



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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CCAO, PCSAO testify on Child Protection Reform Act

On Tuesday, [House Bill 635](#) (Representatives Phil Plummer and Tom Young) received its second hearing in the House Children and Human Services Committee. The committee heard proponent and interested party testimony.

Rachel Reedy, CCAO outreach and member engagement manager, provided [interested party testimony](#) before the committee. Reedy expressed CCAO's support for several changes in the bill including additional practices to keep children with developmental disabilities safe, mandated participation in Help Me Grow for children under age three and Part C Intervention for eligible children entering custody, and increased law enforcement communication with the children services agencies to strengthen collaboration.

HB 635 would also increase the minimum visits for all children under five, with a developmental disability, or living in congregate care from monthly to weekly. The majority of Reedy's testimony focused on the difficulty children services agencies would have in implementing this mandate given the placement and workforce challenges our child welfare system faces today. The Public Children Services Agency of Ohio (PCSAO) also [testified as an interested party](#) on the bill, including this increased visitation requirement.

According to SACWIS data, the provision would result in a 137% increase in visitation. The bill does not include an appropriation or other resources to support this change. Reedy and PCSAO encouraged the committee to convene stakeholders to discuss the bill and propose suggested changes to these provisions.

Ranking Member Lett inquired if an appropriation would help with the new visitation requirement, or if children being placed out of county or state would still make it too difficult. Mary Wachtel with PCSAO responded that financial resources would be helpful, but agencies would still need additional workers which are challenging to find.

Vice Chair Salvo wondered if consideration had been given to the multiple services already visiting children weekly or on a regular basis. with early intervention, whether it is possible

for those services to check in on children weekly. Chair White echoed this thought, and Reedy responded that commissioners had also mentioned the prevalence of other services in the home.

Chair White inquired about the impact of the A Home for Every Child federal initiative that Ohio recently signed onto. The initiative calls for increasing more foster homes, and may also present an opportunity for Ohio to draw more federal IV-E dollars for child welfare purposes. Chair White asked Reedy if there had been any discussion on how to share collaborative efforts in housing and workforce necessary for children in foster care.

Reedy responded that the state should study the complex needs of children in custody and determine what types of placements are needed to best serve the children.

[NECCO](#) (a foster care provider) and [Groundwork Ohio](#) also testified as interested parties. CCAO will continue to work with the bill sponsors and committee members on the legislation.

Members with questions should contact Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org.

Substitute bills for SNAP security legislation adopted in House, Senate committees

On Tuesday, [Senate Bill 315](#) (Senators Tim Schaffer and Hearcel Craig) received its second hearing in the Senate Finance Committee. The bill requires the state to change SNAP EBT cards to chip-enabled cards and appropriates funds to do.

The impetus for the bill, and its companion bill [House Bill 163](#) (Representatives Tristan Rader and Kellie Deeter), came following several instances of theft of food benefits through “skimming.” Chip-enabled cards protect against “skimming.”

The committee adopted a substitute bill during the hearing that extends the replacement process for the EBT cards. Under the new version of the bill, only new or replacement cards and cards renewed periodically would be chip-enabled. The gradual phase-in approach reduces the cost of the bill from \$10.6 million to \$3 million.

CCAO Outreach & Member Engagement Manager Rachel Reedy submitted [written proponent testimony](#) on SB 315.

Other organizations that submitted proponent testimony include Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services, Ohio Job and Family Services Directors’ Association, Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants and Ohio Grocers Association, among others.

On Wednesday, the House Agriculture Committee adopted the same changes to a companion bill to SB 315. The committee did not accept any testimony on the bill, but CCAO is also a proponent of HB 163. HB 163 is marked for a possible vote at the House Agriculture’s May 20 hearing.

Members with questions should contact Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org.

Carbon capture bill amended to include impact fees to local governments

[House Bill 170](#) (Representatives Monica Robb Blasdel and Bob Peterson), a bill regarding carbon capture and sequestration, received amendments this week of note to counties.

The bill passed the House of Representatives in October by a 93-4 vote and has since been receiving hearings in the Senate Energy Committee. During its third hearing this week, HB 170 was amended to add two fees on carbon dioxide injected for storage in a storage facility.

The first fee is \$0.05 per metric ton and will be used by the state to, among other allowable uses, remediate environmental impacts of injected carbon dioxide and plug monitoring wells.

