

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



March 31, 2017

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Transportation Budget (HB 26) Headed to Governor Kasich for Signing *Additional local government money stripped from bill*

On Monday, the [HB 26](#) Conference Committee met and accepted a report that included all of the compromises made between the two versions passed by the respective chambers. The Senate's push to steer more money toward local projects and transit initiatives was stripped from the final bill, thus there will not be an influx of \$48 million to the Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP). Some of the provisions in the budget include:

- A six-county pilot program to lower commercial vehicle registration fees from \$30 to \$15.
- An additional \$1 million in funding each year earmarked for Transportation Improvement Districts.
- Authority for townships and municipalities to enter into an agreement to jointly provide for the maintenance, repair, and improvement of township and municipal roads.
- A change in law that specifies the failure to display a front license plate on a legally parked vehicle is a secondary offense subject to a fine of no more than \$100.
- A two-year exemption for towing vehicles to and from based on size and weight limitations in certain cases.
- An easing of bridge inspection rules that allow county engineers to alternate doing a full inspection one year and then a partial inspection the following year.

The bill was sent to the Governor on Thursday for his signature.

TIF Districts Created by Municipalities Has Your Township Been Impacted?

Is your township still connected to a city or village? Does your township provide the fire or EMS to that city or village? Has that city or village created a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district pursuant to R.C. Sec. 5709.40? Has your township lost increased valuation on any fire or EMS levies due those TIFs?

If you answered yes to the above questions, we need to hear from you!

There is a bill ([HB 69 TIF DISTRICTS](#)) pending before the House State & Local Government Committee that would require a municipality that creates a TIF district pursuant to R.C. Sec. 5709.40 to reimburse township fire and EMS levies if the township is providing the primary fire or EMS to the territory included in the TIF district.

If your township has been impacted, please contact, Heidi Fought, OTA Director of Governmental Affairs at 614.863.0045 or by email at fought@ohiotownships.org.

OTA Activity This Week

Rep. Schaffer (phone) - township issues in the budget
Rep. Condit (phone) - township issues in the budget
Rep. Reineke - township issues in the budget
Rep. Arndt - township issues in the budget
Rep. Anielski - township issues in the budget
Rep. Becker - TIFs
Rep. Faber - township issues in the budget

Recently Introduced Legislation

[HB 161 WORKERS COMPENSATION](#) (Patton) To make peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical workers diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder arising from employment without an accompanying physical injury eligible for compensation and benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law for up to one year and to prohibit such a person from receiving a disability benefit from a state retirement system for post-traumatic stress disorder arising from employment without an accompanying physical injury during the time period the person receives compensation and benefits under the Workers' Compensation Law for the disorder.

[HB 163 PREVAILING WAGE](#) (Roegner, Riedel) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects.

[HB 168 CEMETERY REGISTRATION](#) (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.

[HB 171 EMS SHIFTS](#) (Patmon) To limit the hours worked in a work shift and to require work breaks for emergency medical service providers.

Committee Activity This Week (3/27-3/31)

Tuesday, March 28

[Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs](#)

[SB 43 BUILDING CODES](#) (Bacon, K.) To enable limited home rule townships to adopt building codes regardless of any similar codes adopted by the county in which the township resides.

Andy Glenn, trustee for Springfield Township in Lucas County, [submitted proponent testimony](#) on the bill. The Ohio Home Builders Association testified as an interested party noting that they would like to ensure the legislation requires that township building departments be certified like all other entities that enforce building codes. The County Commissioners Association [testified in opposition](#) to the measure. CCAO is concerned about the duplication of services and the affect that establishing competing building departments will have on the volume of business and the economic viability of the services already being provided by counties. CCAO's other concerns were as follows: the consistency of services in terms of conducting inspections and interpreting the code, loss of revenue to each affected county, and the quality of the services and the safety of the buildings that are approved by local building departments enforcing residential and commercial codes.

ARE YOU A LIMITED HOME RULE TOWNSHIP? WOULD YOU LIKE TO TESTIFY OR SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON THIS LEGISLATION? CONTACT THE OTA!

House State & Local Government

HB 103 FISCAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS (Reineke) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision.

The committee favorably reported the bill and the full House passed the measure on Wednesday.

HB 122 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Hambley, Rogers) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.

The sponsors, Rep. Steve Hambley and Rep. John Rogers, provided testimony to the committee. They stressed that this study committee will examine how collaborative metropolitan economic development can benefit all participating entities. They stated that the bipartisan panel would consist of members from the House and Senate and include a designee of the Governor, academic representatives, and a representative from the Regional Prosperity Initiative and would submit a report of its findings within one year of the effective date of the bill.

