



**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.

**AGING**

Gov. John Kasich Monday swore in Beverley Laubert as the permanent director for the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA). She had been serving as interim director since mid-December when she replaced Stephanie Loucka. Laubert has been with ODA for more than 20 years. As long-term care ombudsman, she advocated for Ohio's long-term care consumers. She has a bachelor's degree in gerontology from Kent State University and a master's degree in public policy and management from Ohio State University.

**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

Insurers planning to sell individual health care policies on the federal exchange next year proposed charging about 8 percent more in premiums on average, according to preliminary data from the Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI). According to ODI, average annual premiums for 2019 are projected to be \$6,274 for exchange plans, 8.2 percent higher than the \$5,798 seen this year.

## **AGRICULTURE**

Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) formula changes in budget bill HB49 (R. Smith) have led to lower taxes for farmers in 2018, Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) Division of Tax Equalization Assistant Administrator Gloria Gardner said Tuesday. "The capitalization rate for 2018 is 8 percent, a significant jump over the 6.6 percent rate in 2015. A higher capitalization rate means lower land values," Gardner said during a public hearing on the proposed values for tax year 2018.

## **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

Researchers examined more than 5.1 million arrest records available in the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) database to conduct a "groundbreaking analysis" that "offers insight into questions that have been largely unanswerable," Council of State Governments (CSG) representatives told the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission's Justice Reinvestment Ad Hoc Committee this week. CSG's Carl Reynolds, Jessica Gonzales and Patrick Armstrong led the presentation, the latest in their Ohio Justice Reinvestment Project 2.0.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Gov. John Kasich announced the approval of assistance for six projects set to create 272 new jobs and retain 421 jobs statewide. During its monthly meeting, the Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) reviewed economic development proposals brought to the board by JobsOhio and its regional partners. Collectively, the projects are expected to result in more than \$14 million in new payroll, and spur more than \$190 million in investments across Ohio.

## **EDUCATION**

Auditor Dave Yost needn't be an official party to litigation on disposition of Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) assets in order to secure data he wants for investigations, a Franklin County judge ruled in a denial of Yost's request to intervene.

An education deregulation package that the Senate passed unanimously split the House Education Committee along party lines Tuesday after the addition of amendments on e-schools among other changes. After caucus gatherings of more than an hour, the committee adopted six amendments to SB216 (Huffman), withdrew two amendments approved at a previous hearing and tabled or outright rejected a few others. The changes incorporate some elements of HB707 (Faber-Reineke), the newly introduced e-school reform legislation that builds on recommendations of Auditor of State Dave Yost. They also temporarily protect some schools, including Ohio Virtual Academy, from sanctions for poor academic performance because they took in large numbers of students from the defunct Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT), whose problems helped to inspire Yost's recommendations and HB707.

The Senate Education Committee on Wednesday adopted several amendments into charter school public money bill HB87 (Roegner) before reporting it out of committee, including two seeking to clarify e-school language accepted into a separate education-related bill in the House. Both HB87 and SB216 are on their way to the governor after receiving final approval in both chambers on Wednesday.

The Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) focused Thursday on state efforts addressing both edges of the K-12 system -- publicly funded child care and early education, and programs for adults to earn high school diplomas. Professionals involved in helping adults earn high school equivalence or an actual diploma through the 22+ Program and Adult Diploma Program made several suggestions to lawmakers on how to improve them.

## **ELECTIONS**

All but one of Texas' congressional and state legislative districts are legal under the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) ruled in a 5-4 decision Monday. Writing for the majority, Justice Samuel Alito said the three-judge court in the Western District of Texas erred in most of its legal reasoning concerning the districts drawn by the Republican-controlled 2013 Texas Legislature. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch joined Alito in the majority. Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote the dissenting opinion, which was joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Tuesday said it was amending its federal lawsuit challenging Ohio's congressional map in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's (SCOTUS) ruling on two separate challenges to maps in other states. The group filed a lawsuit last month, calling Ohio's current congressional map an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. But the ACLU said it had to amend its complaint after the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to the Wisconsin map after ruling the plaintiffs lacked standing, and ruled that the plaintiffs in a case challenging Maryland maps did not show they were "likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in [their] favor and that an injunction is in the public interest."

The Ohio Supreme Court's restrictions on judicial campaigns are constitutional, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has determined. "Like many states, Ohio wants the voting public to determine who will serve as its judges. Yet Ohio, mindful of the potentially corrosive effects of uninhibited fundraising and partisanship, also wants to protect public trust in the judiciary's independence. To serve these twin goals, the state fills judicial offices through elections, but imposes fundraising and advocacy limitations on anyone who seeks them," Judge David McKeague wrote in the court's opinion in *Platt v. Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Ohio Supreme Court*.

## **ELECTIONS 2018**

While neither the House Republican or the Democratic caucuses expect to focus their campaigns for the Ohio House on President Donald Trump, both said his win in Ohio in 2016 has changed their strategy from years past. This year, Democrats will be going after open seats in the suburbs, while Republicans will be targeting white working class voters in Appalachia for their seat pickups. With a historic 66-seat majority, Republicans said their first priority is to protect the seats they already have. But with new candidates in some of the GOP's most vulnerable seats, the Democratic caucus said they believe they can reverse the losses they have seen steadily since they last won the majority in 2008.

Voting for military and overseas voters began Saturday, June 23 for the upcoming Special Election and Special 12th Congressional District General Election scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 7.

Republican Melanie Leneghan filed a lawsuit in the Ohio Supreme Court demanding certain ballots cast in the primary for the 12th Congressional District be thrown out because of what she said was misconduct by county board election officials. Leneghan lost a close special election primary to Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville), but has demanded a recount, claiming suspicious results were seen in Balderson's home county of Muskingum. The lawsuit names Secretary of State Jon Husted and the boards of elections in Franklin and Muskingum counties as defendants.

