



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Governor signs Senate Bill 91, concerning fraud reporting requirements

On December 28, Governor Mike DeWine signed [Senate Bill 91](#) (Senator Tim Schaffer) into law. The bill, which had most of its provisions included into the operating budget, was amended during the House committee process, largely to address concerns that the governor raised when he vetoed portions of the budget provisions.

The key points to note for counties are:

- The following individuals working within local public offices are required to notify the Auditor of State in a timely manner if they become aware of fraud, theft in office, or misuse of public funds:
 - Elected officials;
 - Individuals appointed to or within the public office;
 - Individuals with fiduciary duties;
 - Individuals holding a supervisory position; and
 - Individuals employed in the department or office responsible for processing expenses.
- Individuals serving as legal counsel for a local public office are exempt from the reporting requirement if it involves communications received from a client in an attorney-client relationship.
- Prosecuting attorneys are not required to report a violation to the Auditor of State.

These provisions will take effect on March 27, 2024.

CCAO is working with the Auditor of State's office as they develop and roll out the fraud training requirements that were inserted into the operating budget from the As Introduced version of SB 91. We will provide an update when we have additional information.

First Health Aging Grants report due Wednesday

The operating budget passed by the 135th General Assembly created the Healthy Aging Grant Program overseen by the Ohio Department of Aging. This program focuses on individuals aged 60 and above with the intent of maintaining their independence and preserving their health.

The grant program has five reporting deadlines, the first of which is January 10th and covers October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Each subsequent reporting deadline will take place three months apart, with the final report being due on October 31, 2024.

On December 18, the Ohio Department of Aging [held a webinar](#) to assist grant applicants on how to file their quarterly reports and program reports. The Department also released a [How-to Guide](#) to provide additional assistance. Reporting must be completed via a specific template, [accessible here](#), prescribed by the Department.

Finally, please be sure to use the quarterly reporting template, as the Department requires all grantees to use this template.

If you have questions concerning Healthy Aging Grants, please contact James Kennedy at jkennedy@ccao.org.

Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform to hold first hearing next week

Next Wednesday, the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform will hold its first hearing since being created in the state's main operating budget last summer. The committee, co-chaired by Representative Bill Roemer (a former Summit County Council Member) and Senator Lou Blessing III, is tasked with exploring potential reforms to Ohio's property tax system.

The first hearing will feature invited testimony from the Legislative Service Commission and the Department of Taxation. CCAO is monitoring the committee and will keep members informed as it begins its work.

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

Next Thursday, the Senate Select Committee on Housing will be holding a field hearing in Cleveland.

The hearing will be held Thursday at 10:00 a.m., at the Cleveland Foundation ([6601 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44103](#)) 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 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. You can reach Green at chloe.green@ohiosenate.gov or 614-466-8064.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

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

- [House Bill 369](#) (Representative Michael Skindell): To eliminate the 10-year limitation on county utility supply contracts.

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, January 9

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

- [House Bill 344](#) (Representative Adam Mathews and Representative Thomas Hall): To eliminate the authority to levy replacement property tax levies and to modify the law governing certain property tax complaints.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony
- [House Bill 347](#) (Representative Doug Jones): To presume certain trailers and vehicles are sold for agricultural purposes and thus exempt from sales and use tax when sold to established farmers.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony