



GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.

RH RESOURCES

17 SOUTH HIGH STREET – SUITE 245

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3413

PHONE: 614-461-9335

FAX: 614-461-9336



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

The Controlling Board Monday approved a request to use Third Frontier Commission funds for a statewide competition to develop new technology to address Ohio's opioid crisis. Daryl Hennessey, chief of the business services division at the Development Services Agency, said Cleveland-based NineSigma will help the state facilitate the challenge competition. He said the goal is to figure out what issues in the state's opioid crisis can be solved with technology, and then to help develop that technology. The first round of the competition will identify those issues, while subsequent rounds will focus on solutions.

AGING

The House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia heard testimony Tuesday from a variety of sources on the types of long term care and support offered by community- and facility-based organizations to those Ohioans with Alzheimer's and dementia. Those testifying also shared

the emerging challenges of taking care of a growing elderly population, with special attention to what type of living experience should be provided to those individuals with diseases that harm their memory and cognitive functions.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Five drug manufacturing companies accused by Attorney General Mike DeWine of failing to appropriately address the addictive nature of prescription opioid painkillers are pushing back, requesting that DeWine's lawsuit against them be thrown out. In May, DeWine announced his office was filing suit against five prescription opioid manufacturers -- Johnson & Johnson/Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Endo Health Solutions, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries/Cephalon, Allergan and Purdue Pharma -- accusing them of "deceiving" the medical community and the public with "smooth pitches and glossy brochures that downplayed the risks and highlighted the benefits" of long-term use of painkillers for chronic pain.

BALLOT ISSUES

Attorney General Mike DeWine threw his full support behind Issue 1, the crime victims' rights constitutional amendment, taking on a role as co-chair of the campaign. DeWine said he will give interviews and advocate for the issue, though he said his role won't involve him in the day-to-day strategy of the campaign. He said he is happy to put his name to the issue, saying its passage is long overdue.

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

Following a massive data breach of consumer credit report agency Equifax, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) called on the company to edit the terms of a user agreement for a free service that the agency is offering to help those affected, indicating that the users may be unknowingly giving up their legal rights. Equifax had announced earlier that as many as 143 million U.S. consumers may have had their names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and driver's license numbers accessed in the criminal data breach.

EDUCATION

The Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) Tuesday heard presentations from three different groups on their approaches to social and emotional learning as a way to improve education outcomes in the districts throughout the state.

The Supreme Court of Ohio narrowed the docket for the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) Wednesday, dismissing one case filed by the online school; accepting one out of four arguments in a separate complaint; and denying the joint appeal of several students' families. The sole legal theory on which the Court will proceed is whether the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) misinterpreted the Ohio Revised Code in ordering ECOT to repay the state \$60 million for disputed student enrollment.

At Thursday's meeting of the House Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty, members heard from Matt Weyer, education program senior policy specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) on the ways other state legislatures are addressing the challenges of poverty through early child education.

ELECTIONS 2018

Four Democratic candidates for governor faced off for the first debate ahead of next year's primary Tuesday evening in Martin's Ferry, touching on issues ranging from education to Ohio's economy. Former Rep. Connie Pillich, Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, and former U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton each touted their experience and leadership as the reasons they should be elected the next governor, and took on the current Republican leadership in Columbus.

Democratic candidate for governor Connie Pillich announced an "Education Stimulus" plan to spur economic growth and attract workers and businesses to the state by making investment in education a top priority in Ohio. This includes universal pre-K and "debt free" college for middle class students.

Gene Krebs will run for the 5th Senate District seat, the former state representative and Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board chair announced Thursday. Krebs will face Rep. Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City) in the Republican primary for the office, which is currently held by term-limited Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City). Huffman announced his candidacy in May.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The House majority quickly filled the vacant 52nd District, announcing late Monday that West Chester Township Trustee George Lang will replace former Rep. Margaret Conditt. Lang was one of six candidates for the seat formerly held by Conditt, whose resignation became effective Friday, Sept. 8. Lang was sworn in during the session on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) detailed legislation introduced Tuesday that aims to provide a significant financial incentive for companies and organizations to find cures for major diseases by creating a new multi-state compact. Describing his bill, HB345, at a press conference, Butler said that, unlike in previous generations, there has not been a major, ground-breaking cure discovered for a disease since polio. He shared his personal experience of losing his mother to breast and liver cancer in 2001 and his father to pancreatic cancer in 2008.

