



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Property tax proposal to freeze valuation for certain commercial/industrial property continues to be considered

A proposal ([SB 235](#)) that calls for freezing property valuation for industrial and commercial property that has received infrastructure improvements but has not been developed vertically or received an occupancy permit, was amended in the Senate Ways and Means Committee this week. The amendment specifically would prohibit commercial activity from being conducted on such property while receiving this tax benefit.

CCAO Managing Director of Research Brad Cole [testified](#) two weeks ago, expressing concerns that the legislation automatically provides favorable tax treatment if certain conditions are met, without input or control by local governments. In addition, the bill as drafted does not provide for a local agreement between the property owner and political subdivision, which would denote the percentage of tax valuation granted for a specific time period.

This week additional local entities stated their concerns. The County Auditors Association of Ohio (CCAO) and the Ohio Municipal League (OML) provided written interested party “with concerns” testimony, while the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission submitted opponent testimony.

Specifically, OML noted that “Municipal officials are concerned with how the current legislation may impact TIFs, JEDDs, CEDAs and every other current form of economic development tool currently used by all local governments. Care has to be taken to make sure the current economic tools can be utilized with [SB 235](#) is enacted.” Other concerns include the lack of local control and the apparent open-ended duration of the exemption.

SB 235

Property tax proposal to freeze valuation for certain commercial/industrial property

Sponsors: Sen. B. Beagle and Sen. B. Coley

CCAO Position: Monitoring

Status: Ways & Means Committee

Key Provisions:

- Freezes valuation for industrial and commercial property that has received infrastructure improvements but has not been developed vertically or received an occupancy permit.

CCAO Concerns:

- Legislation automatically provides favorable tax treatment if certain conditions are met, without input or control by local governments. In addition, the bill as drafted does not provide for a local agreement between the property owner and political subdivision, which would denote the percentage of tax valuation granted for a specific time period. Moreover, concern about how this tool works with other economic development incentives.

CCAO and these groups have been talking with the bill sponsors, Senators Bill Beagle and Bill Coley, as well as Ways and Means Committee Chair Bob Peterson to in hopes of addressing common concerns.

If you would like further information about the bill, please contact CCAO Staffers Brad Cole or Cheryl Subler at bcole@ccao.org or csubler@ccao.org or 614-221-5627.

State Capital Bill – well negotiated and ready to move

[SB 310](#), which provides \$2.62 billion in capital appropriations budget for fiscal years 2017-2018 was introduced in the Senate this week and immediately set on a fast track that could have it to the governor's desk in just a few weeks. Legislative leaders and Gov. John Kasich's administration said the package was the subject of months of negotiations and extensive feedback from lawmakers regarding local needs. The bill is not expected to incur any major changes moving forward and already appears to have strong bipartisan support.

The bill makes appropriations for the renovation, reconstruction and construction of capital assets of state agencies, colleges, universities and school districts, funds a program of grants and loans to local governments for infrastructure projects throughout the state, and provides funds to support targeted projects of local or regional importance.

CAPITAL BILL AT A GLANCE

- \$650 million for K-12 buildings through the Ohio School Facilities Commission
- \$500 million for local infrastructure through the Public Works Commission, including \$100 million for Clean Ohio projects
- \$323 million for improvements to dams, state parks and forests under the Department of Natural Resources allotment
- \$160 million for "community projects"
- \$150.8 million for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- \$100 million for health and human services and Youth Services facilities
- \$100 million for transportation projects
- \$68.5 million for the Department of Administrative Services.

The Legislative leadership addressed the capital bill at a new conference prior to the bills introduction. Senate President Keith said that the bill is consistent with philosophy of restrained government spending and targeting public dollars appropriately. House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger said members reached out to communities for feedback on local needs and the bill represents an important investment to our communities. Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni said that while many worthwhile projects did not get funded in the bill, he viewed the overall process as fair - especially concerning initiatives in his area of the state. The GOP finance chairmen in both chambers said they reached across the aisle in developing the package and believe they have come up with an agreed-to list of projects. Sen. Scott Oelslager said he reviewed local priorities with all members of the Senate from both parties and kept the process inclusive and open. Rep. Ryan Smith said a similar process played out in the House as the bill was pieced together over the last few months and noted that while there was an attempt to take everything into account from all of the members, choices did have to be made because there was only so much money to go around.

