



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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February 24, 2017

House Finance Committee reports transportation budget (HB 26), motor vehicle license (MVL) fee remains part of bill

The House Finance Committee reported by a vote of 27 – 3 legislation (HB 26) which funds the Ohio Departments of Transportation and Public Safety for the Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 biennium.



Rep. Seitz

Included within the transportation budget is an amendment offered by Representative Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) which provides commissioners with an additional \$5 permissive motor vehicle license (MVL) fee. Additional permissive MVL authority is a legislative priority of CCAO and the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO).

The legislature last provided counties with additional MVL authority in 1987 and at the present time 31 of the 88 counties are at the maximum MVL rate allowed by law.

During deliberations on the transportation budget Rep. Reece (D-Cincinnati) offered an amendment that would require counties to place a permissive \$5 license plate fee increase on the ballot.

"The residents I have just can't afford another increase and I think they should have a say on it," she said.

Finance Committee Chairman, Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell), said that there are mechanisms to hold county officials accountable and the increase is subject to referendum if imposed through resolution. "These are elected officials. There is an accountability to them," said Chairman Smith.

The Senate on Thursday announced its planned hearing schedule for the bill, which is expected to clear the House next week.

CCAO encourages commissioners to contact their legislators to express support for this additional permissive MVL fee authority.

Agency testimony in the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee is scheduled for Feb. 28 and, if needed, on March 7. Public testimony is slated for March 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21. A committee vote is expected March 22.

"Transportation issues touch the lives of all Ohioans," said Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson), who chairs the committee. "I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft a transportation budget that invests in Ohio's diverse transportation infrastructure to enhance prosperity and improve safety for Ohio's families."

For additional information regarding this topic or HB 26 as a whole, please contact Brad Cole of the CCAO staff at bcole@ccaohio.org.

MCO Sales Tax Advocacy

Now is the time to talk to your legislators about the loss of Medicaid managed care organization sales tax. CCAO has prepared a sample letter and resolution as well as talking points to help you start the dialog. You can see other counties' resolutions [here](#).

MEDICAID MANAGED CARE SALES TAX ADVOCACY MATERIALS

[Talking Points](#) • [Sample Letter](#) • [Sample Resolution](#)

Highlights of some of the advocacy happening this week:

Meigs County Commissioners hosted a town hall meeting Monday night to discuss the impending loss of the Medicaid managed care sales tax. In attendance were State Representatives Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville), representatives from Gov. John Kasich's office, U.S. Senator Rob Portman's office and U.S. Representative Bill Johnson's office, as well as local residents, township officials, village officials and county officials.

Press coverage for **Meigs County**:

<http://mydailysentinel.com/news/12468/local-and-state-officials-discuss-impact-of-proposed-state-budget-potential-changes>

<https://mydailytribune.com/news/13265/managed-care-tax-loss-main-focus-of-meeting>

County Commissioners from Mahoning and Shelby Counties met with leaders in the House and Senate on Wednesday in Columbus. Mahoning County Commissioners Carol Rimedio-Righetti, David Ditzler, and Anthony Traficanti and Shelby County Commissioner Julie Ehemann met with House Finance Committee Chair Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and the Senate Finance Committee Chair Scott Oelslager (R-Canton) as well as Representatives John Bocchieri (D-Poland), Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) and Mike O'Brien (D-Warren). The meeting with the committee chairmen was arranged by Representative Bocchieri and provided the commissioners with an excellent opportunity to express their concerns about the Medicaid MCO revenue loss with key legislators who will shape the state's solution to this funding shortfall.

Press coverage for **Mahoning County**:

<http://www.tribtoday.com/news/latest-news/2017/02/sat-820-pm-county-officials-to-lobby-in-columbus-for-more-revenue/>

CCAO sent out materials a few weeks ago to help our members advocate for an equitable and long term solution to the loss of the Medicaid managed care sales tax. These materials have been updated and the latest version are linked in the box above. The links include quick talking points as well as a sample letter and resolution that you can send to your state legislators. If you have any questions on these materials, please contact CCAO staffers Brad Cole or Kate Neithammer.

