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# STATEHOUSE REPORT

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March 17, 2017

## CALL TO ACTION – Indigent defense reimbursement

As you know, we received, and truly appreciate, the strong bipartisan support in the House of Representatives last Session to provide an increase in funding to obtain 50% reimbursement for our indigent defense costs. While we were successful in obtaining a level of funding which at the time was thought to provide 50% reimbursement, due to extraordinary circumstances this goal was unable to be obtained. We want to build on this strong bipartisan support and carry it over to this budget and HB 49.



Representatives Steve Arndt and John Rogers have drafted and intend to offer Amendment HC0492 to HB 49 that will require the state to reimburse the counties for at least 50% of their indigent defense costs and reimburse the counties for all of their costs in capital cases.

Last session we obtained 56 co-sponsors – WE CAN DO BETTER THIS SESSION

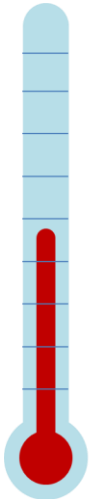
Please CALL and directly talk to your state representatives ASAP - communicate the following information:

- **Thanks** – for the bipartisan support last session
- **The Governor's budget** - does not provide adequate funding for reimbursement
- **The House** – should provide at least 50% reimbursement
- **An Amendment** – will be offered in House Finance committee which will:
  - Require the state to reimburse the counties for at least 50% of our costs
  - Reimburse 100% of our costs in capital cases
  - Provide the funding to accomplish these objectives
- **Representatives Steve Arndt and John Rogers** – are sponsors of the amendment
- **ASK – CO-SPONSOR THIS AMENDMENT (HC0492)**
- **Contact** – Representatives Arndt or Rogers to add your name as co-sponsor

We currently have ten co-sponsors on our amendment – in addition to Representatives Arndt and Rogers - they are Representatives Marlene Anielski, Nickie Antonio, Bob Cupp, Theresa Gavarone, Doug Green, Dave Greenspan, Steve Hambley, and Scott Wiggam – Please CALL them – to THANK them for co-sponsoring our indigent defense amendment.

**Indigent Defense  
Advocacy Materials**

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



**All 88 Counties!**

80  
70  
60  
50  
40  
30  
20  
10

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

47 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

## **CCAO supports county motor vehicle license (MVL) fee before Senate committee**

CCAO backed a provision of the state transportation budget (HB 26) which would provide counties with an additional \$5 permissive MVL fee in [testimony](#) provided by CCAO Managing Director of Research, Brad Cole before the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee.

In his testimony, Cole noted that 30 counties have levied all three existing county MVL fees and 42 have levied two of three MVL fees. He added that the legislature last addressed the question of local MVL authority in 1987.

Cole also expressed support for including municipal corporations and townships within the MVL proposal as CCAO, the Ohio Municipal League, the Ohio Township Association and the County Engineers Association all participated in a coalition supporting additional MVL authority for local governments.

The Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee is expected to unveil its version of the transportation budget early next week.

For additional information on this issue please contact Brad Cole of the CCAO staff at [bcole@ccao.org](mailto:bcole@ccao.org)

## **Changes to the Public Employer Risk Reduction Program (PERRP) may affect counties**

Language in the [BWC budget bill](#) (HB 27) could affect local government. Changes proposed to the PERRP would do the following:

- Eliminates the ability of a public employer to apply to the Administrator for an exemption from the PERRP.
- Provides coverage under PERRP to firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and certain county and municipal correction officers.
- Requires the Administrator to adopt rules concerning standards and procedures for an effective safety partnership agreement program for public employers and employees that promotes voluntary compliance with PERRP.
- Specifies that the Administrator or Administrator's designee must make scheduled inspections (rather than investigations) and requires inspections and investigations to be conducted in accordance with the Administrator's rules adopted under continuing law.
- Eliminates current law's requirement that a safety violation notice provided to a public employer include the initial notice the Administrator receives of the violation.

CCAO staff is continuing to gather information on the proposal and how it would affect counties. If you have any questions please contact [Kate Neithammer](#).

## CCAO pitches for Codification of popular Ohio Bridge Partnership Program

CCAO lent its support to legislation (SB 6) which would codify the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program in [testimony](#) provided by CCAO Managing Director of Research Brad Cole before the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee.

Established in October 2013 by action of the Governor Kasich, the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program has provided \$138 million in state and federal funding for the repair and reconstruction of hundreds of county and municipal bridges across Ohio. The state of Ohio captured unspent federal funds and used cost savings from belt tightening with ODOT to free up money for the initial \$120 million commitment to establish the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program.

The bill requires the Director of ODOT to:

- Confer with appropriate county and municipal officials regarding the selection of bridges
- Prepare a report that includes recommendations for how ODOT can continue to fund the program after the end of SFY 2019 when the bill otherwise sunsets the program

In order to qualify for funding local bridges must:

- Be not less than twenty feet in length
- Be structurally deficient in that the bridge, while safe for use, is in need of repair
- Be open and carrying vehicular traffic

When similar language was included in the transportation budget two years ago the governor vetoed the language. It is unclear whether the governor has experienced a change in point of view over the past two years.