When the bill was introduced earlier this week CCAO sent an email to all of our members with the bill's funding details including the [analysis](#) of the bill's major programs, their funding, and legislative changes to program requirements and administration and a summary of [appropriations](#) breaking down the capital expenditures by agency, as well as county-by-county, including the specific community projects which begins on page 39 of that document.

Child Support Bills

Child support is getting a lot of attention recently with two bills making their way through the legislature.

Senator Shannon Jones gave sponsor testimony on [SB 262](#) this week, where she explained to the Civil Justice Committee how the bill updates Ohio's guidelines for determining monthly child support orders and increases the likelihood of consistent child support payments.



Sen. Jones

The bill addresses the schedule of obligations that establish child support amounts and the worksheet that's used to gather income data and perform the calculation. It also includes new policies that allow worksheet calculations to take into account health insurance obligations, day care costs and parenting time orders.



Sen. Coley

[SB 308](#) was introduced last week by Senator Bill Coley and primarily consists of technical fixes to child support administration processes. It has also been assigned to the Senate Civil Justice Committee but has not received a hearing yet.

CCAO is tracking these bills and will keep you updated on their progress. If you would like to know more, please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or kneithammer@ccao.org.

Newly introduced foreclosure bill is to be on fast-track

[HB 463](#) is being proposed to modernize the foreclosure process and alleviate the burden faced by some sheriff's departments according to its sponsor, Rep Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati). The bill resulted from over a year discussions with interested parties, including the Ohio State Bar Association, plaintiff and defense attorneys, bankers, realtors and others.

"For those of us in the practice of law, we learned a lot about the inefficiencies of the current system, and the need for a comprehensive modernization effort," Rep. Dever said. "HB463 is that effort. It ensures the rights of homeowners while streamlining our state's judicial processes."

The bill creates a fast-track process by which foreclosure can be taken against vacant and abandoned property. The process would only be eligible if the note were in monetary default, the plaintiff is the holder of the note or has the equivalent rights, and other criteria.

Under the fast-track process, the property must be sold in 75 days. That route can only be used if not one attends an initial hearing to protest the use of the fast-track process. The bill also requires the establishment of a state-wide on-line auction web site where all the properties subject to sheriff sale are listed and can be bid upon.

The OSBA provided testimony through Stephen Buchenroth who indicated that the bill would help speed up the foreclosure process, relieve sheriff's offices that are burdened by the number of foreclosures in their communities, and also address inconsistencies in the process between counties and in legal interpretations made by courts and county officials.

"The Ohio State Bar Association believes that the enactment of HB 463 would go a long way to solving problems with Ohio's current foreclosure process and would be beneficial to the citizens of Ohio, and urges its passage," Mr. Buchenroth said.

The bill is before the House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development Committee whose chair, Rep Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati), indicated that he intends for the committee to give a complete vetting so reform is done correctly, but it is his intent to also try to fast track the bill knowing that there is a ticking clock to complete reform.

House to move medical marijuana proposal

[HB 523](#), sponsored by Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City), which proposes a legislative plan to legalize medical marijuana in Ohio was introduced this week and will move through a special select committee, with the goal of having it on the governor's desk by June.



Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) who will chair a special select committee that will hear the bill as it moves through the House said the bill lays out a framework for allowing physicians to recommend and patients to obtain marijuana for medicinal purposes. The rules governing the system will be created by a Medical Marijuana Control Commission formed under the Department of Health. The bill will give the commission the ability to develop rules regarding the cultivation, manufacture and dispensing of the drug and will be in place before patients can start obtaining the drug. Patients should be first be able to get marijuana within two years of the bill's passage.

HB 463

Reform Foreclosure Process

Sponsor: Rep. J. Dever

CCAO Position: Monitoring

Status: Pending before House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development Committee Civil Justice Committee

Key Provisions:

- Creates a fast-track process for foreclosure against vacant and abandoned property
- Clarifies process of using a private selling officer rather than the county sheriff
- Creates a state-wide listing and auction website for properties up for sheriff's sale

Physicians who are licensed under the State Medical Board would have the ability to recommend medical marijuana to patients and would also have to report to the state every 90 days on the type of patients they recommended it to and for what conditions.

