



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Be a part of the Senate budget process

We're in the home stretch but we're not done yet. The Senate is holding hearings on the state budget bill and we are being told to brace for more cuts. CCAO is arranging for testimony on our top priorities over the next two weeks and we're hoping that we can make a strong showing by having lots of county commissioners and council members at the statehouse that week. The committee schedule is as follows. Please consider coming to Columbus one of these days to interact with your senators and watch the committees. CCAO policy staff will be happy to accompany you and make a day of it!

- Senate Finance General Government and Agency Review Subcommittee - May 18th & 23rd
- Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee – May 16th & 17th
- Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee – May 16th, 18th, 23rd & 25th

House budget overview

House lawmakers made some significant changes to the Governor's budget before passing it at the end of April. You can see how the House put its stamp on this important legislation in our latest [budget overview](#). If you have any questions on the proposals highlighted in this document please reach out to CCAO's policy staff at 614-221-5627.

Advocacy spotlight



At this critical time, it's more important than ever for counties to continue to advocate for the budget priorities you've identified. This week, Erie, Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa and Wood counties joined forces to send a [joint letter](#) to Senator Gardner expressing their concern about the Medicaid managed care organization sales tax.

Collaboration is a powerful tool and we encourage more counties to work together through letters, interviews with your local media, and personal meetings with Senators. For more ideas give CCAO's policy team a call at 614-221-5627.

Call the [Senate Finance Committee](#) members and keep the momentum going on these important issues. **Leave no stone unturned!**

- Medicaid managed care sales tax – highlight the services that will be affected if counties are not protected from the loss of this revenue.
- Indigent Defense – communicate the need for a 50-50 partnership with the state. Half of the amount we needed to achieve this partnership was added in the House. Ask them to maintain the current funding and add the other half (roughly \$7 million).

Children services factbook released

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) released its biennial factbook this week. The [factbook](#) cited troubling trends that have placed additional burdens on the child protective system, including an 11 % increase in the number of children in custody since 2010, as well as a 62% increase in children in custody placed with kin, and a 17% increase in placement costs since 2013.

The factbook contains County-level figures on children in custody, their placements and numbers of reports. It also delves into several specific issues related to children services, such as multi-system youth. Children with mental illness, developmental disability or juvenile delinquency account for a large number of children in custody, not because of abuse or neglect, but because their parents are forced to relinquish custody to gain access to treatment for their child. Last July, 63% of the children in the system were due to these types of issues.

The report also looked at the high turnover among employees in the children services sector. Caseworkers often leave positions for more traditional jobs that pay better due to burnout or secondary trauma. When discussing the findings in the report, PCSAO Executive Director Angela Sausser remarked, "County agencies are spending \$55.6 million more in placement costs alone, and the cost of caseworker turnover is estimated at more than \$24 million per year".

The House increased the state's investment in child protection by \$15 million per year and included \$10 million in federal TANF money for child care for kinship families. CCAO is advocating for the Senate to maintain that funding and increase it by another \$15 million which would restore child protection funding back to pre-recession levels plus a small increase to deal with these new challenges.

If you have any questions please contact Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996.

Senate passes CAUV bill

The Senate on May 10th unanimously passed a bill intended to relieve farmers from skyrocketing property taxes under the Current Agricultural Use Value formula. The 33-0 vote took place after the Senate Ways & Means Committee adopted two amendments to the bill ([SB 36](#)) earlier that morning before reporting the measure.

"It's about relief," sponsor Senator Cliff Hite (Findlay) told colleagues. "Supporting this legislation ensures that the formula sticks to valuing farmland based on agricultural production."

The bill prescribes additional factors that must be considered in calculating CAUV and removes the equity build-up deduction from the formula. It also places a ceiling on the per-acre taxable value of CAUV land if the land is being used for conservation purposes. ([Analysis](#))

Additionally, amendments adopted by the committee:

- Phase the bill's provisions in over a three-year period, making it effective the first tax year after 2016 in which a county's sexennial appraisal or triennial update occurs.
- Require the use of an equity yield rate equal to the greater of the average of the total rates of return for the 25 most recent years for which those rates have been calculated and published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or the loan interest rate the commissioner used for that year to calculate the capitalization rate.

Senate [President Larry Obhof](#) (R-Medina) told reporters talks will continue between the Senate and House over the bill and CAUV language the House inserted in the budget (HB 49). "There are some minor differences between the two, but I think for all of us in both chambers, we're really focused on providing the relief that's necessary and I

don't expect we'll get hung up on which version we use or the minor differences we need to settle on," Senator Obhof said. "We'll work it out. ...I anticipate it will get done, whether as a standalone or part of the budget."

Opponents of the bill largely include school districts that fear it will reduce local valuations and translate into decreased funding. A [legislative analysis](#) of the as-introduced version placed lost school funding at about \$18 million a year and foregone local government funding at about \$19 million annually.

But Senator Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) said phasing in the bill over three years will cushion that blow. Senator Hite also argued that without a CAUV fix schools wouldn't be able to earn voter support for levies because their constituents can't afford them.

CCAO is currently an interested party on CAUV reform legislation. The CCAO Taxation and Finance and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committees will hold a joint meeting on May 19 to conduct further discussions on the pending legislation. For additional information on this issue contact CCAO staffer Brad Cole at bcole@ccao.org

Opponents testify on plastic piping bill before House State and Local Government Committee

In testimony before the House State and Local Government Committee, 16 separate entities representing local governments, professional engineers, iron and concrete piping manufacturing interests and other parties took turns voicing concerns with legislation (HB 121) which would require any public authority including the state and all political subdivisions to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project.