For additional information about this topic please contact Brad Cole of the CCAO staff at [bcole@ccao.org](mailto:bcole@ccao.org)

## Certified mail bill moves to the Senate



Reps Hambley and Ryan testify on HB 34

After passing out of the House with a vote of 94-0, House Bill 34 began its journey through the Senate. Reps. Hambley and Ryan gave sponsor testimony in the Senate Oversight and Reform committee this week. They shared how the bill would allow some official notices to be sent electronically and by regular mail, rather than by certified mail, which in certain circumstances can be redundant and expensive. The sponsors went on to urge quick passage to ensure governments can start saving money by being more efficient soon.

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

## Bills Introduced



### SB 99

#### **MEDICAID ENROLLMENT** ([COLEY, B.](#))

To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group.

### SB 100

#### **DISCRIMINATION LAWS** ([SKINDELL, M.](#), [TAVARES, C.](#))

To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, to add mediation to the list of informal methods by which the Ohio Civil Rights Commission must attempt to induce compliance with Ohio's Civil Rights Law before instituting a formal hearing, and to eliminate certain religious exemptions from the Ohio Civil Rights Law.

### HB 118

#### **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS** ([MERRIN, D.](#))

To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner.

### HB 126

#### **KINSHIP CAREGIVERS** ([BOYD, J.](#), [REZABEK, J.](#))

To require a region-based kinship caregiver navigator program.

### HB 128

#### **BUILDING INSPECTIONS** ([ROEGNER, K.](#))

To permit a general contractor or owner of specified buildings to enter into a contract with a third-party private inspector or a certified building department for building inspection and to make other changes relating to building inspections.

### 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.

# Hearing Schedule



## MONDAY, MARCH 20

### Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

(Chr. [LaRose, F.](#), (614) 466-4823), Finance Hearing Rm., 3:00 pm

#### 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. --5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute

## TUESDAY, MARCH 21

### Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

(Chr. [LaRose, F.](#), (614) 466-4823), Finance 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. --6th Hearing-All testimony

### House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

(Chr. [Dever, J.](#), (614) 466-8120), Rm. 017, 9:00 am

#### HB 104

#### **CREDIT ACCOUNT DEBT** ([SCHAFFER, T.](#))

To allow vendors to receive a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit accounts when the debt is charged off as uncollectible by the credit account lender. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

### House Ways & Means

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

All testimony on tax related provisions of the budget bill

#### SB 9

#### **SALES TAX HOLIDAY** ([BACON, K.](#))

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. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

### 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. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

### HB 118

#### **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (MERRIN, D.)**

To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

## Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

(Chr. [Uecker, J.](#), (614) 466-8082), South Hearing Rm., 9:45 am

### SB 60

#### **DRONE USE (SKINDELL, M., JORDAN, K.)**

To regulate the use of drones for gathering evidence and information by law enforcement officers in Ohio. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

### SB 43

#### **BUILDING CODES (BACON, K.)**

To enable limited home rule townships to adopt building codes regardless of any similar codes adopted by the county in which the township resides. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

## Senate Judiciary

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

### 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. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

### 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 lisdexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances. --6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

## House Rules & Reference

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), (614) 466-3506), Rm. 119, 10:45 am

## House Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub.

(Chr. [Faber, K.](#), (614) 466-6344), Rm. 017, 1:00 pm

Testimony from the Department of Taxation and public testimony

## House Finance: Transportation Sub.

(Chr. [McColley, R.](#), (614) 466-3760), Rm. 311, 1:30 pm

Public testimony

## Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid

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

### SB 96

#### ***PUBLIC BENEFITS (COLEY, B.)***

Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

### SB 99

#### ***MEDICAID ENROLLMENT (COLEY, B.)***

To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

### 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

## House Education & Career Readiness

(Chr. [Brenner, A.](#), (614) 644-6711), Rm. 121, 4:00 pm

Presentation by the Ohio Department of Education, Superintendent Paolo DeMaria

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**

## House Finance: Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources Sub.

(Chr. [Thompson, A.](#), (614) 644-8728), Rm. 115, 9:00 am

Public budget testimony (if needed)



## House Ways & Means

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

Testimony on all budget tax provisions.

The committee will recess at some point during the day and reconvene at 7 pm to accept additional public testimony

## House Ways & Means

(Chr. [Schaffer, T.](#), [\(614\) 466-8100](#)), Rm. 116, 9:00 am

All testimony on tax related provisions of the budget bill. The panel will convene at 9 am and then reconvene at 7 pm to accept additional public testimony

### 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. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

### HB 24

#### ***VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS (GINTER, T.)***

To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501C(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

## House Finance: Transportation Sub.

(Chr. [McColley, R.](#), [\(614\) 466-3760](#)), Rm. 311, 9:00 am

Public testimony

## Senate Government Oversight & Reform

(Chr. [Coley, B.](#), [\(614\) 466-8072](#)), North Hearing Rm., 10:00 am

### SB 88

#### ***FISCAL EMERGENCIES (TERHAR, L.)***

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. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

### HB 34

#### ***PUBLIC NOTICES (HAMBLEY, S., RYAN, S.)***

To authorize certain state agencies, local governments, and other boards, commissions, and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. --2nd  
**Hearing-Proponent**

### [Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce](#)

(Chr. [LaRose, F.](#), [\(614\) 466-4823](#)), Finance Hearing Rm., 10:15 am

### [Senate Rules & Reference](#)

(Chr. [Obhof, L.](#), [\(614\) 466-7505](#)), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:00 am

### [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