



# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert May 22, 2020

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## Legislative Action This Week

### ***House Continues Hearings on SB 310***

The House had a second hearing on [SB 310](#) this week. As a reminder, the bill provides a mechanism to distribute federal CARES Act funding to local governments. The OTA submitted [proponent testimony](#) along with several other local government groups (see summary in "Statehouse Committee Updates" below).

The House and Senate are still discussing COVID-related amendments and whether or not amendments should be added to SB 310 or another bill. For townships, amendments up for discussion deal with temporarily expanding the use of TIF funds, temporarily expanding furlough authority, temporarily removing the limitations around competitive bidding for COVID-related expenses, and future allocations of CARES Act dollars.

If your township is interested in sharing with the House how COVID-19 has financially impacted your township, please reach out to Marisa Myers, OTA Director of Governmental Affairs, at [myers@ohiotownships.org](mailto:myers@ohiotownships.org).

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## Statehouse Committee Updates

### **House Committee Hearings - Finance**

[SB 310 FEDERAL FUNDS](#) (DOLAN) - To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

*The committee heard proponent testimony from the Greater Ohio Policy Center and written testimony from North Royalton. The OTA submitted joint written proponent testimony along with the County Commissioners Association, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayors Alliance, NE Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association, and Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association. OTA position - support.*

### **House Committee Hearings - State & Local Government**

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

*The committee received proponent testimony from Johnson Controls Inc. OTA position - support.*

[HB 450 FISCAL OFFICERS](#) (STEPHENS) - To require fiscal officers of certain political subdivisions to provide certificates of transition to their successors when leaving office and to modify language regarding the duty of a treasurer of a board of education to deliver to the treasurer's successor all papers related to the affairs of the district.

*The committee heard proponent testimony from Auditor of State Faber and received proponent testimony from the County Treasurers Association of Ohio, Village of Adena, and Goshen Township.*

### **House Committee Hearings - Transportation & Public Safety**

[HB 499 MOTOR FUEL TESTING](#) (KELLY, LANG) - To authorize a county to implement a motor fuel quality testing program.

*Reps. Kelly and Lang provided sponsor testimony to the committee. OTA position - support.*

### **House Committee Hearings - Ways & Means**

[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.

*Sen. Schuring provided sponsor testimony to the committee. OTA position - support.*

### **Senate Committee Hearings - General Government & Agency Review**

[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 received proponent testimony from the Fraternal Order of Police, Safety Forces Support Center, Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, Green Township Fire and Rescue, Bethel Township Fire Department, Ohio State Medical Association, Ohio Prosecuting Attorney's Association, Paramedic 398 Cleveland Division of EMS, Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association, and Case Western University. OTA position - opposed.*

### **Senate Committee Hearings - Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs**

[HB 242 AUXILIARY CONTAINERS](#) (LANG, JONES) - To authorize the use of an auxiliary container for any purpose, to prohibit the imposition of a tax or fee on those containers, and to apply existing anti-littering law to those containers.

*The committee received numerous pieces of opponent testimony, including written testimony from the OTA. The bill was passed by committee. OTA position - opposed.*

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## **Bills in Committee Next**

### **House Finance Committee - Wednesday, May 27th at 12:00pm**

[HB 670 CAPITAL REAPPROPRIATIONS](#) (MERRIN) - To make capital reappropriations for certain agencies for the biennium ending June 30, 2022, and to declare an emergency.

*1st hearing - sponsor testimony (pending referral)*

[SB 310 FEDERAL FUNDS](#) (DOLAN) - To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

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

[HB 13 BROADBAND EXPANSION](#) (CARFAGNA, O'BRIEN) - To establish the residential broadband expansion program and to make an appropriation.

*5th hearing - all testimony; OTA position - support.*

### **House State & Local Government Committee - Wednesday, May 27th at 1:00pm**

[HB 450 FISCAL OFFICERS](#) (STEPHENS) - To require fiscal officers of certain political subdivisions to provide certificates of transition to their successors when leaving office and to modify language regarding the duty of a treasurer of a board of education to deliver to the treasurer's successor all papers related to the affairs of the district.

*3rd hearing - all testimony, possible vote*

[HB 476 EMINENT DOMAIN](#) (MANNING, HAMBLEY) - To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.