A woman who lost a primary challenge to Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) in the May primary has been indicted on a felony charge of extortion, according to Greene County Common Pleas Court records. Jocelyn Smith was indicted on the third-degree felony charge of extortion, along with coercion, a second-degree misdemeanor. Smith had claimed during her campaign that Perales had kissed and choked her in a past encounter in 2015. Perales admitted that he had exchanged flirtatious and inappropriate text messages, but denied her other allegations.

Attorney General Mike DeWine announced his first major campaign platform Thursday since winning the Republican nomination for governor, focusing on six items to improve the lives of children in the state. The plan, dubbed the "Opportunity for Every Ohio Kid Plan," would boost funding for early childhood education initiatives and home visit programs. It would give every Ohio student access to a mental health professional and would do a top-down review of Ohio's foster care system.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- The Ohio Society of CPAs endorsed Justice Mary DeGenaro and Judge Craig Baldwin for Ohio Supreme Court.

## **ENERGY**

The policy battle over the future of the coal-fired Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC) goes before the Supreme Court of Ohio Tuesday, when justices will consider whether subsidies approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio's stake in OVEC constitute illegal "transition" charges in an otherwise deregulated market. The Court will hear oral argument in two AEP cases appealed by the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA), which point out that lawful utility charges to transition from a regulated to a deregulated generation market ended a long time ago in legislative terms -- 2010 to be precise. They say AEP's initial "placeholder" power purchase agreement (PPA) and subsequent billing rider supporting OVEC -- both sanctioned by PUCO in the face of an unfavorable ruling by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) -- violate the General Assembly's move to electric competition.

Jolene Thompson, executive vice president of American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) and executive director of the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA), was elected vice chair of the American Public Power Association (APPA) Board of Directors during the organization's recent annual conference.

Legislation seeking to change Ohio's energy standards isn't yet ready for a committee vote, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) said Wednesday. "There are still some things we are working on ...," Balderson said of HB114 (Blessing), which was not technically called up for a hearing during the meeting. "This bill is not dead. It's just not ready for passage out today. I know you've heard that more than once. I apologize.

But I will say ... this is very close." Balderson said he and Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) will continue to work on the bill, and told stakeholders they would likely be ready for further meetings in a couple weeks after Beagle addresses business in his district.

## **FEDERAL**

After three decades on the nation's highest court, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy on Wednesday sent a letter to President Donald Trump notifying him of his imminent retirement. "It has been the greatest honor and privilege to serve our nation in the federal judiciary for 43 years, 30 of those years on the Supreme Court," Kennedy wrote, adding that his retirement will be effective on Tuesday, July 31. Kennedy was nominated by former President Ronald Reagan and took his oath of office on Feb. 18, 1988.

Seeking to fend off a potential cut to thousands of defense jobs in Ohio, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown stood alongside local officials and economic development leaders in Columbus Friday to highlight the impact such a cut would have on Whitehall, OH. Whitehall, a suburb of Columbus, is home to the Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC). The House version of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act included a provision that would cut finance, logistics and accounting jobs there and in Cleveland. While that version of the bill passed through the House, the provision in question was cut out in the U.S. Senate version. As Congress forms a conference committee, Brown hopes that provision stays out.

The Trump administration is proposing to merge the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), according to statements from the White House. The plan, meant "to better meet the needs of American workers and students," follows an executive order President Donald Trump signed last year calling for the Office of Management Budget (OMB) to develop a comprehensive plan for reorganizing the executive branch.

U.S. Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) are both touting investments in Ohio defense and environmental interests this week after the U.S. Senate voted to pass a major appropriations bill, the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

Republican leaders in the Legislature are generally more open to advancing policies related to "women's issues" when they involve criminal justice reform, Reps. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) and Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus) said Friday. Speaking to attendees of the Center for American Progress' (CAP) "Building Women's Progress Summit" in Columbus, Sykes pointed to the rapidly approaching effective date for dating violence legislation HB1 (Sykes-Manning), which will officially become law on Friday, July 6.

House Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) announced the following committee assignments this week: Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) as vice chair of the House Finance Committee; Rep. Shane Wilkin (R-Hillsboro) to the House Education and Career Readiness and State and Local Government committees; and Rep. -- now speaker -- Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) was removed from the House Education and Career Readiness, Government Accountability and Oversight and State and Local Government committees.

The House and Senate both announced their session schedules for the remainder of 2018: the Senate has "if needed" sessions set in July, August and two in September before a regular session set for Tuesday, Sept. 25. The House has two "if needed" sessions set for September and no regular session until Nov. 14.

In addition to the conference committee report on SB1 (LaRose) which was also agreed to by the Senate, the House on Wednesday passed the following 31 bills:

