

# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



February 23, 2018

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## Legislative Activity This Week

### Tuesday, February 20

#### Senate Energy & Natural Resources

**HB 225 OIL GAS WELLS** (Thompson) To modify the law governing idle and orphaned oil and gas wells.  
*Rep. Thompson provided sponsor testimony to the committee.*

#### House Finance

**HB 378 BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, Cera) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

*Ashtabula County Commissioners, Connect Ohio and Connected Nation testified in support of the bill. All noted that the bill will allow Ohio to join other states on the path to ubiquitous broadband by not only providing grants for broadband expansion, but by also funding efforts to understand where the unserved areas truly are and are not.*

#### House State & Local Government

**HB 454 CEMETERY LOTS** (Patterson, Arndt) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.

*A substitute bill was accepted for consideration by the committee following a brief description of the changes by Rep. Arndt.*

**HB 470 LIGHTING FUNDS** (Edwards) To authorize a property tax levy specifically to fund lighting for roads and public places.

*The committee voted 10-2 to favorably report the measure to the full House for passage, with Rep. John Becker and Rep. Bill Dean opposed.*

#### Government Accountability & Oversight

**HB 410 TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS** (Seitz, Butler) To grant municipal and county courts original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action concerning a traffic law violation, to specify that the court require an advance deposit for the filing of specified civil actions by the local authority bringing the civil action, and to modify the reporting requirements and LGF withholding that apply to subdivisions that operate traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

*After a re-referral back to committee, the committee, once again, voted 8-3 to favorably report the bill to the full House for passage after accepting an amendment that clarifies the bill will not infringe or abolish the jurisdiction of mayor's courts or prevent common pleas courts from hearing misdemeanor pleas if a felony is pleaded down to a misdemeanor.*

**Rep. Blessing's office** - proposed legislation

**Reps. Carfagna, Cera, Hambley, Patterson, Wiggam, Seitz** - township issues

**Sens. Gardner, Hackett, Hoagland, Peterson, Uecker** - township issues

### Wednesday, February 14

Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge David Cain ruled that language included in HB 49 (biennium budget) that allows for the centralized collection of municipal net profits taxes does not violate home rule or the single subject rule.

#### Senate Government Oversight & Reform

**SB 239 REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT** (Dolan) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments.

*The Auditor of State's office provided proponent testimony highlighting the need for the legislation stems from a COG that currently is designed to provide healthcare to local governments and the*

COG has a \$12 million deficit.

**Rep. Edwards** - township issues

**Reps. R. Smith, Cera, interested parties** - broadband grants

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## Deceptive Email Received by Townships

The OTA has been informed that a company has sent emails to township officials that requests a "Call to Action Campaign" by the Ohio Township Association. Please note, the OTA **DOES NOT** endorse, nor do we have any contractual relationship with this company. The OTA **HAS NOT** issued a call to action about health insurance providers. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the State Association office.

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## 2018 Township Safety Sign Grants

### *Is your township one of the lucky 100?*

The Township Safety Sign Grant Program is now accepting applications for 2018. Townships who are eligible to apply for the grant have been contacted in various ways, including a direct mailing of materials to notify them of eligibility to apply for the grant.

The [list of eligible townships is available by clicking here](#).

If your township is listed, you may view the application on ODOT's website or by [clicking here](#). The application for 2018 is due Friday, June 8, 2018. Applicants will be notified in mid-July on their application's status.

#### **Background about the program:**

This grant program provides up to \$50,000 per township in safety sign materials (signs, posts and hardware) for townships which have been determined to:

- Have a greater than average crash rating across their entire township based on their township's crash history over the previous five years and
- Not previously received funding under this grant program
- The top 100 townships meeting the criteria are traditionally invited to apply each funding cycle.

If you have questions concerning the grant application process, the mandatory pre-grant meetings or the grant in general, please contact Victoria Beale, Township Safety Sign Grant Program Manager, at 614.466.3129 or [victoria.beale@dot.ohio.gov](mailto:victoria.beale@dot.ohio.gov).



