



STATEHOUSE REPORT

Published by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

March 4, 2016

Changes proposed in Developmental Disabilities MBR

House Bill 483, the Developmental Disabilities Mid-Biennium Review (MBR), was introduced by Representative Ron Amstutz on Thursday. Proposed changes in the bill focus on expanding the role of caretakers and placing early intervention services for children under the age of three solely within the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

The first change would update and expand the list of medications that can be administered by a direct caretaker in a home setting, adding things like insulin, epinephrine, sunscreen and insect repellent to the list. Caretakers will also be allowed to administer health care activities such as CPAP machines, percussion vests and compression hosiery.



Rep. Amstutz

The second change will place early intervention services for young children with developmental delays solely under DODD. Currently these services are administered by two separate state agencies – the Department of Health and DODD.

A [fact sheet](#) released by DODD explains that the purpose of these changes is to allow individuals who are in a home care setting to get their needs met in a more timely manner and to ensure that children with developmental disabilities get a continuum of care that is seamless.

If you have questions on HB 483 please contact CCAO policy analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or kneithammer@ccao.org.

HB 483 **Developmental** **Disabilities – MBR**

Sponsor: Rep. Ron Amstutz

Status: Introduced

CCAO Position: Monitoring

Key Provisions:

Proposes changes to Ohio's developmental disabilities system

Kasich administration and lawmakers in negotiations to end energy mandates freeze

Lawmakers are working with the administration for a possible spring introduction of legislation that would provide an end date for Ohio's freeze on renewable energy mandates. Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville), co-chair of the Energy Mandates Study Committee, described talks between key legislators and the Kasich Administration as "very positive," but said the group hasn't yet begun drafting the compromise.

Last September the joint legislative committee recommended an "indefinite" continuation of the freeze in its [final report](#). Governor Kasich promptly deemed an indefinite freeze "unacceptable."

The Energy Mandates Study Committee was created when the legislature passed last session's energy bill ([SB310, 130th General Assembly](#)). SB 310 set a two year freeze on energy mandates; which require utilities to procure 12.5% of their electricity from renewable sources and help customers reduce their consumption 22% by 2025, which was then pushed back to 2027 under SB310.

Now the two sides are continuing to meet in an attempt to reach a compromise on extending the freeze until an end date that has yet to be determined, according to lawmakers involved in the talks. Without legislative action, the freeze would end in December.



Sen. Troy Balderson

Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), chair of the Senate Public Utilities Committee, said he expects the bill to drop in the coming months. "I think the timeline would be that something would be introduced this spring on that subject to implement many of those recommendations," he said. "What we're now trying to negotiate is an agreeable termination date for the freeze."

Governor's office spokesman Joe Andrews declined to comment on the ongoing talks, but he said the administration continues to stand willing to work with lawmakers "to craft a bill that supports a diverse mix of reliable low cost energy sources while preserving the gains we have made in the state's economy."

The report made several other recommendations:

- Expediting the review process of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and instituting an opt-out provision for large industrial users;
- Investigating and ensuring maximum credit for Ohio energy initiatives, including advanced energy initiatives; and declaring that lawmakers - not the OEPA - retain authority regarding state energy policy and dispatch protocols.

SB 310
Renewal Energy Mandate Freeze

Sponsor: Sen Troy Balderson

Status: Signed by Governor;
Effective Date 9/12/2014

CCAO Position: Interested Party

Key Provisions:

Make changes to the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction requirements, to prohibit the imposition of a waiting period before enrolling an eligible customer in the percentage of income payment plan, and to create a study committee.

Senator Balderson has indicated would like to incorporate some these recommendations into any proposed bill.

For additional information on energy mandates, please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982

Voting equipment replacement – CCAO seeks a plan

CCAO's key legislative priority for 2016 is to have the legislature discuss and have a plan for the replacement of voting equipment in place by the end of the year.

While commissioners all understand the critical nature of the aging of our voting equipment, your legislators, who are not expected to be elections experts, may not be aware of this issue. We encourage you to continually bring this issue up to your legislators and keep a dialogue going with them to help them understand its seriousness.



