



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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All 88 Counties!

Talk to your legislators about complete & permanent replacement for local Medicaid managed care sales tax loss!

30 counties have passed resolutions urging their state legislators to protect counties from the negative effects of the Medicaid managed care sales tax loss. Have you passed your resolution? If so please send a copy to [Curt Pratt](#).

Check out these advocacy checklists for opportunities to engage with...

Legislators

- Pass the MCO resolution and send to your legislators
[Sample letter/Sample resolution](#)
- Call your legislators
- Meet one-on-one with your legislators
[Talking Points](#)

County Officials

- Hold a meeting with all county elected office holders to discuss budget implications
- Meet with organizations who partner with the county like OSU extension or soil and water districts

Community

- Meet with local service clubs
- Meet with business and economic development leaders
- Ask your constituents to call state legislators
- Hold a community forum and invite your legislators
[Meigs County town hall](#)

Media

- Pass the MCO resolution and send a press release to the media
- Meet one-on-one with your local newspaper
- Invite the media to attend community forums and/or meetings with other county officials

Transportation budget undergoing hearings in Senate, commissioners encouraged to contact Senators to support county MVL fee

The Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee is holding hearings on the state transportation budget (Am. Sub. HB 26). The transportation budget includes a permissive \$5 motor vehicle license (MVL) supported by CCAO and the County Engineers Association of Ohio.

CCAO encourages commissioners, county council members and county executives to contact their senators and the members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce to express support for this additional permissive MVL fee authority.

The Committee is comprised of the following members: Frank LaRose (R-Hudson), Chair, Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard), Vice Chair, Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus), Ranking Minority Member, Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City), Edna Brown (D-Toledo), Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls), Frank Hoagland (R-Mingo Junction), Jay Hottinger (R-Newark), Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville), Joe Uecker (R-Miami Township), and Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights).

The state transportation budget includes many provisions of interest to counties that impact some part of county government. The following is a more in depth summary of some of the provisions of interest to county officials:

- **County motor vehicle license fee** – Permits a board of commissioners, by resolution, to levy and retain an additional \$5 MVL fee for any of the purposes for which existing MVL fees may be used (planning, constructing, improving, maintaining, and repairing public roads, highways, and streets; maintaining and repairing bridges; ect.). Allocation of all revenue to the county.
- **Sale of national forest timber** – Specifies that money received by the state pursuant to federal law from the sale of national forest timber and other national forest products be distributed by ODNR to the county or counties in which the forest is located for maintaining county roads and bridges (50%) and to use (50%) for the benefit of public schools.
- **Clerks of court serving as deputy registrar pay supplement** – Requires fees credited to each county certificate of title administration fund to be used to pay the clerk of court serving as a full authority deputy registrar an \$8000 annual pay supplement, in addition to using the fees to pay the costs incurred by the clerk in processing motor vehicle certificates of title, as in current law. This affects 8 counties where the clerk of court also serves as a full authority deputy registrar.
- **Deputy registrar fee increase** – Increases from \$3.50 to \$5.25 the service fee that is paid to a deputy registrar for services including vehicle registration and renewal registration, vehicle inspections for titling purposes, driver's license and commercial driver's license issuance and renewal, and identification card issuance and renewal. Also increases the prorated deputy registrar fees for multiyear registrations as follows: a) 2 year registration, \$8.00; b) 3 year registration, \$12.00; c) 4 or 5 year registration, \$15.00. The Legislative Service Commission estimates an annual revenue gain to the

Bureau of Motor Vehicles and counties of \$6.4 million where the clerk of court or the county auditor is also serving as a deputy registrar.

