



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert

April 5, 2019

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Legislative Action This Week

Governor's Signs Transportation Budget

The General Assembly has reached an agreement on [HB 62](#), the biennial transportation budget, and the Governor signed the bill on April 3rd.

The bill contains the following provisions that the OTA was tracking:

- A 10.5 cent increase on gasoline and a 19 cent increase on diesel effective July 1st;
- 55/45 split between the state and local governments, but ODOT receives 2% off the top;
- CNG charged at the diesel rate, but phased in over 5 years;
- A \$200 registration fee for electric vehicles and \$100 fee for hybrid vehicles;
- Use of the 2003 township revenue distribution method that allocates the greater of a flat rate to all townships or a formula based on road miles and vehicle registrations;
- The ability for townships to levy a permissive \$5 license fee;
- The ability for joint ambulance districts to enter into lease-purchase agreements;
- The ability for local officials to simultaneously serve on Transportation Improvement District boards.

You can find an estimate of the revenue that HB 62 will provide [here](#).

Please remember to thank your legislators for their work on this bill and taking township concerns into consideration.

Statehouse Committee Updates

Conference Committee Hearings - HB 62 Conference Committee

[HB 62 TRANSPORTATION BUDGET](#) (Oelslager) - To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

The House and Senate reached an agreement on HB 62 and reported the bill from committee to be voted on by both chambers. OTA position - support.

House Committee Hearings - Economic and Workforce Development

[HB 149 TAX EXEMPTION](#) (Merrin) - To enact the "Affordable Homebuilding and Housing Act" to temporarily exempt from property tax the increased value of land subdivided for residential

development.

Rep. Merrin gave sponsor testimony on the bill. OTA position - opposed.

House Committee Hearings - Ways and Means

[HB 75 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 heard opposition testimony from several groups, including the Municipal League, County Commissioners Association, school groups, and others. OTA position - opposed.

[HB 76 ELECTION NOTICES](#) (Merrin) - To enact the "Ballot Uniformity and Transparency Act" to modify the form of election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.

The OTA submitted opposition testimony along with the Municipal League, BASA, OSBA, OASBO, and the Ohio Library Council. OTA position - opposed.

Senate Committee Hearings - Finance

[SB 50 SOLID WASTE FEES](#) (Eklund) - To increase state solid waste disposal fee that is deposited into the Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance Fund, and to make an appropriation.

The committee heard proponent testimony from the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District. OTA position - interested party.

Senate Committee Hearings - Government Oversight and Reform

[SB 52 CYBER SECURITY](#) (Gavarone) - To create the civilian cyber security reserve forces, to make the Secretary of State a member of the Homeland Security Advisory Council, to require the Secretary of State to appoint a chief information security officer, to require the boards of elections to audit election results, and to make an appropriation.

The bill was reported unanimously and subsequently passed the full Senate. OTA position - proponent.

Senate Committee Hearings - Health, Human Services, and Medicaid

[SB 105 MASSAGE THERAPY](#) (Brenner) - To make changes to the massage therapy licensing law.

Rep. Brenner gave sponsor testimony on the bill. OTA position - support.

Senate Committee Hearings - Ways and Means

[SB 8 OPPORTUNITY ZONES](#) (Schuring) - To authorize tax credits for investments in an Ohio Opportunity Zone.

The committee amended the bill to further apply its provisions in the event that the federal government expands the program, adjust the review processing period to 60 days, and make other changes suggested by DSA. The bill was reported unanimously and subsequently passed the full Senate. OTA position - interested party.

Bills in Committee Next Week

House Finance Subcommittees - various days and times

[HB 166 STATE BUDGET](#) (Oelslager) - To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

Finance Subcommittees continue to meet and hear testimony from various agencies and organizations on their individual budgets. The full Finance Committee will not meet.

House Criminal Justice - Thursday, April 11th at 11:00am

[SB 10 THEFT IN OFFICE](#) (Wilson) - To expand the penalties for theft in office based on the

amount stolen and to include as restitution audit costs of the entity that suffered the loss.
1st hearing - sponsor testimony; OTA position - support

House Economic and Workforce Development - Wednesday, April 10th at 10:00am

[HB 149 TAX EXEMPTION](#) (Merrin) - To enact the "Affordable Homebuilding and Housing Act" to temporarily exempt from property tax the increased value of land subdivided for residential development.

2nd hearing - proponent testimony; OTA position - opposed

House Ways and Means - Tuesday, April 9th at 3:00pm

[HB 75 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.

4th hearing - all testimony, possible vote; OTA position - opposed

[HB 76 ELECTION NOTICES](#) (Merrin) - To enact the "Ballot Uniformity and Transparency Act" to modify the form of election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.

4th hearing - all testimony, possible amendments, possible vote; OTA position - opposed

House Public Utilities - Wednesday, April 10th at 11:00am

[HB 163 WATER/SEWER SERVICE](#) (Brinkman) - To create a process for withholding local government funds and state water and sewer assistance from municipal corporations that engage in certain water and sewer practices with respect to extraterritorial service.

1st hearing - sponsor testimony; OTA position - support

Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs - Tuesday, April 9th at 11:15am

[SB 114 NOISE REGULATIONS](#) (Hottinger) - To expand the authority of a township to regulate noise within the unincorporated area of the township.

1st hearing - sponsor testimony; OTA position - support

Let us know if you are interested in testifying on any of these bills.

Bill Introductions

[HB 186 RAIL YARD SAFETY](#) (Hillyer, Sheehy) - Regarding rail yard walkway safety and illumination, two-person freight train crews, and public roadway obstruction that delays emergency vehicles.

[HB 187 TAX ISSUES-AUGUST](#) (Merrin, Wiggam) - To prohibit local tax-related proposals from appearing on an August special election ballot

BWC Safety Update

Access the latest Bureau of Workers' Compensation Safety Update [here](#).

Federal Update

Congressional Action

The Senate resumed consideration of the disaster relief bill, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 268), which would provide about \$13.4 billion in aid for communities and federal agencies affected by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019.



A packed committee schedule highlighted another busy week for FY 2020 budget and appropriations. The budget hearings for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees included: the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Commerce, and Health and Human Services; Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Emergency Management Agency; Federal Communications Commission; and National Parks Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey.

On Thursday, Trump met with the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, which is tasked with carrying out the Trump Administration's plan to encourage public and private investment in urban and economically distressed areas, including qualified opportunity zones.

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