlo LoParo, the firm's vice president of public relations, is leaving to restart his own firm LoParo Public Relations.

The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) announced Wednesday that Joanna Pinkerton will be the new president and CEO of the organization. According to COTA, Pinkerton came from the Ohio State University, where she served as the chief operating officer of the Transportation Research Center Inc. and previously as the chief operating officer for the university's Center for Automotive Research (CAR).

STATE GOVERNMENT

The state's next miscellaneous property auction, scheduled for Saturday, March 31, will feature numerous items including a smoker grill, Model ET1130 Presto equipment lift, and Symmetrix EMC2 UPS cabinets. The bidding on the grill will start at 11 a.m.

TAXATION

The new Tax Expenditure Review Committee, created to give ongoing scrutiny to foregone state revenue in the form of exemptions, deductions and other special exceptions in the tax code, has announced its first meeting and the first set of tax expenditures to go under the microscope. After years of discussion among legislators and advocacy from outside groups across the political spectrum about the need for such reviews, lawmakers finally created the committee at the close of the previous General Assembly in 131-HB9 (Boose).

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE

The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) on Monday approved a more than \$1.4 million contract with Panther Industrial Painting LLC to repaint seven bridges in Williams and Fulton counties.

UTILITIES

Phase 3 of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) PowerForward initiative resumed this week with a focus on ratemaking and data analytics. The discussion included representatives of major utilities, competitive suppliers, PJM Interconnection, Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC),

nonprofits, secondary service providers and other stakeholders in Chairman Asim Haque's push for grid modernization.

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield), sponsor of the electric security plan (ESP)-busting HB247, says his legislation will likely see more hearings in the House Public Utilities Committee following the chairman's current focus on landline telephone bill HB402 (Hill), as vetting of HB247 proceeds in the Senate. Romanchuk took the case for his deregulation bill to the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) Governing Board Tuesday, reprising the three main prongs of HB247: an end to the ESP system of non-bypassable billing riders; an end to the statutory ban on utility customer refunds; and a ban on utility participation in electric generation.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) PowerForward grid modernization forum concluded phase three Thursday with a daylong focus on electric rate design -- how utilities will assess charges in a time of expanding customer classes and choices based on emerging technology. Representatives of Ohio's investor-owned utilities (IOU) generally agreed on a number of issues, including the belief that consumers should pay distribution charges reflecting the demand they place on grid infrastructure.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) could be forced to pay a major class of injured claimants in lump sums rather than in weekly installments if the Ohio Supreme Court sides with workers who have lost eyes, fingers, legs or other body parts. The larger legal dispute is whether the General Assembly's violation of the single-subject rule means workers' comp law should revert to previous statutory language or to the administrative rule practice legislators originally sought to overturn.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

SENATE:

PASSED BY SENATE

HB24 VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS-TAX EXEMPTION (Rep. Tim Ginter) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces.

Vote 33-0, Emergency Clause 33-0

HB98 CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Kristin Boggs) Regarding the presentation of career information to students.

Vote 33-0

HB529 CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Rep. Scott Ryan) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

Vote 32-1

- SB22** INCORPORATING FEDERAL REVENUE CHANGES (Sen. Bob Peterson) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 14, 2016, into Ohio law.
Vote 32-1, Emergency Clause 33-0
- SB158** COMBATING ELDER FRAUD (Sen. Steve Wilson) To develop best practices and educational opportunities to combat elder fraud and exploitation and to fine and require full restitution from offenders who are found guilty of certain fraud-related crimes against the elderly.
Vote 33-0
- SB216** PUBLIC SCHOOL DEREGULATION ACT (Sen. Matt Huffman) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs.
Amended on floor, Bill Vote 32-0
- SB226** SALES TAX HOLIDAY-SCHOOL SAFETY (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax, to authorize a county school financing district property tax for school safety, security, and mental health services, and to declare an emergency.
Vote 32-1, Emergency Clause 32-1
- SB244** PROMOTING PROSTITUTION PENALTIES (Sen. Matt Dolan, Sen. Gayle Manning) To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution.
Vote 33-0

HOUSE

PASSED BY HOUSE

- HB190** RAILROAD CROSSING REQUIREMENTS (Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan, Rep. Kirk Schuring) To require vehicle operators to watch, listen, and stop for on-track equipment that may be approaching a railroad crossing.
Vote 92-0
- HB343** PROPERTY VALUE CONTEST-RESOLUTIONS (Rep. Derek Merrin) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.
Vote 59-38
- HB345** CURE BILL-MULTISTATE COMPACT (Rep. James Butler, Jr.) To adopt the Solemn Covenant of the States to award prizes for curing diseases.
Vote 90-6
- HB351** NOAA AND PHS TAX EXEMPTION (Rep. Rick Perales, Rep. James Butler, Jr.) To require municipal corporations to exempt from taxation the military pay of members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service.
Vote 95-0
- HB392** BEE KEEPERS-IMMUNITY (Rep. Dick Stein) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property damage cases involving bee stings.

Vote 86-7

HB405 COUNTERFEITING OFFENSE (Rep. Rick Perales) To create the offense of counterfeiting and to include counterfeiting within the definition of "corrupt activity" under the Corrupt Activities Law.

Vote 92-1

HB410 COUNTY & MUNICIPAL COURTS-TRAFFIC LAW CIVIL ACTION (Rep. Bill Seitz, Rep. James Butler, Jr.) To grant municipal and county courts original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action concerning a traffic law violation, to specify that the court require an advance deposit for the filing of specified civil actions by the local authority bringing the civil action, and to modify the reporting requirements and LGF withholding that apply to subdivisions that operate traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

Vote 71-24

HB451 CRIME VICTIM PRIVACY PROTECTION (Rep. Wes Retherford) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy, and to declare an emergency.

Vote 71-23, Emergency Clause Failed 65-28

HB506 HIGH VOLUME DOG BREEDING (Rep. Brian Hill) To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders.

Vote 75-22

SB143 DAY DESIGNATION-ATAXIA AWARENESS (Sen. John Eklund) To designate September 25 as "International Ataxia Awareness Day" in Ohio.

Vote 93-0

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 97-0

SB226 SALES TAX HOLIDAY-SCHOOL SAFETY (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax, to authorize a county school financing district property tax for school safety, security, and mental health services, and to declare an emergency.

Vote 93-3, Emergency Clause 94-3

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB24 VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS-TAX EXEMPTION (Rep. Tim Ginter) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not

used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces.

House Does Concur, Vote 90-1, Emergency Clause 88-2

HB98 CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Kristin Boggs) Regarding the presentation of career information to students.

House Does Concur, Vote 92-0