- **Study of permanent registration fees for commercial trailers and semitrailers –** Requires the registrar of motor vehicles to: a) conduct a study of the benefits and detriments of lowering the permanent registration fees for commercial trailers and semitrailers and streamlining of the registration process; b) consider methods for making Ohio's commercial trailer and semitrailer registration process competitive with states that charge lower registration fees, including conducting an analysis of the effect of collecting permanent registration fees using a fee structure similar to the state of Indiana; c) issue a report of the registrar's findings to the leadership of the General Assembly by September 30, 2017.
- **Commercial vehicle registration pilot program –** Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to establish a commercial motor vehicle registration pilot program for Clinton, Lucas, Montgomery, and Stark counties, under which the Registrar or a deputy registrar must reduce from \$30 to \$15 one of the fees charged for the registration of a commercial car with a gross vehicle weight of up to 78,000 pounds. Specifies that the pilot program is to begin on January 1, 2018, and end on December 31, 2019. The Legislative Service Commission estimates potential annual revenue loss of up to \$940,000.
- **Property tax administration fund changes –** Suspends, in FY 2018 and SFY 2019, transfers from the state GRF to the Property Tax Administration Fund which is used by the Department of Taxation to administer real property tax, and subsequent reimbursements to the GRF through reductions of 10% property tax rollback payments to school districts and other units of local governments. Reduces these amounts in FY 2020 and thereafter from 0.48% to 0.25% or less of the amount of the 10 % rollback of taxes on residential and agricultural real property, and from 0.951% to 0.45% or less of the amount of taxes on public utility tangible personal property, with amounts to be limited to estimated costs of the Department for administering these taxes. LSC estimates savings to local governments of \$8 million or more per year.
- **Motor fuel excise tax: point of taxation and revenue disposition –** Ends the evaporation credit to motor fuel wholesalers and retailers effective June 30, 2019; retains an existing law requirement that counties, municipalities and townships use 90 percent of a certain part of their state motor fuel tax revenue to supplement, not supplant, their own local road spending. Elimination of the evaporation credit will increase motor fuel tax revenue by approximately \$57 million annually. The revenue increase would be shared with state funds, municipalities, counties and townships.
- **Annual report of local airport spending –** Requires all counties and regional transit authorities to provide an annual report to the Director of Transportation and the Tax Commissioner on local spending for local airport related capital and operating costs, and costs for other airport related activities, for the previous fiscal year.



- **Limited access ramps on interstate routes in certain urban areas** – Requires ODOT to ensure that limited access exit and entrance ramps to an interstate highway running through two adjacent municipalities exist at intervals of at least every 4 miles under certain circumstances. This provision impacts Cuyahoga and Franklin counties.
- **Tow truck exception to vehicle size and weight limits** – Specifies that vehicle size and weight limits under current law do not apply to certain tow trucks/wreckers when traveling to the site of an emergency on a public highway to tow a vehicle and when returning from towing a vehicle from the site of such an emergency. This may reduce fine revenue to the state and local governments.
- **Transportation improvement districts** – Increases the earmark for TIDS from \$3.5 to \$4.5 million per year.
- **Variable speed limits** – Allows ODOT to establish variable speed limits on highways that are part of the Department’s Smart Mobility Initiative on all or parts of I-670, I-90, and U.S. Route 33. Terminates the pilot program on December 31, 2018.
- **County bridge inspections**- Requires a county engineer to inspect each bridge on the county highway system at least biennially, rather than at least annually, as under current law.

The Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee will hold hearings on the state transportation budget on March 14 and March 15 of next week. For additional information regarding this legislation please contact Brad Cole of the CCAO staff at bcole@ccao.org.

Lend your voice to support indigent defense funding

Please let your legislators know you support a budget amendment to reinstate the 50/50 partnership on indigent defense.

State Representative Steve Arndt, a member of the House Finance Committee, is having an amendment drafted that would require the state to reimburse counties for “at least 50%” of the costs and expenses for general cases, reimburse at 100% for capital cases, and adjust the budget general fund appropriation line items to provide the funding to meet the state’s reimbursement obligations.

This is one of CCAO’s top four budget priorities and we need your help to secure the adoption of this amendment into the state budget bill. Contact your state representative now and ask them to support this important amendment by adding their name as a co-sponsor.

If you have questions please contact [John Leutz](#).

