



# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert May 29, 2020

## Legislative Action This Week

### ***Township Police Bill Has Committee Hearing***

[HB 539](#) had a second hearing in the House Criminal Justice Committee this week. Lt. Matthew Gazarek, Perrysburg Township (Wood County) Police Department, and Lt. Matthew Neil, Montville Township (Medina County) Police Department, testified as proponents of the bill. You can watch the committee hearing [here](#) and read the OTA's testimony [here](#).



HB 539 would allow a township officer to make an arrest on an interstate with a few stipulations:

- The township they serve has a population of 5,000+;
- The interstate is part of their jurisdiction; and
- The township has a permanent access point to the interstate within its jurisdiction that is also open to the general public.

### ***SB 310 Has Third Hearing in House Committee***

The House had a third hearing on [SB 310](#) this week in Finance Committee. As a reminder, the bill provides a mechanism to distribute federal CARES Act funding to local governments.

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).

### ***Additional Bill Updates: HB 242, HB 606***

The Senate passed [HB 242](#) this week, which prohibits municipalities, charter counties, and limited home rule townships from imposing a tax or fee on auxiliary containers, such as plastic bags, glass bottles, aluminum cans, etc. The OTA opposed this bill in both the House and Senate. The bill now goes back to the House for concurrence. If the House agrees to Senate changes, the bill will go to the Governor.

The House passed [HB 606](#), which deals with immunity for businesses and others related to COVID-19. The bill includes protections for local governments and their employees acting in good faith from coronavirus-related lawsuits. The OTA is supportive of this legislation. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration as they are working on a similar immunity measure ([SB 308](#)).

# Statehouse Committee Updates

## **House Committee Hearings - Finance**

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

*Rep. Merrin presented sponsor testimony to the committee.*

[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 received proponent testimony from the Monroe County Commissioners, Allen County Commissioners, and Wood County Commissioners. OTA position - support.*

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

*The committee received numerous pieces of proponent and interested party testimony, including joint written proponent testimony from the OTA and OML. OTA position - support.*

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

[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 received interested party testimony from the Ohio Association of School Business Officials.*

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

*The committee received proponent testimony from the Ohio Farm Bureau, County Commissioners Association, Beaver Creek Sportsman's Club, and several individuals.*

## **Senate Committee Hearings - Finance**

[SB 316 CAPITAL REAPPROPRIATIONS](#) (Dolan) - Makes capital reappropriations and declares an emergency.

*OBM Director Kim Murnieks presented testimony to the committee.*

## **House Committee Hearings - Criminal Justice Committee**

[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.

*The committee received proponent testimony from Perrysburg Township Police and Board of Trustees, Montville Township Police Department, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Wood County Commissioners, and the OTA. OTA position - support.*

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## Bills in Committee Next

### **Senate Finance Committee - Tuesday, June 2nd at 1:30pm**

[SB 316 CAPITAL REAPPROPRIATIONS](#) (Dolan) - Makes capital reappropriations and declares an emergency.

*2nd hearing - all testimony, possible amendments & vote*

### **House Criminal Justice Committee - Thursday, June 4th 9:00am**

[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.

*3rd hearing - opponent 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 676 GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY APPEAL BOARDS](#) (Jordan) - To create twelve regional State and Local Government Accountability Appeal Boards and to declare an emergency.

[HB 675 REGARDING CLEAN OHIO PROGRAM](#) (Hillyer, Swearingen) - Relating to the Clean Ohio Program and to make an appropriation.

[SB 316 CAPITAL REAPPROPRIATIONS](#) (Dolan) - To make capital reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2022, and to declare an emergency.

[HR 348 NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK](#) (Skindell) - To urge the United States Congress to pass House Resolution 6422 to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects.

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## County Fair Guidance

Governor DeWine's Fair Advisory Group has issued guidance for county fairs this summer. You may review it [here](#).

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## Treasury Guidance Updated

The U.S. Treasury has updated its Frequently Asked Questions document for CARES Act funding. You can read it [here](#).

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## TOS Community Response Initiative

COVID-19 has brought on no shortage of new challenges for local governments across Ohio, including unexpected revenue shortfalls. Recent deadline extensions for state income tax payments and certain county property tax payments may present temporary cash flow challenges at the local level.

To make access to capital markets both easier and cheaper, the Ohio Treasurer's office has introduced the [COVID-19 Community Response Initiative](#) to sponsor a pooled short-term note issuance for all local governments wishing to participate. Most importantly, the COVID-19 Community Response Initiative may provide local governments with much-needed interest cost savings in comparison to other debt issuance options.

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## ODOT Report

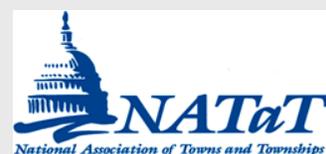
The Ohio Department of Transportation has released a final report on a research project titled "Evaluation of Partial Depth Pavement Repairs on Routes Heavily Traveled by Amish Horse and Buggies - Phase 2." You can read it [here](#).

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## Federal Update

### ***Congressional Action***

The House was in session this week, while the Senate was in recess.



On Wednesday, the House began allowing lawmakers to cast their votes from outside of the U.S. Capitol, through a proxy, for the first time in U.S. history. The House was scheduled to vote on eight bills under suspension of the rules, including the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020, which relaxes several restrictions on companies that borrow money through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), including providing businesses more time and flexibility to make qualifying expenditures for loan forgiveness (i.e., five years to repay the loans instead of two years), allowing businesses with forgiven loans to defer payroll taxes, and extending the deadline to apply for a PPP loan to December 31, 2020 (from June 30, 2020).

The outlook for additional COVID-19 relief legislation, including the \$3 trillion House-passed Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act ([H.R. 6800](#)), remains uncertain as House and Senate Republicans and the Trump Administration, are generally in favor of waiting to see the results of relief legislation already enacted. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said that another relief bill is likely "in the next month or so." In the interim, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said that House Democrats will focus this summer on passing essential legislation, including the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), the surface transportation reauthorization bill, the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act, and the twelve FY2021 Appropriations bills.

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

United States  
**Census  
2020**

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

2020 Census Field Operations will resume in Ohio next week, Wednesday, June 3. Operations field staff will be hand delivering census packets as part of the Update Leave operation. These are the forms delivered to areas where they do not receive mail at their home address (P.O. Box Delivery). The operation does not require person to person contact. Census field staff will have mask and gloves and will leave the questionnaire packet at the door or on the porch in a plastic bag. They will not knock on doors.

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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