



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert

April 26, 2019

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Legislative Action This Week

Testimony on House Clean Energy Bill Continues

The [House Subcommittee on Energy Generation](#) continued a lively discussion on [HB 6](#) - the Ohio Clean Air Program. Between written and in person, the committee received over 100 pieces of testimony - both proponent and opponent.

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 bill sponsors have said they are working on a substitute bill. Committee hearings will likely continue next week.

OTA Meetings This Week

The OTA met with House Majority Whip Jay Edwards and other local government groups to discuss local government funding as it relates to the state budget bill.

Statehouse Committee Updates

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 testimony from numerous witnesses from across the state.

Bills in Committee Next Week

House Finance - Tuesday, April 30th - Thursday, May 2nd at 9:00am

[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.

6th hearing - all testimony on Thursday, May 2nd

House Transportation & Public Safety - Tuesday, April 30th at 11:00am

[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.

1st hearing - sponsor testimony; OTA position - support

House Ways & Means - Tuesday, April 30th at 3:00pm

[HB 143 TAX CREDIT](#) (KELLER, CERA) - To grant income tax credits to persons who serve as volunteer peace officers, firefighters, or emergency medical technicians.

2nd hearing - proponent testimony; OTA position - support

House Economic & Workforce Development - Wednesday, May 1st at 10:00am

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

1st hearing - sponsor testimony

[HB 98 LOAN FUND](#) (JONES, CERA) - To reinstate the rural industrial park loan fund and to make an appropriation.

2nd hearing - proponent testimony

House Public Utilities - Wednesday, May 1st 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.

2nd hearing - proponent testimony; OTA position - support

House State & Local Government - Wednesday, May 1st at 3:00pm

[HB 46 SPENDING DATABASE](#) (GREENSPAN) - To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database.

4th hearing - all testimony, possible amendments

[HB 74 JUNK WATERCRAFT](#) (ARNDT) - To prohibit a property owner from leaving a junk watercraft vessel or outboard motor uncovered in the open on the owner's property.

2nd hearing - proponent testimony; OTA position - support

House Criminal Justice - Thursday, May 2nd 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.

2nd hearing - proponent testimony; OTA position - support

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

Bill Introductions

[HB 190 FIBER BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT](#) (Smith) - To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program, to encourage the Department of Transportation to work with telecommunications providers to lay fiber optic cable, and to make an appropriation.

[HB 211 ABANDONED WATERCRAFT TITLE](#) (Arndt) - To establish a process by which a person may obtain title to a watercraft vessel or outboard motor that has been left on the person's property.

[HB 218 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS](#) (Patton) - To authorize certain public entities to enter into public-private initiatives with a private party through a public-private agreement regarding public facilities.

[HB 219 SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES](#) (Becker, Hoops) - To alter the law relative to Sunday sales of beer and intoxicating liquor and to name the act the "Sunday Alcohol, Liquor, and Especially Spirits Act" or "SALES Act."

[HB 220 GOVERNMENT BLOCKCHAIN USE](#) (Carfagna) - To allow a governmental entity to utilize distributed ledger technology, including blockchain technology.

[SB 132 GAS TAX-LOCAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATION](#) (Williams) - To modify the amount of revenue derived from any increase in the motor fuel tax rate that is allocated to local governments and to change the manner in which that revenue is divided between municipal corporations, counties, and townships.

BUILD Grants Available

Last week, DOT released the [FY 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development \(BUILD\) Grant](#).

The BUILD program supports surface transportation projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to: highway, bridge or other road projects; public transportation projects; passenger and freight rail transportation projects; port infrastructure investments; and intermodal projects. Awards may also be issued for the planning, preparation, or design of eligible projects, including environmental analyses, feasibility studies, and other pre-construction activities.

Applications must be submitted by 8pm ET, Monday, July 15, 2019. You can find additional information [here](#).

USDA Local Food Initiatives

[FY 2019 Farmers Market Promotion Program \(FMPP\)](#): FMPP funds projects that develop, coordinate, and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. This program supports two project types: capacity building projects and community-development, training, and technical assistance projects. In FY 2019, the funding agency expects to award \$11.5 million under this program. Award amounts vary by project type.

[FY 2019 Local Food Promotion Program \(LFPP\)](#): LFPP funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. This program supports two project types: Planning Grants, and Implementation Grants. In FY 2019, the funding agency expects to award \$11.5 million under this program. Award amounts vary by project type.

New this year is that both programs require a 25% match. *Applications are due June 18, 2019.*

Federal Update



Congressional Action

The House and Senate are in recess until Monday, April 29. Next week, the House will vote on the Climate Action Now Act ([H.R. 9](#)), which would keep the United States in the 2016 Paris Agreement on climate change; prohibit the use of federal funds to take actions to remove the U.S. from the accord; and require the White House to submit to Congress a plan for the U.S. to meet its voluntary commitments under the Paris Agreement and to use the deal's transparency provisions to hold other countries accountable for meeting their commitments.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees will also begin marking up individual FY 2020 Appropriations bills beginning in early-mid May. When the Senate returns, it will consider eight executive and judicial nominations.



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