



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006	NE OHIO COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION MEETING, GOOD TIME III, CUYAHOGA COUNTY (CLEVELAND)
SEPTEMBER 29, 2006	CCA O COURTS & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE, CCA O OFFICE, COLUMBUS
SEPTEMBER 29, 2006	CCA O AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, OHIO JOB & FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OFFICE, COLUMBUS
OCTOBER 6, 2006	CCAOSC NATURAL GAS PROGRAM BOARD OF PARTICIPANTS ANNUAL MEETING, CCA O OFFICES, COLUMBUS
OCTOBER 6, 2006	CCA O HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, CCA O OFFICE, COLUMBUS
OCTOBER 6, 2006	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, ROSS COUNTY SERVICE CENTER, ROSS COUNTY (CHILLICOTHE)
OCTOBER 10, 2006	CCA O INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, CCA O OFFICES, COLUMBUS
OCTOBER 19, 2006	CCA O LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, CCA O OFFICES, COLUMBUS
OCTOBER 27, 2006	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, MADISON LAKES LEARNING & CONFERENCE CENTER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY (DAYTON)
NOVEMBER 13, 2006	CCA O LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, CCA O OFFICES, COLUMBUS
DECEMBER 10-13, 2006	CCA O/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCA O/NACo TO HOST DIALOGUE ON SALES TAX CHANGES - OCTOBER 3

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio

(CCA O) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) will be hosting a briefing for county officials on the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement in early October. This session is scheduled for October 3 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm at The Columbus - A Renaissance Hotel, 50 North Third Street in

downtown Columbus - will be held in conjunction with a meeting of the State and Local Advisory Committee to the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement.

The council advises the Governing Board (which is composed only of members of the Agreement) on interpretations and amendments to the Agreement. The State and Local Advisory Council is comprised of one representative from each state that chooses to participate in the development and evolution of the Agreement, regardless of whether that state is a member of the Agreement. In addition, its membership includes three representatives each selected by the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Government Finance Officers Association, for a total of 12 representatives of local government.

Join CCAO and NACo to discuss how we can work together with colleagues in other states to ensure that this national movement toward uniform sales tax laws does not leave county finances in the dust. The Streamlined Agreement has already meant changes to Ohio's sales tax including changes in definitions, that has resulted in some reduction in revenue; the elimination of Ohio's decades old bracketed sales tax system and the use of uniform rounding rules that have revenue implications; and, limitations on the timing of the enactment of county permissive sales and use taxes. A current controversy in Ohio deals with the so-called sourcing rules which deal primarily with the rate that is charged when items are delivered to a county different from where the purchase is made. The sourcing rule affects sales of furniture, white goods and other similar items and can cause some counties in Ohio to lose substantial revenues as a result of the change.

There is no charge to attend this meeting on October 3. For more information, contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org or Alysoun McLaughlin, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4254 or amclaughlin@naco.org.

STATE AND LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE STREAMLINED SALES TAX AGREEMENT MEETING - OCTOBER 4-5

The State and Local Advisory Committee to the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement will meet on October 4-5, 2006 at The Columbus - A Renaissance Hotel, 50 North Third Street in downtown Columbus. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. on October 4 and concludes by 4:00 p.m. on October 5.

The council advises the Governing Board (which is composed only of members of the Agreement) on interpretations and amendments to the Agreement. The State and Local Advisory Council is comprised of one representative from each state that chooses to participate in the development and evolution of the Agreement, regardless of whether that state is a member of the Agreement. In addition, its membership includes three representatives each selected by the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Government Finance Officers Association, for a total of 12 representatives of local government.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting include: Multiple Points of Use Amendment, bundling rule, digital property definition, definition of fur products, rules to replace issue papers for drop shipments, exemptions, telecommunications definitions and confidentiality, health care definitions and rules, informational reports, sales price and sales for resale, and telecommunications sourcing.

Registration fee: \$200 (includes breakfast, lunch and breaks on both days) or \$250 for onsite registration. Deadline: September 22, 2006. Register on-line at www.taxexchange.org/meet/1006sales.taf. For more information please contact McLaughlin, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4254 amclaughlin@naco.org.

