

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



September 21, 2018

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Recent Legislative Activity

Introduced in the House

HB 723 INJECTION WELLS (Holmes) To limit the number of injection well permits that the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management may issue in a county.

HB 727 OPPORTUNITY ZONES (Schuring) To authorize an income tax credit for investments in an Ohio Opportunity Zone.

HB 731 TAX EXPENDITURES (Hoops) To require the Tax Commissioner's biennial tax expenditure report to include information on property tax exemptions and to require the Tax Expenditure Review Committee to periodically review each property tax exemption.

Legislative Meetings/Discussions

Massage Therapists Association - HB 717

Rep. Ginter's office - process and length of time it takes to take care of a nuisance property

Rep. Arndt - possible legislation

Rep. Brenner's office - HB 717

Rep. Butler and local government organizations - tax levies

Sen. Hoagland - roads

Auditor of State's Office - unauditible communities and penalties to force compliance

Federal Update

House and Senate Pass \$147 Billion FY 2019 Energy-Water, Legislative Branch, Military Construction-VA Minibus Appropriations Package

During the week of Sept. 10, Congress passed the final conference report for the \$147 billion FY 2019 Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act (H.R. 5895), which makes up approximately 12 percent of overall FY 2019 spending. The Senate passed the bill on Sept. 12 by a vote of 92-5, while the House passed it on Sept. 13 by a vote of 377-20. The White House has indicated that the President will sign the bill into law once it reaches his desk. Enactment of the minibus package will mark the first time since 2007 that more than one annual appropriations bill was passed on time by Congress prior to the first day of the new fiscal year on October 1. The Trump Administration congratulated Congress for reaching the agreement on the bill, and President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law prior to Sept. 30.



House Passes America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018

On September 13, the House passed, by voice vote, the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 3021; aka Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA). The AWIA bill was "pre-conferenced" between the House and Senate to eliminate the need to negotiate between the two different bills after passage, and saving time in getting the measure approved before the election in November. Among other things, the bill would: authorize several new Corps of Engineers studies, construction and environmental restoration projects as recommended by the Chief of the Corps; reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund at more than \$4.4 billion over the next three years; ease the streamlining process for hydropower projects; reauthorize the popular Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) through FY 2021; and, initiate a study with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to review the Trump Administration's controversial proposal to move at least parts of the Corps out of the Defense Department. The Senate is expected to take up the measure as early as the week of Sept. 17.

EPA Announces New Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule

On August 21, Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced that the EPA has proposed a new rule, entitled the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule, to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing coal-fired electric utility generating units and power plants across the country. The proposal establishes emission guidelines for states to use when developing plans to limit GHGs at their power plants. According to the EPA, the "ACE Rule replaced the prior administration's overly prescriptive and burdensome Clean Power Plan (CPP) and instead empowers states, promotes energy independence, and facilitates economic growth and job creation." The EPA will take public comments on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register (i.e., late October 2018) and will hold a public hearing.



ORIL Looking for Township Participation

Ohio's Research Initiative for Locals (ORIL) and the Ohio Department of Transportation are conducting a study on "Asphalt Mix Overlay Alternative for Low Volume Roads on the Local Transportation System". The goal of this study is to identify or develop a mix design method for a hot mix asphalt (HMA) that can be used by local public agencies throughout Ohio for pavement rehabilitation on low-volume roads with extensive cracking. The recommended mix design method shall result in an asphalt mixture that can be produced in a conventional HMA plant and be placed using readily available paving equipment.

As part of this study, a survey was developed to document the current state-of-the-practice for pavement rehabilitation on low-volume roads with extensive cracking. Please note that this survey is only related to low-volume roads, which are defined as those having a traffic volume equal to or less than 500 vehicles per day. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

To view and submit your survey, please click on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPPJHK6>.

If you are not the appropriate person at your agency to complete this survey, please forward this email to the correct person. **The survey will be available through Friday, October 5, 2018.** Please submit your responses by October 5th.

If you have any questions, please contact the principal investigator for this study, Dr. Ala R. Abbas of the University of Akron, at abbas@uakron.edu or 330-972-8242. Additional materials you would like to provide to supplement your survey response may be emailed directly to Dr. Abbas. Thank you very much for your time and expertise.

Ohio's Research Initiative for Locals (ORIL)
1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223
614.466.3029 / 614.644.8135
<http://oril.transportation.ohio.gov>



State Fire Marshal Filing Changes to Ohio Fire Code

Please be advised that the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) is filing a rule errata/amendment package with the Common Sense Initiative to amend selected portions of the Ohio Fire Code, also known as Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) sections 1301:7-7-01 through 1301:7-7-80. Specifically, amendments are being made to

Rules 1 (and Appendices A and B), 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 23, 27, 32, 50, 56, 57, 60, 61, and 62.

This information is being provided pursuant to the requirements of Executive Order 2011-01K and Senate Bill 2 of the 129th General Assembly, which require agencies, including the SFM, to draft rules in collaboration with stakeholders, assess and justify any adverse impact on the business community (as defined in S.B. 2), and provide an opportunity for the affected public to provide input on the rules. The OFC was recently extensively updated as a part of the required five year rule review process. The current amendments to the rules specified above are to address typographical errors, errors that occurred during the filing process, and to make changes to Section 320 (regarding Mobile Food Units) and paragraph 906.1 (regarding portable fire extinguishers).

You can view the proposed rules and the Business Impact Analysis (BIA) instrument by going to the SFM's website (www.com.ohio.gov/fire) and clicking on the "2017 Ohio Fire Code" tab on the right hand side of the screen. Under a section titled "Errata" you will find a link to a [red-lined version of the rules being amended](#), a [chart of the changes](#), and the BIA.

If you wish to submit a comment on the changes being made in the 2017 OFC Errata package or the BIA, please send your comments to the SFM at OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us AND to the Common Sense Initiative Office at csipubliccomments@governor.ohio.gov no later than the close of business Thursday, September 27, 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the 2017 OFC or the errata package, please send an inquiry to OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us or contact the SFM's Code Enforcement Bureau at 614.728.5460.

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