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**Week in Review**  
May 16, 2016

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.

**APPALACHIA**

The General Assembly (GA) will consider a bipartisan proposal to direct unused portions of the oil and gas severance tax to crumbling roads and bridges and fire/EMS services in Appalachian Ohio, home to most of the state's shale "fracking." HB 540, would first designate oil and gas severance tax proceeds for the operation of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Division of Oil and Gas -- roughly \$13 million to \$14 million in FY15, according to a Legislative Service Commission (LSC) analysis -- and Division of Geological Mapping, roughly \$1.6 million in FY15.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) are commending Ohioans for properly disposing of an estimated 18 tons (36,408 pounds) of unneeded, unwanted or expired prescription drugs during the April 30 National Prescription Drug Take-Back

Day. The DEA's National Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative provides a safe means of prescription drug disposal, the AG's office said.

## **EDUCATION**

Reps. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Heather Bishoff (D-Blacklick) introduced HB 556 that could eliminate the "Win-Win" agreement between Columbus Public Schools and nine Franklin County suburban districts. The agreement was created in 1986 and is renewed every six years by the districts. Under the agreement, Columbus City Schools will not take control of areas that are annexed by the city of Columbus in exchange for a payment from the suburban districts.

The State Board of Education unanimously voted last Wednesday to name Paolo DeMaria, an education consultant and former state budget director and associate superintendent, as the next state superintendent. Introducing DeMaria as a consensus-builder, Board President Tom Gunlock said, "We look forward to working with Paolo and welcoming him back to the Department of Education."

## **ELECTIONS 2016**

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) said last week in a call-in with reporters that he will support his party's presumptive presidential nominee in November, but noted, "Where I disagree, I'll make it clear."

A new Quinnipiac University Poll is calling this November's U.S. Senate race "too close to call," with former Gov. Ted Strickland holding a 1 percentage point lead over incumbent U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH).

## **EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**

The nation added 160,000 jobs in April, but the national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced. According to the BLS, the number of unemployed persons was little changed over the month and was 7.9 million in April. The number of long-term unemployed, or those jobless for more than 27 weeks, declined by 150,000 to 2.1 million in April. BLS said these individuals accounted for 25.7 percent of the unemployed. The labor force participation rate dropped to 62.8 percent. The number of discouraged workers, or those who gave up looking for work because they didn't think they could find a job, fell to 568,000 from 585,000.

## **ENERGY**

The House and Senate launched their respective hearings last week on energy mandate legislation SB 320 (Seitz) and HB 554 (Amstutz), two "freeze" extension proposals that would not exactly qualify as companion bills. Sen. Bill Seitz's (R-Cincinnati) follow-up to the SB 310 (Balderson) study committee seeks to maintain current renewable/energy efficiency standards for more three years, while Speaker Pro Tempore Ron Amstutz's (R-Wooster) bill would take a page out of the study committee report by freezing portfolio standards indefinitely -- apparently, a non-starter for the Kasich administration.

## **GOVERNOR**

Gov. John Kasich signed six bills, all of which become effective in 90 days. They included the following:

- SB264 (Bacon), which establishes a three-day sales holiday early in August, 2016.
- HB233 (Schuring), which establishes a procedure by which municipalities can create downtown redevelopment districts to rehabilitate historic buildings and promote economic development.
- HB242 (Hagan-Dever), which designates the fourth Sunday of July as "Blue Star Mothers and Families Day."
- SB133 (Beagle), which designates June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."
- SB182 (Balderson-Peterson), which names portions of various bridges and highways.
- SB239 (Hughes), which designates the seventh day of August as "Ohio Purple Heart Day."

The governor made the following appointments during the week:

- Samuel W. Grooms of Westerville (Franklin County) to the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning May 6, 2016, and ending April 30, 2025.
- Allan K. Metz of Warren (Trumbull County) as the student trustee member on the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning May 6, 2016, and ending April 30, 2018.
- Father J. Kevin Maney of Westerville (Franklin County) and Deborah Givens of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the Advisory Board of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for terms beginning May 9, 2016 and ending May 4, 2017.
- Ronald E. Falconi of Brunswick (Medina County) to the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board for a term beginning May 9, 2016 and ending July 10, 2018.
- The Hon. Ronald J. O'Brien of Columbus (Franklin County), Sheriff Tom Miller of Brunswick (Medina County) and Dir. John T. Born of Lancaster (Fairfield County) reappointed to the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board for terms beginning May 10, 2016, and ending April 29, 2019.
- Lori Barreras of Columbus (Franklin County) reappointed to the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board for a term beginning May 11, 2016, and ending April 29, 2019.
- Marlon R. Moore of Galena (Delaware County) to the Central State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning May 11, 2016, and ending June 30, 2024.
- Reginald L. Fields of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Central State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning May 11, 2016, and ending June 30, 2021.

## **MARIJUANA**

The House passed medical marijuana measure, HB 523 (Huffman), on a 71-26 vote last Tuesday. House leaders who steered the bill through the chamber said they believe HB 523 (Huffman) will make it through the Legislature by the time lawmakers break for the summer. Rep.

Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), who led the committee process, said he expects the Senate to pass it with minimal changes.