Rep. Schuring said testimony heard by the Medical Marijuana Task Force, which he chaired, indicated it would be better for doctors to determine what conditions marijuana could be recommended for, rather than the state creating a list. As introduced, patients would be able to obtain the drug in edible form, plant matter, oils and patches with discussion regarding smoking plant matter to be had as the bill moves through committee. The proposal would not allow patients to grow their own marijuana. The measure also includes protections for employers that have drug-free workplace policies. It would still allow employers to terminate employees who violate drug-free policies, even if the employee has a doctor's recommendation to use marijuana.

The other members of the select committee are: Rep. Huffman, the bill's sponsor, as vice chairman, Rep. Tim Brown (R-Bowling Green), Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Independence), Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell), Rep. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati), Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain), as ranking minority member, Rep. Nicholas Celebrezze (D-Parma), and Rep. Christie Kuhns (D-Cincinnati).

Bills Introduced



- [SB 310](#)** ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (Oelslager, S.)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects for the biennium ending June 30, 2018. Am. 23.22, 151.01, 151.08, 151.10, 164.03, 164.05, 164.06, 164.08, 164.22, 3318.034, 3318.084, 5139.271, 5751.02, and 5751.20 of the Revised Code and to amend Sections 273.30 and 287.10 of Am. Sub. S.B. 260 of the 131st General Assembly
- [HB 518](#)** ■ **CONCEALED HANDGUNS (Vitale, N.)** To permit an elected officeholder of this state or a political subdivision of this state who holds a valid concealed handgun license to carry a concealed handgun in a government facility of this state or a political subdivision of this state. Am. 2923.126.
- [HB 519](#)** ■ **LSC DUTIES (Howse, S.)** To require the Director of the Legislative Service Commission to prepare a human impact statement concerning a bill or resolution that proposes to amend the law governing criminal justice. Am. 101.30 and to enact section 103.147.
- [HB 520](#)** ■ **RETIREMENT SYSTEMS (Schuring, K., Ramos, D.)** To revise the law governing the state's public retirement systems. Am. 145.01, 145.2911, 145.2912, 145.362, 145.384, 145.40, 145.43, 145.45, 742.105, 742.37, 742.3711, 742.47, 742.50, 742.63, 3305.052, 3305.06, 3307.01, 3307.15, 3307.35, 3307.48, 3307.501, 3307.53, 3307.562, 3307.58, 3307.63, 3307.66, 3307.67, 3307.71, 3307.77, 3307.78, 3309.013, 3309.30, 3309.474, 3309.73, 3309.731, 3309.75, 3309.76, 5505.01, 5505.04, 5505.16, 5505.17, 5505.18, 5505.19, 5505.21, 5505.29, 5505.30, 5505.51, and 5505.59; to enact sections 145.222, 742.091, 742.17, 3307.131, 3307.354, 3307.514, 3309.212, and 5505.35; and to repeal sections 171.07, 3305.061, 3305.062, and 3309.54
- [HB 521](#)** ■ **PAROLE ELIGIBILITY (Manning, N.)** To provide special parole eligibility dates for

persons with an indefinite or life sentence imposed for an offense committed when the person was less than 18 years of age, to require the Parole Board to consider specified mitigating factors in those cases, and to require notice to the Ohio Public Defender and prosecuting attorney prior to the parole consideration hearing. Am. 2929.02, 2929.14, 2967.13, 2971.03, and 5149.101 and to enact section 2967.132

HB 522 ■ **INJECTION WELLS** ([Phillips, D.](#)) To prohibit injection of brine and other waste substances except in class I injection wells, to prohibit the conversion of oil and gas wells, to require municipal or township approval prior to the issuance of an oil or gas well permit, and to levy a fee on the injection of brine and other waste substances into a class I injection well. Am. 1509.01, 1509.02, 1509.05, 1509.06, 1509.072, 1509.074, 1509.08, 1509.21, 1509.22, 1509.227, 6111.043, and 6111.046 and to enact section 1509.051

HB 523 ■ **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** ([Huffman, S.](#)) To authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes and to establish the Medical Marijuana Control Program. Am. 109.572, 303.21, 519.21, 4123.54, 4729.75, 4729.80, 4729.81, 4729.82, 4729.83, 4729.84, 4729.85, and 4729.86 and to enact sections 3796.01, 3796.02, 3796.03, 3796.04, 3796.05, 3796.06, 3796.07, 3796.10, 3796.11, 3796.12, 3796.13, 3796.18, 3796.19, 3796.20, 3796.21, 3796.22, 3796.27, 3796.28, 3796.29, 3796.30, and 4729.771