- HB7** (Cupp) which deals with medical care protections, by a vote of 76-18.
- HB36** (Vitale), the "Pastor Protection Act," by a vote of 61-30.
- HB92** (Schaffer) which addresses public indecency classification, by a vote of 92-0.
- HB126** (Boyd-Rezabek) which deals with kinship caregiver navigator programs, by a vote of 94-0.
- HB156** (Schuring) which addresses limitations imposed by health insurers on vision care services, by a vote of 92-2.
- HB211** (Hughes) which addresses the licensure of home inspectors and the creation of the Ohio Home Inspector Board, by a vote of 87-7.
- HB240** (Barnes, Jr.) which enacts the "Respect Your Date Act" by a vote of 93-0.
- HB349** (LaTourette) which addresses penalties for assaulting or harassing police and rescue animals by a vote of 78-15.
- HB355** (Hill-Rezabek) which prohibits sexting by a person under 19, by a vote of 94-0.
- HB386** (Henne-Kelly) which addresses fees related to a credit report freeze, by a vote of 91-2.
- HB425** (Antani-Craig) which addresses the public records aspect of police body camera footage, by a vote of 94-0.
- HB428** (Ginter-LaTourette) which enacts the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018," by a vote of 67-26.
- HB469** (Schuring) which addresses tax credits for mixed use projects, by a vote of 91-0.
- HB479** (Lipps-West) which addresses pharmacy drug price transparency, by a vote of 93-0.
- HB480** (Hill) which addresses multi-parcel auctions, by a vote of 93-0.
- HB497** (Rogers-Manning) which deals with the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images, by a vote of 93-0.
- HB500** (Carfagna) which makes various changes to township law, by a vote of 93-0.
- HB502** (Anielski) which addresses educator in-service training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools, by a vote of 92-1.
- HB511** (Lanese-Rogers) which changes the legal age for marriage, by a vote of 90-2.
- HB540** (Gavarone-Manning) which deals with teacher evaluations, by a vote of 91-2.
- HB543** (Perales-Hambley) which allows a county prosecuting attorney to become a regional authority adviser, by a vote of 93-0.
- HB572** (Scherer-Howse) which addresses OPERS service credit for nonteaching school employees of a county board of developmental disabilities, by a vote of 93-0.
- HB595** (Cupp-Rezabek) which deals with wills and trust law, by a vote of 91-0.
- SB66** (Eklund-Tavares) which modifies Ohio's criminal sentencing and corrections law by a vote of 90-2.
- SB81** (Terhar) which addresses concealed carry by veterans, by a vote of 84-7.
- SB127** (LaRose) which deals with waste collection vehicle protections, by a vote of 91-0.
- SB216** (Huffman) which enacts the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act," among other provisions, by a vote of 60-33.
- SB220** (Hackett-Bacon) which addresses a "safe harbor" for cybersecurity programs, allows transactions recorded by blockchain technology under the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, and alters the definition of "key employee" under the Casino Gaming Law, by a vote of 68-23.

**SB221** (Uecker) which addresses state agency rulemaking, on a vote of 73-20.

**SB239** (Dolan) which modifies the law concerning regional councils of governments and makes some highway name designations by a vote of 92-0.

**SB299** (Gardner) which enacts further protections for Lake Erie and appropriates funds for that purpose and for the National Guard Scholarship Program, by a vote of 93-0.

The Senate on Wednesday passed the following 15 bills:

**HB18** (Pelanda-Retherford) which addresses special election requirements, by a vote of 32-0.

**HB87** (Roegner) which deals with community schools' public money returned to the state and other e-school provisions, by a vote of 30-2.

**HB95** (Hughes-Seitz) which increases the penalty for distracted driving, by a vote of 31-1.

**HB168** (Stein) which deals with cemetery registration and maintenance and makes an appropriation, by a vote of 32-0.

**HB263** (Lanese) which permits dogs on restaurant patios, by a vote of 32-0.

**HB312** (Schuring-Greenspan) which regulates the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions, by a vote of 32-0.

**HB336** (Barnes, Jr.) which enacts the "Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative," by a vote of 32-0.

**HB347** (Kelly-Dever) which makes multiple memorial highway designations, by a vote of 32-0.

**SB119** (Hackett-Hottinger) which deals with addiction treatment and opioid prescribing by physicians and dentists, by a vote of 32-0.

**SB229** (Eklund-Lehner) which modifies laws pertaining to the State Board of Pharmacy and the regulation of controlled substances, by a vote of 32-0.

**SB255** (McColley) which addresses the General Assembly's periodic review of occupational licensing boards and their regulations, by a vote of 24-8.

**SB273** (Hackett) which enacts a definition of the term "rating agency," by a vote of 32-0.

**SB293** (Peterson-McColley) which requires agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions, by a vote of 23-9.

**SCR21** (Balderson) which urges Congress to support the development of an Appalachian storage hub, by a vote of 31-1.

**SCR23** (Obhof-Peterson) which reasserts the principles of federalism found in the U.S. Constitution of and embodied in the Tenth Amendment, by a vote of 25-7.

Also on Wednesday, June 27, the House and Senate completed action on a total of 16 bills -- nine Senate bills and seven House bills -- thus finalizing them so they can be sent to Gov. John Kasich for his signature.

- **HB18** (Pelanda-Retherford) which eliminates the requirement for special elections in certain circumstances and authorizing local elected officers to also serve on the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau.

- **HB87** (Roegner) which addresses public money returned following an audit of a community school.

- **HB263** (Lanese) which authorizes restaurants to allow people to bring dogs into outdoor dining areas.

- **HB312** (Schuring-Greenspan) which establishes uniform protocols for the use of credit and debit cards by political subdivisions.

- **HB318** (Patterson-LaTourette) which requires the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to study and report on school building security upgrades and school resource officers, enacts the "SAFE Act" on suspension and expulsion of students in grades pre-K through three, and requires public schools to implement positive behavior intervention and supports.

- **HB336** (Barnes) which requires the registrar of motor vehicles to establish a six-month driver's license reinstatement fee debt reduction and amnesty program.
- **HB347** (Kelly-Dever) which designates multiple memorial highways.
- **SB1** (LaRose) which deals with drug trafficking penalties saw both chambers approve the conference committee report.
- **SB66** (Eklund-Tavares) which specifies the purpose of rehabilitation in felony sentencing.
- **SB127** (LaRose) which adds sanitation vehicles to the state's move-over law.
- **SB135** (LaRose) which appropriates supplemental funds to implement a voting machine and equipment acquisition program.
- **SB216** (Huffman) which enacts a broad education deregulation package.
- **SB220** (Hackett-Bacon) which addresses a safe harbor for cybersecurity programs.
- **SB221** (Uecker) which addresses state agency rulemaking.
- **SB239** (Dolan) which deals with councils of governments.
- **SB299** (Gardner) which deals with the clean-up of Lake Erie.

