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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.

FY16-17 BUDGET

Revenue from Ohio's personal income tax came in 13.2 percent below estimates for the month of April, fueling a total shortfall for the month of nearly \$126.4 million or 6.5 percent below estimates, according to preliminary figures released by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). Of that total, almost \$109.4 million was due to the personal income tax shortfall.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

After hearing from stakeholders and families, the Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth this week heard from agency directors regarding the roles they are playing. John McCarthy, director of Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), provided an update on ODM's efforts on the behavioral health redesign and improving the outcomes of young Ohioans. Tracy Plouck from the

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) discussed her role as chairwoman of the Family and Children First Cabinet Council, and its role in supporting youth who require the services of more than one child-serving system.

EDUCATION

Legislative leaders addressed hundreds gathered at the Statehouse last week for a rally to observe National Charter Schools Week, lauding the value of parental choice and touting reforms they'd enacted in HB 2 (Dovilla-Roegner). Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) said parents are far better equipped to direct their children's education than politicians, teachers unions and "education bureaucrats in Columbus, or worse yet, Washington D.C."

Public school representatives appeared before the Senate Finance Committee last Tuesday urging the passage of SB 298 (Schiavoni) that would require online charter schools to keep better attendance records, among other reforms.

Auditor Dave Yost's office said he's organizing a statewide summit to provide financial, professional and academic training to educators and administrators of Ohio charter schools. The summit, set for Thursday, Aug. 11 and Friday, Aug. 12 will feature presentations by national experts including Geoffrey Canada, president of the Harlem Children's Zone; Steve Perry, founder of Capitol Preparatory Magnet School; and Mike Feinberg, co-founder of the KIPP Foundation.

ELECTIONS

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) announced that she is introducing legislation creating a presumption that a voter's ballot is valid and will be counted unless there is evidence that the ballot is not valid. Clyde, a frequent critic of the way Ohio counts its provisional ballots, said Ohio starts with the default position that a provisional ballot is invalid.

ELECTIONS 2016

A little more than nine months after launching his presidential campaign, Gov. John Kasich ended it last Wednesday, giving a positive speech while never mentioning his rivals. "As I suspend my campaign, I have renewed faith -- deep faith -- that the Lord will show me the way forward and reveal the purpose of my life," Kasich said.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

A new bill introduced by Rep. Bill Hayes (R-Granville), HB 537, would make housing or employment discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal, but would also provide protections for the religious expression of those who believe homosexuality is wrong.

Chairman Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Powell) said he plans on the Sunset Review Committee hearing all testimony by the end of May.

While the House easily sent the \$2.6 billion capital budget to the governor for his signature during last Wednesday's session, lawmakers narrowly passed a bill banning governments from requiring contractors to hire local workers on public construction projects after spending more than an hour debating it. SB 152 (Uecker) passed 51-42 after Republicans tabled three amendments proposed by Democrats, who complained that the bill undermines local control and essentially rewards contractors for hiring out-of-state employees. Republicans countered that local residency requirements discriminate against non-urban workers and drive up costs by limiting the number of contractors that can bid on a given project.

GOVERNOR

Gov. John Kasich signed a new executive order that authorized the State Board of Pharmacy to take emergency action to make a synthetic opioid a Schedule I controlled substance. The opioid, known as U-47700, would become subject to criminal drug penalties under the executive order.

The governor made the following appointments during the week:

- John C. Pascoe of Worthington (Franklin County) to the Miami University Board of Trustees for a term beginning April 29, 2016, and ending Feb. 28, 2024.
- Jude S. Foulk of Marion (Marion County) reappointed to the Marion Technical College Board of Trustees for a term beginning May 2, 2016 and ending April 29, 2019.
- John T. Patton III of Spencer (Medina County) reappointed to the Ohio Athletic Commission for a term beginning May 2, 2016 and ending Sept. 2, 2018.
- Richard C. Hylant of Ottawa Hills (Lucas County) reappointed to the Great Lakes Protection Fund Board for a term beginning May 3, 2016, and ending Oct. 10, 2017.

HOMELESSNESS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced this week that 54 local homeless housing and service programs around Ohio will receive \$17.4 million in federal grants. Grants are being awarded through the "Continuum of Care" program for FFY15.

JUDICIAL

The state's drug court system is working well and provides a variety of benefits to everyone affected by drug addiction, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a speech at the 2016 Opiate Conference.

