



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert

April 12, 2019

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Legislative Action This Week

OTA Testifies on Operating Budget

As we close out work on the transportation budget, the biennial operating budget is in full swing. This week, the OTA testified before the House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources on [HB 166](#), the biennial budget.

OTA testimony was focused on funding in four main areas:

- *LGF*: The OTA expressed support for the bump in LGF in the Governor's proposed budget and requested additional revenue for townships through the LGF.
- *Indigent Burials*: The state cut local government reimbursements for indigent burial in 2001. The OTA requested that this support be restored to assist townships with the cost of burials.
- *Solid Waste Fees*: The Governor's proposed budget extended the current solid waste fees through 2022. The OTA requested an increase in host community fees to help defray the strain on local services around these facilities.
- *Audit Support*: Auditor Faber requested \$10 million/year to support local government audit costs. Without this additional revenue, local governments will have to pay more for their audits. The OTA expressed support for this funding.

Additionally, the OTA requested support of several other amendments that do not have a price tag, including increased ability to regulate noise, allowing the use of comp time, and others. You can read the OTA's full testimony [here](#) or watch the committee hearing [here](#) - Heidi's testimony begins at 45:15.

Amendments for HB 166 are due today, April 12th, so the House will put its first marks on the bill soon.

You can find additional information on HB 166, including appropriation spreadsheets and analyses, [here](#).

OTA Meetings

The OTA continued new member meetings this week, sitting down with Rep. Crawley (D-Columbus), Rep. Richardson (R-Marysville), and Rep. Crossman (D-Parma) to discuss the budget and other upcoming issues.

Statehouse Committee Updates

House Committee Hearings - Criminal Justice

[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.

Sen. Wilson gave sponsor testimony in the House on the bill; 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.

The committee heard proponent testimony from the Home Builders Association and the Real Estate Investors Association; 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 opponent testimony from OASBO, OSBA, BASA, and several local school officials. The bill was reported from committee 11-9; 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 joined opponent testimony with OASBO, OSBA, BASA, the Municipal League, and the Library Council. The bill was reported from committee 12-7; OTA position - opposed.

House Committee Hearings - Public Utilities

[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.

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

Senate Committee Hearings - Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs

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

Sen. Hottinger gave sponsor testimony on the bill; OTA position - support.

Bill Introductions

[HB 6 CLEAN AIR PROGRAM](#) (Callender, Wilkin) - To create the Ohio Clean Air Program, to facilitate and encourage electricity production and use from clean air resources, to facilitate investment to reduce the emissions from other generating technologies that can be readily dispatched to satisfy demand in real time, and proactively engage the buying power of consumers in this state for the purpose of improving air quality in this state.

[HB 197 TAX CODE CORRECTIONS](#) (Powell, Merrin) - To enact the "Tax Code Streamlining and Correction Act" to make technical and corrective changes to the laws governing taxation.

Excavation Survey – OTA Needs Your Help!

The Ohio Underground Damage Prevention Coalition is seeking information from townships and municipalities regarding activities relating to excavation in the public right-of-way, such as, but not limited to, the following:

- storm sewers
- hydro excavation
- curb replacement - removes existing curb and recreates base material for new curb.
- repair and cleaning of drainage ditches
- excavation of deteriorated street surface and replacement with solid base material and asphalt or concrete
- occasional berm and yard damage caused by wear, erosion and straying vehicles and trucks
- drainage culvert piping repair for driveways and installations
- occasional tree and bush removal in road right of ways disturb the surface

Does your township call 811 before doing the above types of work, regardless if the work will require digging deeper than 12 inches? Whether the township calls 811 or not, does damage to the underground infrastructure tend to occur during these types of excavation activities?

Please take a moment to complete a short (ONLY TWO QUESTIONS!) survey on this topic by clicking [here](#). Deadline to complete this survey is April 15.

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