Hotel rooms are available at The Columbus for \$159 per night. Mention FTA Streamlined Meeting when making your reservations at (614) 228-5050, (800) 417-1057 or www.renaissancecolumbus.com. Reservation cutoff: September 20, 2006.

PUTNAM RESIGNS AS CCAO RESEARCH & INFORMATION MANAGER; LAST DAY WILL BE SEPTEMBER 29th

Doug Putnam recently announced his resignation as CCAO Research & Information Manager. His last day of work will be Friday, September 29th. He will be living and working at his home in Columbus, pursuing free-lance writing on a full-time basis.

“I would like to thank Larry Long for hiring me back in 1998,” Doug told the board of trustees at their meeting on September 15. “I also would like to thank all of my co-workers, and all of our commissioners and county officials, for taking such excellent care of our counties during my eight years with CCAO. I will miss you. I will think of you often. Good luck to each of you in all of your future endeavors!”

NE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION - SEPTEMBER 27

The Northeast District Commissioners Association will meet on Wednesday, September 27 aboard the Goodtime III in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland). Cuyahoga County Commissioners Jimmy Dimora, Peter Lawson Jones and Tim Hagan welcome the Northeast District to see the economic development along the waterfront. Commissioners, county administrators, clerks, spouses and guests are encouraged to attend.

Attendees will board the Goodtime III at 6:00 p.m. and set sail at 6:30 p.m. The meeting and CCAO Legislative update and discussion will commence after dinner. Registration fee: \$25 per person. For more information please contact the Northeast Commissioners Association President Matt Miller, Ashland County Commissioner, 110 Cottage Street, Ashland, OH 44805, (419) 282-4353 or mattmiller@ashlandcounty.org.

2006 CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

For the past three years, the County Commissioners Clerks and Engineers Secretaries Association of Ohio (CCC/ESAO), CCAO’s first and oldest affiliate

organization, have held a series of very successful regional meetings around the state. The purpose of these meetings was for CCC/ESAO members to share their knowledge with other clerks and secretaries that are unable to attend conferences and workshops.

These informal meetings are open to all commissioners clerks or deputies and engineers secretaries or administrative assistants to discuss various topics of concern in your county. The meeting topics are tailored to meet the needs of each district. All meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Lunch will be sponsored by CCAO/CEAO. The CCAO Board of Trustees encourages all county commissioners to permit their clerks and other office support staff to attend one of the last two meetings to be held in 2006:

<p>OCTOBER 6, 2006 - ROSS COUNTY - REGION 5</p> <p>LOCATION: Ross County Service Center, 475 Western Avenue, Ross County (Chillicothe)</p> <p>COUNTIES: Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton</p> <p>RSVP to Flora Butler, Clerk, Butler County Commissioners at (513) 887-3504 or ButlerFR@butlercountyohio.org</p>
<p>OCTOBER 27, 2006 - MONTGOMERY COUNTY - REGION 6</p> <p>LOCATION: Madison Lakes Learning & Conference Center, 581 Olive Road, Montgomery County (Dayton)</p> <p>COUNTIES: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Miami, Darke, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Miami, Montgomery, Preble and Warren</p> <p>RSVP to Dianna Harris, Administrative Assistant, Montgomery County Engineer’s Office at (937) 225-4904 or harrisd@mcoho.org.</p>

For more information, please contact the 2006 CCC/ESAO President Dianna Spencer, Administrative Assistant, Preble County Engineer’s Office, at (937) 456-4600 or dianna@prebeng.org.

CLCCA FALL MEETING

Are health insurance and Workers' Compensation costs hurting your county's bottom line? Join the County Loss Control Coordinators Association of Ohio (CLCCA) at their 2006 Fall Meeting to network and learn about effective ways to reduce these costs to your county and help your county employees stay healthy. The meeting will be held on Friday, September 29, at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant, I-71 - Exit 165, in Richland County (Bellville).

Topics include: ergonomics and the aging workforce, wellness programs, and an update on PERRP recordkeeping requirements.

