

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



March 23, 2018

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Legislative Activity This Week

Tuesday, March 20

House Finance Committee

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

The Ohio Library Council and the the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association testified in support of the bill. The committee accepted a substitute version of the bill that tweaked a few definitions prior to favorably reporting the measure to the full House for passage.

House Ways & Means Committee

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

Several witnesses testified in support of the measure including the Americans for Prosperity and the Ohio School Board Leadership Council.

House State & Local Government Committee

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

Please see next section for more information on this bill.

HB 530 LODGING TAX (Hambley, Arndt) To authorize local elected officials 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 visitor's bureau without constituting incompatible offices.

Several county commissioners testified in support of the measure, as did the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. One opponent testified, Chris Hicks of Cincinnati.

Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 250 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (Hoagland) To prohibit criminal mischief, criminal trespass, and aggravated trespass on a critical infrastructure facility, to impose fines for organizations that are complicit in those offenses and to impose civil liability for damage caused by trespass on a critical infrastructure facility.

Sen. Hoagland provided an overview of the legislation noting that while Ohio has not seen any dangerous or catastrophic events here in Ohio, the legislation would discourage such acts.

Rep. Carfagna - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

Wednesday, March 21

Ohio Senate

HB 529 CAPITAL BUDGET (Ryan) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

The Ohio Senate passed the measure 32-1 (Jordan voting in the negative) and has been sent to the Governor for his signature, as there were no changes made in the Senate.

Ohio House of Representatives

HB 343 TAX VALUATION CHALLENGES (Merrin) To require local governments and schools that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.

The Ohio House voted [59-38](#) in favor of the measure and sent it to the Senate for hearings.

HB 392 APIARY DAMAGES (Stein) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property damage cases involving bee stings.

The Ohio House voted [86-7](#) to support the measure and sent it to the Senate for hearings.

HB 410 TRAFFIC CAMERAS (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.

The Ohio House voted [71-24](#) to support the bill and sent it to the Senate for hearings.

Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

HB 312 CREDIT CARDS (Schuring, Greenspan) Regarding the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions.

No testimony was presented on the bill.

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

No testimony was presented on the bill.

Rep. Holmes - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

Rep. Carfgana - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

Thursday, March 22

Senate Public Utilities Committee

HB 478 SMALL CELL WIRELESS (Smith, LaTourette) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way.

Crown Castle and the Wireless Infrastructure Association testified in opposition to the legislation.

Ohio EPA, ODNR, ODA (conference call) - Water Quality Report, new legislation

Friday, March 23

Ohio Association of Election Boards - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

Ohio Farm Bureau - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

HB 500 Omnibus Township Legislation

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

On Tuesday, the House State & Local Government Committee heard testimony once again on HB 500. The OTA would like to thank Fiscal Officer Randy Gonzalez and Administrator Mike Vaccaro (both from Jackson Township in Stark County) for providing proponent testimony. The Ohio Fire Chiefs Association testified in opposition to HB 500, specifically on the language requiring an attorney or the fire chief to conduct an investigation prior to the removal of fire personnel. They feel the language should remain the same - private citizen or fire chief. To download testimony from Tuesday, please [click here](#) and click on March 20.



Pictured: Jackson Township (Stark Co.) Fiscal Officer Randy Gonzalez and Administrator Mike Vaccaro.

How can you help?

We are asking you to write a letter in support of HB 500 as a whole, or in reference to any provision in which your township is particularly interested. Letter should be mailed or emailed to the [House State & Local Government Committee](#) (click committee name for listing of members) and copy your House member and the State Association.

What's included in HB 500:

There are nineteen (19) different provisions included in HB 500 that impact townships. To read a brief overview of the items included, please [click here](#).

Recently Introduced Legislation

[HB 562 PARK DRILLING](#) (Leland) To prohibit the drilling of a horizontal well in various state and local parks.

[HB 571 LODGING TAXES](#) (Greenspan) To specify that, for the purposes of the sales and use tax and local lodging taxes, the "price" on the basis of which a hotel intermediary must collect and remit the tax is the total amount paid by the customer for the hotel lodging, as advertised by the hotel intermediary.



Recent Attorney General Opinion

[2018-008 Compatibility Opinion](#)

Syllabus:

A person may serve simultaneously as a member of a board of county commissioners and member of the board of directors of a bank that is a depository of the county's active or inactive moneys, provided that the person does not (1) deliberate, discuss, or vote on the award of contracts to depositories of the county's active and inactive moneys; or (2) serve on the county investment advisory committee. (1965 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 65-137, modified.)

Federal Update

Congressional Activity

The House and Senate were in session this week. The House considered 11 bills under suspension of the rules, including the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act (H.R. 5089), which would reduce emergency response times by putting more federal law enforcement officers and resources near high-risk surface transportation assets.

House and Senate negotiators finalized the \$1.2 trillion spending measure to fund the federal government for the remainder of FY 2018 late Thursday evening. The president signed the measure on Friday afternoon.

Cabinet Secretaries Testify to Senate Committee to Sell Infrastructure Plan

On March 14, five Trump Administration secretaries testified before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee to defend and sell President Trump's infrastructure plan, which was released in early February. The hearing, which aimed to examine the various infrastructure policy reforms proposed by the Administration, featured Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, and Energy Secretary Rick Perry. The biggest issue discussed at the hearing was how to pay for the proposal, which the White House has yet to officially comment on. After the hearing, Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) told reporters, "There are some other offsets that we could come up with to put together a decent package, but to get the big really robust package the president's talking about, we have to come up with a significant source of revenues...And so far those haven't been identified."



House Passes Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Bill

On March 14, the House passed the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 3249) by voice vote. The bill would formally establish a DOJ grant program - Project Safe Neighborhoods - to combat gun and gang violence, and would authorize \$50 million annually from FYs 2018-2020 for the program.

Opioid Toolkit

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce contracted with Working Partners® to develop the Opioid Toolkit containing free resources to better prepare Ohio businesses to prevent and respond to the drug problem in their workplaces. The project was funded in by Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Additionally, the Opioid Toolkit contains Generation Rx resources contributed by The Ohio State University and Cardinal Health Foundation; developed by Working Partners®.

Opioid Toolkit website: www.ohiochamber.com

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