HB 69 TIF DISTRICTS (Cupp) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district.

Chris Connelly, an attorney with Benesch Friedlander, [briefed the committee on Tax Increment Financing laws](#). Mr. Connelly said the bill would only impact incentive TIFs that divert revenues from residential developments. Denise King, a trustee of Washington Township in Franklin, Delaware and Union counties, [testified in support](#) of the measure. Josh Brown of the [Ohio Municipal League submitted written interested party testimony](#) on the bill.

Wednesday, March 29

Senate Government Oversight & Reform

SB 88 FISCAL EMERGENCIES (Terhar) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision.

Following proponent testimony by the County Commissioners Association, the committee favorably reported the bill to the full Senate for passage.

SB 79 AGENCY REVIEWS (Jordan) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

Rep. Faber submitted written proponent testimony on the bill noting that the legislation would ensure that the state's budget process remains dedicated to evaluating appropriations on policy while this new process will focus on mission alignment and performance audits.

Thursday, March 30

House Finance

HB 49 BIENNIAL BUDGET (Smith) To provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

OTA Executive Director Matt DeTemple [testified on the bill](#). Other local government groups also testified. The OTA raised concerns with the LGF proposal and funding in the bill, the proposal to centralize municipal income tax collections, the increased tax rate on tobacco and tobacco related products, and the impact that will have on townships in border state counties. The OTA also highlighted some potential amendments for the committee to consider including in the bill.

Have You Filed Your True-Up With BWC?

Have you filed your payroll True-Up with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation? If not, you must act **NOW!**



**Bureau of Workers'
Compensation**

You can submit payroll True-Ups online at www.bwc.ohio.gov, by phone at 1.800.644.6292 or in person at your local BWC service office. Failure to

complete this True-Up could result in your removal from BWC Destination Excellence Discount Programs and/or Group Rating and Group Retrospective Rating Programs.

Community Risk Reduction for Fire Departments ***Does Your Department Want to Volunteer?***

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) seems to be a buzz word in the fire service community right now - but it is often misunderstood. It is not simply a smoke alarm installation program or a school fire safety event. As noted on the Institution of Fire Engineers website at strategicfire.org, "Community Risk Reduction is a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact." In a nutshell, it is a method to make sure the right resources are being used in the most efficient way to decrease the risks that most impact a community. The most effective programs have identified positive outcomes through ongoing evaluation and measurement.

The concepts for CRR are not new, but there is now a realization that many things that have always been done can be better organized, better planned and better facilitated. The goal is to focus efforts precisely on the areas that need the most attention, evaluate those results effectively, and share those results with elected officials and the community.



Not sure how or where to start? A recommended place to begin is at the Institution of Fire Service Engineers Vision 20/20 project at strategicfire.org. There are tools, manuals, videos, training and network resources in the CRR Portal that can help you get started. You can find information about model programs and access presentations from recent symposiums.

The strategic plan for the Fire Prevention Bureau at the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal is to begin providing support through their field educator team to help local departments identify your highest risks, to discover possible solutions to address them, and to help facilitate instruction for your officers and emergency responders. Please call the State Fire Marshal's office at 614.752.7115 to learn more about Community Risk Assessment.

Guernsey County Hosting Public Records/Ethics Training

The Guernsey County Township Association will be hosting a Public Records Training (presented by Ohio Auditor of State) and an Ethics Commission Training (presented by the Ohio Ethics Commission) on Monday May, 22, 2017. The training will be held at Zane State - Cambridge Campus in the Paul Brown Epic Center. The Public Records Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and the Ethics presentation will begin at 1:15 p.m.

To register for one or both of the trainings, please visit the Auditor of State's website by [clicking here](#). Should you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth "Betty" Duche', President of the Guernsey County Township Association, by email at eduche@windstream.net or by phone at 740.679.2387.

OTA Baseball Outings Planned for 2017

Enjoy America's favorite pastime at the 2017 OTA Baseball Outings! We've reserved a limited number of seats at a Cleveland Indians and a Cincinnati Reds game this July. Bring your fellow township officials or make it a family day and have fun with the OTA!

Dates:
Saturday, July 1 - Cincinnati Reds vs. Chicago Cubs



Saturday, July 8 - Cleveland Indians vs. Detroit Tigers

Registration form may be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

For questions, please contact Elizabeth Antjas at 614.863.4500 or by email at antjas@ohiotownships.org.



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