CLCCA members may attend at no cost. There will be a \$15 fee for non-members. To register or to find out about membership, please contact Colleen Lockhart, President, at (440) 279-1670 or clockhart@geaugabocc.org, or Brian Dunn at (937) 599-7280 or bdunn@co.logan.oh.us.

CLCCA is an affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

REQUESTS TO CCAO NOMINATING COMMITTEE DUE NOVEMBER 1

On September 15, 2006, Bob Corbett, Champaign County Commissioner and CCAO Nominating Committee Chair, sent each county commissioner a memo detailing CCAO nominating procedures for 2006. The Committee will nominate individuals for the offices of president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary and treasurer. It will also recommend seven members to serve two year terms on the CCAO Board of Trustees in 2007 and 2008.

The seven members whose terms to the Board expire this year include: David Dhume (Madison), Jack Graf (Fulton), Marcia Phelps (Licking), Gerald Potter (Hardin), Peter Lawson Jones (Cuyahoga), Mark Thomas (Belmont) and Mary Walker (Clermont).

The nine members appointed by President Eliason

whose one year terms to the Board expire at the end of this year include: Mike Adelman (Huron), Paula Brooks (Franklin), Ray Feikert (Holmes), Ron Lane (Paulding), Cheryl Noah (Wayne), Marilyn Reid (Greene), James Tsagaris (Trumbull), Bill Young (Geauga) and Joe Secrest (Guernsey).

Finally, the CCAO Nominating Committee Request Form and Candidate Questionnaire must be submitted by November 1, 2006 as follows:

1. Bob Corbett, Champaign County Commissioner, 1512 S. US 68 - Suite A100, Urbana, OH 43078-1677, no later than November 1, 2006
2. A copy should be sent to: CCAO, ATTN: KATHY DILLON - NOMINATING COMMITTEE, 37 West Broad Street - Suite 650, Columbus, OH 43215-4195.

Additional forms may be obtained by contacting Kathy Dillon at (614) 221-5627, (888) 757-1904 or kathydillon@ccao.org.

CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION PROGRAM NEWS

NACo, OFFICE DEPOT COUNTY CHANGE A LIGHT CAMPAIGN OFFICE DEPOT COUPON FOR ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEE PLEDGE TAKERS!

The ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign encourages individuals to change the most frequently used light in their homes to an energy efficient (ENERGY STAR rated) light bulb - saving them money on energy bills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the process! Office Depot offers a \$1.50 coupon to all county employee pledge takers! For more information about county participation, including coupon rules, please sign up at www.naco.org/changealight. The pledge drive runs through September 30.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OPERS' PLAN TO PRESERVE RETIREE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS SHOWING RESULTS

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) announced today that active management of its health care program and strong investment returns last year resulted in a net increase of \$200 million to its \$12 billion retiree health care fund and extended the fund's solvency by another year.

The OPERS Board of Trustees has set policy to keep the health care fund's solvency at between 15 and 25 years on a year-to-year basis. Recent calculations put the health care fund at 18 years, a one-year increase over last year.

OPERS health care cost increases last year were held to only 4 percent. That was approximately 8 percent, or \$20 million, below OPERS' projections for 2005.

In addition, investment returns last year specifically for the health care fund – separate from the pension fund – were 8 percent or \$900 million. OPERS began actively contributing to its health care fund in 1974. Investment returns and other contributions have grown the account to just over \$12 billion.

Other measures that have or will be combined to bolster the health care fund and extend solvency include:

- Encouraging physicians and retirees to choose generic and alternative pharmaceutical drugs resulted in savings of nearly \$40 million last year. In addition, teaming up with Ohio businesses and pharmacies to promote Prilosec OTC® versus higher cost pharmaceuticals is on track to save an additional \$10 million this year alone. Approximately 40 percent of OPERS' annual health care expenses for its retirees goes to pay for prescription drugs.

