



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Capital reappropriations bill, including SNAP administrative funding, heads to Governor

[House Bill 730](#), the biennial capital reappropriations bill which includes an additional \$10 million in SNAP administrative funding for counties, was passed by the Senate after an eventful week. Since the version that the Senate passed is identical to the version the House passed, the bill now moves to Governor DeWine for his consideration.

The key component of the bill for counties is the \$10 million for SNAP administration. The need for this additional funding comes following the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which will decrease the federal share of SNAP administrative costs from 50% to 25% beginning October 1, 2026.

The estimated county loss in SFY 2027 is \$38 million. The \$10 million state appropriation, and the \$2.5 million federal match, will assist counties in filling this budget hole.

The funding will be distributed to all county JFS agencies. Each agency will receive either \$226,486 or the amount equal to their full loss, whichever is less. [This table](#) shows the estimated amount each county JFS will receive, including federal match.

CCAO President and Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus [provided](#) written testimony to the Senate Finance Committee and thanked committee members for the investment in county SNAP administration efforts. President Driehaus noted that the funding is critical to help counties achieve a sub-6% error rate. States that have an error rate above 6% will, beginning in October 2027, be responsible for paying a share of SNAP benefits.

[Cuyahoga](#), [Franklin](#), [Lucas](#), and [Summit](#) counties submitted written testimonies regarding the distribution formula as well, as did the [Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association](#).

The Senate Finance Committee adopted an amendment that allocated \$404 million over the biennium in federal funds for rural hospital and health programs. On the Senate floor the next day, however, disagreements arose over how those funds were being allocated. Ultimately, the Senate removed the rural hospital funding from the bill before passing HB 730.

Members with questions on SNAP funding should contact Rachel Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org.

Legislative Activity

Committee Hearings

The following committees held hearings this week regarding bills that may interest counties.

Joint Meeting of the House and Senate Medicaid Committees

- [Auditor of State Fraud Audit Report](#)
- [Auditor of State Medicaid Unit Overview](#)
- [Department of Medicaid Testimony](#)
- [Attorney General Fraud Reporting](#)

House Children and Human Services

- [House Bill 649](#) (Representatives Josh Williams and D.J. Swearingen): To require video surveillance of child care centers, to establish an online portal for tracking child care center attendance, and to require investigations of waste, fraud, and abuse allegations relating to providers of publicly funded child care.
 - Fourth hearing, opponent testimony from the Franklin County Prosecutor, the Black Child Development Institute of Ohio, and the CEO Project; and interested party testimony from the Ohio Association of Child Care Providers, the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs.
 - Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley [provided opponent testimony](#).
 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ADOPTED** to harmonize various changes that had been made already.
- [House Bill 647](#) (Representatives Phil Plummer and Tom Young): To revise the law governing the publicly funded child care program, modify an appropriation for the Child Care Cred Program, and to make an appropriation for a data analytics project.
 - Sixth hearing, interested party testimony from the Ohio Association of Child Care Providers, the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs, and the CEO Project; opponent testimony from the Franklin County Prosecutor and the Black Child Development Institute of Ohio.
 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ADOPTED** to harmonize various changes that had been made already.

House Technology and Innovation

- [House Bill 317](#) (Representative Ty Mathews): To prohibit the purchase of unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity.
 - Second hearing, no testimony

House General Government

- [House Bill 577](#) (Representative Ron Ferguson): To require photo identification to cast absent voter's ballots by mail and to modify the law regarding voter registration.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from 23 private individuals.

House Agriculture

- [House Bill 676](#) (Representatives David Thomas and Rodney Creech): To establish regulations regarding wolfdog hybrids and to allow a board of county commissioners to abate certain animal nuisances.
 - Third hearing, opponent testimony from the Red Riding Hood Rescue Project, the Southern Ohio Wolf Sanctuary, and a private individual.

House Local Government

- [House Bill 412](#) (Representative D.J. Swearingen): To allow a village to contract with the county prosecutor for legal services.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from the Village of Castalia and the Erie County Prosecutor.

House Ways and Means

- [House Bill 391](#) (Representatives Jack Daniels and Heidi Workman): To require tax rates to be expressed as a percentage of true value on tax bills and ballot language.
 - Third hearing, no testimony
 - **AMENDED** to change required language from "county auditor's market value" to "county's market value" and to delay the bill's effective date.
- [House Bill 737](#) (Representatives Bill Roemer and Thomas Hall): To require that cash payments to the state and local governments be rounded to the nearest nickel.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 762](#) (Representatives Beth Lear and David Thomas): To exempt certain vending machine food purchases from sales and use tax.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

Senate Addiction and Community Revitalization

- [House Bill 58](#) (Representative Justin Pizzuli): To require state certification of recovery housing residences, to establish additional duties regarding services offered by community addiction services providers, and to create the Ohio Recovery Housing Task Force
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public Safety

- [House Bill 297](#) (Representatives Kevin Ritter and Johnathan Newman): To increase the amount a county may provide to military and veterans organizations for Memorial Day expenses.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Ohio Department

Senate Workforce Development

- [Senate Bill 331](#) (Senators Steve Wilson and Willis Blackshear): To allow certain public hospitality employees to accept gratuities.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from the Ohio Mayors Alliance, the cities of Centerville, Parma, and Springboro, and a private individual.

Introduction of Bills

The following bill(s) that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- [House Bill 777](#) (Representatives Rachel Baker and Meredith Lawson-Rowe): To modify Ohio's child care cost-sharing program.
- [House Bill 778](#) (Representatives Kevin Miller and David Thomas): To exclude certain fire and emergency medical services levies from being reduced by a community reinvestment area or tax increment financing property tax exemption.
- [House Bill 787](#) (Representatives Desiree Tims and Crystal Lett): To revise the law governing the Child Care Choice Voucher Program.
- [House Bill 788](#) (Representatives Ty Mathews and Mike Dovilla): Regarding paid military leave for law enforcement officers.
- [Senate Bill 395](#) (Senator Bill Blessing, III): To implement a top-three primary election system and a consensus choice general election system for congressional, state, and local offices.