Ahead of a floor vote set for Wednesday, the House Finance Committee expanded Lake Erie cleanup measure SB299 (Gardner) to incorporate spending for National Guard scholarships, broadband development and other purposes. An amendment from Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) also incorporates the language and appropriations of HB508, which would create the OhioCorps mentorship program championed by House leadership. The program would match youth at risk of opioid addiction with college students in a mentoring relationship and is slated for \$2.5 million in funding under the bill. Gavarone's amendment also provides \$7 million to cover local matching requirements for federal disaster assistance funding in southern Ohio counties hit by heavy rain and flooding in February.

In other action, the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee reported out HB127 (Perales-Dever) which establishes steel welding and bridge welding requirements in the Ohio Building Code; the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee reported out SB208 (Terhar) which deals with law enforcement officers carrying a firearm; the House Finance Committee reported out HB154 (R. Smith-Manning) which establishes the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid program; the House State and Local Government Committee reported out HB589 (Ramos-Lang) to designate Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month; HB598 (West-Green) which deals with tax-forfeited land sales; and HB651 (Schaffer), a month designation; the House Ways and Means Committee reported out HB545 (Arndt) which deals with the payment of the sales tax by small retailers; the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee reported out SB259 (Hackett) which deals with physician assistant regulation; the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee reported out HB125 (Craig-Seitz) which deals with jurisdiction over municipal traffic ordinances; the House Civil Justice Committee reported out HB147 (Hambley) which changes the humane society law; the House Health Committee reported out HB167 (Edwards) which addresses medication assisted treatment; the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported out SB51 (Skindell-Eklund) which authorizes a Lake Erie improvement district; the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee reported out HB34 (Hambley-Ryan) which deals with delivery of official notices; and the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee reported out HCR10 which condemns the "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism.

## **GOVERNOR**

Appointments made during the week include the following:

- Brian K. Michael of Hillsboro (Highland County) reappointed to the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation for a term beginning June 22, 2018, and ending June 2, 2023.
- Anita G. Rice of St. Clairsville (Belmont County) to the Belmont College Board of Trustees for a term beginning June 22, 2018, and ending May 12, 2021.
- Jeremy Morris of Reynoldsburg (Franklin County) to the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council for a term beginning June 22, 2018, and ending June 1, 2019.
- Mark Davis of Columbus (Franklin County), Shauna L. Dowdy of Portsmouth (Scioto County), Jane E. Gerhardt of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) and Charles "Carlo" LoParo of Dublin (Union County) to the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council for terms beginning June 22, 2018, and ending June 1, 2020.
- John L. Moore of Dublin (Franklin County), Matthew J. Sauer of Cincinnati (Hamilton County) and J.W. Smith of Athens (Athens County) have been appointed to the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council for terms beginning June 22, 2018, and ending June 1, 2021.
- Commissioner David L. Painter of New Richmond (Clermont County) to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission for a term beginning June 25, 2018, and ending Aug. 21, 2018.
- Karis L. Spence of Delaware (Delaware County) and Marcie Beers of Mount Gilead (Morrow County) to the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council for terms beginning June 25, 2018, and ending June 1, 2021.
- Carolyn Peters of Dayton (Montgomery County) to the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council for a term beginning June 25, 2018, and ending June 1, 2019.
- Jan L. Osborn of Pandora (Putnam County) reappointed to the Broadcast Educational Media Commission for a term beginning July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2022.
- Elaine Motylinski of Gates Mills (Cuyahoga County) to the State Board of Psychology for a term beginning June 28, 2018, and ending Oct. 4, 2022.
- Betty Yopko Weibel of Chagrin Falls (Geauga County) and Michael G. Rapp of Blue Ash (Hamilton County) reappointed to the Ohio History Connection Board of Trustees for terms beginning June 28, 2018, and ending June 26, 2021.
- Nathaniel Kaelin of Columbus (Franklin County) and W. Alex Wesaw of Columbus (Franklin County) to the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board for terms beginning June 28, 2018, and ending Jan. 14, 2021.
- Timothy G. Anderson of Athens (Athens County) to the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board for a term beginning June 28, 2018, and ending Jan. 14, 2019.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Friday announced that the growing Hepatitis A problem gripping regions of the state has grown into a statewide community outbreak. The department urges all people who are at risk of contracting the liver disease to visit a health department for vaccination. Hepatitis A is typically spread through the ingestion of food or liquid contaminated by fecal matter, or through close physical contact like sex.

## **IMMIGRATION**

In a split decision, the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday ruled that President Donald Trump has the authority to place limits on travel and immigration into the United States to protect national security, overturning opinions of lower courts that found previous versions of the Trump administration's travel bans to disproportionately target Muslim individuals. The court voted 5-4 in favor of

supporting the president's policy of withholding travel from a set of majority-Muslim countries, with conservative justices, including Trump appointee Neil Gorsuch, voting in favor of the decision. Chief Justice John Roberts, writing the opinion, attempted to narrowly tailor his statements to the legality of the policy.

## **JUDICIAL**

Credit card company American Express did not violate antitrust laws with contracts barring vendors from encouraging customers to pay with other cards, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday in a case brought by Ohio, other states and the federal government. The majority of justices in the 5-4 ruling noted that the "two-sided platforms" of credit card operations differ from traditional markets because of "indirect network effects" on customers from changes to vendor costs and benefits, or vice versa.

