



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert

April 19, 2019

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Legislative Action This Week

Legislature on Spring Break, House Looks At Budget Amendments

Action in the General Assembly will slow this week and next as the Legislature pauses for spring break. However, work is still happening behind the scenes on the budget and in public hearings on HB 6 (see below).

The House deadline for the first round of budget amendments ([HB 166](#)) was April 12th. According to Gongwer News Service, House members submitted nearly 2,000 budget amendments. Leadership will be working through those amendments to develop a substitute bill that the House Finance Committee will consider shortly after the Legislature returns.

The OTA requested the following budget amendments:

- Additional funding through the township pot (currently \$10 million/year) in the LGF;
- Reinstitution of the indigent burial reimbursement program through ODJFS and a \$1 million appropriation to support the program;
- Addition of parameters around the transfer of cemeteries to townships;
- Authority for townships to regulate noise township-wide;
- Requiring notice of excavation on township rights-of-way;
- Requiring notice of conforming boundaries;
- Updating township nuisance statutes for consistency;
- Allowing townships to authorize the use of comp time.

The House and Senate will both be back in session on May 1st.

House Clean Energy Plan Unveiled

The House introduced a major energy bill last Friday, [HB 6](#) - the Ohio Clean Air Program. The bill creates credits for companies that are certified a clean air resource through the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority. A \$9.25 credit will be available to companies for every megawatt hour of electricity produced.

To fund the credit, electric utility customers are required to pay a monthly fee, as outlined in the bill. However, the bill also exempts customers from current renewable energy and energy efficiency charges.

The House began hearings on HB 6 this week. The bill is under the [House Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#) and the [Subcommittee on Energy Generation](#). House leadership has labeled this bill as a priority.

Statehouse Committee Updates

House Committee Hearings - Energy and Natural Resources

[HB 6 ENERGY](#) (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.

Reps. Callender and Wilkin gave sponsor testimony before the full committee. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Energy Generation.

House Committee Hearings - Subcommittee on Energy Generation

[HB 6 ENERGY](#) (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.

The committee heard proponent testimony from FirstEnergy Solutions, Ohio Clean Energy Jobs Alliance, Nuclear Energy Institute, Lake and Summit Counties, Ottawa County Improvement Corporation, and others.

Bills in Committee Next Week

House Subcommittee on Energy Generation - TBD

[HB 6 ENERGY](#) (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.

2nd hearing - opponent and interested party testimony

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

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 202 ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE](#) (K. Smith, Weinstein) - To establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study Committee.

[HB 204 PAPER BALLOTS-VOTING MACHINES](#) (Galonski) - To require new voting systems to use paper ballots.

Treasurer of State Programs

The Office of Treasurer Sprague provided the following documents for your information:

An explanation of the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), which includes some suggested best practice for local governments. You can view the one-page document [here](#).

Information on the Ohio Market Access Program (OMAP), which leverages state resources to reduce costs for local government debt issuance. You can view the one-page document [here](#).

April OPERSource Available

To view the April OPERSource Update, click [here](#).

Southwest OH Public Works Expo

The 2019 Southwest Ohio APWA Public Works Expo will be held **Tuesday, April 30th at the Sharonville Convention Center** in Cincinnati.

For more information and the registration form, click [here](#).

Federal Update

VRIPA Introduced in Senate

The Senate introduced its version of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA) last week, [S. 1210](#). This bill is a companion to H.R. 1241, which would allow volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel to receive property tax-based incentives or other incentives tax-free, up to \$600.



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