

# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



**May 18, 2018**

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

## Legislative Activity This Week

### Tuesday, May 15

#### House Ways & Means

**HB 575 VOLUNTEER TAX CREDITS** (Keller, Rezabek) To grant income tax credits to persons who serve as volunteer firefighters or emergency medical service technicians.

*Reps. Keller and Rezabek presented sponsor testimony to the committee.*

#### House Energy & Natural Resources

**HB 393 BRINE SALES** (DeVitis, O'Brien) To authorize a person to sell brine derived from an oil and gas operation that is processed as a commodity for use in surface application in deicing, dust suppression, and other applications.

*Testifying in opposition to the bill was the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club and the League of Women Voters of Ohio. The committee then voted 8-4 to send the measure to the full House for a vote.*

#### Senate Finance

**SB 299 WATER IMPROVEMENTS** (Gardner, O'Brien) To allow equipment for the protection and preservation of Lake Erie to be purchased with proceeds from the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund, and to appropriate funds for projects enhancing water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

*Senators Gardner & O'Brien provided testimony on the necessity of the legislation. The Nature Conservancy in Ohio, the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the Lake Erie Foundation and the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts testified in support of the bill.*

#### Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid

**SB 210 AUXILIARY CONTAINERS** (Coley) To authorize a person to use an auxiliary container for any purpose, to prohibit a municipal corporation from imposing a tax or a fee on auxiliary containers, and to clarify that the existing anti-littering law applies to auxiliary containers.

*Prior to hearing from witnesses, the committee accepted two amendments, one which makes the bill applicable to limited home rule townships. Testifying in support of the measure was the Ohio Manufacturers' Association. Testifying in opposition to the bill was the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Surfrider Foundation and the Ohio Municipal League.*

#### Senate Agriculture

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

*The Ohio State Beekeepers Association and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation testified in support of the measure.*

Sen. Sykes - 2020 US Census

Wednesday, May 16

House State & Local Government

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

*Rep. Carfagna offered three amendments to the legislation, all of which the OTA supports. All three amendments were accepted without objection by the committee. The County Commissioners Association and County Engineers Association provided a written statement expressing opposition to the provision that would require a board of township trustees to approve the vacation of a township road.*

House Civil Justice

**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.

*Prior to being reported favorably by the committee to the full House for a vote, an **amendment** was accepted that modifies the definition of an emergency call.*

Senate Ways & Means

**HB 343 PROPERTY VALUES** (Merrin) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.

*Sponsor Merrin provided an overview of the legislation to the committee.*

Senate Government Oversight & Reform

**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.

*Prior to passage by the committee, **written testimony was presented from the OTA, CCAO and OML** in support of the bill. The Senate, later that afternoon, unanimously voted to support the bill and send it to the House for hearings.*

**HB 34 PUBLIC NOTICES** (Hambley, Ryan) To authorize certain state agencies, local governments, and other boards, commissions, and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail.

*No testimony was presented.*

Thursday, May 17

Rep. Carfagna (phone) - House Bill 500 Township Omnibus

Friday, May 18

Rep. Becker's office - Highway signage

---

## Recently Introduced Legislation

**HB 654 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING** (Smith, Boggs) To make a supplemental appropriation under the budget of the Auditor of State to make disbursements to political subdivisions appearing on the Auditor of State's fiscal caution, fiscal watch, or fiscal emergency list during the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium.

**HB 656 LAW ENFORCEMENT DATABASE** (Sheehy) To require the Attorney General to create and operate a database of information regarding law enforcement officers who have been terminated from employment, or resigned in lieu of termination, and to require law enforcement agencies to access the database for the sole purpose of determining eligibility of those officers for employment.

**HB 657 WIRELESS PROVIDERS** (Rezabek, Celebrezze) To exempt wireless service providers and resellers from the Ohio Consumers' Counsel operating assessment.

---

Committee Schedule Next Week

**Tuesday, May 22**

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

**HB 575 VOLUNTEER TAX CREDITS** (Keller, Rezabek) To grant income tax credits to persons who serve as volunteer firefighters or emergency medical service technicians.

*2nd Hearing-Proponent testimony*

**Senate Agriculture** (Ch. Hackett), North Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

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

*3rd Hearing-All testimony*

---

## Federal Update



The House and Senate were in session this week. The House considered nine bills under suspension of the rules, including the Justice Served Act of 2018 (H.R. 4854), which would require the Justice Department to award grants to state and local governments to prosecute cases involving violent crime suspects identified through DNA evidence. The House voted on the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H.R. 2; i.e., the Farm Bill), which will reauthorize agriculture and nutrition programs for five years, covering nutrition assistance, commodity support, crop insurance, conservation, farm credit, rural development, forestry, horticulture, trade programs, and more.

The Senate voted on a Congressional Review Act (CRA) disapproval resolution (S.J. Res. 52) which would restore net neutrality rules repealed by the Federal Communications Commission this past December (and published in the Federal Register on February 22, 2018).

Lawmakers continue to work on a new set of spending bills for FY 2019. Several Senate Appropriations Subcommittees heard testimony on FY 2019 budget proposals from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, FBI Director Chris Wray, National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, and FTC Chairman Joseph Simons.

### **Trump Administration Proposes \$15.4 Billion Rescission in Past Budget Authority**

On May 8, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) submitted a \$15.4 billion rescission package to Congress, which proposes 38 rescissions of budget authority from programs under the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, and the Treasury, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency. Under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, once the President submits his requests, funding proposed for rescission can be withheld for up to 45 calendar days while Congress is in session. During that time, Congress can take up the President's requests in one or more rescission bills, amend them with lawmakers' own proposals, or do nothing.

### **Trump Administration Updates Federal Agency Regulatory Priority List**

On May 9, the OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) released the Trump Administration's updated spring 2018 Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, a comprehensive list of all regulations that federal agencies will pursue or cut over the next 12 months. Central to President Trump's regulatory agenda is implementation of Executive Order (E.O.) 13771, which requires agencies to eliminate two rules for every new one they issue and to offset the cost of new rules. The spring agenda shows that the Trump Administration is working on 499 deregulatory actions and 133 regulatory actions subject to E.O. 13771.

### **Senate Passes Firefighter Cancer Registry Act**

On May 10, the Senate passed, by unanimous consent, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017 (H.R. 931), which would create a national cancer registry for firefighters diagnosed with the deadly disease. The bill calls on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor and study the relationship between career-long exposure to dangerous fumes and toxins and the incidence of cancer in firefighters to determine if there is a link, and to develop better protective gear and prevention techniques.

---



## Looking for State Fair Volunteers

Each year, the Ohio Township Association presents trophies and other awards for 4-H participants at the Ohio State Fair.

The fair will take place July 25 - Aug. 5, and the OTA needs your help. If you are interested in presenting a state fair award on behalf of the OTA, please contact Ron Miller, OTA Finance/State Fair Committee Chairman, at [ronmill789@gmail.com](mailto:ronmill789@gmail.com) or 419.569.9920 or Heidi Fought at the State Association at [fought@ohiotownships.org](mailto:fought@ohiotownships.org).

At least two volunteers are needed each day. Volunteers receive a free parking pass and two free admission passes. Photos and thank you letters from recipients are included in the November/December *Ohio Township News* magazine.

---

### Ohio Township Association

6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004  
614.863.0045 | [www.OhioTownships.org](http://www.OhioTownships.org)  
[fought@ohiotownships.org](mailto: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](mailto:zaky@ohiotownships.org) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [fought@ohiotownships.org](mailto:fought@ohiotownships.org) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today