The Checks and Balances Project (C&BP) said Tuesday that it has filed an ethics complaint with the Ohio Supreme Court's Office of Disciplinary Counsel against the law firm of Taft Stettinus & Hollister LLP and its senior partner, W. Stuart Dornette. The complaint requests a determination on whether Dornette and his firm failed to conduct a proper conflict of interest review when appointed by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine to serve as special counsel for the Ohio House of Representatives in an internal investigation of former Taft employee Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati). Seitz left the firm in 2014. The special counsel's investigation was spurred by a claim of sexual harassment prompted by comments Seitz made at a going-away party for a House staffer. The female House employee who brought the charge maintained that his remarks had worsened an already hostile environment for women in the Ohio Statehouse.

## **MARIJUANA**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved its first marijuana-based drug on Monday, allowing for the use of Epidiolex -- a cannabidiol (CBD) oral solution to treat seizures associated with two rare and severe forms of epilepsy. Patients older than two suffering for Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and Dravet Syndrome could be approved to use the drug, the FDA said.

## **MEDICAID/MEDICAID REFORM**

Pharmacy middlemen -- also known as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) -- are likely raking in much more money from the state than previously acknowledged by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), Sen. Bill Coley (R-West Chester) said Thursday at the meeting of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC). Coley said out of the total pie of \$2.5 billion that the state spent on generic and name-brand drugs, more than \$516 million went to PBM fees, or 20.25 percent of total prescription drug revenues. He said that amount doesn't include specialty drugs.

His comments followed ODM's PBM presentation which focused on its recently-released study from HealthPlan Data Solutions (HDS), with Stephan saying the report shows the issue isn't a "crisis" and that "there is no evidence of anti-competitive behavior by PBMs that would justify regulatory intervention from the state." However, ODM Director of Managed Care Patrick Stephan said there is room for improvement and that ODM is requiring the managed care plans to review the HDS report and report to ODM by Sunday, Sept. 30 on what changes they intend to make regarding pharmacy administration.

## **PAYDAY LENDING**

The Senate Finance Committee decided not to vote on the payday lending bill HB123 (Koehler-Ashford), despite efforts by Democratic members of the committee report it out on Wednesday. Chair Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton) stressed that there's no intention of "gutting" the current version of the bill but he wants to consider it more fully.

## **PENSIONS**

The Ohio Association of Public School Employees (OAPSE) criticized the recent decision by trustees of the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) to award raises to the pension fund's employees at a time when retirees in the system aren't getting inflationary increases in their monthly benefits. Legislation last year was folded into the state budget, HB49 (R. Smith), to allow SERS to suspend cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and to cap future increases at the lesser of 2.5 percent or growth in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners (CPI-W). In October, SERS trustees voted to suspend COLAs for three years, citing the need to improve the system's financial outlook and potentially allow future funding for retiree health care costs. SERS' funding policy bars the use of employer contributions for retiree health care costs if system liabilities are not at least 70 percent funded.

## **PEOPLE**

The Ohio Poverty Law Center (OPLC) announced it has hired Megan O'Dell as its new staff attorney. O'Dell previously worked at the Franklin County Public Defender's Office as a staff attorney. At the public defender's office and in addition to her regular docket, she was the attorney coordinator for CATCH Court, representing victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and prostitution and connecting them with housing and drug treatment services.

Byers, Minton & Associates announced recently that Evelyn Kennedy has joined the firm. She brings a variety of experience in government affairs, beginning with her work in the General Assembly during college as an office page. She then moved on to working for Marathon Petroleum Corporation's government affairs office in Washington D.C., becoming involved in several federal campaigns and, most recently, assisting the economic development and innovation efforts of the Columbus Partnership as a member of their public policy team.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Although the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) has agreed to launch investigations into allegations of profiling by Capitol Square security agents, Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) said she remains discouraged by her recent meeting with ODPS Director John Born. Sykes said Born "reluctantly" agreed to launch two separate investigations into incidents dating back to 2016, but only after she questioned him repeatedly without "getting any answers about bias within the" Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP).

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

A modernized version of the Ohio Business Gateway is scheduled to go live Monday, July 2 at 7 a.m., with the Ohio Business Gateway Steering Committee reconvening for the first time in almost a year Thursday to discuss final preparations for the rollout. Ohio Department of Administrative

Services (DAS) spokesman Tom Hoyt said in an email that the modernization project will "transform the current gateway into a more user-friendly, reliable and secure portal that provides Ohio businesses with online access to business-related services provided by the state."

## **TAXATION**

Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) Tuesday unveiled a proposal to overhaul Ohio's personal income tax to raise more revenues while leaving the highest tax bracket taxpayers still paying less than they did in 2005 -- and that is before the coming "giant" federal tax cuts already approved by Congress, PMO staffers pointed out. The increased revenue would be used for a variety of services PMO representatives said have suffered due to cuts over that time.

## **UNIONS**

The U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) on Wednesday ruled that it's unconstitutional for public-sector labor unions to require non-members to pay fees for collective bargaining activities. Writing for the 5-4 majority in *Janus v. AFSCME*, Justice Samuel Alito said "states and public-sector unions may no longer extract agency fees from non-consenting employees." There were a slew of reactions from around Ohio regarding the effects of this ruling.

## **UTILITIES**

Senate members moved forward Tuesday on submetered utility legislation sanctioned by the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), which personally thanked Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) and Senate Public Utilities Committee Chairman Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) for new changes to SB157 (Bacon). Committee members accepted a substitute bill that, for the first time, would give the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) regulatory power over submeterers of electric, gas, water and sewer service, including rulemaking authority to protect consumers. The bill also would bar submeterers from charging customers more than the local incumbent utility's standard service offer (SSO).

The Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC), once considered a national security asset through its service to the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, is severing its last remaining ties to the uranium enrichment facility following Thursday's ruling by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). In a decision backed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), OVEC, American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio, and PUCO staff, the commission granted a request to disconnect electric infrastructure running from the collection of coal-fired generation plants to Piketon in favor of a much smaller transmission line to be operated by AEP -- one of several stakeholders in OVEC that also happens to be the incumbent local utility.