If your county passes a resolution or engages your legislators with a letter on this topic, please forward these to Curt Pratt at cpratt@ccao.org

CCAO members air budget concerns with their legislators during regional legislative briefings

Marion:



Officials from seven north central Ohio counties aired their budget concerns at a regional legislative briefing in Marion on February 23rd. Commissioners from the counties discussed key legislative issues including the Medicaid MCO sales tax, the opiate addiction crisis, indigent defense funding and elections equipment replacement with Senator Dave Burke (R-Marysville) who represents the seven county district. For additional information regarding this meeting please see the press coverage from the [Marion Star](#).

Manchester:



Senator Uecker (R-Miami Township) and Representatives Terry Johnson (R- McDermott) and John Becker (R-Union Township) attended the region legislative briefing in Manchester, Ohio on February 23. Representative Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) was unable to attend since he is a member of the House Finance Committee which was meeting at that time to report out the state's transportation budget bill. In addition to the four key issues that were discussed in Marion, the commissioners from Clermont, Adams, Brown and Scioto counties spent a significant time talking about the impacts that the closure of the Dayton Power and Light power plants will have upon their communities.

Bills Introduced



SB 63

DELINQUENT CHILDREN (THOMAS, C.)

To revise the procedures for determining the delinquent child confinement credit.

SB 64

JUVENILE BINDOVERS ([THOMAS, C.](#))

To eliminate mandatory bindovers and reverse bindovers, and modify the rules and procedures regarding a discretionary bindover, of an alleged juvenile offender from a juvenile court to a criminal court.

SB 65

SALES TAX HOLIDAY ([BROWN, E.](#))

To provide a three-day sales tax "holiday" each April during which sales of qualifying Energy Star products are exempt from sales and use taxes.

SB 66

CRIMINAL LAWS ([EKLUND, J.](#), [TAVARES, C.](#))

To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation.

SB 70

CHILD SUPPORT ([COLEY, B.](#))

To amend the child support laws.

HB 72

STEP THERAPY ([JOHNSON, T.](#), [ANTONIO, N.](#))

To adopt requirements related to step therapy protocols implemented by health plan issuers and the Department of Medicaid.

HB 77

CHILD CARE CENTERS ([RETFERFORD, W.](#))

To provide for the licensure of sick-child care centers.

HB 78

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES ([RETFERFORD, W.](#))

To revise the laws governing the provision of adult protective services.

HB 82

PROPERTY TAX FEES ([RYAN, S.](#))

To adjust the fees allowed to county treasurers for collecting property taxes.

HB 86

MINIMUM WAGE ([SMITH, K.](#), [CRAIG, H.](#))

To increase the state minimum wage to ten dollars and ten cents per hour beginning January 1, 2019.

HB 89

SALES TAX HOLIDAY ([PATTERSON, J.](#), [KELLY, B.](#))

To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes.

Hearing Schedule



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

(Chr. [LaRose, F.](#), [\(614\) 466-4823](#)), South Hearing Rm., 9:00 am

HB 26

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET ([MCCOLLEY, R.](#))

To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs. --**Informal hearing-Agency testimony**

House Ways & Means

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

Testimony on budget tax provisions from the Department of Taxation only

House Rules & Reference

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), [\(614\) 466-3506](#)), Rm. 119, 9:45 am

House Session

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), [\(614\) 466-3357](#)), House Chamber, 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Senate Ways & Means

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

SB 65

SALES TAX HOLIDAY ([BROWN, E.](#))

To provide a three-day sales tax "holiday" each April during which sales of qualifying Energy Star products are exempt from sales and use taxes. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

SB 36

AGRICULTURAL LAND ([HITE, C.](#))

To require that the computation of the capitalization rate for the purposes of determining CAUV of agricultural land be computed using a method that excludes appreciation and equity buildup and to stipulate that CAUV land used for a conservation practice or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program for at least three years must be valued at the lowest of the values assigned on the basis of soil type. --**3rd Hearing-All testimony**

House Session

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

House Ways & Means

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

Testimony on budget sales tax provisions