



Ohio Township Association

Legislative Alert

August 7, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

Governor Tests Positive, Then Negative, for COVID-19

Governor DeWine received an antigen test as part of protocol before a scheduled meeting with President Trump on Thursday, which came back positive. After a followup PCR test later that day, results came back negative. According to Gongwer News, the Governor's office said the antigen tests offer a technology that reduces costs and speeds turnaround time, but they are new and not commonly used in Ohio. He will receive additional testing over the weekend.

Bills Recently Introduced

[HB 746 ENERGY REPEAL](#) (Lanese, Greenspan) - To repeal the changes made by H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the laws governing electric service, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and the changes made to other related laws.

[SB 348 HEALTH ORDERS](#) (Schaffer, Roegner) - To prohibit local boards of health from using certain threatening words in notifications to the public, to allow local boards of health to reject Department of Health orders during an emergency, to allow health care professionals who serve on a board of health to receive continuing education credit, and to change the makeup of local boards of health.

CARES Act Funding Registration

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) has provided a [tracking sheet](#) of CARES Act resolution submissions and portal registrations. As of July 27th, OBM has received 575 resolutions and approved 567 registrations for local governments in Ohio.

With Congress debating increased flexibility for these funds in the next COVID-19 package, the OTA encourages townships to accept these funds, as townships may face future expenses and/or federal guidelines may change on the use of these funds.

If your township intends to participate in the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program under HB 481, please submit resolutions and registration to OBM ASAP. If your township is absolutely sure that you will not be participating, please also notify OBM of that via email.

Registration is available [here](#) under the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program. Resolutions may be submitted to OBM via e-mail at grants@obm.ohio.gov or may also be mailed to their office.

Please note: If a jurisdiction attempted to register on the portal on July 21st or 22nd but did not receive an email notification that the registration was received and are not marked as received on the above list, please register again. An issue occurred with OBM's database and registrations were not properly saved.

Federal Rural Transportation Grant

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has an important program - **the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative** - to close the gap in resources devoted to urban versus rural America. This new program will help rural communities access federal transportation grant funding and loan programs. It also improves data sharing to help rural communities better analyze their transportation needs. The [ROUTES toolkit](#) which will help rural applicants navigate the various funding opportunities DOT has to offer.

Federal Update



Congressional Action

The Senate was in session this week. The House was not in session, but House leaders delayed the official start of the August recess to continue negotiations on the next coronavirus relief package. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said Members will be given at least 24-hours' notice before the House will be called back to session if a deal is reached on a relief package.

Negotiations continued between Congressional leaders and the White House on the next coronavirus relief package, but an agreement has yet to be reached. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) reported to House Members that the meeting held last Saturday "was more productive than our previous discussions, but no agreement can be reached yet. Work will continue on a staff level [Sunday]. Leader Schumer and I will meet again with Secretary Mnuchin and Chief of Staff Meadows on Monday."

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

The Census Bureau has recently announced that it will end counting efforts on September 30th - one month early. This raises additional concerns for accurate counting, specifically for rural communities that are typically more difficult to count. It's more important than ever that your township engages in this process and conveys to residents the importance of the census to ensure all Ohioans are counted.

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

myers@ohiotownships.org

