

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



August 3, 2018

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Desperately Seeking Suggestions!

Is there a topic for which you would like more information? Is there a township procedure or regulation you would like to learn more about?

If you answered yes to either question, we need your input! The OTA plans over 90 workshops for the annual winter conference but we need your help to make sure the subject matter and presenters are beneficial to you, our members and the conference attendees.

Please forward specific workshop suggestions to fought@ohiotownships.org or call Heidi at the OTA office at 614.863.0045.

Recent Legislative Activity

Tuesday, July 24

House Concurs on Senate Amendments

[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, to modify the requirements for public records training for elected officials, and to allow a prosecuting attorney to enter into a contract with a regional airport authority, port authority, or regional planning commission as legal adviser. Vote: 83-0

Introduced in the House

[HB 715 WATER/SEWER FUNDS](#) (Schuring, West) To authorize a municipal corporation to use up to 5% of its water and sewer funds for sewerage or water system extensions in each fiscal year when the extension is for economic development purposes.

Monday, July 30

Signed by the Governor

[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, to allow the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to review and vote upon certain license suspensions by telephone, to make various other changes to the embalmers, funeral directors, and crematory licensing laws, and to make an appropriation.

[SB 239 REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS](#) (Dolan) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments to clarify that a municipal corporation eligible to designate a tourism development district may designate more than one district, to specify that the American Law

Institute's approved "Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance" does not constitute the public policy of Ohio, to designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Meigs County as the "Steve Story Memorial Highway," to designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering Memorial Highway," and to designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."

Wednesday, August 1

Meeting with Rep. Becker - Local government issues

Thursday, August 2

Introduced in the House

HB 717 MASSAGE PARLORS (Brenner) To provide townships with the optional authority to regulate massage establishments without requiring the current preliminary registration requirements, to create a criminal penalty for failure to have the requisite state occupational and professional licenses a township may require for a person to perform massages in the township, and to make changes to the current registration requirements.

Seeking Input for 133rd General Assembly Legislative Priorities

One of the OTA's important functions is to seek legislation from the General Assembly which enables township government to function more efficiently and to resist any effort that would deprive townships of any rights, duties or privileges which they now possess. This is accomplished by tracking legislation and educating members of the General Assembly on township issues. In preparation for the 133rd General Assembly, the OTA has begun discussing and collecting legislative priorities.



If you have an idea that you think should be a legislative priority, please email Heidi Fought at fought@ohiotownships.org or call at 614.863.0045.



Recent AG Opinion

2018-019 Joint Ambulance District Authority

Syllabus:

The board of trustees of a joint ambulance district may, pursuant to R.C. 505.72, contract with a nonprofit corporation to receive ambulance services from an emergency medical service organization that is licensed to provide ambulance services pursuant to R.C. 4766.04.

Federal Update

The House is in recess until Sept. 4, while the Senate was in session this week. The Senate voted this week to formally go to conference with the House on the 2018 Farm Bill (H.R. 2); the House unanimously approved a motion to go to conference on the bill on July 18 and Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) appointed a combined 47 conferees to work on the bill.



US House Passes ACCESS BROADBAND Act

On July 23, the House passed, by voice vote, the Advancing Critical Connectivity Expands Service, Small Business Resources, Opportunities, Access, and Data Based on Assessed Need and Demand (ACCESS BROADBAND) Act (H.R. 3994). The bill establishes a single point of contact office to streamline management of federal broadband resources across multiple agencies and create a simpler process for small businesses and local economic developers to access them, including informational workshops for local businesses and economic developers.

The new office would be called the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth and would be created within the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The bill now heads to the Senate.

House Passes FY 2019 Interior-Environment Bill

On July 19, the House passed, by a vote of 217-199, the Interior, Environment, Financial Services, and General Government Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 6147). The \$35.252 billion Interior-Environment bill includes 18 policy riders, **including repealing the WOTUS rule**; exempting the California WaterFix project from judicial review under state or federal law; and exempting water projects operated by the California Department of Water Resources from judicial review.

House Passes Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure & Promoting Flood Risk Mitigation Acts

On July 16, the House passed, by voice vote, the Innovative Stormwater Infrastructure Act of 2018 (H.R. 3906), which requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a task force on stormwater infrastructure funding, including federal, state, and local government officials, and representatives from private and nonprofit entities. The House also passed, by voice vote, the Promoting Flood Risk Mitigation Act (H.R. 5846), which requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) policies for helping state and local governments buy flood-damaged properties.

Thune Eyes Packaging Broadband Deployment Bills

Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.), after a meeting on Wednesday, is eyeing ways to combine his STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act, S. 3157 (115), with "several bills that have been filed" also dealing with "faster deployment of broadband services," he told reporters. He says to expect another hearing on these and noted his STREAMLINE bill, which would ease deployment of 5G infrastructure, "is one we would clearly like to see move this year" perhaps along with "elements or features" of other bills "that could be incorporated into something that could move out of the committee." One major bill that could hitch a ride: the AIRWAVES Act, S. 1682 (115), which would free up more spectrum for commercial use. Opponents to Thune's 5G bill are piling up. Utilities, while not formally opposed, are skeptical. And localities are lobbying against it, with recent negative blog posts from the National Association of Counties and the National League of Cities. During Wednesday's hearing, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) described a "lot of passionate feedback from local officials.

Ohio Ethics Commission Releases Quarterly Newsletter

The Ohio Ethics Commission has released the 2018 3rd Quarter Newsletter. This issue focuses on public employees seeking employment and Ohio's revolving door law. To view the newsletter, please [click here](#).



Ohio Township Association News **Executive Director Job Search**

The State Association is currently accepting resumes for a full-time executive director. Salary and benefits are competitive and negotiable. [Click here](#) for a formal job description for this position. If interested, please mail a cover letter and resume to:

Ohio Township Association
6500 Taylor Road, Suite A
Blacklick, Ohio 43004

Resumes accepted until September 7, 2018. Any resumes submitted shall remain confidential. We are an equal opportunity employer.

Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee Continues Work Studying Autonomous, Connected Vehicles

State Representatives Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) and Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) announced that the Transportation and Public Safety Committee is continuing its work studying autonomous and connected vehicles throughout the summer. The representatives hope to build from the work of the seven-month long study by the committee, which completed hearings earlier this year. The goal was to bring together industry leaders, policy think tanks, and other stakeholders to educate members of the committee and the public on the evolving field of autonomous/connected vehicle technology. The study focused on potential benefits and challenges, how the industry may impact Ohio's economy, manufacturing, public safety, insurance, and infrastructure; as well as a review of current research, testing, federal regulations, and industry activity in Ohio.

Over the course of the summer, members of the committee will continue to research and discuss autonomous and connected vehicles in coordination with experts and industry leaders. They also invite members of the public to provide input on how this industry influences the state of Ohio. This information will help to finalize the committee's report, which will be released later this year.

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