In written opponent [testimony](#) CCAO Managing Director of Research Brad Cole said,

"Ohio law is not the place to establish engineering standards. Engineering standards should be established and selected by engineering and other technically minded utility professionals representing local government agencies. The operational efficiency associated with using specifications based on years of experience is not recognized by HB 121 and would be jeopardized by the adoption on the basis of engineering standards built into Ohio law."

Cole added that the bill "creates liability for local governments by creating an additional opportunity for disgruntled vendors to sue local governments based on noncompliance with the provisions of HB 121. CCAO does not want to provide new opportunities for vendors to sue county governments on the basis of engineering standards built into Ohio law."

This was the third hearing on the plastic piping legislation before the House State and Local Government Committee. In previous hearings before the committee proponents of

the legislation including prime sponsor Representative Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) have testified in favor of the legislation. Companion legislation (SB 95) sponsored by Senator Lou Terhar (R-Green Township) is pending before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

HB 121 is supported primarily by the Plastic Pipe Institute, the PVC Pipe Association, the American Chemistry Council, and other interests that are aligned with the promotion of plastic pipe in the repair and installation of water and waste water pipes by public entities.

For additional information regarding this issue please contact CCAO staffer Brad Cole at bcole@ccaο.org

Bills Introduced



SB 149

POLLING PLACES ([LAROSE, F.](#))

Regarding the use of a school district building as a polling place for elections.

HB 203

SUMMER JOBS ([BARNES, J.](#))

To require the Director of Development Services to establish a youth summer jobs pledging initiative to increase access to summer employment opportunities for high school and college youth.

HB 205

SENIOR HOUSING ([BARNES, J.](#))

To enact the "Senior Housing Relief Act" to prohibit the sale of delinquent property tax certificates for homesteads owned for at least 20 years by a person aged 65 or older at the time of the sale and to prohibit tax foreclosure on such property when the senior homeowner has paid the current taxes in all but five or fewer taxable years.

HB 209

PHOTO MONITORING ([PATTON, T.](#))

To prohibit a local authority, in any year, from issuing a total number of traffic tickets based on the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices that exceeds two times the population of the local authority.

HB 210

PHOTO MONITORING ([PATTON, T.](#))

To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices.

HB 216

AUTO SALES CREDIT ([HAMBLEY, S.](#), [BRINKMAN, T.](#))

To authorize a sales and use tax trade-in credit for purchases of used motor vehicles from a licensed dealer.

Hearing Schedule



TUESDAY, MAY 16

House Ways & Means

(Chr. [Schaffer, T.](#), (614) 466-8100), Rm. 121, 9:00 am

HB 105

WELL FUND ([CERA, J.](#), [HILL, B.](#))

To limit the amount of revenue that may be credited to the Oil and Gas Well Fund and to allocate funds in excess of that amount to local governments, fire departments, and a grant program to encourage compressed natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

House Insurance

(Chr. [Brinkman, T.](#), (614) 644-6886), Rm. 116, 9:00 am

HB 27

BWC BUDGET ([BRINKMAN, T.](#))

To make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law, to make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs. --7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote

House Energy & Natural Resources

(Chr. [Landis, A., \(614\) 466-8035](#)), Rm. 122, 2:30 pm

SB 2

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS ([HITE, C.](#))

To revise specified laws relating to environmental protection. --3rd Hearing-All testimony

House Public Utilities

(Chr. [Seitz, B., \(614\) 466-8258](#)), Rm. 116, 3:00 pm

HB 133

DISASTER WORK ([RYAN, S.](#))

To create the Disaster Relief Act to exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

House Finance

(Chr. [Smith, R., \(614\) 466-1366](#)), Rm. 313, 3:00 pm

- 1st Hearing-Sponsor & Possible vote on BWC Budget Bill (HB 27)-Pending referral

House Federalism & Interstate Relations

(Chr. [Roegner, K., \(614\) 466-1177](#)), Rm. 115, 4:00 pm

HB 142

CONCEALED WEAPONS ([WIGGAM, S.](#))

To eliminate the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

HB 201

CONCEALED WEAPONS ([HOOD, R.](#), [BRINKMAN, T.](#))

To allow a concealed handgun licensee to carry concealed all firearms other than dangerous ordnance or firearms prohibited by state or federal law; to repeal the requirement that a licensee stopped for a law enforcement purpose promptly inform an approaching officer if the licensee is carrying a firearm and provide for expungement of convictions based on a violation of the requirement; and to provide that a person age 21 or older and not prohibited by federal law from possessing or receiving a firearm does not need a concealed handgun license in order to carry a concealed firearm and is subject to the same laws regarding concealed firearm carrying as a licensee. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

HB 195

WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTS ([INGRAM, C.](#), [SEITZ, B.](#))

To modify the provisions concerning the transport of persons who require the use of a wheelchair or other mobility aid in nonemergency circumstances. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

Senate Ways & Means

(Chr. [Eklund, J.](#), (614) 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9:00 am

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (Testimony & Documents)

(Chr. [Johnson, T.](#), (614) 466-2124), Rm. 116, 4:00 pm or after session [Add to Calendar](#)

HB 158

MILITARY TRANSFERS ([PERALES, R.](#), [CRAIG, H.](#))

To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. --1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent

HB 183

AVIATION HALL ([PERALES, R.](#))

To establish the Governing Board of the Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame and Learning Center for purposes of establishing the Hall and inducting persons into it. --1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent

HB 192

VETERAN COMMISSIONS ([MILLER, A.](#), [ANIELSKI, M.](#))

To permit county veterans service commissions to elect to add two members to the commission, one who is a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or subsequently in those theaters of operation, and one who is a military spouse. --1st Hearing-Sponsor