

# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



June 30, 2017

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## Budget Bill Finalized, Pending Governor's Action

On Wednesday, the House and Senate approved the Conference Committee report for [Am. Sub. HB 49](#), the biennial budget. The Legislative Service Commission has created a document that shows the differences between the budget as introduced by the Governor, as passed by the House, as passed by the Senate and the final version approved by the Conference Committee. To see the Comp Doc, please [click here](#).

Most notably, the Conference Committee reinserted the [language](#) (page 1013) requiring a township to obtain the approval of an affected school district if the township is extending the term of a TIF that was originally granted prior to 1995.

The Conference Committee retained the bulk of the township-specific items in Am. Sub. HB 49. Unfortunately, they **did not** reinsert language keeping the Local Government Innovation Council, nor the language eliminating the acreage requirement for the creation of new community authorities.

Just as he has with previous budgets, it is expected that the Governor will use his veto power on HB 49. The Governor must issue his vetoes and sign HB 49 by 11:59 p.m. this evening. We will provide you with the complete list of vetoed items and an updated chart of township items included in the bill next week\*\*.

**\*\* Please note, I will be out of the office Monday and Tuesday of next week and the info will be sent to you on Wednesday, July 5.**

## Legislative Activity This Week

**Tuesday, June 27**

**Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs**

**SB 103 EMERGENCY PROGRAMS** (Coley) To permit a board of county commissioners, as an alternative to entering into an agreement to establish a countywide emergency management agency, to enter into a contract of not longer than four years with the county sheriff or a chief of a fire department that has countywide authority to implement a countywide emergency management program.

*Sponsor Sen. Bill Coley said the bill clarifies that counties will have the additional option to contract with either a chief of a fire department with countywide jurisdiction or the county sheriff. After he had introduced an earlier version of this legislation, Sen. Coley said he deliberated with local officials and determined that statewide application would be the best way to address gaps in interpretation of the statute. Sen. Frank Hoagland asked how the chain of command would work with contracted services. Sen. Coley said it would be up to the county to consider all options and put plans in place to deal with all circumstances. Different officials would be placed in charge in different plans.*

**SB 43 BUILDING CODES** (Bacon) To enable limited home rule townships to adopt building codes regardless of any similar codes adopted by the county in which the township resides.

*No testimony was heard on the bill, which was favorably reported to the full Senate for passage.*

**Wednesday, June 28**

**Senate Session**

**HB 27 BWC BUDGET** (Brinkman) To make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law, to make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs.

*The legislation was passed by the Senate and the House concurred on the changes. The bill has been sent to Governor Kasich for signing.*

**HB 103 FISCAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS** (Reineke) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision.

*The legislation was passed by the Senate and seeing that there were no changes made, the bill has been sent to Governor Kasich for signing.*

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## Recently Introduced

**HB 291 GOVERNMENT INSURANCE** (Wiggam) To authorize counties, townships, and municipal corporations to purchase an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty insurance policy, instead of a bond, for protection from loss due to the fraudulent or dishonest actions of, and the failure to perform a duty prescribed by law by, an officer, official, employee, or appointee for which a bond is required by law.

**HB 298 SICK DAYS** (Merrin) To make changes with respect to the number of sick days provided to civil service public employees.

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## Federal Update



### **Agriculture & Rural Prosperity Task Force**

On Thursday, June 15, USDA Secretary Perdue held the inaugural meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Prosperity Task Force. The Task Force was established by the President in late April and directs the Cabinet and other federal agencies to work together to find ways to empower rural communities to thrive.

A total of 22 executive branch departments and agencies attended the meeting on June 15, including Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission Ajit Pai, and other government officials. Many of these individuals grew up in rural America or have spent time in these communities.

The Task Force was created to identify specific actions that government can take to help rural communities prosper. The USDA wants to create a "fertile seed bed" to help rural America grow. To accomplish that goal, members of the Task Force (or their surrogates) will now split into four different groups. The work groups will focus on identifying legislative, regulatory and policy changes that will promote quality of life, spur innovation and technology development, foster economic development, and support the development of a reliable workforce.