The second fee is \$0.03 per metric ton and will be distributed to host communities in which the carbon dioxide storage facility is located. The fee will be collected by the state and distributed to the county treasurer of the host county. The treasurer will then deposit the fee revenue into a special fund called the “carbon storage host community fund” in the county treasury.

The funds can be used for any of the following purposes:

- Infrastructure (roads, bridges, water and wastewater, broadband, and other public works);
- Parks, recreation, and trails;
- Education, including support for primary, secondary, and career-technical education within the jurisdiction; and
- Public safety, including law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, and emergency preparedness and response.

The funds will be under the control of the board of county commissioners, but it can disburse funds to townships, municipalities, school districts, or other subdivisions. These other entities must use any revenue granted for one of the allowable uses above.

Notably, the American Petroleum Institute, the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, and other proponents of the bill expressed support for the local community fee.

HB 170 is marked for a possible vote at the Senate Energy Committee’s May 19 hearing.

Bill introduced to temporarily reduce the gas tax

As gas prices continue to remain well above the average price of the preceding four years, Representatives Ty Mathews and Adam Bird have introduced [House Bill 850](#), to temporarily reduce the gas tax.

Under the bill, the gas tax would be reduced by 50% for both rates. The tax on gasoline would be reduced from its permanent level of \$0.385 per gallon to \$0.1925 per gallon and the tax on diesel, compressed natural gas, and all other fuel would be reduced from its permanent level of \$0.47 per gallon to \$0.235 per gallon.

The temporary reduction is for three months, beginning on from the first day of the first full month after the bill becomes effective. The bill also includes an emergency clause, allowing it to take effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature.

The bill does not alter the distribution formula, with the exception of portions of the formula that specify a specific amount per gallon. Those provisions are halved.

The full gas tax distribution formula is very complex and multi-faceted, but when taken as a whole, counties receive about 11.8% of the revenue. At the current tax rate, that equates to \$0.0453 per gallon of gasoline; at the proposed temporary tax rate, that equates to \$0.0227 per gallon.

The equivalent for other fuels is \$0.0553 per gallon and \$0.0277 per gallon, respectively.

The table below estimates the effect the proposed temporary reduction would have had on county gas tax revenue during the three-month 2025 summer travel season (June, July, and August). The source data is from the Department of Taxation.

Estimated Effect of HB 850 Proposed Temporary Gas Tax Reduction on Counties June - August 2025 Data							
Type	Taxable Gallons Sold	Permanent Rate	Proposed Temporary Rate	Estimated Revenue, Permanent Rate	Estimated Revenue, Temporary Rate	Revenue Loss	Per County Loss
Gasoline	1.3 billion	\$0.0453	\$0.0227	\$58.7 million	\$29.2 million	\$29.2 million	\$331,646
Other	483.0 million	\$0.0553	\$0.0277	\$26.7 million	\$13.4 million	\$13.3 million	\$151,472
Total	1.8 billion			\$85.1 million	\$42.6 million	\$45.5 million	\$483,118

The bill has not yet been referred to a committee.

Legislative Activity

Committee Hearings

The following committees held hearings this week on bills that may be of interest to counties.

House Children and Human Services

- [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
 - Seventh hearing, no testimony
 - **AMENDED** to remove an appropriation and make changes regarding attendance tracking and investigative procedures.

Senate Ways and Means

- [Senate Bill 367](#) (Senator Andrew Brenner): To allow a sales and use tax exemption for materials and services purchased for certain projects when a port authority or county refuses to endorse an agreement concerning the project.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House Finance

- [House Bill 413](#) (Representatives Tom Young and Bob Peterson): To create the Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database and require political subdivision participation, to require the state retirement systems to participate in the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database, and to make an appropriation.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House Local Government

- [House Bill 493](#) (Representatives David Thomas and Dan Troy): To sunset the sale of delinquent property tax certificates on January 1, 2027, and to modify the rules governing the priority of liens after a property tax certificate sale.
 - Fourth hearing, proponent testimony from the Ohio Bankers League, the Peoples Bank Company, Citizens National Bank, the Ohio Poverty Law Center, the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, the Greenville National Bank, and a private individual.

House Ways and Means

- [House Bill 608](#) (Representatives David Thomas and Chris Glassburn): To modify the law governing property taxes and other local taxes.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [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.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [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.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Giant Eagle, and the Council on State Taxation.

