Ohio Township Association
Legislative Alert

June 17, 2016

Each week the OTA provides our members with a recap of legislative activities for the week, a preview of legislative activities for the following week and other information pertinent to township officials. To print this alert as a PDF, please click here.

Signed by the Governor This Week

HB 182 DEVELOPMENT ZONES (Schuring) To revise the law governing the creation and operation of joint economic development districts (JEDDs) and enterprise zones, to exempt from property taxation real property owned by a nonprofit organization selected by the Federal Small Business Administration as an intermediary lender in the Federal Microloan Program, to lower the contribution threshold necessary to maintain an income tax refund contribution “check-off” option, to extend the deadline for municipal corporations to report information to enable a computation of fiscal effects of recent changes to net operating loss deductions for municipal income tax purposes, and to modify eligible investment criteria for the state New Markets Tax Credit.
Signed: June 13, 2016

HB 5 BUSINESS CASE STUDIES (Kunze, Koehler) To allow the Auditor of State to conduct feasibility studies regarding the efficiency of local public offices and state agencies, to authorize the Auditor of State to establish a shared equipment service agreement program among state agencies and political subdivisions, and to specify that a state agency or political subdivision that uses the loaned equipment may assume potential liability for its use.
Signed: June 14, 2016

HB 178 WINE SALES (Manning) To establish the F-10 liquor permit to authorize certain A-2 permit holders to sell Ohio wines at farmers markets.
Signed: June 14, 2016

SB 123 TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS (Hughes) To allow emergency personnel in public safety vehicles to report traffic law violations under certain circumstances.
Signed: June 14, 2016

SB 293 NATURAL RESOURCES (Balderson) To revise specified laws relating to natural resources.
Signed: June 14, 2016

Effective Dates of Legislation

HB 180 CONTRACTOR LABOR (Maag) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a
contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement.  
*Effective August 31, 2016*

**HB 187 ANIMAL TREATMENT** (Ginter) To authorize specified emergency personnel to provide certain emergency medical services to an injured dog or cat.  
*Effective August 31, 2016*

**HB 240 CORONER LAW** (Huffman, Johnson) To define the legal residence of a dead person for purposes of the body’s disposal; to recognize that coroners include medical examiners; to change the qualifications for holding office as a coroner of a charter county; to require, under certain conditions, and to authorize, under other conditions, supplemental compensation for coroners who are forensic pathologists; to revise how the office of coroner is filled when a vacancy cannot be filled by election or appointment; to specify the disposition of a firearm when a person meets death under certain circumstances; to specify who pays for the autopsy of an inmate of a state correctional facility; and to make other changes to the coroners’ law.  
*Effective August 31, 2016*

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**Recent AG Opinion**

**2016-018 County EMA Purchasing of Equipment**  
**Syllabus:**  
1. The executive committee of a countywide emergency management agency that has been established by all of the political subdivisions in the county pursuant to R.C. 5502.26(A) may direct its director/coordinator of emergency management to purchase “equipment” as defined in R.C. 5502.21(Q) and provide that equipment to political subdivisions in the county that operate countywide technical rescue teams pursuant to mutual aid agreements. The purchase and provision of equipment in this manner shall comport with the program for emergency management established by the countywide emergency management agency.  

2. The director/coordinator of emergency management for a countywide emergency management agency that has been established by all of the political subdivisions in the county pursuant to R.C. 5502.26(A) may purchase “equipment” as defined in R.C. 5502.21(Q) using moneys contributed to the countywide emergency management agency by political subdivisions in the county that operate countywide technical rescue teams pursuant to mutual aid agreements. The use of the moneys in this manner shall be consistent with the terms of the written agreement establishing the countywide emergency management agency.

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**BroadbandUSA Offering Webinars on Community Connectivity Initiative**

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) BroadbandUSA team is kicking off a nine-part series of monthly webinars to gather input on the development of the Community Connectivity Initiative (Initiative).
WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE?
A key BroadbandUSA resource, the Initiative will support our technical assistance efforts by providing communities with a comprehensive self-assessment tool and report to enable communities to better understand how their current policies and programs support broadband connectivity; an index or comparative community connectivity score; technical assistance with broadband planning and implementation; and access to an expanding community of practice.

WHO:
NTIA seeks input from the public and broadband stakeholders nationwide, including local, state, federal and tribal government; leaders in healthcare, education, workforce development, economic development; and trade and industry. Participants in the collaborative webinars will: review the Community Connectivity framework; review assessment questions and response options; co-design the structure and content for the report and recommendations; and identify supporting resources and tools to aid local communities.

WHY NTIA WANTS YOUR INPUT:
NTIA supports communities working to accelerate broadband access, improve digital inclusion, strengthen policies and support local community priorities. The webinar series will convene stakeholders to discuss the role that broadband plays in achieving local priorities.

DATES:
The Community Connectivity Initiative nine-part webinar series will be held on the second Thursday of each month from 2:00-3:00 p.m., Eastern Time, starting on July 14, 2016 and ending on March 9, 2017.

REGISTER ONLINE:
These virtual meetings are open to the public and press. Pre-registration is recommended. Participants can register for one or more webinars in the series at NTIA’s website at http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/CommunityConnectivityWebinars.

AGENDA:
The agenda of each webinar will address the development of each of the Initiative’s three resources for local communities: (1) a Community Connectivity framework; (2) an online self-assessment tool; and (3) a report and recommendations customized for each participating community. Each webinar will include a 15-20 minute overview and update on the Initiative and a discussion topic pertinent to the 2016 development and program roll-out. General questions and comments are welcome at any time during webinars via email to BroadbandUSA@ntia.doc.gov. Webinar agendas and relevant documents will be available at http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/CommunityConnectivityWebinars.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Karen Archer Perry at KPerry@ntia.doc.gov.

OPERS Newsletter Now Available

The April and May issues of OPERSource, the OPERS newsletter, are now available on the OPERS website (www.opers.org) under the Government Relations page. This regular publication is another tool to help educate OPERS members on the latest information.

The April issue includes two topics. The first discusses the details of the recent OPERS 2015 Disability Report submitted to Governor Kasich, the Ohio Retirement Study Council, as well as House and Senate oversight committee chairmen. It also describes the continued success of the OPERS Rehabilitative Services Program. The second story highlights a study by the National Institute on Retirement Security that finds women are more likely than men to face financial hardship in retirement and explores different
public policy options that could help address that problem.

The May issue includes two topics. The first expresses our support for OPERS-related provisions included in HB 520 currently pending before the Ohio House Health and Aging committee. Those provisions include changes to simplify survivor benefit eligibility as well as reduce the wait time for refunds. The second story describes OPERS’ ongoing concern about the so-called PEPTA and SAFE proposals being debated at the federal level and our contention that they should not be part of a larger federal legislative fix for the on-going financial crisis in Puerto Rico.

If you have any questions, please contact:
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