- OPERS plans to leverage its health care buying power, having spent almost \$1.1 billion on retiree health care last year. For example, OPERS is in the formative stages of developing a broader prescription drug purchasing pool that may benefit other Ohio-based health purchasers, including OPERS employer groups. Such a pool could help combat the 25 percent surge OPERS experienced last year in biotechnology drugs.
- OPERS plans to launch a pilot program next year that offers financial incentives to retired members who embrace a healthy lifestyle and meet measurable wellness goals, such as a healthy body weight. The program, developed in collaboration with researchers at The Ohio State University, is projected to save OPERS \$1.30 to \$1.50 for every \$1 invested in wellness initiatives the first year alone, leading to a projected \$10 million reduction in medical claims.
- OPERS became the first public plan and employer group to partner with the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line to offer free nicotine replacement therapy to its retired members. Studies show that nearly \$3,400 is spent annually per adult smoker on smoking-attributable medical care.
- OPERS contracted with LifeMasters Supported SelfCare, Inc., to provide disease management services aimed at helping retirees stay healthy and managing chronic diseases to keep associated costs low.
- OPERS is leading a local initiative to work with central Ohio hospitals in reporting quality of care information, thus enabling retirees to make informed choices when seeking specific forms of treatments and care.

OPERS will continue exploring new avenues that make positive contributions to the health care fund's

solvency. The System has cautioned that federally mandated reporting requirements beginning in 2007 that focus on future liabilities could portray an incomplete picture of the funding status and overall strength of many public health care funds. While OPERS will comply with the new reporting requirements, OPERS believes that solvency is a more complete measurement of a fund's strength. OPERS is the largest state pension fund in Ohio and one of the largest U.S. retirement plans. The retirement system reported \$69 billion in total assets as of Dec. 31, 2005. OPERS consists of a pension fund (offering both defined benefit and defined contribution options) and a health care fund. The total fund distributes \$3.7 billion annually in pension and health benefits to 200,000 retirees and beneficiaries.

ODH SCHEDULES MEETINGS TO DISCUSS SEWATE TREATMENT SYSTEM RULES

As reported in a previous issue of CIDS, on August 17 the Public Health Council voted to consider the proposed amendments to sewage treatment system (STS) rules 3701-29-01 through 3701-29-20 of the Ohio Administrative Code and adopted new rules 3701-29-01 through 3701-29-18 based on the new authority and requirements contained in ORC Chapter 3718 as authorized by HB 231 of the 125th General Assembly that became effective on May 6, 2005.

Amid considerable controversy and concerns expressed by a number of counties, the Ohio Department of Health proposed changes to rules dealing with the installation and maintenance of household sewage treatment systems that were adopted in May and are schedule to become effective on January 1, 2007. On May 4, 2006, the Public Health Council rescinded existing rules.

The Ohio Department of Health has scheduled five evening meetings to discuss the adopted Sewage Treatment System (STS) rules that will be effective on January 1, 2007. The meetings will be held from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the locations listed below:

October 18, 2006

Athens County Cooperative Extension Office
280 West Union St, in Athens

November 1, 2006

Scioto Township Hall (Delaware County)
3737 Ostrander Road, in Ostrander

November 8, 2006

Millcreek Metro Park (Mahoning County)
McMahon Hall
7574 Columbiana Canfield Road, in Canfield

November 15, 2006

Warren County Administration Building
406 Justice Drive, in Lebanon

November 20, 2006

Wood County Health Department.
1840 East Gypsy Lane Road, in Bowling Green

Prior to final adoption, the pending amended STS rules (and the new rules previously adopted in May 2006) can be found through the ODH web link to Pending Rules posted on the Register of Ohio. Look for the new and amended rules for Chapter 3701-29 at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/pending.aspx>

The final STS rules should be available on the ODH web site soon after the October 12th Public Health Council meeting. Look under Final Rules for Chapter 3701-29 at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/final/f3701-29.aspx>

If there are any questions regarding these meetings or the new STS rules, contact Tom Grigsby or Jean Caudill at (614) 466-1390.

CCAO will continue to keep you informed about developments with the sewage treatment rules.

OHIO UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS SLIGHTLY BUT STILL WELL ABOVE NATIONAL READING

The state's unemployment rate dipped slightly in August to 5.7%, the Ohio Department of Job and

Family Services (ODJFS) reported this week. The U.S. unemployment rate also slipped a bit last month to 4.7%.