Senate Local Government

- [Senate Bill 281](#) (Senator Kristina Roegner): To authorize a board of county commissioners, on its own behalf, to award a franchise for the operation of a public transit system.
 - Third hearing, no testimony
 - **AMENDED** to require the board of county commissioners, if holding a vote to award a franchise on its own behalf, to notify the county transit board at least 30 days before the vote. The requirement does not apply if a county transit board does not exist.
 - **FAVORABLY REPORTED**
- [Senate Bill 366](#) (Senators Bill Blessing, III and Catherine Ingram): To sometimes require payment of delinquent property taxes and assessments when a lot is transferred.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

Introduction of Bills

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

- [House Bill 850](#) (Representatives Ty Mathews and Adam Bird): To temporarily reduce motor fuel tax rates and to declare an emergency.
- [House Bill 857](#) (Representatives Karen Brownlee and Mark Sigrist): To modify the Residential Development Revolving Loan Program and to name this act the Housing Recovery Act.
- [House Bill 859](#) (Representatives Ismail Mohamed and Eric Synenberg): To prohibit civil immigration-related arrests in certain locations.
- [House Bill 867](#) (Representatives Veronica Sims and Ashley Bryant Bailey): To establish minimum standards for jails and state correctional institutions.
- [House Bill 869](#) (Representatives Alison Russo and Sean Brennan): To establish family and medical leave insurance benefits.
- [House Bill 877](#) (Representative Chris Glassburn): Regarding limits on the purchase of retirement service credit based on employment with the United States Government, a state, or a political subdivision.
- [House Bill 881](#) (Representative Chris Glassburn): To modify property tax reductions for nonbusiness and owner-occupied property, to authorize a refundable income tax credit for renters, and to name this act the Ohio Homeowner Relief Act.
- [House Bill 882](#) (Representative Chris Glassburn): To allow local governments to request unclaimed funds to temporarily cover the revenue lost from delinquent property taxes and to make an appropriation.
- [House Bill 883](#) (Representative Chris Glassburn): Regarding Medicaid coverage for treatment in place services provided by EMS organizations, and to make an appropriation.
- [House Bill 885](#) (Representative Sean Brennan): To require the Children and Youth Advisory Council to develop a plan to establish a universal home visiting program for parents and caregivers of children and to name this act the Family Home Visits Act.
- [House Bill 887](#) (Representative Sean Brennan): To prohibit public officials and employees from using prediction markets.

- [House Bill 893](#) (Representatives Chris Glassburn and Jennifer Gross): To require the boards of elections to minimize the standing time while waiting to vote for voters who experience difficulty standing for a prolonged period.
- [House Bill 896](#) (Representative Darnell Brewer): Regarding parents' rights in child welfare cases.
- [House Bill 897](#) (Representative Darnell Brewer): To require trauma-informed care training for guardians ad litem and court-appointed special advocates in child welfare proceedings.
- [House Bill 898](#) (Representative Darnell Brewer): To enact the Putative Fathers Matter Act to require notice to putative fathers regarding child welfare hearings and companionship or visitation proceedings and to require notice to grandparents regarding child welfare hearings.
- [House Bill 902](#) (Representatives Dontavious Jarrells and Riordan McClain): To enact the "Fostering Sibling Success Act" regarding the rights of sibling youths in foster care and to provide for continuation of a child's placement and limit kinship preference in foster care.
- [House Bill 908](#) (Representative Dontavious Jarrells): To enact Cassidy's Law regarding information sharing related to child welfare.

Upcoming Committee Hearings

The following committees are currently scheduled to meet and discuss bills that may be of interest to counties. Other committees will likely meet as well, but as of press time for Statehouse Report, they have not released agendas. Please note that these schedules are subject to change.

Tuesday, May 19

[House Technology and Innovation](#) (10:00 a.m.)

- [House Bill 317](#) (Representative Ty Mathews): To prohibit the purchase of small unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity.
 - Third hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**

[Senate Local Government](#) (10:00 a.m.)

- [House Bill 170](#) (Representatives Monica Robb Blasdel and Bob Peterson): To establish a process to regulate carbon capture and storage technologies and the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide for long-term storage.
 - Fourth hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**

[House Children and Human Services](#) (10:30 a.m.)

