

## Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



April 21, 2017

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### Medical Marijuana Facilities in Townships

Pursuant to R.C. Sec. 3796.29, effective with the enactment of HB 523 of the 131st General Assembly, the legislative authority of a township may adopt a resolution to prohibit or limit the number of medical marijuana cultivators, processors, or retail dispensaries licensed within the township's boundaries.



It is important that any township that wishes to prohibit or limit the number of these facilities within the township's boundaries to act prior to the rules for medical marijuana becoming operational in Ohio. Please contact your legal counsel to ensure your right to prohibit or limit these types of businesses in your township is maintained.

### Auditor of State Issues Bulletin Regarding Healthcare

#### [Bulletin 2017-002](#)

This bulletin describes 2017 Ohio Attorney General Opinion 2017-007, formally issued on March 13, 2017, and the 21st Century Cures Act, a recent amendment to the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) as they relate to reimbursement of healthcare premiums for township trustees in Ohio.



Since the Attorney General opinion was issued after the beginning of a fiscal year, the Auditor of State has determined that a grace period should be provided to allow townships time to comply with this requirement and allow individuals an opportunity to make alternative arrangements for healthcare coverage. As such, the Auditor of State will not issue findings for recovery in accordance with Opinion 2017-007 and the guidance in this Bulletin until audits to be performed on fiscal year 2018.

If you have any questions regarding this Bulletin please contact the AOS Center for Audit Excellence at 1.800.282.0370 or the Legal Division at 1.800.282.0370 or 1.614.466.2929.

### Recently Introduced Legislation

**[HB 175 LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP](#)** (Brinkman, T.) To allow an owner of residential property to keep, harbor, breed, or maintain small livestock on the property, and to prohibit zoning authorities from regulating certain agricultural activities conducted on residential property for

noncommercial purposes.

**SB 123 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS** (Coley, B.) To limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county in which the property is located.

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## Legislative Committee Activity Next Week (4/24-4/28)

### Tuesday, April 25

**House Ways & Means** (Ch. Schaffer, 466-8100), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

**HB 118 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS** (Merrin) To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner.

*3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote*

**House State & Local Government** (Ch. Anielski, 644-6041), Rm. 122, 10 a.m.

**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.

*5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendment - Possible vote*

**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.

*2nd Hearing-All testimony*

**House Finance** (Ch. Smith, 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

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

*10th Hearing-Possible substitute*

### Wednesday, April 26

**House Finance** (Ch. Smith, 466-1366), Rm. 313, 9 a.m.

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

*11th Hearing-All testimony*

### Thursday, April 27

**House Finance** (Ch. Smith, 466-1366), Rm. 313, 9 a.m.

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

*12th Hearing-All testimony*

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## Federal Update - NATaT

### **164 House Members Sign Letter Supporting CDBG**

On April 3, 164 House members sent a letter to House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation & Housing and Urban Development Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and Ranking Member David Price (D-NC) urging the Subcommittee to support \$3.3 billion in funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in FY 2018. CDBG assists urban, suburban and rural communities to improve housing and living conditions, and to expand economic opportunities for low and moderate income persons. The Trump Administration has proposed the total elimination of the CDBG program for FY 2018.

***The Ohio Township Association Board of Directors, at their April meeting, voted to support retaining this important funding stream and encourage the Ohio Congressional delegation to keep it in the federal budget.***



## Quarterly Ethics Commission Newsletter Now Available



The Ohio Ethics Commission has released their Spring 2017 newsletter. The focus of the newsletter is elected officials serving as firefighters. To view the Spring 2017 Ethics Commission newsletter, please [click here](#).

## 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 614.863.0045 or by email at [antjas@ohiotownships.org](mailto:antjas@ohiotownships.org).

## 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](mailto:eduche@windstream.net) or by phone at 740.679.2387.

## ODNR Awards Rural Fire Grants

With a focus on making improvements that will better protect Ohioans and local first responders, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) recently approved federal grant funding for 37 projects statewide for fire departments and fire associations serving small communities across Ohio.



Out of Ohio's nearly 1,300 fire departments statewide, approximately 900 are classified as rural, with populations under 10,000, and these departments are primarily staffed by volunteers. The average annual budget for an Ohio rural fire department is \$35,000 per year, with many fire departments operating on \$10,000 or less annually. These federal Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grants are used to upgrade equipment at existing fire departments and to assist new departments with organizational, training and equipment costs.

The ODNR Division of Forestry has recommended 37 fire departments and support organizations in 20 Ohio counties to receive a total of \$216,007. For the 2017 VFA grant cycle, these matching grant funds will be used for the purchase of wildland fire slip-in pumper units, wildland fire personal protective equipment, all-terrain and utility vehicles, Multi-Agency Radio

Communication System (MARCS) equipment and conversion of Federal Excess Personal Property into fire apparatus.

Administered by the ODNR Division of Forestry, VFA grants provide up to \$10,000 to communities with populations of fewer than 10,000 residents. A local match is required. The ODNR Division of Forestry has awarded more than 1,500 grants to Ohio rural fire departments since the VFA program was established in 1978.

To see the complete list of awardees, [please click here](#).

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### Ohio Township Association

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