The number of unemployed workers in the state dropped by 3,000 over the month to 344,000 in August, according to state figures. Over the past year, the total for unemployed workers has decreased by 9,000 and the unemployment rate has improved slightly compared to 5.9% in August 2005. The state's total non-farm wage and salary employment decreased by 500 to a total of 5,458,300 in August.

Monroe County had the highest unemployment rate last month at 9.3%, ODJFS reported. Other counties with rates above 7% were: Meigs - 8.5%; Pike - 8.1%; Morgan - 7.6%; Jackson - 7.5%; Scioto and Vinton - 7.3%; and Jefferson - 7%.

Delaware County recorded the lowest rate at 3.5%, according to state figures. Other counties with rates below 4.7% in August were: Mercer - 3.8*; Holmes - 3.9%; Auglaize and Geauga - 4.2%; Shelby - 4.3%; Medina, Putnam, Union, Warren and Wayne - 4.5%; and Hancock - 4.6%.

2006 SERB HEALTH INSURANCE SURVEY DUE OCTOBER 4

Under ORC 4117.02 (K)(5), the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) has a statutory requirement to act as a clearinghouse of information related to wages, fringe benefits, and employment practices applicable to the various political subdivisions in Ohio.

Under the same ORC chapter, public employee organizations, public employers, and governmental units are required to provide assistance, services and data to enable SERB to carry out its functions and powers. For the 15th year, SERB is conducting a survey distributed to public employers in an attempt to assess the cost and content of health insurance in Ohio's public sector report.

SERB mailed a copy of the survey to all public employers, but it can also be completed via the internet at <http://vista-survey.com/survey/v1/survey.dsb?ID=8021776306>. To begin the survey, e-mail or paper, you will need your unique "identification number" which was provided to you by e-mail and through the mailed copy.

SERB is aware that many public employers deal with multiple health care plans and/or multiple unions, please photocopy the survey or follow instructions on-line, and submit separate information on each plan made available to your employees. Please answer all of the relevant questions for each of your county's plans.

Complete and return the survey by October 4, 2006. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kay Raffo, SERB Researcher, at (614) 466-1123 or KRaffo@SERB.STATE.OH.US or Cheri Alexander, SERB Administrator, (614) 466-1193 or CAlexander@SERB.STATE.OH.US.

VOTING RIGHTS GROUPS FILE FEDERAL LAWSUIT OVER MOTOR-VOTER REGISTRATION LAW

A federal lawsuit filed in Cleveland on Thursday, September 21 charges that Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Barbara Riley have violated the rights of low-income Ohioans by failing to provide voter registration opportunities in public assistance office as required by the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

The lawsuit brought by two individuals and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) alleges that offices of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services failed to provide low-income Ohioans with the opportunity to register to vote or change their voter registration address during visits to County DJFS (CDJFS) offices to apply for or recertify their eligibility for public assistance benefits. The lawsuit charges that

the state has failed badly in enforcing these requirements with some CDJFS offices, failing to register a single person in a two-year period and others registering only a handful.

The NVRA, signed into law in 1993, is commonly known as the Motor-Voter law for its requirement that states provide voter registration opportunities when registrants apply for drivers' licenses. The NVRA also requires that voter registration must be offered during most transactions at public assistance agencies to ensure that those who do not visit motor vehicle departments still have an opportunity to register to vote.

Counties are advised to make sure voter registration materials are on hand at your CDJFS office. Additionally, ODJFS has requested that CDJFS Directors identify a voter registration coordinator for each county. Please verify that your county has indeed turned that information in to ODJFS.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

HOUSE BILL REQUIRES VOTER PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

On September 14, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration approved legislation requiring all voters to present either a U.S. passport or a new state photo ID card that requires documentation of citizenship at the polls in every election for federal office beginning in 2010. It is similar in intent to an amendment that passed the United States Senate 49-48 during debate on the immigration bill last spring.

