

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



November 17, 2017

To print this alert as a PDF, [please click here](#).



From all of us at the OTA
to all of you and yours,
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Legislative Activities This Week

Tuesday, November 14

Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee

SB 118 WORKERS COMPENSATION (LaRose, Brown) 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.

Sponsors Sen. Brown and Sen. LaRose said their bill would better serve peace officers and other emergency by enabling those diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder arising from employment to be eligible for workers' compensation without having an accompanying physical injury. Currently coverage in those cases is only extended to those who also sustain a physical injury precipitating the PTSD. This is the third time the bill has been introduced in recent years.

Senate Judiciary Committee

HB 79 FIREARMS TRAINING (Retherford, Hagan) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training and has been authorized by the law enforcement agency to carry firearms while on duty; and to grant such a professional the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a concealed handgun licensee.

Rep. Retherford provided sponsor testimony on the legislation.

Wednesday, November 15

House Transportation & Public Safety Committee

HB 384 VEHICLE TOWING (Gonzales) To require only one notice to be sent to a vehicle owner and any known lienholder after a vehicle is towed from a private tow-away zone. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Gonzales, in sponsor testimony, said current law is burdensome in that it requires private tow companies to issue three certified letters to owners and lienholders of a vehicle to be towed from a private property tow-away zone. The bill, which would require just a single certified letter, brings the requirement more in line with those of law enforcement-ordered tows. It would therefore save dollars spent on additional staffing and save space in private tow yards.

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

SB 165 BRINE SALES (Dolan, Skindell) To establish conditions and requirements for the sale of brine from certain oil or gas operations as a commodity and to exempt such a commodity from requirements otherwise applicable to brine.

Representatives of the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund and the Environmental Defense Fund expressed concerns the bill would not provide adequate oversight of future use of brine-related products.

Thursday, November 16

Rep. Merrin & Local Government & School Organizations - HB 342, 343, & 371

Senate Leadership Staff - HB 69

Friday, November 17

County Engineers Association - OTA Winter Conference, paper roads

Recently Introduced Legislation

HB 413 OPERS BENEFITS (Scherer) Regarding Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) annual cost-of-living adjustments granted to allowance and benefit recipients and PERS service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities. Am. 145.323 and to enact sections 145.018 and 145.321

HB 415 ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND (Greenspan, Ryan) Establishes the Local GOvernment Road Improvement Fund and provides that fifty percent of surplus revenue in the state's general fund at the clost of a fiscal year be directed into the Fund.

Attorney General Opinion

2017-040 Township Mausoleums

Syllabus:

Pursuant to R.C. 517.10, title to a mausoleum owned by a private mausoleum association and located in the unincorporated area of a township is vested in the board of township trustees when the mausoleum was used by the public as a public cemetery and it is determined that the private mausoleum association no longer owns and cares for the mausoleum. Once title to the mausoleum vests in the board of township trustees, the board has a duty under R.C. 517.11 to care for, protect, and maintain the mausoleum that is under its jurisdiction.

Federal Update

The House and Senate were in session this week. The House voted and passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1), the tax reform bill which would lower the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent, collapse seven individual income-



rate brackets into four, and alter or eliminate dozens of current tax deductions.

The Senate Finance Committee began marking up their own version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on Monday, with the multi-day markup likely concluding on Wednesday or Thursday, and a floor vote the week of November 27. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch's mark of the bill contains a number of differences from the bill headed to the House floor this week. Unlike the House bill, which would immediately lower the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent, the Senate draft would delay the reduced rate until Jan. 1, 2019. Additionally, the Senate draft would keep seven income tax brackets while the House bill reduces it to four. Other major differences include: the House version would wipe out the deduction for medical expenses while the Senate draft would retain it; the House version would cap the state and local property tax deduction at \$10,000/year while the Senate draft would completely eliminate all state and local tax deductions (SALT); the House version would reduce the mortgage interest deduction to \$500,000 while the Senate draft would keep it at the current level of \$1 million; and the House and Senate versions treat "pass through" companies (i.e., sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies and S-Corporations) differently.

ODOT Wants YOUR Input: Draft TSMO Plan Review

The transportation environment is changing. Customers have increased expectations; including receiving accurate reliable information, increased use of technology to solve problems and greater demands for government transparency. ODOT is working to meet these expectations by placing an emphasis on measuring performance and embracing the transformative role of technology and information. Faced with increasing mobility demand and constrained resources, our goal is to optimize the performance of existing infrastructure and provide measureable high-value transportation solutions.

As you may be aware, ODOT is developing a department-wide plan for new strategies in traffic management and system operations (TSMO). Coordination with local government partners is a priority in the plan, which also focuses on ensuring that the transportation system is operating as efficiently and reliably as possible. ODOT will be focused on alleviating congestion and increasing safety without adding capacity. The plan also represents a shift in philosophy from traffic monitoring to traffic management.

With this shift, the need to proactively plan for operational improvements has become more important. ODOT's draft plan represents a first, agency-wide attempt to emphasize the importance of planning for operations and develop a process that allows for this to occur. The draft plan is the product of an intensive development process that included staff interviews, workshops, meetings and document review. The recommendations constitute the beginning of a policy framework to guide the TSMO Program's development. As we finalize the plan we are seeking your input on the Plan.

Your input is very important to the finalization of this plan. You can review the various components of the plan by clicking [here](http://odot.questionpro.com) and provide your feedback online by going to: <http://odot.questionpro.com>. Comments are due by November 30, 2017. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the draft plan in more detail, please feel free to contact one of the ODOT Project Managers:

John MacAdam
Division of Operations
614.752.9695

John.Macadam@dot.ohio.gov

OR

Vicky Fout
Office of Statewide Planning & Research
614.466.3029

Vicky.Fout@dot.ohio.gov

Ohio Township Association

6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004
614.863.0045 | www.OhioTownships.org
fought@ohiotownships.org