## **VETERANS**

Overlooking the banks of the Scioto River, a newly-constructed Columbus site is now designated the National Veterans Memorial and Museum following a presidential signature. The bill officially designating the site was introduced by a bipartisan coalition of central Ohio's representatives, including Reps. Steve Stivers (R-OH), Joyce Beatty and former congressman Pat Tiberi.

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) will start sending checks to employers next month as part of the \$1.5 billion rebate the bureau's Board of Directors approved in May, the latest installment in a multi-billion dollar series of rebates granted during the Kasich administration. Barbara Ingram, chief financial officer for the bureau, told the board Friday that public employer taxing districts will be the first to receive checks.

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY:**

### **SENATE:**

#### **PASSED BY SENATE**

**HB18** SPECIAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS (Rep. Dorothy Pelanda, Rep. Wes Retherford) To eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances; to authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or a designee of such officers, to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices; and to require that, upon request, county auditors, municipal fiscal officers, and their employees must share lodging tax return information with the directors of convention and visitors' bureaus operating in their counties.

*Vote 32-0*

**HB87** COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS (Rep. Kristina Roegner) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of the enrollment records of a community school, to clarify the time period within which a school district emergency levy or substitute levy may be renewed or replaced, to clarify the responsibilities of a school district treasurer regarding the signing or executing of certain documents, to require the State Board of Education to adopt standards for learning management software for internet- and computer-based community schools, regarding qualification for state payments by internet- or computer-based community schools, regarding joint health and medical insurance programs by political subdivisions and county boards of developmental disabilities, regarding submission of five-year financial forecasts by public schools, and regarding the moratorium on certain provisions affecting community schools and school districts whose enrollments were affected due to enrolling students of a suspended e-school.

*Vote 30-2*

**HB95** DISTRACTED DRIVING PENALTY (Rep. Jim Hughes, Rep. Bill Seitz) To establish an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted if the distraction is the apparent cause of the violation and to reenact provisions of law that specified that certain electronic wireless communications device violations were allied offenses of similar import.

*Vote 31-1*

**HB168** CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND REGISTRATION (Rep. Dick Stein) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation.

*Vote 32-0*

**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 32-0*

**HB312** LOCAL GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARDS (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Dave Greenspan) To regulate the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions, to modify the duties and powers of the Auditor of State, to specify that electronic submission of a public record request entitles the requestor to damages if the public office fails to comply with the Public Records Act, to make changes to the law governing financial planning and supervision commissions, and to authorize a property tax abatement for certain property subject to a submerged land lease and held by a municipal corporation.

*Vote 32-0*

**HB336** REINSTATEMENT FEE AMNESTY (Rep. John Barnes, Jr.) To require the registrar of motor vehicles to establish a six month driver's license reinstatement fee debt reduction and amnesty program and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative.

*Vote 32-0*

**HB347** HIGHWAY DESIGNATIONS (Rep. Brigid Kelly, Rep. Jonathan Dever) To designate multiple memorial highways.

*Vote 32-0*

**SB119** ADDICTION TREATMENT AND PRESCRIPTIONS (Sen. Robert Hackett, Sen. Jay Hottinger) Regarding addiction treatment and opioid prescribing by physicians and dentists.

*Vote 32-0*

**SB229** CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGULATION (Sen. John Eklund, Sen. Peggy Lehner) To modify laws pertaining to the State Board of Pharmacy and the regulation of controlled substances.

*Vote 32-0*

**SB255** OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS REVIEW (Sen. Robert McColley) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.

*Vote 24-8*

**SB273** RATING AGENCY-STATUTORY DEFINITION (Sen. Robert Hackett) To enact for the Revised Code a definition of the term "rating agency."

*Vote 32-0*

**SB293** REDUCTION OF AGENCY REGULATIONS (Sen. Bob Peterson, Sen. Robert McColley) To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions.

*Vote 23-9*

**SCR21** APPALACHIAN STORAGE HUB DEVELOPMENT (Sen. Troy Balderson) To urge the Congress of the United States to enact various bills advancing the development of an Appalachian storage hub.

*Vote 31-1*

**SCR23** REASSERT FEDERALISM TO CONGRESS (Sen. Larry Obhof, Sen. Bob Peterson) To reassert the principles of federalism found throughout the Constitution of the United States of America and embodied in the Tenth Amendment, to notify Congress to limit and end certain mandates, and to insist that federal legislation contravening the Tenth Amendment be prohibited or repealed.

*Vote 25-7*

### **CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

**SB66** SENTENCING MODIFICATION-REHABILITATION (Sen. John Eklund, Sen. Charleta Tavares) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including the promotion of effective rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting pre-trial diversion and intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation; to extend the State Highway Patrol's authority to enforce criminal laws to also apply to the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center; to modify the penalty for an employer's failure to remit state income taxes withheld from an employee; and to authorize the conveyance of state-owned real estate conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation.

*Senate does concur, Vote 29-0*

**SB127** WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE PROTECTIONS (Sen. Frank LaRose) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

*Senate does concur, Vote 29-0*

**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.

*Senate does concur, Vote 31-1*

**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, to add the territory of Summit

County to the Stark State College District, and to prescribe procedures for appointing the board of trustees of the combined technical college district.

*Senate does concur, Vote 28-1*

**SB220** SAFE HARBOR-CYBERSECURITY PROGRAMS (Sen. Robert Hackett, Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide a legal safe harbor to covered entities that implement a specified cybersecurity program, to allow transactions recorded by blockchain technology under the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, and to alter the definition of "key employee" under the Casino Gaming Law.

