



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert June 5, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

SB 310 Passes Ohio House

The House passed [SB 310](#) this week. The bill provides a mechanism to distribute federal CARES Act funding to local governments. For a comprehensive overview of this legislation and CARES Act information, see the OTA's June 4th informational email or click [here](#).

The House added several amendments in committee and on the floor, including:

- Temporarily removing the threshold for competitive bidding on COVID-19-related expenses/purchases;
- Allowing townships and municipalities to divert up to 25% of unencumbered TIF funds to be used for police and fire services or road maintenance for up to two years from the effective date of the bill. This revenue is required to be replaced should a township or municipality receive funding for revenue replacement under an amended version of the CARES Act;
- Temporarily allowing local governments to furlough employees for up to 480 hours (60 days) rather than the current 80 hours through June 2021;
- Permissive authority for local governments to issue small business grants with revenue distributed from and in compliance with the CARES Act (see additional information below);
- Including SB 316 (capital reappropriations);
- Requiring a transportation improvement district to comply with prevailing wage law, unless the amount the district expends on a contract or project is below statutory thresholds.

However, *this bill is not final*. Since the House added amendments to the bill, it must return to the Senate for a concurrence vote before being sent to the Governor for his signature. If the Senate does not concur, the bill will go to conference committee where the House and Senate will work out differences.

Statehouse Committee Updates

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 opponent testimony from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Manufacturers' Association, NFIB, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, County Commissioner's Association, Ohio Municipal League, and OTA. OTA position- opposed.

Bills in Committee Next

House State and Local Government Committee - Tuesday, June 9th at 10:00am

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

3rd hearing - all testimony, possible substitute bill; OTA position - support.

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 and interested party testimony; OTA position - support.

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

Playgrounds to Open

On Thursday, Governor DeWine announced the reopening of certain entertainment facilities with health and safety restrictions.

Day camps and residential camps may open at any time. Entertainment venues listed below may open beginning June 10th if they are able to follow [Retail, Consumer, Service & Entertainment Guidelines](#) and other applicable additional guidance:

- Aquariums
- Art galleries
- Country clubs
- Ice skating rinks
- Indoor family entertainment centers
- Indoor sports facilities
- Laser tag facilities
- Movie theaters (indoor)
- Museums
- Playgrounds (outdoor)
- Public recreation centers
- Roller skating rinks
- Social clubs
- Trampoline parks
- Zoos

Health orders addressing these changes will be posted on coronavirus.ohio.gov when available.

AOS COVID Resources

The Auditor of State has compiled a number of COVID-19-related resources for local governments. You may view this information on the [AOS website](#).

Federal Update

Congressional Action

The Senate was in session this week, while the House was in recess. Several Congressional committee hearings and virtual forums/briefings/roundtables related to COVID-19 also took place this week.

The Senate began consideration of the Great American Outdoors Act ([S. 3422](#)), which permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and addresses a massive backlog of national parks maintenance projects. The Senate also voted on, by Unanimous Consent, the House-passed Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Flexibility Act of 2020 ([H.R. 7010](#)), which makes several changes to the popular PPP aimed at offering small businesses more flexibility to spend forgivable loans for payrolls and expenses.



In a "Dear Colleague" letter sent to all House members last Friday, Majority Leader Hoyer stated that "As we continue to meet the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the House must also continue its work on other critical legislation to address issues of national need and concern. [...] Throughout the month of June, legislative work in House committees will be our focus, with committees meeting to hold hearings and to mark up and report legislation. Their goal will be to prepare must-pass legislation for consideration on the Floor in late June and going through July, including a 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA); an infrastructure package that includes reauthorization of expiring surface transportation provisions; a reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); legislation to strengthen and expand the Affordable Care Act as more Americans have come to rely on it during this pandemic; and appropriation bills for Fiscal Year 2021; among others."

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.

2020 Census



All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census

2020 Census Field Operations has resumed in Ohio this week, Wednesday, June 3rd. 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](#)

Ohio Township Association

6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004
614-863-0045 | OhioTownships.org
myers@ohiotownships.org

