



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Multi-system youth committee touches on funding

State legislators met Tuesday to hear from a panel that included care providers and parents of children who are served by multiple state systems. Multi-system youth often struggle with developmental disabilities, psychological disorders and physical health issues that cause them to fall through the cracks because of the lack of facilities and funding.

Several parents provided testimony describing the physical, emotional and financial impact on families, often leading parents to relinquish custody because they can't afford the high costs of care their children need.

Senator Peggy Lehner added that in addition to cost, Ohio is lacking the facilities needed to serve these children, especially if they have aggressive behaviors.

Franklin County Family and Children First Council clinical director Eve Fitch explained how the lack of facilities often leads to even higher costs for the children who do get care, citing that services for one aggressive youth cost their county \$750,000. Youth who are in the custody of children services often have to be sent to facilities in other states because they can't get access to care in Ohio. Costs like that are hard to manage in a large urban county, but almost impossible in a smaller rural one.

Marilyn Pape of Trumbull County Children Services reminded the committee that Ohio is 50th in the nation when it comes to state funding for child welfare, adding "even if we doubled that amount, we would still be 50th."

- The multi-system youth committee was created to identify:
- The services currently provided to multi-system youths and the costs and outcomes of those services
- Existing best practices to eliminate custody relinquishment as a means to receive services
- The best methods for person-centered care coordination
- A system to monitor the progress of these youths in residential placement
- A funding and service delivery system

Their next meeting is Wednesday, March 16th. If you would like to know more, please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or kneithammer@ccao.org.

Department of Natural Resources “MBR” introduced

[SB 293](#) was introduced this week as the latest component of Governor Kasich's scaled-back mid-biennium review package for the second year of the biennium. The bill focuses on the Department of Natural Resources and its major initiative would consolidate the divisions of State Parks and Watercraft. The administration says the proposal is a common sense approach to serving Ohio boaters and that consolidation of ODNR's divisions of Watercraft and State Parks, will not only offer Ohioans improved services and cost savings, but also enable ODNR law enforcement to provide greater protections for visitors at Ohio's state parks, natural areas, rivers and lakes. The consolidation will build on ODNR's efforts in recent years to cross-train its Forestry, Parks and Watercraft officers, successfully reducing training costs and improving officer response and safety efforts across state properties.

SB 293
Department of Natural Resources – MBR

Sponsor: Sen. Troy Balderson
Status: Introduced
CCAO Position: Monitoring
Key Provisions:
Major initiative would consolidate the divisions of State Parks and Watercraft

SB 293 is the latest in what has been planned as four separate "MBR" bills this spring. None are expected to be controversial or entail revenue impacts. The bill is the first of two expected Senate MBRs, with the second said to be aimed at Environmental Protection Agency issues.

2015 Horizontal well production statistics



The Department of Natural Resources announced that Ohio's horizontal shale wells produced more than 6.2 million barrels of oil and 303 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the fourth quarter of 2015. Oil production was up 10% over the third quarter of the year and gas production was up almost 25%. The numbers also show a 75% increase in oil production from horizontal shale wells over the fourth quarter the year before and an 80% increase in gas production. In 2015, the wells produced just under 22 million barrels of oil, nearly double the almost 11 million they produced in 2014. They produced nearly 954 billion cubic feet of gas, more than double the nearly 453 billion of the year before. The ODNR's report listed 1,265 wells, of which 1,230 reported production.

Statehouse, Etc.



February sales tax receipts underperform estimates. Overall state tax revenue for February remained on track with analysts' expectations even though the sales tax category gave up nearly half of its year-to-date overage, the latest data from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) show. Sales taxes took a deep dive in February, coming in nearly \$36 million, or almost 5%, below projections.

State coffers did finish February nearly where OBM projected and kept the year-to-date tax underage within striking distance of the overall expectations. So far this fiscal year, the \$14.489 billion in total tax receipts is only \$22.7 million, or 0.2%, short of the budget planning goal.

Casino revenues up for February All four casinos took in more money last month than in January, according to the Ohio Casino Control Commission data. Overall, casinos pulled in \$72.10 million - up more than \$6.58 million from January's \$65.51 million haul. February's revenue leaves casinos with a year-to-date total revenue of \$137,623,324 - about \$5.3 million more than at this point in 2015. February's reports mark a contrast between January's numbers, which had slipped for casinos from December.



Among the casinos, Horseshoe Cincinnati saw the largest increase in adjusted gross revenue last month, bringing in more than \$17.78 million in January, up from \$15.4 million in January. Horseshoe Cleveland drew in \$18.28 million, up from \$17.33 million in January. Hollywood Columbus pulled in \$18.87 million, up \$1.38 million over January's numbers at that facility. Finally, Hollywood Toledo earned more than \$17.16 million in February, up from \$15.29 million in January.

Bills Introduced



SB 293 ■ **NATURAL RESOURCES** MBR ([Balderson, T.](#)) To revise specified laws relating to natural resources.

HB 484 ■ **TAXATION** ([Sykes, E.](#), [Cera, J.](#)) To exempt from sales and use tax the sale of nonprescription human drugs, feminine hygiene products associated with menstruation, and disposable baby diapers, to reimburse the Local Government Fund and Public Library Fund and county and transit sales and use tax collections for any revenue lost due to those exemptions, and to create the Legislative Commission on Middle Class Economic Strength to study proposed income, sales, or use tax legislation that changes the proportionate tax burden among income classes or other classes. Am. 131.51 and 5739.02 and to enact sections 130.40, 5739.212, and 5741.033

HB 486 ■ **MINIMUM WAGE** ([Smith, K.](#), [Craig, H.](#)) To increase the state minimum wage to ten dollars and ten cents per hour beginning January 1, 2017. Am. 4111.02, 4111.09, and 4111.14 and to repeal section 4111.07

HB 489 ■ **MINE FUNDING** ([Cera, J.](#)) To credit a portion of the money derived from the Kilowatt-Hour Tax Receipts Fund to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, the Acid Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Fund, and the Mine Safety Fund and to make other changes to those funds. Am. 1513.37, 1561.24, 5727.81, and 5727.84

Horizontal Drilling Rig (Appalachia) courtesy of: Meredithw at English Wikipedia

Casino photo courtesy of: Yamaguchi, //en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Las_Vegas_slot_machines.jpg