

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



May 30, 2017

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Senate Committee Hearings on Am. Sub. HB 49 (Biennium Budget) Have Begun

Various Senate Finance Subcommittees continued to take testimony on the budget bill ([HB 49](#)) this week. Amendments for consideration are due next week and the first round of Senate changes are expected the first week of June. Please [click here to view a chart](#) of the items included in [Am. Sub. HB 49](#) that directly or indirectly impact townships.

Recently Introduced Legislation

[HB 237 ELECTIONS](#) (Pelanda) To require a political subdivision with territory in more than one county that places an issue on the ballot to notify the board of elections of every county in which the political subdivision has territory, to require the Secretary of State to establish a database to facilitate communication between the boards of elections and the Secretary concerning local elections, and to make an appropriation.

[HB 243 HEATING FUELS](#) (Patterson, Cera) To exempt from sales and use taxation the bulk sale of firewood and certain other heating fuels, and to reimburse the Local Government Fund and Public Library Fund and county and transit sales tax collections for the resulting revenue losses.

Meetings Last Week

Ohio Municipal League - HB 28 BWC Budget

U.S. Senator Portman - federal issues facing townships

U.S. Senator Brown - federal issues facing townships

Members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation - federal issues facing townships

Legislative Activity Last Week

Tuesday, May 23

House State & Local Government

[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.

There was no testimony on the bill.

HB 207 PHOTO MONITORING (Patton) To prohibit a municipal corporation or township that does not operate either a fire department or an emergency medical services organization from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

HB 208 PHOTO MONITORING (Patton) To prohibit a local authority with a population of 200 or fewer from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

HB 209 PHOTO MONITORING (Patton) To prohibit a local authority, in any year, from issuing a total number of traffic tickets based on the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices that exceeds two times the population of the local authority.

HB 210 PHOTO MONITORING (Patton) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 percent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

Sponsor Patton presented testimony on all four bills at one time. He stated that the bills are designed to impede the ability of communities to use photo enforcement as a steady stream of revenue.

SB 37 POLICE CHIEF TRAINING (Hite) To require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for newly appointed village, city, and township chiefs of police.

The Committee heard testimony from Ada Police Chief Michael Hamishfeger and was provided written testimony from Attorney General Mike DeWine supporting the legislation.

House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 128 BUILDING INSPECTIONS (Roegner) To permit a general contractor or owner of specified buildings to enter into a contract with a third-party private inspector or a certified building department for building inspection and to make other changes relating to building inspections.

Opponents testified before the Committee expressing why circumventing local building departments would be bad for Ohio. The Ohio Municipal League, the Miami Valley Building Council, the North Central Ohio Building Officials Association and numerous municipal building departments testified in opposition.

Wednesday, May 24

House Insurance

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.

Rep. Patton provided sponsor testimony before the Committee. He stated that this is a reintroduction of legislation he sponsored last General Assembly. He said that the proposal would ensure law enforcement officers and fire fighters who are diagnosed with PTSD coverage.

Committee Activity This Week (May 30 - June 2)

Wednesday, May 31

House State & Local Government (Ch. Anielski, 644-6041), Rm. 122, 12 p.m.

SB 37 POLICE CHIEF TRAINING (Hite) To require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for newly appointed village, city, and township chiefs of police.

3rd Hearing-All testimony

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.

4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

HB 207 PHOTO MONITORING (Patton) To prohibit a municipal corporation or township that does not operate either a fire department or an emergency medical services organization from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

HB 208 PHOTO MONITORING (Patton) To prohibit a local authority with a population of 200 or fewer from utilizing traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

HB 209 PHOTO MONITORING (Patton) To prohibit a local authority, in any year, from issuing a total number of traffic tickets based on the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices that exceeds two times the population of the local authority.

HB 210 PHOTO MONITORING (Patton) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

2nd Hearing-Proponent testimony

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Ch. Blessing, 466-9091), Rm. 114, 12:30 p.m.

HB 218 PARK DISTRICTS (Seitz) To expand a probate court's powers and duties with regard to a park district.

1st Hearing-Sponsor testimony

HB 226 FIREWORKS (Seitz, Sweeney) To establish a fireworks study group to review and make recommendations regarding the Fireworks Law, to extend to July 1, 2020, the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, to eliminate, beginning January 1, 2021, the moratorium on geographic transfer of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses, and, beginning July 1, 2020, to impose a fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in this state and to expand the ability of individuals to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and obtain and use 1.4G consumer fireworks.

2nd Hearing-Proponent testimony

House Public Utilities (Ch. Seitz, 466-8258), Rm. 313, 1 p.m.

HB 239 SECURITY RESOURCES (Smith, Carfagna) To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource.

2nd Hearing-Proponent testimony

Senate Finance (Ch. Oelslager, 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m.

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

2nd Hearing-Public testimony

Thursday, June 1

Senate Public Utilities (Ch. Beagle, 466-6247), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

SB 155 SECURITY RESOURCES (Terhar, Peterson) To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource.

1st Hearing-Sponsor testimony

SB 128 NUCLEAR ENERGY (Eklund, LaRose) Regarding the zero-emissions nuclear resource program.

3rd Hearing-Proponent & opponent testimony

Senate Finance (Ch. Oelslager, 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 11 a.m.

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

3rd Hearing-Public testimony

Federal Update - NATaT



Administration Wants to Preserve Muni Bond Tax Exemption

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said during a Senate Finance Committee hearing on May 25 that he supports preservation of the tax exemption for municipal bonds. At a hearing on the first 2018 budget and tax reform, Mnuchin was asked a series of questions by committee member Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, about tax reform proposals, including whether the administration supports the tax exemption for municipal bonds. He stated that the administration wants to preserve the tax exemption for state and local bonds. The administration wants to maintain the mortgage interest deduction, he also said to Brown's rapid fire questions. But Mnuchin declined to answer other specific questions, saying tax reform negotiations are still ongoing.

SURVEY - PLEASE HELP!

Low Volume Roads

The Ohio Research Institute for Transportation and the Environment (ORITE) at Ohio University is currently working on a research project as part of Ohio's Research Initiative for Locals (ORIL) Research Program funded through Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding chip seal applications on low-volume routes.

The goal of this study is to assess the current state of chip sealing on low-volume roads maintained by counties, townships and municipalities. To meet the objectives of the study a questionnaire was developed to collect information about chip seal practices directly from Ohio pavement preservation practitioners. Additionally, respondents who believe they have particularly successful (or unsuccessful) chip seal practices or projects are invited to indicate their willingness to contribute additional information to be used as a case study for the research. The questionnaire will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. The results of the synthesis will assist with the research goal of developing chip seal best practices for low volume roads.



Townships may complete the questionnaire by clicking [here](https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9yIF5hlfjyX788d) or cutting and pasting this web address in your browser - https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9yIF5hlfjyX788d.

Please complete the survey by June 30, 2017.

Should you have any questions about this survey, please contact Mary Robbins, PhD, or Roger Green, PhD, at the number listed below.

ORITE at Ohio University
(740) 681-3739

Ohio Fire Expo - June 24

Join the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office and the Central Ohio Antique Fire Apparatus Association for antique fire trucks, a flea market, hands-on fire safety demos and activities for children and adults, and much more! Parking and admission are free. Food concessions will be available for purchase.