*2nd hearing - proponent testimony*

### **Senate Finance Committee - Wednesday, May 27th at 2:30pm**

SB XXX (Dolan) - Makes capital reappropriations and declares an emergency.

*1st hearing - sponsor testimony (pending introduction and referral)*

### **House Criminal Justice Committee - Thursday, May 28th 10:00am**

[HB 539 TOWNSHIP POLICE](#) (GHANBARI, BLAIR) - To permit a township police officer who serves a population between 5,000 and 50,000 to enforce specified traffic offenses on certain interstate highways if authorized by that township's board of trustees.

*2nd hearing - proponent testimony; OTA position - support.*

If you would like to testify on a piece of legislation, please let the OTA know.

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## Bills Recently Introduced

[HB 659 MAKE CONFIDENTIAL - PUBLIC SERVICE RETIREES INFORMATION](#) (Galonski) - To exempt from disclosure as a public record the residential and familial information of retired public service workers.

[HB 663 REPEAL PREVAILING WAGE LAW](#) (Hood, Dean) - To repeal the Prevailing Wage Law.

[HB 668 OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE](#) (Baldridge, B.) - To make COVID-19 contracted by a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical worker an occupational disease under the Workers' Compensation Law and to declare an emergency.

[HB 670 CAPITAL REAPPROPRIATIONS](#) (Merrin, D.) - To reappropriate capital funds.

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## AOS Township Webinars

Auditor of State Faber has organized several teleconferences on Thursday, May 28th to assist townships with COVID-19 financial decisions. Please see the information below:

Townships with a Budget under \$500,000:

- Date: May 28, 2020
- Time: 10:00am
- In order to participate in the webinar, please register at the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1215319196494236942>
- In the event that you do not receive a confirmation email with instructions to join the webinar, you can enter by visiting GoToWebinar.com, click "join" in the upper right hand corner, and enter the 9-digit webinar ID (520-331-915), name and email.

Townships with a Budget Between \$500,000 and \$1 million:

- Date: May 28, 2020
- Time: 11:15am
- In order to participate in the webinar, please register at the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/62891372608335630>
- In the event that you do not receive a confirmation email with instructions to join the webinar, you can enter by visiting GoToWebinar.com, click "join" in the upper right hand corner, and enter the 9-digit webinar ID (594-534-955), name and email.

Townships with a Budget over \$1 million:

- Date: May 28, 2020
- Time: 12:30pm
- In order to participate in the webinar, please register at the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1887707940274755342>
- In the event that you do not receive a confirmation email with instructions to join the webinar, you can enter by visiting GoToWebinar.com, click "join" in the upper right hand corner, and enter the 9-digit webinar ID (927-772-195), name and email.

For additional information, click [here](#).

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## Cemetery Guidance

The Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, which is charged with ensuring the proper maintenance and operations of cemeteries, has issued guidance for cemeteries ahead of Memorial Day Weekend. You may review the guidance [here](#).

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# Federal Update



## ***Congressional Action***

The Senate was in session this week, while the House was in recess. The House is scheduled to be back in session on May 27th and 28th, where the chamber will take up the Senate-passed Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act extension bill ([H.R. 6172](#)) and potentially other COVID-19 related legislation.

Ahead of the House's passage last Friday evening of the \$3 trillion HEROES Act ([H.R. 6800](#)), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) indicated that she is open to negotiating the details of the massive legislation with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and the Trump Administration. However, Senate Republicans are in no rush to approve a fifth coronavirus response package and currently have no plans to introduce their own legislative proposal. Movement in the Senate regarding the next COVID-19 relief package will likely occur in early-mid June.

NATaT has created a [Coronavirus Guidance webpage](#) to store NATaT letters, memos and briefs on the outbreak, as well as critical information and guidance released by Congress and the Administration.

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## 2020 Census



### **All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census**

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to carefully monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and follow the guidance of federal, state and local health authorities. We are adjusting some operations as outlined below with two key principles in mind: protecting the health and safety of our staff and the public and fulfilling our statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the President on schedule.

Currently, the planned completion date for data collection for the 2020 Census is July 31, 2020, but that date can and will be adjusted if necessary as the situation dictates in order to achieve a complete and accurate count.

**It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail - all without having to meet a census taker.**

**Learn more about these updates and ways to be counted [here](#).**

[US Census Website](#)

[Ohio Census Website](#)

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### **Ohio Township Association**

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