*Senate does concur, Vote 29-0*

**SB221** RULE-MAKING AND REVIEW REFORM (Sen. Joe Uecker) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof.

*Senate does concur, Vote 23-6*

**SB239** REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS & DESIGNATIONS (Sen. Matt Dolan) to modify the law concerning regional councils of governments to clarify that a municipal corporation eligible to designate a tourism development district may designate more than one district, to specify that the American Law Institute's approved "Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance" does not constitute the public policy of Ohio, to designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Meigs County as the "Steve Story Memorial Highway," to designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway," and to designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."

*Senate does concur, Vote 29-0*

**SB299** LAKE ERIE PROTECTION APPROPRIATIONS (Sen. Randy Gardner) To credit additional amounts of the Local Government Fund to fund public safety services in areas that experienced a 30% or more decrease in the taxable value of certain power plants between 2016 and 2017, to phase out the payments over ten years, to increase the appropriation to the Local Government Fund; to support broadband development; to establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project; and to make appropriations, including appropriations for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie and the National Guard Scholarship Program.

*The Senate does concur, Vote 29-0*

## **CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**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 31-1*

## **HOUSE:**

### **PASSED BY HOUSE**

**HB7** MEDICAL CARE PROTECTIONS (Rep. Bob Cupp) To grant qualified civil immunity to certain medical providers and emergency medical technicians who

provide emergency medical services as a result of a disaster and through its duration; to provide that certain communications made regarding an unanticipated outcome of medical care, the development or implementation of standards under federal laws, and an insurer's reimbursement policies on health care are inadmissible as evidence in a medical claim; to specify the manner of sending a notice of intent to file a medical claim and provide a procedure for the discovery of other potential claims within a specified period after the filing of a medical claim; to provide civil immunity to certain medical providers regarding the discharge of a patient with a mental condition that threatens the safety of the patient or others; to permit access to peer review committee documents during authorized inspections by the Director of Health while preserving their confidentiality; and to clarify the definition of "medical claim."

*Vote 76-18*

**HB36** MINISTERS-MARRIAGE (Rep. Nino Vitale) To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial.

*Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 61-30*

**HB92** PUBLIC INDECENCY CLASSIFICATION (Rep. Tim Schaffer) To require an offender who knowingly commits the offense of public indecency under certain circumstances involving exposure of private parts likely to be viewed by minors and for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification to register as a Tier I sex offender/child-victim offender if the judge orders registration.

*Vote 92-0*

**HB126** KINSHIP CAREGIVER PROGRAMS (Rep. Janine Boyd, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To require a region-based kinship caregiver navigator program.

*Vote 94-0*

**HB156** VISION INSURANCE LIMITATIONS (Rep. Kirk Schuring) Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision care services.

*Vote 92-2*

**HB211** OHIO HOME INSPECTOR BOARD (Rep. Jim Hughes) To require the licensure of home inspectors, to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors, and to require realtors who recommend home inspectors to provide a list of home inspectors.

*Vote 87-7*

**HB240** RESPECT YOUR DATE ACT (Rep. John Barnes, Jr.) To enact the "Respect Your Date Act" to designate the month of April as "Respect Your Date Month" and to require each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on campus and to declare an emergency.

*Vote 93-0, Emergency Clause 86-8*

- HB349** POLICE ANIMAL ASSAULT (Rep. Sarah LaTourette) To increase the penalty for assaulting a police dog or horse and to include search and rescue dogs and horses in the prohibition against assaulting or harassing a police animal.  
*Vote 78-15*
- HB355** SEXTING UNDER 19 (Rep. Brian Hill, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To generally prohibit sexting by a person under 19 years of age.  
*Vote 94-0*
- HB386** CREDIT FREEZE FEES (Rep. Michael Henne, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To modify the fees that a credit reporting agency can charge in relation to a credit report freeze.  
*Vote 91-2*
- HB425** POLICE BODY CAMERAS-PUBLIC RECORDS (Rep. Niraj Antani, Rep. Hearcel Craig) To provide that specified portions of peace officers' body-worn camera and cruiser camera recordings and the infrastructure record of a public school are not public records for purposes of the Public Records Law.  
*Vote 94-0*
- HB428** STUDENT RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES ACT (Rep. Tim Ginter, Rep. Sarah LaTourette) Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018."  
*Vote 67-26*
- HB469** TAX CREDIT-MIXED USE PROJECTS (Rep. Kirk Schuring) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects.  
*Vote 91-0*
- HB479** PHARMACY DRUG PRICE TRANSPARENCY (Rep. Scott Lipps, Rep. Thomas West) Regarding pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacists, and the disclosure to patients of drug price information.  
*Vote 93-0*
- HB480** MULTI-PARCEL AUCTIONS (Rep. Brian Hill) To establish requirements governing multi-parcel auctions.  
*Vote 93-0*
- HB497** SEXUAL IMAGE DISSEMINATION (Rep. John Rogers, Rep. Nathan Manning) To prohibit the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images, to require that certain property involved in the offense be criminally forfeited, and to create certain legal rights and employment protections of a victim of the offense.  
*Vote 93-0*
- HB500** TOWNSHIP LAW (Rep. Rick Carfagna) To make various changes to township law.  
*Vote 93-0*
- HB502** YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING-PUBLIC (Rep. Marlene Anielski) With regard to educator in-service training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools.  
*Vote 92-1*
- HB511** LEGAL AGE-MARRIAGE (Rep. Laura Lanese, Rep. John Rogers) To make changes to the laws governing the ages at which persons may marry.

*Vote 90-2*

**HB540** TEACHER EVALUATIONS (Rep. Theresa Gavarone, Rep. Nathan Manning) With regard to teacher evaluations.

*Vote 91-2*

**HB543** PROSECUTING ATTORNEY-REGIONAL AUTHORITY ADVISER (Rep. Rick Perales, Rep. Steve Hambley) To allow a county prosecuting attorney to enter into a contract with a regional airport authority, port authority, or regional planning commission to be its legal adviser.