Support appears to be breaking out along partisan lines, with debate focusing almost exclusively on whether or not voters should be required to provide photo identification at the polls. NACo has no position on that issue, but opposes H.R. 4844 because it would appear to create an unfunded mandate in the following respects:

- Increase in demand for new copies of birth

certificates;

- Increase in the volume of requests under the Real ID Act, which takes effect in 2008, from state motor vehicle departments seeking to verify the information recorded on birth certificates;
- Significant cost increase for counties to issue a photo voter identification card in the event that your state chooses this option, rather than issuing a compliant Real ID, which would shift the responsibility onto county registrars and clerks;
- Potential demand for county service agencies to assist individuals for whom there is no record of their birth to secure alternate documentation; and
- Potential increase in the volume of provisional ballots cast by those individuals who fail to bring identification to the polls.

The bill offers a weak funding commitment for the cost of issuing identification cards to indigent voters, but only if the state chooses to issue a separate photo identification card to be used only for election purposes. This funding is contingent on annual year-to-year appropriations from Congress, but states and counties would be prohibited from charging a fee to indigent voters regardless of whether or not they receive federal funding. States that choose this option and accept federal funding for indigent voter cards could recoup costs by authorizing a fee to non-indigent voters; this fee may not exceed the issuance cost. HR 4844 passed 228-196 in the House on Wednesday, September 20. The unfunded mandate point of order failed 213-190.

CANADIAN WASTE GETS DUMPED

The House of Representatives passed by voice vote, H.R. 2491, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2006, on September 6. It has been referred to the Senate for consideration.

H.R. 2491 would allow states to set laws to regulate municipal solid waste (MSW) coming from other countries. It addresses a long-standing problem of

international trash being imported to the United States for disposal. States have felt they have had little recourse under existing law to recoil the incoming garbage.

Specifically, this issue stems from a dispute between northern border states and Canada. These states have sought to limit the MSW they accept from Canada after finding hazardous materials mixed in with the Canadian trash slated for landfill sites. These hazardous and contaminated materials wreak havoc with environmental laws and regulations.

States currently cannot set state laws governing international waste under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. According to a 1978 Supreme Court case, that responsibility rests solely with the federal government.

H.R. 2491 will not outright ban the importation of solid waste; however, it would give the states and the Environmental Protection Agency more responsibility to oversee it. H.R. 2491 has been referred to the Senate for consideration.

SAFETEA-LU TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE

On September 13, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed the Technical Corrections bill that amends SAFETEA-LU. It is customary that after a major transportation authorization passes, a technical corrections bill is considered to address errors and omissions that occurred in the original legislation.

NACo was involved in working on one provision included in the Senate bill. The provision would extend the eligibility for Surface Transportation Program funds for minor rural collector roads for areas under 5000 population. This language has been in law since 1991 and was inadvertently left out of SAFETEA-LU when it was passed in August 2005. The House passed its version of the bill in June 2006 and also included this NACo requested change.

Another section of the Senate bill would correct the research title of SAFETEA-LU, which earmarked all the funds the research funds, leaving no funds for any other purpose, by adding \$37 million for primary research. A number of earmarked projects need changes, which have no impact on the amount of highway funds flowing to states. The life of the National Surface Transportation and Revenue Study Commission was extended from July 2007 to January 2008 and an additional \$2 million was added to its budget. The bill now has to go to the full Senate for approval.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

HOUSE BILL 385 IS EFFECTIVE ON SEPTEMBER 21; CLERK IS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO READ RECORD OF PREVIOUS SESSION ALOUD AT NEXT SESSION

House Bill 385 became effective on September 21, and a portion of it will amend ORC section 305.11 to eliminate the requirement that clerks read aloud the records of the previous session of the commissioners at the next succeeding session. Instead of reading the record aloud, clerks will be allowed to provide the record to each commissioner in written form.

This is the only part of ORC 305.11 that has been changed. The record of the previous session still must be signed at the beginning of the next session by the commissioners. If you have questions about HB 385, please contact CCAO Research & Information Manger Doug Putnam.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CCAO publishes the County Information and Data Service (CIDS) weekly. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will run for two weeks if space is available. Please provide faxed or e-mailed copy of the classified ad by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. Transmit the copy to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, via fax at (614) 221-6986 or e-mail mjneiman@ccao.org.