- [House Bill 649](#) (Representatives Josh Williams and D.J. Swearingen): To enact the Child Care Fraud Prevention Act.
 - Fifth hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE BILL**
- [House Bill 635](#) (Representatives Phil Plummer and Tom Young): To enact the Child Protection Reform Act.

- Third hearing, opponent testimony
- **POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE BILL**
- [House Bill 707](#) (Representatives Josh Williams and Darnell Brewer): To make changes to the law regarding the uniform statewide automated child welfare information system, to require public schools to appoint a child protection liaison, and to name this act Kei'Mani's Law.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

[Senate Finance](#) (2:00 p.m.)

- [Senate Bill 315](#) (Senators Tim Schaffer and Hearcel Craig): To require Ohio's SNAP program to begin using chip-enabled EBT cards, to name this act the Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act, and to make an appropriation.
 - Third hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**

[House Government Oversight](#) (2:45 p.m.)

- [House Bill 223](#) (Representatives Ty Mathews and Bernard Willis): To prohibit the state or a political subdivision from purchasing a United States or Ohio flag that was not made in the United States.
 - Fifth hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**
- [House Bill 320](#) (Representatives Beth Lear and Gary Click): To require an elector to register as a member of a political party in order to participate in that party's primary election.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

[House General Government](#) (4:15 p.m.)

- [House Bill 586](#) (Representatives Steve Demetriou and Heidi Workman): To prohibit any public support for, and limit the construction of, new data centers.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 554](#) (Representative David Thomas): To require government entities and private sellers to accept cash as payment in certain circumstances.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony

Wednesday, May 20

[House Finance](#) (9:00 a.m.)

- [House Bill 413](#) (Representatives Tom Young and Bob Peterson): To create the Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database and require political subdivision participation, to require the state retirement systems to participate in the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database, and to make an appropriation.
 - Second hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**

[House Local Government](#) (9:00 a.m.)

- [House Bill 493](#) (Representatives David Thomas and Dan Troy): To sunset the sale of delinquent property tax certificates on January 1, 2027, and to modify the rules governing the priority of liens after a property tax certificate sale.

- Fifth hearing, opponent testimony
- [House Bill 445](#) (Representatives Mike Dovilla and Brian Stewart): Regarding regional councils of government and metropolitan planning organizations.
 - Second hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**
- [House Bill 445](#) (Representatives Adam Bird and Brian Stewart): To prohibit certain local elected officials from entering into nondisclosure agreements.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony

[House Natural Resources](#) (9:00 a.m.)

- [Senate Bill 219](#) (Senator Al Landis): To make changes to the law governing oil and gas wells and to address federal mineral royalty payments.
 - Third hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE BILL**

[House Agriculture](#) (11:30 a.m.)

- [House Bill 163](#) (Representatives Tristan Rader and Kellie Deeter): To require Ohio's SNAP program to begin using chip-enabled EBT cards, to name this act the Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act of 2025, and to make an appropriation.
 - Sixth hearing, no testimony
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**

[House Ways and Means](#) (11:30 a.m.)

- [House Bill 504](#) (Representative Angie King): To authorize counties to temporarily exempt a portion of property's increased value from taxation following a reappraisal and to name this act the Calculated Adjustments for Property Surges (CAPS) Act.
 - Fifth hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**
- [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.
 - Third hearing, opponent testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**
- [House Bill 420](#) (Representatives Gary Click and Bernard Willis): To disallow and, by 2030, eliminate property taxes levied for a continuing period of time and to name this act The Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy – Act One: Discontinuing the Continuum.
 - Third hearing, opponent testimony

[Senate General Government](#) (2:30 p.m.)

- [Senate Bill 335](#) (Senator Kent Smith): To make Election Day a holiday
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**
- [Senate Joint Resolution 9](#) (Senator Bill Blessing, III): Proposing to repeal Section 13 of Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to no longer prohibit wholesale excise taxation on food and nonalcoholic beverages.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

- [Senate Bill 382](#) (Senator Bill Blessing, III): To implement a top-two primary election system for elective congressional, state, district, county, and municipal offices.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety (2:30 p.m.)

- [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.
 - Fourth hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**
- [House Bill 251](#) (Representative Bernard Willis): To establish requirements related to the use and purchase of an unmanned aerial vehicle by law enforcement and other public entities and to expressly incorporate additional aviation facilities into the Aeronautics Law.
 - Third hearing, all testimony