*Vote 93-0*

**HB572** PERS- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SCHOOL EMPLOYEE (Rep. Gary Scherer, Rep. Stephanie Howse) Regarding Public Employees Retirement System service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities.

*Vote 93-0*

**HB595** WILLS AND TRUST LAW (Rep. Bob Cupp, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) Relative to procedures for a testator to file a declaratory judgment action to declare the validity of a will prior to death and the settlor of a trust to file such an action to declare its validity, exceptions to antilapse provisions in class gifts in wills and trusts, incorporation of a written trust into a will, trusts for a minor, arbitration of trust disputes, the creation of county and multicounty guardianship services boards, the coroner's disposition of person dying of suspicious or unusual death, an application for the release of medical records and medical billing records, and adding involuntary manslaughter not resulting from a felony vehicular homicide offense to the list of offenses excluding an individual from inheriting from a decedent.

*Vote 91-0*

**SB66** SENTENCING MODIFICATION-REHABILITATION (Sen. John Eklund, Sen. Charleta Tavares) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including the promotion of effective rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting pre-trial diversion and intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation; to extend the State Highway Patrol's authority to enforce criminal laws to also apply to the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center; to modify the penalty for an employer's failure to remit state income taxes withheld from an employee; and to authorize the conveyance of state-owned real estate conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation.

*Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 90-2*

- SB81** CONCEALED CARRY LICENSURE-VETERANS (Sen. Louis Terhar) To waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces and retired and honorably discharged veterans, to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience, to permit a licensee to renew a concealed handgun license at any time before the expiration of the license, and to require the Attorney General to monitor the number of license fees waived and cap the total amount allowed to be waived at \$1.5 million.  
*Vote 84-7*
- SB127** WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE PROTECTIONS (Sen. Frank LaRose) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.  
*Vote 91-0*
- 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, to add the territory of Summit County to the Stark State College District, and to prescribe procedures for appointing the board of trustees of the combined technical college district.  
*Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 60-33*
- SB220** SAFE HARBOR-CYBERSECURITY PROGRAMS (Sen. Robert Hackett, Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide a legal safe harbor to covered entities that implement a specified cybersecurity program, to allow transactions recorded by blockchain technology under the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, and to alter the definition of "key employee" under the Casino Gaming Law.  
*Vote 68-23*
- SB221** RULE-MAKING AND REVIEW REFORM (Sen. Joe Uecker) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof.  
*Vote 73-20*
- SB239** REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS & DESIGNATIONS (Sen. Matt Dolan) to modify the law concerning regional councils of governments to clarify that a municipal corporation eligible to designate a tourism development district may designate more than one district, to specify that the American Law Institute's approved "Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance" does not constitute the public policy of Ohio, to designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Meigs County as the "Steve Story Memorial Highway," to designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway," and to designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."  
*Vote 92-0*
- SB299** LAKE ERIE PROTECTION APPROPRIATIONS (Sen. Randy Gardner) To credit additional amounts of the Local Government Fund to fund public safety services in areas that experienced a 30% or more decrease in the taxable value of certain power plants between 2016 and 2017, to phase out the payments over ten years, to increase the appropriation to the Local Government Fund; to support broadband development; to establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project; and to make appropriations,

including appropriations for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie and the National Guard Scholarship Program.

*Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 93-0*

## **CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

**HB18** SPECIAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS (Rep. Dorothy Pelanda, Rep. Wes Retherford) To eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances; to authorize local elected officers that have levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or a designee of such officers, to simultaneously hold the position of officer or member of the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau without constituting incompatible offices; and to require that, upon request, county auditors, municipal fiscal officers, and their employees must share lodging tax return information with the directors of convention and visitors' bureaus operating in their counties.

*House Does Concur, Vote 68-24*

**HB87** COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS (Rep. Kristina Roegner) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of the enrollment records of a community school, to clarify the time period within which a school district emergency levy or substitute levy may be renewed or replaced, to clarify the responsibilities of a school district treasurer regarding the signing or executing of certain documents, to require the State Board of Education to adopt standards for learning management software for internet- and computer-based community schools, regarding qualification for state payments by internet- or computer-based community schools, regarding joint health and medical insurance programs by political subdivisions and county boards of developmental disabilities, regarding submission of five-year financial forecasts by public schools, and regarding the moratorium on certain provisions affecting community schools and school districts whose enrollments were affected due to enrolling students of a suspended e-school.

*House Does Concur, Vote 70-23*

**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.

*House Does Concur, Vote 81-11*

**HB312** LOCAL GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARDS (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Dave Greenspan) To regulate the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions, to modify the duties and powers of the Auditor of State, to specify that electronic submission of a public record request entitles the requestor to damages if the public office fails to comply with the Public Records Act, to make changes to the law governing financial planning and supervision commissions, and to authorize a property tax abatement for certain property subject to a submerged land lease and held by a municipal corporation.

*House Does Concur, Vote 93-0*

**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 school resource officers, to enact the "SAFE Act" with regard to suspension and expulsion of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three and positive behavior intervention and supports, and to make an appropriation.

*House Does Concur, Vote 71-20*

**HB336** REINSTATEMENT FEE AMNESTY (Rep. John Barnes, Jr.) To require the registrar of motor vehicles to establish a six month driver's license reinstatement fee debt reduction and amnesty program and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative.

*House Does Concur, Vote 87-6*

**HB347** HIGHWAY DESIGNATIONS (Rep. Brigid Kelly, Rep. Jonathan Dever) To designate multiple memorial highways.

*House Does Concur, Vote 93-0*

### **CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**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.

*House Accepts Conference Committee Report, Vote 82-12*