Voting equipment replacement – What legislators need to know

- The current equipment was purchased in 2005 and 2006 and is nearing the end of its lifespan.
- Although widespread failure is not occurring, minor errors and glitches are becoming more common with each election and the long term viability of the system is being compromised.
- Voting systems are made up of many individual items, not just the voting device. Some of the equipment needed to support the voting system such as servers, printers, and scanners, have been discontinued by the manufacturer and are not readily available.
- Parts that are no longer manufactured are becoming harder to find and thus affect the long-term viability of the system.
- Transportation to and from the polling locations is one of the leading causes of wear and tear on the machines and supporting equipment.
- Maintenance and repair costs increase with the age of the voting machines and equipment.

For additional information or questions, please contact CCAO staffers Cheryl Subler at csubler@ccao.org or (614) 220-7980 or John Leutz at jleutz@ccao.org or (614) 220-7994.

Safety Capital Grants – Time is of the essence

- All indications are that the program has attracted tremendous interest from Ohio's local governments.
- As of this week over 50 applications have already been submitted through the web site
- The application deadline is March 21st
- \$10 million will be awarded in FY2016
- Design your grant to enhance the public safety of your community's residents.

Human trafficking workgroup formed

The Ohio Supreme Court has formed a working group focused on the human trafficking of children. The group will be led by Lucas County Juvenile Court Judge Denise Navarre Cubbon and includes members from law, social work, law enforcement, academia, and medical backgrounds. "The workgroup's focus will be child victims of trafficking and how juvenile courts can best address the needs of these children," Judge Cubbon said in a statement.

The workgroup will develop a survey to distribute to all courts across the state to identify services that are currently being offered and to assess local training and program needs. Once survey responses have been compiled they will undertake projects aimed at meeting these four goals:

- Promote effective judicial response to the trafficking of children;
- Identify promising court-centered practices, models, and strategies to identify system-involved trafficked children;
- Support judicial leadership and foment inter-system collaboration at the local level;
- And recommend rules, policies, and practices.

Their next meeting is scheduled for May 2nd.

If you'd like to know more about the human trafficking workgroup please contact CCAO policy analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or kneithammer@ccao.org.

Bills Introduced



- [SB 284](#)** ■ **EXPUNGEMENT** ([Obhof, L.](#)) To provide that a person who is found not guilty of an offense by a jury or a court or who is the defendant named in a dismissed complaint, indictment, or information may apply to the court for an order to expunge the person's official records in the case if the complaint, indictment, or information or finding of not guilty was the result of the applicant having been a victim of human trafficking and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. Am. 2951.041 and 2953.38 and to enact section 2953.521
- [SB 286](#)** ■ **POLICE ANIMALS** ([Hughes, J.](#)) To modify the penalty for assaulting a police dog or horse to require, if the dog or horse is killed, a mandatory prison term and a mandatory fine to be paid to the law enforcement agency served by the dog or horse. Am. 2921.321, 2929.13, and 2929.18
- [HB 478](#)** ■ **COURT SENTENCES** ([Johnson, G.](#)) To authorize a court that sentences an offender for a felony to a prison term or term of local incarceration, or for a misdemeanor to a jail term, to impose in the sentence, in addition to the term, an order that prohibits the offender from having direct or indirect contact with any person as specified by the court and to declare an emergency. Am. 2929.13, 2929.14, 2929.22, 2929.24, and 2971.03
- [HB 482](#)** ■ **PROPERTY TAXES** ([Dever, J.](#)) To change the calculation of the exempt value of improved property subject to a community reinvestment area exemption, to clarify the calculation of the exempt value of property subject to a brownfield remediation exemption, and to authorize the filing of a complaint with the county auditor challenging the assessed value of fully or partially exempt property. Am. 3735.67, 3735.671, 5709.87, and 5715.19
- [HB 483](#)** ■ **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** ([Amstutz, R.](#)) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation. Am. 3301.0714, 3701.07, 3701.61, 4723.071, 5123.02, 5123.1610, 5123.41, 5123.42, 5123.421, 5123.422, 5123.43, 5123.441, 5123.45, 5123.46, 5123.47, 5124.10, 5124.101, 5124.45, and 5126.36, to enact sections 5123.024, 5123.0421, 5123.0422, 5123.0423, 5123.377, 5123.452, and 5124.39, and to repeal sections 3701.611

Hearing Schedule



Thursday, March 10

[House Medicinal Marijuana Task Force](#), (Chr. [Schuring, K.](#), 752-2438), Rm. 313, 7:00 pm