

# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



**November 30, 2018**

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## Township Omnibus Bill (HB 500) Scheduled for a Committee Vote Next Week

The [Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee](#) has placed **HB 500** on the calendar next week for all testimony, possible amendments and a possible vote. This bill currently includes 17 different provisions that impact township government and was introduced at the request of the Ohio Township Association.

Given that there is limited time left in this General Assembly, it appears that HB 500 will likely be used as a vehicle to pass other legislative items. This is known around the Statehouse as a "Christmas Tree Bill." At this time, the OTA is aware of over 20 amendments being proposed to HB 500. Some of these amendments directly impact townships (and we have requested them) and others have no impact at all. The ones that have no impact on townships are being considered for inclusion because they impact other forms of local government - the nexus of the bill.

Should the Committee pass the bill on Tuesday morning, it is our hope that the full Senate will vote on the measure Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday and that the House will concur on the changes Wednesday or Thursday. Please watch for multiple alerts next week, as the "Lame Duck" session heats up.

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## Legislative Activity This Week

### Tuesday, November 27

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

**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.

*No testimony was presented. The bill has been scheduled for a vote next week in Committee.*

**HB 454 CEMETERY LOTS** (Patterson, Arndt) To require a township to offer compensation to responsive owners of certain unused cemetery lots and rights.

*Ashtabula County resident Scott Tripp submitted written testimony in favor of the legislation, as did the Ohio Township Association. The bill has been scheduled for a vote next week in Committee.*

**HB 500 TOWNSHIP LAWS** (Carfagna) To make various changes to township law.



The bill had a second hearing. The OTA testified in support of the measure, as did Springfield Township Administrator Mike Hampton (pictured left with Sponsor Rep. Rick Carfagna). The following submitted written testimony in support of the bill:

- Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships
- Jackson Township, Stark County
- Boardman Township Mahoning County
- Anderson Township, Hamilton County
- Sugarcreek Township, Greene County
- Trustee Robert Kroshefky (Union County)

Thank you for all of your efforts to pass the bill!

Rep. Wiggam - potential amendment to HB 500  
Rep. Holmes' office - potential amendment to HB 500

### **House State & Local Government**

**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.

*Legislators voted unanimously to pass the bill after hearing testimony from the Ohio Municipal League.*

**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.

*The American Massage Therapy Association's Ohio Chapter testified as an interested party, encouraging the committee to update the terminology in the bill related to massage therapy. Written testimony was offered by Citizens for Community Values.*

### **Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions**

**HB 489 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** (Dever) To revise the laws governing credit unions, to provide some regulatory relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection.

*The Committee adopted several amendments to the bill, including parts of SB 292, which would permit political subdivisions to utilize credit unions as their banking institution. The bill was favorably reported to the full Senate for a vote. On Wednesday, the full Senate voted unanimously to support the bill. The House must now concur on the changes made by the Senate.*

### **Senate Finance**

**SB 72 PREVAILING WAGE** (Huffman) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects.

*Senator Huffman presented sponsor testimony.*

### **House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor**

**HB 625 AUXILIARY CONTAINERS** (Lang, Lipps) To authorize a person to use an auxiliary container for any purpose, to prohibit a municipal corporation, charter county, or limited home rule township from imposing a tax or fee on auxiliary containers, and to clarify that the existing anti-littering law applies to auxiliary containers.

*The Surfrider Foundation Northern Ohio Chapter, the Sierra Club-Ohio Chapter, Greater Cleveland Aquarium, Alliance for the Great Lakes, and the League of Women Voters testified in opposition to the legislation. The Ohio Chemistry Technology Council testified in support of the measure. The Committee voted 9-4 to favorably report the bill to the full House for a vote. On Wednesday, the full House voted 54-29 to send the bill to the Senate for consideration.*

## **House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security**

**HB 747 CYBERSECURITY** (Romanchuk, Lanese) To create the civilian cyber security reserve force.  
*The Committee favorably reported the bill to the full House for a vote, which happened on Wednesday.*

### **Wednesday, November 28**

#### **Senate Ways & Means**

**HB 342 TAX LEVIES** (Merrin) To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.

*Sponsor Merrin provided an overview of the legislation.*

**HB 343 PROPERTY VALUES** (Merrin) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.

*The Committee accepted a substitute bill that significantly alters the parameters for challenging property values for tax purposes, increases the valuation threshold for counter-complaints, and requires a local government to pass a single resolution for each challenge. Statewide education groups continued to oppose the measure.*

### **Thursday, November 29**

Rep. Carfagna, Sen. Uecker, House and Senate Majority Caucus Staff - HB 500 and possible amendments

### **Friday, November 29**

Fix Our Roads Coalition - road funding

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## **Legislative Activity for Next Week**

### **Tuesday, December 4**

**Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs** (Ch. Uecker, (614) 466-8082), S. Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

**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.

*4th Hearing - All testimony - Possible vote*

**HB 454 CEMETERY LOTS** (Patterson, Arndt) To require a township to offer compensation to responsive owners of certain unused cemetery lots and rights.

*3rd Hearing - All testimony - Possible vote*

**HB 500 TOWNSHIP LAWS** (Carfagna) To make various changes to township law.

*3rd Hearing - All testimony - Possible amendments / vote*

**House Finance** (Ch. Ryan, (614) 466-1482), Rm. 313, 1:00 p.m.

**HB 322 EMERGENCY PLANS** (Miller, Kent) To revise the law regarding emergency management plans and school safety drills; to require each educational service center to employ an emergency response planner; to make an appropriation; and to declare an emergency.

*1st Hearing-Sponsor*

**HB 654 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING** (Smith, Boggs) To make a supplemental appropriation under the budget of the Auditor of State to make disbursements to political subdivisions appearing on the Auditor of State's fiscal caution, fiscal watch, or fiscal emergency list during the FY 2018-FY 2019 biennium.

*1st Hearing-Sponsor*

### **Wednesday, December 5**

**Senate Ways & Means** (Ch. Eklund, (614) 644-7718), S. Hearing Rm., 9:00 a.m.

**HB 343 PROPERTY VALUES** (Merrin) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.

*5th Hearing - All testimony - Possible amendments / vote*

Thursday, December 6

**Senate Government Oversight & Reform** (Ch. Coley, (614) 466-8072), N. Hearing Rm., 9:00 a.m.  
**HB 425 BODY CAMERAS** (Antani, Craig) To declare police body camera recordings not to be public records.

3rd Hearing - All testimony - Possible amendments / vote

**House State & Local Government** (Ch. Anielski, (614) 644-6041), Rm. 116, 11:00 a.m.  
**HB 717 MESSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS** (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.

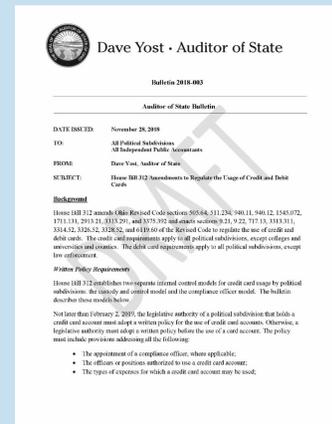
3rd Hearing - All testimony - Possible amendments

## HB 312 Bulletin Released by Auditor of State's Office

The Auditor of State's office has released a bulletin (2018-003) detailing the recently enacted **House Bill 312**, which requires all local governments that use a credit card to have a policy authorizing the use of such a card.

To view the bulletin, please visit the Auditor of State's [website](#).

To read HB 312 in its entirety, please visit the General Assembly's website or click [here](#).



### Ohio Township Association

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