



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Capital budget bills introduced, receive hearings; votes to be held next week

This week, the House of Representatives and the Senate introduced their capital budget bills. [House Bill 629](#) and [Senate Bill 292](#) are identical and contain \$50 million for local jail projects, to be distributed through a Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) process similar to prior iterations of capital budget jail grants. The bills do not include a formula or a prescribed match amount for potential projects.

The bills require DRC to do the following in determining projects to fund:

1. Target county jails that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction determines to have the greatest need for construction or renovation work;
2. Improve substantially the condition, safety and operational ability of the jail; and
3. Benefit jails that are, or will be, used by multiple counties.

Both bills received hearings in the chambers' respective Finance Committee this week ahead of being voted on during the chambers' sessions next week.

The capital budget bills include about \$150 million for traditional bonded community projects (separate from the \$700 million allocated from the One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund in [Senate Bill 288](#)). A list of projects in each bill can be found here ([House](#); [Senate](#)). The lists differ slightly due to the House adopting an amendment during its hearing on Thursday. It is likely the Senate will adopt a corresponding amendment at its hearing next Tuesday.

Senator Matt Dolan, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, has indicated that the capital budget bill will be combined with SB 288, and placed in [House Bill 2](#), which passed the

House of Representatives earlier this year. The House will then have to vote to concur on the changes before the bill can go to Governor Mike DeWine for his signature.

CCAO launches platform development survey ahead of 136th General Assembly

As the Association begins to prepare for the upcoming 136th General Assembly, the policy team is conducting a membership survey to aid in developing CCAO's Legislative Platform for the next legislative term.

The platform will guide the policy staff's advocacy efforts throughout the 136th General Assembly. This includes the Main Operating Budget, the Capital Budget, and ordinary legislation. We are seeking information from our members about issues facing counties that the Association can work towards addressing in the next biennium.

A copy of the current legislative platform [can be found here](#), with links to specific sections below. Please note the current platform has not been updated to account for any legislative changes that have occurred during this General Assembly (since January 2023). If there are current platform positions you would like the Association to consider changing, please note those in the survey.

Platform Sections: [Agriculture and Rural Affairs](#); [General Government](#); [Human Services](#); [JEDI](#); [Justice and Public Safety](#); [Metropolitan and Regional Affairs](#); [Taxation and Finance](#); [Water Quality Task Force](#).

[You can access the survey here.](#)

The survey is the first step of the platform development process. CCAO's standing committees will hold meetings in the late summer and fall to discuss and make recommendations to their platform sections. Staff will present the platform to the Board of Directors in October and November, with final approval of the platform being voted on at the Annual Business Meeting at Winter Conference in December.

Legislative Activity

Committee Hearings

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

House Finance

- [House Bill 315](#) (Representatives Thomas Hall and Bill Seitz): To make various township law changes and to make an appropriation.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony; proponent testimony from the Ohio Township Association, the American Massage Therapy Association, and several townships; opponent testimony from the Ohio News Media Association.

Senate Judiciary

- [House Bill 338](#) (Representatives Andrea White and Bride Rose Sweeney): To allow child support orders to be issued, modified, or extended for children over 18 with a disability.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony from the Ohio Child Support Professionals Association, the Ohio Judicial Conference, and the Ohio State Bar Association.
- [House Bill 56](#) (Representatives Phil Plummer and 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 and forms of stunt driving.
 - Fourth hearing, interested party testimony from Ohio Families Unite for Political Action and Change.
 - **AMENDED** to add “mini-trucks” to the list of vehicles that can be used to commit vehicular homicide or assault and to remove squealing tires from the definition of “stunt driving.”

Introduction of Bills

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

- [House Bill 630](#) (Representative Brian Lorenz): To classify car condominiums as residential property for tax purposes.

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, June 25

House Commerce and Labor (11:00 a.m.)

- [House Bill 96](#) (Representatives Dontavius Jarrells and Ismail Mohamed): To increase the state minimum wage.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House Commerce and Labor (11:00 a.m.)

- [House Bill 583](#) (Representatives Andrea White and Phil Plummer): Regarding residential facilities for foster children.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony

Senate Ways and Means (11:30 a.m.)

- [Senate Bill 271](#) (Senators Louis Blessing, III, and Hearcel Craig): To authorize a refundable income tax credit or rebate for homeowners and renters whose property taxes or a portion of their rent exceed five per cent of their income.

- Second hearing, proponent testimony
- [Senate Bill 244](#) (Senators Michele Reynolds and Hearcel Craig): To authorize local governments to create residential stability zones where homeowners may qualify for a partial property tax exemption.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony

Senate Finance (2:15 p.m.)

- [Senate Bill 292](#) (Senator Matt Dolan): Capital Budget Bill
 - Second hearing, all testimony
 - **AMENDMENTS**
- [House Bill 2](#) (Representatives Al Cutrona and Terrence Upchurch): To create local jail facility funding programs and to make certain capital appropriations.
 - Second hearing, all testimony
 - **AMENDMENTS**
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**

House Criminal Justice (3:00 p.m.)

- [House Bill 325](#) (Representative Terrence Upchurch): To require municipal and county correctional facilities and state correctional institutions to provide inmates who are deaf, hard of hearing, or severely speech impaired with access to teletypewriters.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony

House State and Local Government (3:30 p.m.)

- [House Bill 497](#) (Representatives Brian Stewart and Roy Klopfenstein): To make various changes regarding county law.
 - Fourth hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**
- [House Bill 211](#) (Representative Jennifer Gross): To require a public body to permit members of the public to comment or testify about matters of public concern before the public body at its public meeting.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony