



Ohio Township Association

Legislative Alert

January 31, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

Township Omnibus Scheduled for Hearing

The OTA's township omnibus bill, [HB 444](#), will receive its first hearing next week. The bill is sponsored by Reps. Baldrige (R-Winchester) and Abrams (R-Harrison) and contains a collection of township issues. You can view a summary [here](#).

The bill is pending in the [House State and Local Government Committee](#).

HB 163 Receives Another Hearing

[HB 163](#) (Brinkman), which would withhold local government funds from municipalities that charge unjustifiably higher extraterritorial rates to townships and their residents, received a 6th hearing in the House Public Utilities this week.

Trustees Bob Kusmer (Ballville Township/Sandusky County) and Randy Ormeroid (Delaware Township/Delaware County) testified before the committee, sharing their personal experiences with water and sewer rates.

Legislative Meetings

The OTA attended an interested party meeting hosted by Rep. Ghanbari (R-Perrysburg) regarding township police.

Statehouse Committee Updates

Senate Committee Hearings - Energy & Public Utilities

[SB 234 WIND REGULATIONS](#) (MCCOLLEY) - To require inclusion of safety specifications in wind farm certificate applications, to modify wind turbine setbacks, and to permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm certificates.

The committee heard proponent testimony from several witnesses, including Erie County Township Association Vice President Michael Parker.

House Committee Hearings - Insurance Committee

[HB 308 PTSD COVERAGE](#) (PATTON) - Concerning workers' compensation and disability retirement for peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical workers diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder arising from employment without an accompanying physical injury.

The committee heard opponent testimony from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. The OTA submitted written opposition testimony along with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the Ohio Manufacturers Association. The committee accepted an amendment removing the one year cap on benefits in the bill; OTA position - opposed.

House Committee Hearings - Public Utilities Committee

[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.

The committee heard proponent testimony from Bob Kusmer (Ballville Township/Sandusky County) and Randy Ormeroid (Delaware Township/Delaware County); OTA position - support.

Bills in Committee Next Week

Senate Ways and Means Committee - Tuesday, February 4th at 11:15am

[SB 212 PROPERTY TAXATION](#) (SCHURING) - To authorize townships and municipal corporations to designate areas within which new homes and improvements to existing homes are wholly or partially exempted from property taxation.

4th hearing - all testimony; OTA position - support.

[SB 190 INCOME TAX CREDIT](#) (SCHAFFER) - To allow an income tax credit for law enforcement officials who purchase safety or protective items to be used in the course of official law enforcement activities.

3rd hearing - all testimony; OTA position - support.

House State and Local Government Committee - Wednesday, February 5th at 3:00pm

[HB 444 TOWNSHIP LAWS](#) (BALDRIDGE, ABRAMS) - To make various changes to township law.

1st hearing - sponsor testimony; OTA position - support.

If you are interested in testifying, please let the OTA know.

Bills Recently Introduced

[HB 485 REMOVE RENEWAL REQUIREMENT - CAUV PROGRAM](#) (Stephens, Scherer) - To remove a requirement that owners of farmland enrolled in the CAUV program must file a renewal application each year in order to remain in the program.

OhioERC Online Training

The Ohio Electronic Records Committee (OhioERC) is proud to announce the release of its first interactive, [online training module](#)! The module, Social Media: The Records Management Challenge, delves into topics such as:

- Government use of social media - through both public and personal accounts;
- Capture, management, and disposition factors of records created on social media;
- Citizen interaction with government through social media.

This **free training** is geared toward governments that have social media accounts as well as elected officials and public employees who may find themselves balancing a personal social media presence with their public roles.

The training registration can be found at <http://go.osu.edu/ohioerc-socialmedia>. After registering, you will be taken to BuckeyeLearn to access the training. This training will take approximately 30 to 40 minutes. Upon completion of the training, you will be able to print a certificate of completion from BuckeyeLearn.

Grant funding from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB), through the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC), has provided for up to 2,000 unique registrations. Since the number is limited, act fast to take this online training!

Federal Update

Congressional Action

The House and Senate were in session this week. The House considered eight bills under suspension of the rules, including the Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act ([H.R. 4704](#)), which directs the National Science Foundation to award grants to higher education institutions to support basic research on suicide and its prevention and treatment. For the remainder of the week, the House voted on the Comprehensive Credit Reporting Enhancement, Disclosure, Innovation, and Transparency (CREDIT) Act of 2020 ([H.R. 3621](#)), a package of six bills to improve various aspects of the consumer credit reporting system and impose new regulations on credit bureaus.



The Senate continued its impeachment trial of President Trump this week. The President's legal defense team continued to make its case on Monday. Then, on Tuesday and Wednesday, all 100 Senators were allowed to submit their questions in writing to Chief Justice John Roberts, who decided which questions to ask, directing them to the seven House impeachment managers, led by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), or to the White House legal team. Following this process was the debate on whether to subpoena any witnesses and/or seek additional documents from the White House.

House Democrats unveiled their infrastructure plans this week. The plan will tie together priorities from the House Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce committees, according to a draft outline of the surface transportation portion. The surface transportation bill, which typically covers highways and railroads, will propose authorizing about \$20 billion per year over current spending levels. The Ways and Means Committee met Wednesday to start discussing financing options for the proposal with state and local officials.

2020 Census



All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census

PSAs Available

The US Census Bureau has provided a selection of public service announcements intended to help educate the public. You may access them [here](#).

[US Census Website](#)

[Ohio Census Website](#)

The 2020 Census is headed your way! And it's so important that your township gets an accurate count. This section will help you get information out to your friends and neighbors to ensure residents in your area are counted. Check here for weekly information and links to important documents and resources.

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6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004

614-863-0045 | OhioTownships.org

myers@ohiotownships.org