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

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## Legislative Committee Schedule For Next Week

### **Tuesday, February 27**

#### **House Ways & Means (Ch. Schaffer), Rm. 121, 10:00 a.m.**

**HB 488 TAX LEVIES** (Hood, Becker) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.

*1st Hearing-Sponsor & Proponent testimony*

#### **House Finance (Ch. Smith), Rm. 313, 11:00 a.m.**

**HB 378 BROADBAND GRANTS** (Smith, Cera) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

*5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute*

#### **House State & Local Government (Ch. Anielski), Rm. 17, 2:00 p.m.**

**HB 454 TOWNSHIP CEMETERY** (Patterson, Arndt) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.

*5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote*

**HB 500 TOWNSHIP LAWS** (Carfagna) To make various changes to township law.

*1st Hearing-Sponsor testimony*

#### **Senate Finance Committee (Ch. Oelslager), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.**

**HB 168 MODIFY CEMETERY LAW** (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, to allow the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to review and vote upon certain license suspensions by telephone, to make various other changes to the embalmers, funeral directors, and crematory licensing laws, and to make an appropriation.

*4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote*

**HB 251 INVESTMENTS** (Greenspan) To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund.

*4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote*

**Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Ch. Coley), Finance Hearing Rm., 4:00 p.m.**

**HB 226 FIREWORKS** (Seitz, Sweeney) To establish a fireworks study group to review and make recommendations regarding the Fireworks Law, to extend to July 1, 2020, the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, to eliminate, beginning January 1, 2021, the moratorium on geographic transfer of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, and, beginning January 1, 2021, to impose a fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in this state and to expand the ability of individuals to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and obtain and use 1.4G consumer fireworks.

*2nd Hearing-Proponent testimony*

**SB 239 REGIONAL COUNCILS** (Dolan) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments.

*3rd Hearing-Opponent testimony*

## Federal Update

The House and Senate are in recess this week, for the Presidents Day holiday. When Congress returns next week, it will need to confront several pressing legislative issues, including: (1) an immigration deal, including providing legal status for the 800,000 so-called undocumented "Dreamers" who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children and who have utilized the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, which is set to expire on March 5; (2) finalizing a FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill by March 23 (when the current Continuing Resolution expires); and (3) temporarily extending the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) re-authorization by March 31. The relevant House and Senate committees of jurisdiction will also likely begin focusing on crafting an infrastructure bill, since the Trump Administration released its proposal last week. Other legislative issues Congress is likely to focus on in the remaining 10.5 months of the 115th Congress include: the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); the 2018 Farm Bill; National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) re-authorization; legislation addressing the opioid crisis; and criminal justice reform.



## Census Bureau to Provide Informational Sessions on LUCA

Below please find the list of final Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Technical Trainings to be held in Ohio. The trainings are for the different methods by which a government unit can conduct their LUCA review so those interested should note the method that will be covered in each session.

### Schedule & Locations

Wednesday, March 28  
111 Liberty Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
*Digital/GUPS*

Thursday, March 29  
541 Ledbetter Road  
Xenia, OH 45385  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
*Paper*

Thursday, March 29  
69 Greene Street  
Xenia, OH 45385  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
*Digital/GUPS*

Friday, March 30  
315 Madison Street  
Port Clinton, OH 43452  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
*Paper*



For more information, [please click here](#) or contact **Rose Simmons**, Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau - Philadelphia Region at 215.717.1800.

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## LTAP Requesting Your Participation in Survey

The Center for Local Aid Support (CLAS) provides national leadership in the advancement of training, technical assistance, and innovation within Local, Tribal, and Federal Land Management Agency transportation networks. The Center collaborates with a diverse mix of partners in the delivery of those services.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Center for Local Aid Support, invites you to participate in a Local Agency Training and Technical Assistance Needs Assessment. Local agencies own seventy-six percent of the US road network. In this ownership role, many face challenges in maintaining and operating their network, including the need to find and retain a skilled workforce. For agencies with limited budgets, looming retirements, and the need to stay current and embrace new construction technologies, it may be difficult to maintain a skilled workforce.

FHWA is currently revisiting their strategic plan for this program. The strategic plan describes general and long-term goals the program aims to achieve, what actions FHWA and the LTAP Centers will take to realize those goals, and how entities will deal with challenges and risks that may hinder achieving results.

Key to setting goals in the new strategic plan, will be your input on your workforce needs. The survey results will be a foundational document that informs the new strategic plan.

Your responses are voluntary and will be confidential. Responses will not be identified by individual. If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact [Andy Byra](#) or by phone at 720.963.3522.

Thank you very much for your time and support. Please start the survey now by clicking on the link below.  
[Local Agency Training & Technical Assistance Needs Assessment Survey](#)

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