House Majority Floor Leader Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) on Thursday announced the 16 individuals who will be participating in the Speaker's Energy Task Force. The first meeting is set for Wednesday, Oct. 4.

GOVERNOR

Appointments made during the week include the following:

- Darnita M. Bradley of New Albany (Franklin County) to the Tax Credit Authority for a term beginning Sept. 8, 2017, and ending Jan. 12, 2019.

- William "BJ" Nurczyk, Jr. of Steubenville (Jefferson County) to the Eastern Gateway Community College Board of Trustees for a term beginning Sept. 8, 2017, and ending Oct. 16, 2017.
- Aravind Immaneni, Ph.D., of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) to the Third Frontier Commission for a term beginning Sept. 12, 2017, and ending Sept. 28, 2018.
- Kashi Adhikari of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council for a term beginning Sept. 12, 2017, and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.
- Lynn M. Busdeker of Tiffin (Seneca County), Erin T. Hofmeyer of Cleves (Hamilton County), Ronald J. Kleinman of Fairlawn (Summit County), Susan Welch Stevens of Findlay (Hancock County) and Trevor J. Vessels of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board for terms beginning Sept. 12, 2017, and ending Aug. 27, 2020.
- Timothy E. McIntire of Washington Township (Montgomery County) reappointed to the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board for a term beginning Sept. 13, 2017, and ending Aug. 27, 2020.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The third annual report card for Ohio Medicaid managed care plans was released, continuing the state's efforts to inform consumers and provide incentives for the health plans to improve their services. Dayton-based CareSource received the best marks, receiving three stars in two categories (doctors' communication and service and keeping kids healthy) and two stars in the remaining three categories. Three other plans received three stars in one category while Paramount Advantage did not receive a three-star ranking in any category. Paramount and UnitedHealthCare both received one star in two categories.

MARIJUANA

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) released an online resource page dedicated to medical marijuana. The resource page includes descriptions of medical marijuana legalization legislation HB 523 (Huffman), state regulations on marijuana and state vs. federal legal considerations. The page also includes resources on the health and policy implications of changes in marijuana use. The page can be accessed at www.healthpolicyohio.org/medical-marijuana-resource-page.

PEOPLE

The Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association (OPAA) announced Tuesday that long-time Executive Director John Murphy will be retiring effective Monday, Oct. 2. Murphy will be succeeded by Columbus attorney Louis Tobin, who is currently deputy director of the Ohio Judicial Conference. Murphy has been with the organization for 41 years, 37 of that as executive director. He will temporarily stay on part-time to assist in the transition.

Mike Carey, chairman of the Board of Directors for the Ohio Coal Association, announced Tuesday that Michael (Mike) Cope has been named interim president of the association. Former President Christian Palich has been appointed to a position within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT

The four leaders of the House and Senate met in private this week to begin laying out a plan to pass congressional redistricting reform, but the leaders are still working out the details. Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina), Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights), House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) and House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) met to talk about a process to work on a compromise for how the state draws its congressional districts.

TRANSPORTATION

A proposed route connecting Pittsburgh and Chicago through Columbus was one of 10 chosen Thursday by a company proposing to build high-speed tube transportation networks around the world. Hyperloop One announced the 10 winning routes of its One Global Challenge, which called for comprehensive proposals for using its transport technology to move passengers and freight point-to-point, swiftly and on-demand.

UTILITIES

The Ohio Supreme Court has reaffirmed the safety mandate of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) -- along with reliability and cost, one of the commission's three primary missions -- ruling Wednesday that Columbia Gas of Ohio did not violate the Miller Act by discontinuing service to an entire neighborhood without first filing an application with PUCO.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:

HOUSE

PASSED BY HOUSE

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 91-6

HB133 DISASTER RELIEF ACT (Rep. Scott Ryan) To create the Disaster Relief Act to exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster.

Vote 97-0

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.

Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 88-9

ADOPTED BY HOUSE

HR257 GEORGE F. LANG-52ND HOUSE DISTRICT (Rep. Cliff Rosenberger) Relative to the election of George F. Lang to fill the vacancy in the membership of the House of Representatives created by the resignation of Margaret Conditt of the 52nd House District.

Vote 57-0

No Senate activity to report.