



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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House Committee reviewing occupational licensure

The [House State & Local Government Committee](#) has been conducting the statutorily required occupational licensure review. Under [Senate Bill 255 of the 132nd General Assembly](#), the General Assembly is required to review all license granting board and commission over a six-year period, or one-third in each of the preceding three legislative terms. We are in the final term of the six-year review period.

The following entities are subject to review in this General Assembly:

- Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission
- State Cosmetology and Barber Board
- Accountancy Board
- Department of Agriculture
- Architects Board and Ohio Landscape Architects Board
- Ohio Casino Control Commission
- Department of Commerce – Division of Financial Institutions
- Department of Commerce – Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing
- Department of Commerce – Superintendent of Industrial Compliance
- Motor Vehicle Repair Board
- Department of Public Safety – Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Department of Public Safety
- State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors
- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- State Racing Commission
- Secretary of State

During testimony from State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors Executive Director John Greenhalge, Representative Dan Troy and Chair Marilyn John both asked questions concerning the dual-licensure requirement for county engineers, under

which a prospective county engineer candidate must have licenses as both a professional engineer and a professional surveyor.

Greenhalge noted that, after the General Assembly shortened the time it takes to receive dual licensure in 2019, the number of licensed engineers applying to receive surveying licensure quadrupled. He also stated his belief that having licensed surveyors at the county level is important to ensure properties are recorded correctly.

Testimony concerning the Peace Officer Training Commission focused on ensuring a consistent funding stream to the Commission to allow it to keep certification free (the Commission is permitted to charge a fee but currently does not). Among the options discussed by the committee were dedicating a portion of the foreign insurance tax to fund the Commission and to use casino revenue to fund the Commission.

Documents, including testimonies and supplemental information, from the licensure review hearings are available on the committee's website. You can also access the Ohio Channel broadcasts of the hearings on the site as well.

- September 19: [Documents](#) | [Recording](#)
- September 20: [Documents](#) | [Recording](#)
- September 26: [Documents](#) | [Recording](#)
- September 27: [Documents](#) | [Recording](#)
- October 17: [Documents](#) | [Recording](#)

NOTICE: Senate Select Committee on Housing to hold hearing in Hamilton County

Next Thursday, the Senate Select Committee on Housing will be holding its first field hearing, this time in Cincinnati.

The hearing will be held Thursday at 10:00 a.m., at the United Way of Greater Cincinnati ([2400 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45202](#)) and is open to public testimony. If you would like to testify, you must complete [this document](#) and submit both it and your testimony to Senator Michele Reynolds' senior legislative aide Chloe Green by 10:00 a.m. Wednesday. You can reach Green at chloe.green@ohiosenate.gov or 614-466-8064.

This is the first field hearing the committee is holding. It plans to hold at least one hearing in other regions of the state, although dates and locations are not set yet. CCAO will keep membership informed as the committee continues its travels.

Full membership of Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform announced

The state operating budget creates a temporary joint legislative committee and tasks it with studying Ohio's property tax system and making recommendations regarding reforms and

improvements. The committee will have five members from each chamber, with three members of the majority and two members of the minority party.

This week, the first appointments were made. They are listed below, along with any local government experience they have.

- **Senate Republicans:**
 - Senator Bill Blessing, III (co-chair)
 - Senator George Lang
 - Former West Chester Township Trustee
 - Former member of the West Chester Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Senator Sandra O'Brien
 - Former Ashtabula County Auditor
- **Senate Democrats:**
 - Senator Hearcel Craig
 - Former Columbus City Councilman
 - Senator William DeMora
- **House Republicans**
 - Representative Bill Roemer (co-chair)
 - Former Summit County Councilmember
 - Representative Tom Young
 - Representative Tracy Richardson
- **House Democrats:**
 - Representative Bride Rose Sweeney
 - Representative Dan Troy
 - Former Willowick City Councilman
 - Former Lake County Commissioner
 - Two-time CCAO President (2008 and 2018)

Now that the full committee has been appointed, hearings will likely begin in the next few weeks.

CCAO is looking forward to working with the committee to make sure county's voices are heard during this important process of reviewing and suggesting reforms to the property tax system, since many county agencies rely heavily on property tax levies for their operating funds. CCAO will keep members informed as the committee begins its work.

Legislative Activity

Committee Hearings

Several bills of interest to counties received hearings this week across different committees.

House Ways & Means

- [House Bill 186](#) (Representative Darnell Brewer and Representative Sean Brennan):
To exempt from sales and use tax sales of firearm safety devices.
 - Fourth hearing, no testimony.

- **AMENDED** to remove the requirement that sellers notify consumers that devices are exempt from the sales tax.

House Criminal Justice

- [House Bill 56](#) (Representative Phil Plummer and Representative Andrea White): To require law enforcement entities to train officers related to the pursuit of a motor vehicle and to increase penalties for fleeing from law enforcement, reckless operation, and forms of stunt driving.
 - Fourth hearing, proponent testimony from the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
 - **AMENDED** to remove the permissive Class 5 driver's license suspension since current law already permits such a suspension.
 - **FAVORABLE REPORTED (11-0)**
- [House Bill 196](#) (Representative Josh Williams and Representative Bill Seitz): To change the maximum periods of community control sanctions authorized for felonies and misdemeanors and to modify the confinement sanctions authorized for a technical violation of community control sanction conditions.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House Homeland Security

- [House Bill 241](#) (Representative Joe Miller and Representative Kevin Miller): Regarding filling a vacant police department position without a competitive examination.
 - Fourth hearing, no testimony.
 - **AMENDED** to allow police chiefs of municipal corporations to conduct training schools and to clarify that the exception created by the bill does not apply to positions that must be filled by promotion under continuing law.

Introduction of Bills

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

- [House Bill 304](#) (Representative Thomas Hall and Representative Melanie Miller): To create the State and Municipal Government Commission.
- [House Bill 305](#) (Representative Brian Stewart and Representative Richard Brown): To provide for the electronic filing of pleadings or documents in courts of common pleas except a probate or juvenile court, in municipal courts, and in county courts, to permit the clerk to disburse funds for the computerization of the clerk's office without the court's authorization, and to permit municipal and county courts to increase the maximum amount of their additional fees from ten dollars to twenty dollars to cover the computerization of the clerk's office.
- [Senate Bill 172](#) (Senator Andrew Brenner): To exempt from sales and use tax sales of manned aircraft.
- [Senate Bill 173](#) (Senator William DeMora and Senator Theresa Gavarone): To specify that election officials are designated public service workers for purposes of the public records law.

- [Senate Bill 176](#) (Senator Vernon Sykes and Senator Mark Romanchuk): To allow child support orders to be issued, modified, or extended for children over 18 with a disability.

Upcoming Committee Hearings

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

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

Wednesday, October 25

[House Energy and Natural Resources](#) (10:00 a.m.)

- [Senate Bill 119](#) (Senator Bill Reineke): To make changes to the laws governing the transfer and disposal of solid waste and construction and demolition debris, including increasing certain fees.
 - Third hearing, opponent testimony