March 25, 2016

**Rep. Arndt introduces case management bill**

Representative Steve Arndt introduced House Bill 500 yesterday. The bill would establish a case management pilot program focused on providing pathways out of poverty and includes a $7,500,000 appropriation from the Economic Development Program Fund. HB 500 also includes language that protects counties if they don't meet Comprehensive Case Management & Employment Program (CCMEP) performance measures prior to July 1, 2017. CCAO, OJFSDA and the Workforce Association have been working closely with Rep. Arndt to see how this bill could augment CCMEP as we move forward.

If you would like to know more, please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or kneithammer@ccao.org.

**Safety Capital Grant Applications**

According to the Local Government Innovation Council (LGIC) staff over 1,000 applications were received seeking funding under the new Safety Capital Grant program. The application deadline was on Monday.

The program provides $10 million in funding in fiscal year 2016 and in fiscal year 2017. The grant funds are to be used for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, facilities, or systems needed to enhance public safety that support law enforcement, fire and EMS services. Applications will now be reviewed over the next two months and the fiscal year 2016 awards will be announced at the May 19 meeting of the LGIC. The LGIC hopes to have a summary of the applications, funding requests, and projects proposed within the next couple of weeks. CCAO will make that information available when it becomes available.
Expansion of early voting locations to be proposed

State Representative Dan Ramos plans to introduce legislation that would allow counties to have one early voting location for every 60,000 residents. The additional early voting sites would require the approval of the county commissioners or county councils. Under the proposal, 23 counties would be eligible to open at least one additional early voting center.

Ramos suggested that it is time to examine and address an inequality in the system. With such variation in population, a 'one-size fits all' approach that limits the number of early voting centers does not adequately encourage public participation in the democratic process. Ramos noted that allowing more early voting locations closer to home will benefit both suburban and township voters outside of the city center, as well as lower income voters with limited transportation options.

Constitutional amendment proposal to cut legislative pay

Ethics First, the proponents of a proposed constitutional amendment that would cut legislator pay and impose ethical restrictions on lawmakers, have indicated that they intend to file a lawsuit against Secretary Jon Husted to move their measure forward as one ballot issue.

The Ohio Ballot Board, chaired by Husted, decided Wednesday to split the Ohio Ethics First Amendment into three issues which will require the backers to collect more than 900,000 signatures of registered voters -- at least 305,591 for each -- to qualify the measure for the ballot. Ethics First claims that their amendment’s provisions together relate to the ethics of the General Assembly and should be considered as one ballot issue based on a 2010 Ohio Supreme Court decision.

The Ethics First amendment proposes the following:

- Raise or decrease legislator pay to match median household income. Ohio's median household income was $49,644 in 2014, so it's likely state lawmakers who earn $60,584 would take a pay cut in the first year.
- Prohibit lawmakers from exempting themselves from laws.
- Implement a two-year "cooling-off period" during which outgoing legislators could not be paid to lobby the General Assembly.
- Specify that all proceedings of the General Assembly are state-owned records and must be available for at least four years.
- The bipartisan ballot board voted 3-1 to split the lawmaker pay and records provisions into separate issues. Husted and the two Republican members of the board voted in favor. Former state senator Nina Turner, a Democrat, voted against the split, saying the board should give petitioners the benefit of the doubt.
Bills Introduced

**SB 299**  
PERRY COUNTY COURTS  
(Sen Hottinger, J., and Rep Hayes, B)  
To create the Perry County Municipal Court in New Lexington on January 1, 2017, to establish one full-time judgeship in that court, to provide for the nomination of the judge by petition only, to abolish the Perry County County Court on that date, to designate the Perry County Clerk of Courts as the clerk of the Perry County Municipal Court, and to provide for the election for the Perry County Municipal Court of one full-time judge in 2017. Am. 1901.01, 1901.02, 1901.03, 1901.07, 1901.08, 1901.31, 1901.32, 1901.34, and 1907.11

**HB 495**  
PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS  
(Seitz, B.)  
To authorize certain psychologists to prescribe psychotropic and other drugs for the treatment of drug addiction and mental illness. Am. 2925.02, 2925.03, 2925.11, 2925.12, 2925.14, 2925.23, 2925.36, 3701.048, 3715.872, 3719.06, 3719.12, 3719.121, 3719.81, 3795.01, 4723.01, 4729.01, 4729.51, 4731.054, 4732.01, 4732.17, 4732.20, and 5123.47 and to enact sections 4732.40, 4732.41, 4732.42, 4732.43, 4732.44, 4732.45, 4732.46, and 4732.47

**SB 300**  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS  
(Rogers, J., Driehaus, D.)  
To create the Supplemental State Capital Improvements Pilot Program funded by a temporary transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund and to make an appropriation. Am. 131.43, 131.44, and 164.01 and to enact section 164.18.

**HB 492**  
DRUG TREATMENT  
(Brenner, A., Huffman, S.)  
To establish a statewide pilot program for the provision of long-acting opioid antagonist therapy for offenders confined in a state or local correctional facility or a community residential facility under a sentence imposed for a felony opioid-related offense or a sentence of at least 30 days for a misdemeanor opioid-related offense who will be released on supervised release, and to specify that the therapy is to be provided during both their confinement and their supervised release. Am. 2929.16 and 2929.26 and to enact sections 341.43, 753.34, and 5145.33

**HB 497**  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
(Arndt, S.)  
To revise the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program, to establish a case management pilot program, to transfer cash from the Economic Development Program Fund (Fund 5JC0) to the Case Management Pilot Program Fund (Fund 5SK0), and to make an appropriation. Am. 257.10, 257.30, and 305.190 of Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly

Hearing Schedule

**Wednesday, March 30**

2020 Tax Policy Commission, (Chr. Peterson, B., 466-8156; Chr. McClain, J., 466-8156), Grant Hearing Rm., 9:30 am - Invited testimony regarding various taxes in Ohio

Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth, (Chr. Gardner, R., 466-8060), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 10:30 am

**Thursday, March 31**

House Medicinal Marijuana Task Force, (Chr. Schuring, K., 752-2438), Rm. 313, 3:00 pm