SNAP & Medicaid benefits getting attention in the legislature

Concern about fraud has resulted in several new bills dealing with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Medicaid program.

House Bill 50, sponsored by Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster), would require the front of the SNAP debit card to have a color photograph of at least one adult member of the household.

House Bill 119, sponsored by Reps. Michael Henne (R-Clayton) and Rob McColley (R-Napoleon), would require state agencies to check the eligibility of Medicaid and SNAP recipients more frequently. Senate Bill 96, sponsored by Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.), is a companion bill in the Senate.

HB 119 and SB 96 would require the Department of Job and Family Services and the Department of Medicaid to cross-check the rolls for the programs with several other databases that could indicate potential fraud, abuse or ineligibility at least every quarter. Currently this check happens once a year. The process would look at earned and unearned income, property ownership, employment status and changes in employment, change in residency, enrollment in other public benefit programs, lottery winnings, incarceration status, death records and other records related to identity theft.

Sponsors of the bills all noted concern about third parties who are not eligible for benefits taking advantage of the programs. However, advocates say that SNAP in particular has an incredibly low rate of fraud because the federal requirements for enrollees are so strict and penalties are severe.

Questions remain about how these changes would affect the county departments of job and family services. Without system upgrades, implementation may place an increased burden on CDJFS workers. If you have any questions please contact [Kate Neithammer](#).

Changes to BCMH



The Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) may undergo some big changes. The Governor's SFY 18/19 budget proposes to move the program from the Department of Health to the Department of Medicaid. Anyone who is currently in the program who is not eligible for Medicaid will remain in the current Dept. of Health BCMh program until they age out or are no longer eligible. Moving forward, those who are Medicaid eligible and those who are new to the program will be part of the new Dept. of Medicaid BCMh program. If you are receiving questions about this change, the links below should provide some good information. If you have any questions please contact [Kate Neithammer](#).

[BCMh info](#)
[BCMh FAQ](#)

Bills Introduced



SB 95

PIPING MATERIALS ([TERHAR, L.](#))

To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project.

SB 96

PUBLIC BENEFITS ([COLEY, B.](#))

Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program.

SB 97

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ([LAROSE, F.](#), [YUKO, K.](#))

To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.

HB 109

PRISON TERMS ([PATMON, B.](#))

To create specifications that impose an additional prison term on a felony offender who commits the offense against a disabled person or elderly person and a period of Department of Youth Services commitment on a delinquent child for felony act committed against a disabled or elderly person, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled or elderly person is the victim of the violation.

HB 110

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS ([HAGAN, C.](#), [DEAN, B.](#))

To create a subprogram of the College Credit Plus Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs.

HB 111

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS ([CARFAGNA, R.](#), [RYAN, S.](#))

To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination.

HB 112

LEASE TERMINATIONS ([GONZALES, A.](#))

To allow a tenant seeking inpatient treatment for substance abuse to terminate or fail to renew their lease.

HB 113

UNION DUES ([BRINKMAN, T.](#))

To prohibit any requirement that employees of private employers join or pay dues to any employee organization and to establish civil and criminal penalties against employers who violate that prohibition.

HB 114

RENEWABLE ENERGY ([BLESSING, L.](#))

To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program.

HB 116

SALES TAX ([MERRIN, D.](#))

To exempt prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical aids sold by licensed dispensers from sales and use tax.

HB 117

OPIOID THERAPY ([HUFFMAN, S.](#), [BRENNER, A.](#))

To establish a statewide pilot program for the provision of long-acting opioid antagonist therapy for offenders convicted of an opioid-related offense who will be released from confinement on supervised release, and to specify that the therapy is to be provided during both their confinement and their supervised release.

HCR 6

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ([GOODMAN, W.](#), [FABER, K.](#))

To urge Congress to continue its efforts to fully repeal the Affordable Care Act and to recommend that future federal health care policies restore power to the states, fund the Medicaid program through block grants to individual states, and permit the sale of health insurance across state lines.

