

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



May 25, 2018

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Legislative Activity This Week

Tuesday, May 22

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.

The [Ohio Township Association](#), [Ohio State Firefighters Association](#), the [Fire Chiefs Association](#) and [Brothers Helping Brothers](#) testified in support of the bill.

House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 625 AUXILIARY CONTAINERS (Lang, Lipps) To authorize a person to use an auxiliary container for any purpose, to prohibit a municipal corporation, county or limited home rule township from imposing a tax or a fee on auxiliary containers, and to clarify that the existing anti-littering law applies to auxiliary containers.

Sponsors Lang and Lipps provided an overview of the bill.

House Finance

HB 602 CLEAN WATER FAIR PRICING ACT (Duffey, Lanese) To penalize a municipal corporation for engaging in certain actions related to its provision of water and sewer services outside of its territory by reducing or withholding payments the municipal corporation receives from the Local Government Fund and rendering the municipal corporation ineligible for state water and sewer development funds.

Sponsors Duffey and Lanese provided an overview of the legislation and stressed the need for fairer practices.

Rep. Becker's office - Highway Exit Signs

Rep. Carfagna - HB 500 Omnibus Township Bill

Wednesday, May 23

House Finance

HB 602 CLEAN WATER FAIR PRICING ACT (Duffey, Lanese) To penalize a municipal corporation for engaging in certain actions related to its provision of water and sewer services outside of its territory by reducing or withholding payments the municipal corporation receives from the Local Government Fund and rendering the municipal corporation ineligible for state water and sewer development funds.

The [Ohio Township Association](#) Executive Director Matt DeTemple and [Sharon Township Trustee](#) Laura Kunze testified in support of the bill. [Amherst Township resident](#) Christine Camarillo provided a letter of support to the committee.

House Civil Justice

HB 482 NUISANCE PROPERTIES (Lipps, Miller) To expedite public nuisance and blight foreclosure actions and to declare an emergency.

Sponsors Lipps and Miller provided an overview of the legislation to the committee.

Rep. Arndt - House Bill 602

Rep. O'Brien - House Bill 602

Thursday, May 24

House State & Local Government

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

The committee unanimously reported the bill to the full House for passage.

****The OTA encourages you to reach out and thank the members of the House State & Local Government Committee for their support of this bill!****

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Recently Introduced Legislation

HB 664 NALOXONE USE (Ramos) To cease payments to a subdivision that materially hinders or prevents its personnel from carrying and using naloxone.

HB 665 ELECTION TIES (Ramos) To require that if a tie occurs between candidates in an election, a special election be held to resolve the tie.

HB 668 PUBLIC FACILITIES (Patton) To authorize state agencies, state institutions of higher education, counties, townships, municipal corporations, school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools to enter into public-private initiatives with a private party through a public-private agreement regarding public facilities.

HB 669 PUBLIC NUISANCES (Hughes, Miller) To add the accumulation of garbage and debris to the conditions that may constitute a public nuisance.

HB 672 PUBLIC RECORDS (Barnes) To create a procedure by which a person may obtain a court order to correct an error, omission, or legal defect in a public record, and to name the act the "Final Order Correction Act."

HB 695 INDUSTRIAL PARK LOANS (Thompson, Edwards) To reinstate the Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund and to make an appropriation.

Committee Schedule Next Week

***As of noon on Thursday, May 24, the committee schedule has not been released.*

Federal Update



The House and Senate were in session this week. The House voted on the Senate-passed Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act (S. 2155), which would roll back several Dodd-Frank Act regulations for small and medium-sized banks and includes the Municipal Finance Support Act that classifies certain municipal bonds as high quality liquid assets; and the \$716 billion FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5515), which authorizes FY 2019 appropriations for DoD activities and military construction.

Lawmakers continue to work on a new set of spending bills for FY 2019. The House Appropriations Committee marked up its FY19 Interior-Environment and Transportation-HUD spending bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its FY 2019 Energy-Water Development and Agriculture-Rural Development spending bills. Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees also released the FY 2019 Report on the Sub-allocation of Budget Allocations (302(b)s).

On Tuesday, the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee marked up the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 2800) and on Wednesday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee marked up its Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018 (H.R. 8). The House bill stays very close to affecting only the Army Corps of Engineers' programs and policies, while the Senate bill includes other authorizations, including reauthorizing the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and other clean water and wastewater provisions under the Clean Water Act.

House Fails to Pass Farm Bill

On May 18, the House failed to pass, by a vote of 198-213, the 2018 Farm Bill (H.R. 2; i.e., the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018). 30 House Republicans voted with all 183 House Democrats against the bill, amid a dispute over unrelated immigration legislation and other policy concerns with the Farm Bill. Right after the Farm Bill was defeated, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) immediately made a motion to reconsider the Farm Bill, which will allow for a re-vote on the bill at any point in the future, including the week of May 21. The House approved 40 amendments and rejected 7 amendments to the Farm Bill, including approving an amendment repealing the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule by a vote of 238-173. The White House stated that President Trump would sign the bill into law if it reached his desk. The Senate Agriculture Committee is likely to unveil its own, less controversial, Farm Bill within the next two weeks, with a markup likely taking place in early June.

House T&I Committee Unveils WRDA 2018 Bill

On May 18, House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018 (H.R. 8), along with Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Garret Graves (R-LA) and Ranking Member Grace Napolitano (D-CA). The bill will be marked up by the House T&I Committee at 10am EST on Wednesday, May 23. The 58-page bill contains four Titles (General Provisions; Studies; Deauthorizations, Modifications, and Related Provisions; and Water Resources Infrastructure).

Senate Passes Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act

On May 16, the Senate passed, by voice vote, the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 3249). The bill establishes the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program within the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs to provide resources to state and local entities to curb the rise in crimes committed by criminal street gangs and transnational organized crime groups. The Program is funded at \$50 million annually for FYs 2019-2021. The bill now heads back to the House where, if it passes, will be sent to President Trump to be signed into law.



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 or 419.569.9920 or Heidi Fought at the State Association at 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

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