MARIJUANA

The House Select Committee on Medical Marijuana unanimously reported out HB 523 (Huffman) after adopting dozens of changes in a sub bill last Wednesday and additional minor changes on Thursday. However, backers of a campaign to legalize medical marijuana at the ballot this fall said they're still not happy despite the revisions. Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), chairman of the committee and its predecessor study task force, expressed confidence lawmakers will still be able to enact a legalization bill before the General Assembly breaks for the summer.

MID-BIENNIUM REVIEW

In testimony before the House Finance Committee last Tuesday, Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Tim Keen outlined the provisions contained in the sixth mid-biennium review (MBR) bill offered so far this year. HB 547 (R. Smith) deals with four broad areas: appropriation changes and adjustments, operating budget and prior MBR provision amendments, capital and re-appropriations bill clean up, and tax provisions. Keen concluded his testimony on the bill with an update on the state's fiscal picture, telling the committee that the estimated General Revenue Fund (GRF) ending balance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 is \$469.7 million -- \$296 million above the 0.5 percent statutory target, but pointed out that income tax revenues in April -- "the single most significant month of the year for GRF tax revenues as a result of the income tax filing deadline" -- "came in well short of the estimate."

POLITICS

Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges said Ohio's 66 Republican presidential delegates won't break away from Gov. John Kasich after the first nomination ballot, even if rivals try to change the rules keeping Kasich's name from being nominated on the floor.

UTILITIES

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Chairman Andre Porter confirmed rumors in an official letter of resignation to Gov. John Kasich, thanking the governor for five years of "unforgettable life-changing experiences." Just a little over a year of that, however, was as chair of the PUCO.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors vetted new recommendations on opioid prescribing for injured workers, and met their new interim administrator, Sarah Morrison.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

PASSED BY HOUSE

HB410 TRUANCY (Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek, Rep. Bill Hayes) With regard to habitual and chronic truancy and compulsory school attendance.

Vote 95-1

HB429 AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIANS-TRAINING (Rep. Niraj Antani, Rep. William Reineke) Regarding employers of automotive technicians and motor vehicle technicians participating in the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program.

Vote 88-5

HB466 TAX-EXEMPT-DIGITAL ADVERTISING (Rep. Ryan Smith) To specifically exempt digital advertising services from sales and use tax.

Vote 96-0

SB75 AGRITOURISM-ZONING (Sen. Shannon Jones, Sen. Bob Peterson) To limit the authority of a board of county commissioners or board of township trustees to prohibit agritourism through zoning, to apply current agricultural use valuation to land used for agritourism for property tax purposes, and to establish immunity in a civil action for agritourism providers.

Vote 92-1

SB152 GEOGRAPHIC EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS (Sen. Joe Uecker) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area.

Vote 51-45

SB310 CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Sen. Scott Oelslager) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects for the biennium ending June 30, 2018.

Vote 95-1

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

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.

House Does Concur, Vote 96-0

SENATE

PASSED BY SENATE

HB116 PARTIAL-PRESCRIPTION REFILLS (Rep. Tim Brown) To provide for partial drug prescription refills for the purpose of synchronizing multiple prescriptions for one patient.

Vote 33-0

HB207 WORKERS' COMPENSATION-SURPLUS FUND (Rep. Michael Henne, Rep. Robert McColley) To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience.

Amended on the floor, Bill Vote 33-0

SB165 LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT-DNR ORDERS (Sen. Peggy Lehner) To establish procedures for the use of medical orders for life-sustaining treatment and to make changes to the laws governing DNR identification and orders.

Vote 30-3

SB233 LICENSE PLATE DESIGNATION (Sen. Jim Hughes) To create the "Ohio Nurses Association" license plate.

Vote 33-0

SB235 INCREASED VALUE-PROPERTY TAX (Sen. Bill Beagle, Sen. William Coley) To exempt from property tax the increased value of property on which industrial or commercial development is planned until construction of new commercial or industrial facilities at the property commences.

Vote 22-11

SB245 MALNUTRITION PREVENTION COMMISSION (Sen. Gayle Manning) To create the Malnutrition Prevention Commission to study malnutrition among older adults.

Vote 33-0

SB299 PERRY COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT (Sen. Jay Hottinger) To create the Perry County Municipal Court in New Lexington on January 1, 2017.

Vote 33-0

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB152 GEOGRAPHIC EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS (Sen. Joe Uecker) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area.

Senate does not concur, Vote 25-8

ADOPTED BY SENATE

SCR21 SMART CITY CHALLENGE (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To urge the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to select the city of Columbus as the award winner for the USDOT Smart City Challenge.

Vote 32-1