HB 119

SNAP ([HENNE, M.](#), [MCCOLLEY, R.](#))

Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program.

HB 121

PIPE MATERIALS ([EDWARDS, J.](#))

To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project.

HB 122

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (HAMBLEY, S., ROGERS, J.)

To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.

HB 124

TAX LEVIES (BRENNER, A., CARFAGNA, R.)

To authorize a joint vocational school district to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at an election held in November of 2015 because the levy was only placed on the ballot in one of several counties in which the district has territory.

HB 125

COURT JURISDICTIONS (CRAIG, H., SEITZ, B.)

To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

Hearing Schedule



TUESDAY, MARCH 14

House Ways & Means

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

Severance tax

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

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

SB 3

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (BEAGLE, B., BALDERSON, T.)

To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

SB 6

BRIDGE PROGRAM ([HOAGLAND, F.](#))

To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

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. --3rd Hearing-All testimony

Senate Judiciary

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

SB 1

DRUG OFFENSES ([LAROSE, F.](#))

To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-related compound, to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of permitting drug abuse, and to add lisdexamphetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances. --5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

SB 32

TRIAL TIMELINES ([EKLUND, J.](#))

To provide a prosecutor an additional fourteen days to commence a trial after a person charged with a felony has been discharged because the person has not been brought to trial within the required amount of time and to authorize the court to release the person from detention in connection with those charges pending trial. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), (614) 466-3506), Rm. 119, 11:30 am

House Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub.

(Chr. [Faber, K.](#), (614) 466-6344), Rm. 017, 12:30 pm [Add to Calendar](#)

Testimony from Department of Taxation and public testimony

House Public Utilities

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

Presentations by Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Ohio Consumers' Counsel

HB 114

RENEWABLE ENERGY (BLESSING, L.)

To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program. --1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral

Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid

(Chr. [Burke, D.](#), (614) 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 pm

SB 71

AGENCY CONTRACTS (MANNING, G.)

To allow a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to authorize its executive director to execute contracts valued at \$50,000 or less without the board's prior approval. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

SB 80

EBT CARDS (HUFFMAN, M.)

To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

House Finance: Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources Sub.

(Chr. [Thompson, A.](#), (614) 644-8728), Rm. 018, 9:00 am

Public budget testimony

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. --4th Hearing-All testimony

House Higher Education & Workforce Development

(Chr. [Duffey, M.](#), (614) 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11:00 am

Presentation from the Legislative Service Commission regarding Higher Education

Senate Session

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

House Session

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

House Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub.

(Chr. [Faber, K.](#), [\(614\) 466-6344](#)), Rm. 017, 1:30 pm or after session

- Testimony from Department of Taxation (if needed) and public testimony

House State & Local Government

(Chr. [Anielski, M.](#), [\(614\) 644-6041](#)), Rm. 122, 2:30 pm or after session

HB 39

SNOW REMOVAL ([ARNDT, S.](#), [GAVARONE, T.](#))

To authorize certain townships to require the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting property. --3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

HB 69

TIF DISTRICTS ([CUPP, R.](#))

To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. --2nd Hearing-All testimony

HB 103

FISCAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS ([REINEKE, B.](#))

To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

House Civil Justice

(Chr. [Butler, J.](#), [\(614\) 644-6008](#)), Rm. 113, 2:30 pm or after session

HB 52

DEED SOLICITATION ([REZABEK, J.](#))

To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds. --3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

Senate Education

(Chr. [Lehner, P.](#), [\(614\) 466-4538](#)), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 pm

Superintendent Paolo DeMaria will give an overview of assessments

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

House Finance: Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources Sub.

(Chr. [Thompson, A.](#), [\(614\) 644-8728](#)), Rm. 018, 9:00 am

Public budget testimony

House Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub.

(Chr. [Faber, K.](#), [\(614\) 466-6344](#)), Rm. 017, 9:00 am

Testimony from Department of Taxation (if needed) and public testimony