The timeline for this work is aggressive. By late October, the Task Force will be completing a report with recommendations for action. If you have ideas or have seen examples of innovation or partnership in communities that could be taken nationwide, please reach out to USDA as the Task Force moves forward with this critical task. Stakeholders are also encouraged to direct all comments for consideration by clicking [HERE](#).

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## Important Employer News From OPERS

### **GASB 68 Financial Reporting**

The data necessary for GASB 68 financial reporting is now available to employers, such as townships, via ECS. This information is needed for accrual basis employers to calculate their proportionate share of pension-related activity for disclosure in their financial statements, related notes and required supplementary information.

If you haven't already, townships should ensure the appropriate people are assigned the "Online GASB Report" role. [An Employer Notice](#) was sent in June 2015 with instructions on how to add the "Online GASB Report" role to users in your township that need access to this information to comply with the pension financial reporting standard. The assigned users can access the OPERS GASB 68 information by clicking on the "GASB Reports" button on the ECS home page.

Please review the Finance home page at [www.opers.org/financial](http://www.opers.org/financial) for more information on this GASB 68 information provided, including educational and outreach materials offered to employers. You will also want to review the GASB 68 information on the ECS home page and discuss the information with your auditors.

The GASB standard became effective for accrual basis employers beginning June 30, 2015. OPERS is making the necessary information available for affected employers, such as townships, to comply. Under the standard, townships are required to report a proportionate share of the retirement system's net pension liability (or unfunded liability) on their financial statements, and other related activity, including pension expense for employers and extensive pension-related disclosures. The pension standard impacts financial reporting only, not funding. The requirement to report the liability may represent a significant figure on employer financial statements, but does not affect the amount employers are required to fund under Ohio law.

After reviewing this Employer Notice, contact Employer Outreach with questions regarding ECS access at 888.400.0965 or by e-mail at [employeroutreach@opers.org](mailto:employeroutreach@opers.org). Contact OPERS Finance personnel directly with questions regarding the GASB 68 information at [gasboutreach@opers.org](mailto:gasboutreach@opers.org).

### **OPERSource**

OPERS has released the June edition of OPERSource, a newsletter for OPERS members. To see the latest edition, please [click here](#).

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## **Are You Going to the State Fair?** **Help the OTA by volunteering!**

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 26 - Aug. 6, and the OTA needs your help!

If you are interested in presenting a state fair award, contact Perry Brock, OTA State Fair Committee Chairman, at [lbrock1@msn.com](mailto:lbrock1@msn.com) or (304) 634-4715.

At least two volunteers are needed each day. Volunteers receive a free parking pass and free admission.

### **DATES/AWARDS AVAILABLE:**

Thursday, July 27 - Home Decorating & Design

Saturday, July 29 - Engineering

Thursday, August 3 - Breeding Sheep Showmanship

Thursday, August 3 - Brown Swiss Showmanship



Thursday, August 3 - Dog Agility  
 Thursday, August 3 - Communication Day  
 Friday, August 4 - Junior Market Beef Showmanship  
 Saturday, August 5 - Natural Resources Day  
 Saturday, August 5 - Reserve Grand Champion Barrow  
 Sunday, August 6 - Camp Fire USA

## OTA Holds Annual Golf Outing & Public Records Training

**August 4, 2017**  
**Golf Club of Dublin**  
**5805 Eiterman Road**  
**Dublin, Ohio 43016**

If you can swing a club and/or need public records training, you are invited to the annual OTA Golf Outing and Public Records Training, an event where all proceeds benefit the OTA Scholarship Program. The training and golf will be held at the Golf Club of Dublin on Friday, August 4th.

FREE public records training from the Auditor of State's office will also be available at 9:00 a.m. at the golf course before the golf outing! Space is limited for the training, so it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you would like to attend the training, please email Heather Whisman at whisman@ohiotownships.org to register.

