



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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January 12, 2018

Commissioner Lee testifies in support of House Bill 342

Union County Commissioner Gary Lee testified before the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on Wednesday in support of a [bill](#) that would limit local tax related proposals to general or primary elections.

In his testimony Lee explained, "Eliminating tax issues at special elections would result in savings for local governments, as the cost of placing a single issue before the voters in a special election is typically charged back to the taxing district that proposed the tax levy. These charge backs do not encompass the wear and tear on the voting machines." Read his full testimony [here](#).



CCAO delivers joint testimony on House Bill 371: House Ways and Means Committee delays vote

On Monday, January 8, CCAO issued a Legislative Alert for HB 371. CCAO, along with a number of local government associations, had previously testified in opposition to the bill in 2017. House Bill 371 would exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until residential construction commences or the land is sold. The exemption would last for 10 years. The bill also specifies that installation of infrastructure such as streets and utilities would not trigger a

reevaluation. CCAO is strongly opposed to the bill because it undermines the ability of local governments to target residential development to areas where it is needed most, and removes local control over property tax revenue.

On Tuesday, January 9, the bill received its sixth hearing and was scheduled for a vote. CCAO Legislative Counsel John Leutz delivered [testimony](#) to the committee in conjunction with other coalition members. Unexpectedly, the committee chose not to vote on the issue. We are grateful to all of the Commissioners who reached out to members of the committee before the vote, and we will continue to work with members of the coalition to improve the bill.

Members with questions or concerns about House Bill 371 should contact CCAO Senior Policy Analyst [Jon Honeck](#), 614-220-7982.

So far, state fiscal outlook is positive for distribution of \$30 M in MCO transition funds

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) released state revenue and expenditure figures through the first half of state fiscal year 2018. The figures show that total General Revenue Fund tax receipts are right on target at \$10.82 billion, or 0.2% above the OBM estimate. This performance is driven by revenues from the three largest state taxes (sales and use, personal income, and commercial activity), all of which came in slightly above estimate through the first six months of the year. OBM also reported that total expenditures are slightly below the estimate.

These positive trends make it more likely that the state will have surplus revenue at the end of FY 2018. Under the terms of House Bill 69, if the state has a surplus, up to \$30 million from the surplus will be distributed to counties and transit authorities as an additional Medicaid Managed Care sales tax transition payment by July 31, 2018. The bill gives this transition payment first priority over statutorily-required transfers of surplus revenue to the Budget Stabilization Fund and the Income Tax Reduction Fund. The distribution of year-end surplus revenue is not related to the MCO sales tax transitional payment that is being made in January, 2018.

Members with questions or concerns about House Bill 69's sales tax transition payments should contact CCAO Senior Policy Analyst [Jon Honeck](#), 614-220-7982.



Policy team hosts Miami intern in January

Alex Calabro is a senior majoring in Public Administration and minoring in Italian at Miami University. Alex is interning with the policy team for three weeks through the Ohio Public Leader Fellowship program. He is one of 18 students participating in the program during Miami's winter term and he is interested in learning more about tax policy, the opioid epidemic, and state finances. Welcome Alex!

Filing for county jail psychotropic drug reimbursement due by February 15

The state budget bill, HB 49, included the psychotropic drug reimbursement program for county jails that CCAO and the BSSA had proposed. The budget provided \$2.5 million for each year of the biennium. \$1.25 million will be made available for each of two six-month reporting periods. A county jail will receive reimbursement based on their jail's percentage of the total amount of reimbursement requested across all jails participating in the program. This reimbursement concept is similar to that for indigent defense.

Reimbursement requests for the July 1, 2017 – December 30, 2017 are to be submitted by the county sheriff's office on or before February 15, 2018.

Please contact your sheriff to make sure that your county jail is aware of the program and is in the process of compiling the information required to be submitted on the MHSA psychotropic drug reporting template which is a spreadsheet to be used by the sheriff's offices to submit their reimbursement request. The reimbursement request is to be itemized to include the number of prescriptions for each allowable drug and the cost. Failure to submit reimbursement requests by the specified dates will result in the request being denied.

CCAO legislative committee meetings

Justice and Public Safety will meet at CCAO on January 16th at 10am. The committee will discuss the implementation of the network for next generation 9-1-1. Jay Somerville, Chair of the PSAP Operations Subcommittee (which advises the ESINet Steering Committee) will present recommendations on reforming Chapter 128 and implementing a universal access fee for all communication devices. This meeting is open to all CCAO members.

Joint Committee on the Administration of Elections will meet January 18th from 1:30 to 3:00 at CCAO to discuss proposals to replace Ohio's voting equipment. A call in number will be available for committee members who are unable to attend in person.

More info on our [website](#).

Bills Introduced



HB 459 WORKERS' COMPENSATION (Henne, M.) To allow groups of employers to be granted status as a self-insuring employer for purposes of the Workers' Compensation Law.

[Text/Analysis](#)

HB 460 RIPARIAN BUFFERS (Patterson, J., Sheehy, M.) To exempt qualifying riparian buffers in the Western Basin of Lake Erie from property taxation, to reimburse local taxing units for resulting revenue losses, and to require soil and water conservation districts to assist landowners with the creation and maintenance of riparian buffers.

[Text/Analysis](#)

HB 461 HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Fedor, T., Galonski, T.) To require a juvenile court to hold a delinquency complaint in abeyance if the court has reason to believe that the act charged might be prostitution related or that the child might be a victim of human trafficking and to provide that the same elements for the offense of trafficking in persons that apply to a victim under the age of sixteen also apply to a victim who is age sixteen or seventeen.

[Text/Analysis](#)

HB 462 HOSPITAL CLOSINGS (Schuring, K., West, T.) To require that a for-profit hospital and its affiliated health care facilities in certain counties follow specified procedures before ceasing operations or closing, and to declare an emergency.

[Text/Analysis](#)

Hearing Schedule



January 16, 2018

Senate Judiciary (Testimony & Documents)

(Chr. [Bacon, K.](#), (614) 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 am [Add to Calendar](#)

HB 354 COURT JURISDICTION ([Reineke, B.](#))

--1st Hearing-Sponsor

House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor (Testimony & Documents)

(Chr. [Young, R.](#), (614) 644-6074), Rm. 113, 1:30 pm [Add to Calendar](#)

HB 392 APIARY DAMAGES ([Stein, D.](#))

--4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments

House Energy & Natural Resources (Testimony & Documents)

(Chr. [Landis, A.](#), (614) 466-8035), Rm. 018, 2:30 pm [Add to Calendar](#)

HB 225 OIL GAS WELLS ([Thompson, A.](#))

--5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

HB 422 WATER SEWER ACQUISITIONS ([Ginter, T.](#), [Rogers, J.](#))

--2nd Hearing-Proponent

For January 17, 2018

House Session

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), (614) 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 pm [Add to Calendar](#)

Senate Session

(Chr. [Obhof, L.](#), (614) 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm [Add to Calendar](#)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Testimony & Documents)

(Chr. [Blessing, L.](#), (614) 466-9091), Rm. 114, 2:30 pm or after session [Add to Calendar](#)

HB 382 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ([Schuring, K.](#))

--8th Hearing-All testimony

HJR 4 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ([Schuring, K.](#))

--8th Hearing-All testimony

HB 430 ENERGY TAX EXEMPTION ([Schaffer, T.](#))

--2nd Hearing-All testimony