



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Senate Select Committee on Housing holds first hearing

Yesterday saw the first meeting of the Senate Select Committee on Housing, chaired by Senator Michele Reynolds. The committee is focused on dissecting housing issues so the state can encourage homeownership, revitalize neighborhoods, and ensure that Ohioans across the state have access to housing.

The committee was created in part due to several housing incentives and initiatives included in House Bill 33, the state's operating budget. These include, but aren't limited to:

- Up to \$100 million in each fiscal year in nonrefundable tax credits against the state income tax, insurance premium tax, or financial institutions tax for affordable housing projects using the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program.
- Up to \$50 million in each fiscal year in nonrefundable tax credits against the same taxes for the development and construction of affordable single-family housing.
- The creation of the Homeownership Savings Linked Deposit Program to pay above-market interest rates on savings that families put aside for the purchase of a home.
- An investment of \$150 million in FY 2024 for another round of Building Demolition and Site Revitalization grants to help communities demolish blighted buildings and ready the sites for redevelopment.

The committee heard invited testimony from the [Department of Development](#), the [Ohio Housing Finance Agency](#), the [Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio](#), the [Ohio Home Builders Association](#), and the [Ohio Mayors Alliance](#). You can view the committee's first hearing on the [Ohio Channel](#).

The committee has not scheduled its next hearing yet, but it plans to hold several more hearings, both at the Statehouse and across the state to learn more about circumstances across Ohio. If you would like to receive committee notifications or would like to offer

testimony to the committee, please contact Senator Reynolds' office at 614-466-8064 or by emailing SD03@ohiosenate.gov.

CCAO will include notifications of future committee hearings in the Legislative Activity section of *Statehouse Report*.

Indigent Defense Task Force begins to take shape

Included in the provisions of House Bill 150 of the 134th General Assembly was the creation of the Indigent Defense System Task Force. The Task Force is charged with studying the state's indigent defense system and making recommendations to the state government regarding how the system can be improved, culminating in a report that must be submitted to the General Assembly by April 2024.

The Task Force will be made up of 17 members appointed by several different authorities. The list below shows the appointing authorities and, where applicable, the individual(s) appointed.

1. The Ohio Public Defender (Tim Young)
2. The Chair of the Ohio Public Defender Commissioner (William Creedon)
3. The appointee of the Governor (Matt Donahue)
4. The Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court or designee (appointment pending)
5. One judge appointed by the Ohio Judicial Conference (appointment pending)
6. One attorney appointed by the Ohio State Bar Association (appointment pending)
7. One public defender appointed by the Ohio Public Defender Commission (appointment pending)
8. One attorney who participates in the assigned counsel system, appointed by the Ohio Public Defender Commission (appointment pending)
9. One elected prosecuting attorney, appointed by the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association (appointment pending)
10. One county commissioner, appointed by CCAO (appointment pending)
11. The Attorney General or designee (appointment pending)
12. Six members of the General Assembly, as appointed by the Speaker of the House, the House Minority Leader, the Senate President, and the Senate Minority Leader
 - a. Representative Jim Hoops (co-chair)
 - b. Representative Jim Thomas
 - c. Representative Ismail Mohamed
 - d. Senator Nate Manning (co-chair)
 - e. Senator Michele Reynolds
 - f. Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson

OSU Extension increases county share of educator compensation

Recently, the Ohio State University Extension Board of Directors decided to increase the cost share between the counties and the Extension office. This increase will add \$1,000 to the county share for educators employed in each county. The increase begins in FY 2024, currently in progress.

The \$1,000 increase will bring the county cost share to \$32,750 for the first educator and \$42,750 for each additional educator. As a reminder, the salaries of Extension educators are split between the counties, the State OSU Extension office, and Smith Lever Funds. Local Extension offices will begin these discussions with commissioners during their annual budget hearings.

Below is a table listing the history of educator cost that counties have been responsible for since CY 2016.

OSU Extension Educator Cost, County Share, 2016 - 2023		
Calendar Year	First Educator	Additional Educators
2023	\$32,750	\$42,750
2022	\$31,750	\$41,750
2021	\$31,000	\$41,000
2020	\$31,000	\$41,000
2019	\$30,000	\$40,000
2018	\$30,000	\$40,000
2017	\$29,000	\$40,000
2016	\$28,500	\$40,000

Membership survey: Projected indigent defense budget

CCAO is working with the Office of the Public Defender to collect county projections on indigent defense budgets to help the statewide office set reimbursement rates. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, [available here](#), by September 31. The survey includes an option to upload files if you would like. Please note that due to limitations in the survey software, only Word documents and PDFs can be uploaded. If you would like to provide an Excel document, please either save it as a PDF or email it directly to CCAO Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@ccao.org.

The more information that we can provide OPD, the more accurate of a reimbursement rate the office can set. Thank you for your help!

Legislative Activity

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.

If you would like to offer testimony on any bill, please visit the committee page and contact the committee chair's office for instructions on how to submit testimony.

Tuesday, September 12

[House Ways and Means](#) (2:30 p.m.)

- [House Bill 187](#) (Representative Thomas Hall and Representative Adam Bird): Modify procedures to conduct property tax sales-assessment study.
 - Fourth hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**
- [House Bill 90](#) (Representative Tom Patton): Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses.
 - Third hearing, opponent testimony