



Ohio Township Association

Legislative Alert

June 26, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

Senate Agrees to House Changes on SB 4

Last week, the House added a number of changes to [SB 4](#) during negotiations on SB 310/HB 481 - some of these changes were previously contained in SB 310. The Senate concurred on those changes, sending the bill to Governor DeWine for his signature.

Include in SB 4 are provisions:

- Funding OPWC programs for one year, including State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP), Revolving Loan Program (RLP), and Clean Ohio projects;
- Temporarily removing the threshold for competitive bidding for PPE;
- 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;
- 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.

Bills Recently Introduced

[HB 705 PUBLIC NUISANCES, BLIGHT FORECLOSURE ACTIONS](#) (Miller) - To amend the law regarding public nuisances and blight foreclosure actions and to declare an emergency.

[HB 706 PEACE OFFICER TRAINING](#) (Crawley, West) - To require peace officers to complete training on de-escalation techniques, implicit bias, procedural justice, and mental health issues, to require information regarding mental health resources and available support be provided to peace officers annually, and to make an appropriation.

HB 481 Update

OBM Announces Payments Have Processed

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) processed payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund last Friday, shortly after Governor DeWine signed [HB 481](#). County Treasurers should have seen the funds deposited into accounts on Tuesday, June 23rd.

Counties will disburse the funding to local governments after receiving an approved resolution or ordinance from the local subdivision as required by HB 481. Eligible local jurisdictions should ensure they have submitted the HB 481 required resolution or ordinance to their County Auditor to enable quick receipt of funds. Local jurisdictions must also submit copies of passed resolutions or ordinances to OBM via e-mail at grants@obm.ohio.gov.

Sample resolutions for use to assist with this requirement are posted on the OBM Ohio Grants Partnership website at <https://grants.ohio.gov/fundingopportunities.aspx>. This link also includes a guidance document to assist with use of funds. In addition, jurisdictions that have not already done so are asked to register with OBM at the website above to ensure proper future access to the grants portal, which will be required for reporting.

OBM will update guidance as needed on an ongoing basis. OBM is currently working with the Ohio Auditor of State's office on a new FAQ about establishing a payroll support program for public employees using CFR funding and expects to update the guidance in the coming days.

Please feel free to reach out to the Grants Partnership at grants@obm.ohio.gov with questions anytime.

Treasury FAQ Updated

The U.S. Treasury has issued an updated FAQ on June 24th related to CARES Act dollars. Please review the document [here](#).

Traffic Camera Report Due

As a reminder, any local authority (municipal corporation, county, or township) that operated or contracted with another party to operate traffic enforcement cameras during the previous fiscal year must file a report with the Department of Taxation **on or before July 31, 2020** (R.C. 5747.502(B)). The 2020 Traffic Enforcement Camera report is available on the Department's [website](#).

Based on the information in the report, the Department is required to reduce 12 local government fund (LGF) payments by 1/12 of the fines collected. If the fines exceed the LGF payments, the Department must also reduce 12 payments to the appropriate county undivided local government fund (CULGF) by 1/12 of the excess fines (R.C. 5747.502(C)). Please note: Based on the current language in R.C. 5747.502, a reduction to the CULGF may impact local authorities that do not operate traffic enforcement cameras. You may find more information [here](#).

OEPA Webinar

Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) is hosting its second webinar focused on environmental issues that have an impact at the local level.

"Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition - Open burning in Your Community"
Tuesday, June 30th (10 a.m. - 11 a.m.)

For more information or to register, click [here](#). OEPA hopes to hold these webinars on a monthly basis.

Federal Update

Congressional Action

The House was in session on Thursday and Friday (with "Committee Work Days" scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday), while the Senate was in session the entire week. Numerous committee hearings related to COVID-19 were scheduled for this week in both chambers, in addition to non-coronavirus related hearings and markups, such as



the House Appropriations Committee's Member Day Testimony on Tuesday morning for FY2021 Appropriations and the House Armed Services Subcommittee markup of the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act ([H.R. 6395](#)).

On Thursday, the House voted on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020 ([H.R. 7120](#)), a broad policing overhaul package which curtails the transfer of military equipment to police departments, makes it easier for an individual to sue police officers for alleged rights violations, criminalizes chokeholds by police, and makes lynching a federal crime, among other issues.

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 have resumed in Ohio as of 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](#)

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