## **UTILITIES**

Commissioner Asim Haque of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will become its fifth chairman in just over five years after Gov. John Kasich handed him the job last Monday. Currently vice chair, Haque will take over the top spot when outgoing Chairman Andre Porter departs on Friday, May 20.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

### HOUSE

#### PASSED BY HOUSE

- HB375** TOWNSHIP-SNOW REMOVAL (Rep. Tim Brown, Rep. Steve Arndt) To authorize townships to require the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting property and to impose a fine for failure to do so.  
*Vote 84-13*
- HB411** DAY DESIGNATION (Rep. Dorothy Peland) To designate September 26 as "Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Awareness Day."  
*Vote 95-1*
- HB440** DAY DESIGNATION (Rep. Marlene Anielski) To designate the Saturday before Thanksgiving as "Ohio Survivors of Suicide Loss Day."  
*Vote 96-1*
- HB523** MEDICAL MARIJUANA (Rep. Stephen Huffman) To authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes and to establish the Medical Marijuana Control Program.  
*Vote 71-26*
- HB89** MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM (Rep. Anthony DeVitis) Regarding the Medicaid School Program.  
*Vote 89-7*
- HB276** CHIROPRACTOR AUTHORIZATION (Rep. Kirk Schuring) To authorize chiropractors to engage in certain activities involving nutrition-related items and therapies, nonprescription drugs, and medical goods and devices.  
*Vote 94-0*
- HB391** FINANCE LITERACY PROGRAM (Rep. Louis Terhar) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Pilot Program at the University of Cincinnati to operate for the 2016-2017 school year and to make an appropriation.  
*Vote 96-0*
- HB446** OVI-PRISON TERM (Rep. Nathan Manning) To specify that the prison term that may be imposed for a third degree felony operating a vehicle while intoxicated ("OVI") offense is a definite period of twelve, eighteen, twenty-four, thirty, thirty-six, forty-two, forty-eight, fifty-four, or sixty months, to add "harmful intoxicant" to the definition of "drug of abuse" for the purposes of commercial driver's licensing law.  
*Vote 95-0*
- HB463** MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE-ABANDONED PROPERTY (Rep. Jonathan Dever) To establish expedited actions to foreclose mortgages on vacant and abandoned residential properties, to permit private selling officers to conduct judicial and execution sales of real property, to state the intent of the General

Assembly regarding mortgage foreclosure actions, to revise the Commercial Paper Law relating to mortgages and lost instruments, and to make other changes relative to foreclosure actions.

*Vote 95-1*

**HB471** BOARDS-COMMISSIONS DISSOLUTION (Rep. Tim Brown) To formally abolish certain boards and commissions that have completed their work and to abolish the Compact with Ohio Cities Task Force.

*Vote 94-0*

**HB483** DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES-MBR (Rep. Ron Amstutz) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation.

*Vote 96-0*

**HB505** BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS-PHARMACISTS (Rep. Stephen Huffman, Rep. Dorothy Pelanda) Regarding the regulation of biological products and the substitution of interchangeable biological products when dispensed by pharmacists.

*Vote 96-0*

**HB512** WATER SYSTEM TESTING-MBR (Rep. Tim Ginter) To establish requirements governing lead and copper testing for community and nontransient noncommunity water systems.

*Vote 96-0*

**SB315** TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS (Sen. Gayle Manning) To make supplemental appropriations related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017, and to declare an emergency.

*Vote 95-1, Emergency Clause 94-2*

## **CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

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

*House Does Concur, Vote 96-0*

**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.

*House Does Concur, Vote 96-0*

## **SENATE**

### **PASSED BY SENATE**

**HB37** BEER-LIQUOR MARKET PERMIT (Rep. Michael Stinziano, Rep. Mike Duffey) To allow a person to possess beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises of a market if the beer or intoxicating liquor has been purchased from a D liquor permit holder that is located in the market.

*Vote 32-0*

**HB180** RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (Rep. Ron Maag) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement.

*Vote 23-10*

**SB227** ATTORNEY GENERAL-FUNCTIONS (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To make various changes to the laws governing the duties and functions of the Attorney General.

*Vote 33-0*

**SB242** MOTOR VEHICLE-FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS (Sen. Joe Uecker, Sen. William Coley) To revise the law governing new motor vehicle franchise agreements.

*Vote 32-0*

**SB293** MBR-NATURAL RESOURCES (Sen. Troy Balderson) To revise specified laws relating to natural resources.

*Vote 32-0*

**SB296** POLLING PLACE-EXTENDED HOURS (Sen. Bill Seitz) To specify the conditions under which a court may order that a polling place be kept open for extended hours on the day of an election and to require a person who votes pursuant to such an order to cast a provisional ballot.

*Vote 23-9*

**SB321** PUBLIC RECORDS (Sen. Keith Faber) To create a procedure within the Court of Claims to hear complaints alleging a denial of access to public records and to modify the circumstances under which a person who files a mandamus action seeking the release of public records may be awarded court costs and attorney's fees.

*32-0*

#### **ADOPTED BY SENATE**

**HCR7** TAX EXEMPT MUNICIPAL BONDS (Rep. Robert Sprague) To urge the President and the Congress of the United States to preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

*Vote 33-0*