Golf registration includes greens fees, golf cart, lunch, dinner, and prizes. Outing features hole-in-one, closet to the pin and longest drive contests. The format is a scramble and a shotgun start is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. A registration form may be downloaded by visiting the OTA's website at [www.ohiotownships.org](http://www.ohiotownships.org). For questions, please contact Natalie Skelley at 614.863.4500 or by email at [skelley@ohiotownships.org](mailto:skelley@ohiotownships.org) by July 24.



2017 Golf Outing  
 Registration Form

**8:30 a.m.** Registration Opens for Public Records Training  
**9:00 a.m.** Public Records Training  
**12:00 p.m.** Golf Outing Check-in Opens  
**1:30 p.m.** Shotgun Start

## Updated Draft Fire Code Released for Comment

The State Fire Marshal's office released the '[Draft 2017 Ohio Fire Code](#)' and the '[Report on Petitions](#),' regarding all petitions received to date on the current [Ohio Fire Code](#), also known as Administrative Code sections 1301:7-7-01 through 13017-7-47.



With the release of these documents, The State Fire Marshal will enter the next phase of the rule revision process - the Comment Period. You may submit comments [here](#). The Comment Period will remain open until the close of business on **Friday, July 21, 2017**, unless extended by the State Fire Marshal.

If you have any questions about the document or the process, or if you have any issues accessing the above documents or submitting a comment, please contact Tracie Boyd, the State Fire Marshal's Code Development Officer, or the Code Enforcement Bureau at (614) 728-5460, or [OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us](mailto:OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us).

## Are You a Tribe Fan?

**Saturday, July 8**  
 Cleveland Indians v. Detroit Tigers  
 7:15 p.m.



2401 Ontario Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
\$25 per ticket

**Tickets are still available** for the 2017 OTA Baseball Outing at the Cleveland Indians! We've reserved a limited number of seats at the July 8 game. Bring your fellow township officials or make it a family day and have fun with the OTA!

A registration form may be downloaded by visiting the OTA's website at [www.ohiotownships.org](http://www.ohiotownships.org) or contacting Angela Stevenson at 614.863.0045 or by email at [stevenson@ohiotownships.org](mailto:stevenson@ohiotownships.org).

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## Ohio Fire & Rescue Officer Development Conference

July 13-17, 2017  
Columbus Hilton at Easton

The fire service and the laws impacting the health and welfare of fire service members are changing. Organizations are going to be challenged with their ability to provide and protect individual members and the organization in the face of changing standards and laws.

Fire service organizations can expect to deal with workplace issues concerning job related behavioral mental health issues, PTSD, presumptive cancer law, and proper decontamination of PPE and equipment. On **Saturday, July 15, 2017**, the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association will be offering three (3) classes that will specifically address many of these issues.

**8:30-10:30 a.m. - "Psychological Fitness for Duty Evaluations - How the Psychologist Can Help You Put Out Fire"**

This primer will touch on the referral process, the evaluation process, and necessary components of the evaluation that will answer your basic questions: Is this worker fit for duty at this time?

**3:45-5:15 p.m. - "Safety, Health and Wellness Open Discussion"**

This session will update you on SB 27, review the details of the bill; BWC discussion of inclusion and exclusion criteria, discuss the International Agency for Research on Cancer, discussion on claims and disability processes, cancer prevention - best practices, discussion of the PTSD bill, discuss causes of occupational internal/external, review symptoms, support systems, resources available, administrative policies and best practices.

**3:45-5:15 p.m. - "NFPA 1851 Care and Cleaning of PPE"**

The focus of this session will be on the proper 1851 procedures with the goal of helping gear last longer, keeping gear performing at its intended optimal levels and awareness of the carcinogenic dangers when gear isn't decontaminated or cleaned properly.

In addition, the conference Trade Show runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Over 90 vendors will be on-hand displaying their products and available to answer your questions. The cost for one (1) workshop pass is \$80.00 with a lunch included. This is an excellent opportunity for Township Administrators and Trustees to increase their knowledge base on several of the new issues that impact their organizations. One day workshop pass can be purchased by visiting:

[www.ohiofirechiefs.com](http://www.ohiofirechiefs.com) or at the door.

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### Ohio Township Association

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