



Ohio Township Association

Legislative Alert

August 21, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

Another BWC Dividend Payment Under Consideration

Governor DeWine has asked the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors to send up to \$1.5 billion in dividend payments to Ohio employers this fall. This dividend equals approximately 100% of the premiums paid in policy year 2019. Dividends like this, as well as previous ones, are possible because of strong investment returns on employer premiums, a declining number of claims each year, prudent fiscal management, and employers who work hard to improve workplace safety and reduce injury claims.

If approved by the Board, this would be the second dividend of \$1 billion or more since April and the third dividend since 2019. BWC anticipated providing a dividend next year, but with Board approval, they will issue one now to provide some immediate economic relief to employers amid the ongoing pandemic. The Board will vote on the Governor's proposal at its monthly virtual meeting Sept. 25th. Checks would be distributed by BWC in late October.

OTA Meetings

The OTA participated in several calls this week on legislation in preparation for lame duck. The OTA spoke with Chairman Wilson (R-Maineville) regarding [HB 163](#) (Water and Sewer Rates), which is pending in the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Additionally, the OTA spoke with Senate staff on [HB 444](#) (Township Omnibus Bill). The bill is still pending in the House State and Local Government Committee, but the OTA is hopeful for quick passage out of the House when session resumes and further action in the Senate.

LAEPP Local Sponsor Certification Open

Counties, soil & water conservation districts, land trusts, cities, and townships are invited to apply to the Office of Farmland Preservation for Local Sponsor Certification. The Application for Local Sponsor Certification is open from August 19, 2020 through October 9, 2020.

Any organization interested in being a local sponsor for the 2021 landowner application year must apply during this time period. You can find the [application here](#) and an [FAQ here](#). They are also available on [online](#). (Look for the box about halfway down the page titled: "The LAEPP 2021 Local Sponsor Application for Certification ...")

Local Sponsors who complete the above mentioned Local Sponsor Certification application and qualify will be allocated a portion of the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) 2021 funds. These funds are used to purchase agricultural easements on Ohio farms. Refer to the [timeline](#) for a list of upcoming dates and deadlines for this funding round.

Deadline for the Local Sponsor Certification Application is October 9, 2020.

EPA Webinar

Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance will be holding its third installment of a new series of webinars focused on environmental issues that have an impact at the local level. For more information, visit the EPA's "[In Your Community](#)" webpage.

Environmental Regulations of Businesses in Your Community - August 27, 2020 (10 am - 11 am)

Presenters: Tamara Girard and Maddie Adams, Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)

Many environmental regulations affect businesses in your community. Ohio EPA regulates sources of air pollution, waste handling, wastewater and storm water discharges, and more. This webinar will provide an overview of the environmental regulations affecting both large and small businesses in your community, and explain Ohio EPA's permitting, inspection and enforcement procedures.

To register, click [here](#).

Federal Update



Congressional Action

The Senate is in recess until Tuesday, September 8th. In a rare move, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) called lawmakers back to Washington this week to consider legislation regarding U.S. Postal Service (USPS) operations. House lawmakers had been out of session for the August recess since early August and did not plan to return until mid-September (unless an agreement was reached on the next COVID-19 relief package).

The House considered the Delivering for America Act ([H.R. 8015](#)), which would prohibit USPS from implementing any changes to the operations or level of service it had in place on January 1, 2020, until the coronavirus pandemic has ended. The legislation was introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, on August 11th. The legislation comes after widespread concerns that operational and organizational changes being implemented by the Postmaster General could impact the November elections due to slowed mail deliveries.

Negotiations regarding the next coronavirus relief package have not made progress since last week. NATaT will continue to monitor the situation closely.

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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