

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



April 6, 2018

To print this alert as a PDF, [please click here](#).

ACTION REQUESTED!

Legislators Proposing Clean Water Fair Pricing Act

Over the past few years, [Reps. Duffey](#) & [Lanese](#) have received complaints from residents about the increasingly high cost of water and sewer services they are receiving - often double or more what they might expect to pay. After investigating the issue, they learned that a small number of cities across Ohio have been charging outside communities a higher rate for water and sewer than they charge their own residents, even when the city that owns the system has used Ohio and federal taxpayer funding to create their system.

Curious as to why this isn't already illegal, the legislators met with the Ohio EPA to find out what, if any, consumer protections exist for Ohioans serviced by another city's utility system. They learned that the Ohio EPA does not regulate pricing for these services or provide any complaint process. Similarly the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) does not have jurisdiction over municipal utilities - mostly as a result of Ohio's constitutional home rule.

After meeting with House leadership and the Governor's senior staff, the legislators are set to introduce legislation that could work to address this problem. The proposed solution would be to allow cities to charge outside communities whatever rate they wish, as long as they do not accept state or federal funding for their systems. If they do accept state or federal funding, the following consumer protections will ensure fair treatment for all state/federal taxpayers. [To read the co-sponsor request sent out by Reps. Duffey & Lanese, please click here.](#)

By having public hearings on this issue, the legislators hope to bring attention to the plight of many Ohioans who cannot escape these unnecessarily higher fees from systems that they, as state and federal taxpayers, have contributed their hard-earned dollars toward building in the big cities.

The sponsors are requesting that townships write letters supporting the legislation.

Please submit letters to the following individuals:

[Joint Sponsor Rep. Duffey](#)

[Joint Sponsor Rep. Lanese](#)

[Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger](#)

[Senate President Larry Obhof](#)

[Governor Kasich](#)

Your Help Is Needed! **Water & Sewer Services and Rates Survey**

We have been asked to assist in gathering data regarding water and sewer services being provided to township residents by municipalities. Would you please take a few moments and fill out this survey? You may provide the answers via [email to Heidi Fought](#), OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, or by [clicking here](#) and completing an electronic survey.

1. Do any of your township residents receive water and/or sewer services by a neighboring municipality?

- a. water
- b. sewer
- c. both
- d. neither *(please skip to question 5)*

2. In exchange for the water and/or sewer services, does the municipality:

- a. require annexation prior to connecting a property owner to the water and/or sewer line
- b. charge a higher rate for nonresidents to receive the service(s) than residents of the municipality
- c. require revenue sharing or other development agreement with the township in exchange for extending the water and/or sewer lines
- d. other _____

3. If a municipality requires annexation, how many acres have been annexed due to this requirement in the last 10 years?

4. If a municipality charges higher rates for nonresidents, what is that rate?

- a. water _____
- b. sewer _____

5. Township Name? _____ / County Name? _____

6. What is the name of the municipality that is providing the water and/or sewer services? _____

7. What are the demographics (ethnicity, wealth/poverty level, population, land valuation, rural/urban) **of your township?**

Thank you for helping us in this research effort!

HB 500 Omnibus Township Legislation *Your letters of support are needed!*

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

The bill is scheduled for all testimony on Tuesday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in testifying in support of the legislation, please contact OTA Director of Governmental Affairs Heidi Fought at 614.863-0045 or by email at fought@ohiotownships.org.

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 585 FIREARM LAWS (Henne) To expand the definition of dangerous ordnance to include armor piercing ammunition and expand the definition of an automatic firearm to include any device within the federal definition of machine gun; to create additional conditions under which an individual may not possess a firearm or dangerous ordnance and to eliminate the process by which an individual may apply for relief from a weapons disability; to generally prohibit a person from buying, purchasing, obtaining, or furnishing a firearm on behalf of a third party; to provide for the entry of protection orders into the federal NCIC database and LEADS; and to provide for the issuance by a court of an extreme risk protection order.

Legislative Committees Next Week (4/9-4/13)

Tuesday, April 10

Senate Energy & Natural Resources (Ch. Balderson), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

HB 225 OIL GAS WELLS (Thompson) To modify the law governing idle and orphaned oil and gas wells.

3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

Senate Public Utilities (Ch. Beagle), Finance Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.

HB 422 WATER SEWER ACQUISITIONS (Ginter, Rogers) To govern acquisitions of municipal water-works and sewage disposal system companies by certain larger nonmunicipal water-works or sewage disposal system companies.

1st Hearing-Sponsor testimony

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

4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments

House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor (Ch. Young), Rm. 113, 1:30 p.m.

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

1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute

House State & Local Government (Ch. Anielski), Rm. 017, 2:00 p.m.

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

4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments

Wednesday, April 11

Senate Public Utilities (Ch. Beagle), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:15 a.m.

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

5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

Tax Expenditure Review Committee (Ch. Oelslager), North Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

* Review of sales to churches and certain other non-profit organizations; sales to the state, any of its political subdivisions and certain other states; sales by churches and certain types of non-profit organizations; tangible personal property used primarily in manufacturing tangible personal property and packaging and packaging equipment

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Ch. Coley), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB 268 THEFT IN OFFICE (Wilson) To expand the increased penalties for theft in office based on the amount of property or services stolen and to include as restitution certain audit costs of the entity that suffered the loss involved in the offense.

1st Hearing-Sponsor testimony

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

6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

House Civil Justice (Ch. Butler), Rm. 121, 3 p.m. or after session

HB 419 EMERGENCY LIABILITY (Henne) To modify the defense to the liability of a member of a police or fire department or emergency medical service of a political subdivision for the negligent operation of a motor vehicle in response to an emergency by requiring that the vehicle has its lights and sirens simultaneously activated.

3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

Federal Update

Congressional Activity

Congress is in recess for two weeks. The Senate will return on April 9 and the House will return on April 10.



EPA To Hold Water Finance Forum

On June 7, the EPA Region 5 Water Finance Forum will bring participants together to discuss ways to manage water system improvements. During the forum, participants will learn to plan, finance, build, and operate improvements made to water infrastructure. This event is hosted by the Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center, the EPA Region 5 water finance center. Partners of the forum include the EPA Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, Washington, DC; EPA Region 5, Chicago; and the Ohio EPA.

Register online (required) at no charge. Space is limited. Refreshments and lunch provided. For more information, please [click here](#) or send questions to cft@mtu.edu.

Ohio Township Association

6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004
614.863.0045 | www.OhioTownships.org
fought@ohiotownships.org



Ohio Township Association | 6500 Taylor Road, Suite A | Blacklick | OH | 43004

[Update Profile and Unsubscribe](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) zaky@ohiotownships.org | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by fought@ohiotownships.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact

Try it free today