Hearing Schedule



Tuesday, April 19

House Ways & Means ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [McClain, J.](#), 644-6265), Location to be announced, 9:30 am

SB 264 ■ **TAX HOLIDAY** ([Bacon, K.](#)) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2016 during which sales of back-to-school clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. --1st Hearing-Possible re-referral

HB 409 ■ **TAX EXEMPTION** ([Green, D.](#)) To exempt from property taxation any retail store operated by a nonprofit housing organization that sells donated items suitable for residential housing purposes. --3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

Senate State & Local Government ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Uecker, J.](#), 466-8082), North Hearing Rm., 9:45 am

SB 220 ■ **DEFERRED COMPENSATION** ([Hottinger, J.](#)) To authorize the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board and local governments to establish designated Roth account features and other tax-deferred or nontax-deferred features permitted for government deferred compensation plans. --3rd Hearing-All testimony

HB 240 ■ **CORONER LAW** ([Huffman, S.](#), [Johnson, T.](#)) To recognize that coroners include medical examiners; to change the qualifications for holding office as a coroner of a charter county; to require, under certain conditions, and to authorize, under other conditions, supplemental compensation for coroners who are forensic pathologists; to revise how the office of coroner is filled when a vacancy cannot be filled by election or appointment; to specify the disposition of a firearm when a person meets death under certain circumstances; to specify who pays for the autopsy of an inmate of a state correctional facility; and to make other changes to the coroners' law. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

[House Rules & Reference](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Amstutz, R.](#), 466-1474), Rm. 119, 10:00 am

[House Session](#), (Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), 466-3357), House Chamber, 11:00 am

- If needed

[Senate Finance](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Oelslager, S.](#), 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 11:00 am

[SB 310](#) ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** ([Oelslager, S.](#)) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects for the biennium ending June 30, 2018. --
2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

[House Commerce & Labor](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Young, R.](#), 644-6074), Rm. 122, 2:00 pm or after session

[HB 467](#) ■ **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION** ([Butler, J.](#)) To establish a loan from the Budget Stabilization Fund to the Unemployment Compensation Fund, to require the Director of Job and Family Services to recommend a program to incentivize the purchase of private unemployment insurance, and to require a study on the solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Fund. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

[House Select Committee on Medical Marijuana](#), (Chr. [Schuring, K.](#), 752-2438), Rm. 313, 3:00 pm

[HB 523](#) ■ **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** ([Huffman, S.](#)) To authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes and to establish the Medical Marijuana Control Program. --**1st Hearing**

[House Judiciary](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Butler, J.](#), 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 pm

[HB 497](#) ■ **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. --
1st Hearing-Sponsor

Wednesday, April 20

[Senate Government Oversight & Reform](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Coley, B.](#), 466-8072), South Hearing Rm., 8:45 am

[SB 293](#) ■ **NATURAL RESOURCES** ([Balderson, T.](#)) To revise specified laws relating to natural resources. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

[House Local Government](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Anielski, M.](#), 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9:00 am

[HB 407](#) ■ **BODY CAMERAS** ([Boyce, K.](#), [Grossman, C.](#)) To require law enforcement agencies that use body cameras to adopt written policies for operation of the cameras and to require agencies to make the adopted policies available to the public. --**3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party**

[House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Terhar, L.](#), 466-8258), Rm. 113, 9:00 am

[HB 463](#) ■ **MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES** ([Dever, J.](#)) To establish expedited actions to foreclose mortgages on vacant and abandoned residential properties, to permit private selling officers to conduct judicial and execution sales of real property, to state the intent of the General Assembly regarding mortgage foreclosure actions, to revise the Commercial Paper Law relating to mortgages and lost instruments, and to make other changes relative to foreclosure actions. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendment**

[House Finance](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Smith, R.](#), 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10:00 am

[HB 130](#) ■ **DATA OHIO BOARD** ([Hagan, C.](#), [Duffey, M.](#)) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. **--3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**

[Senate Session](#), (Chr. [Faber, K.](#), 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm

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

[Senate Civil Justice](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Bacon, K.](#), 466-8064), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 pm or after session

[SB 296](#) ■ **VOTING HOURS** ([Seitz, B.](#)) To specify the conditions under which a court may order that a polling place be kept open for extended hours on the day of an election and to require a person who votes pursuant to such an order to cast a provisional ballot. **--1st Hearing-Sponsor**

[SB 299](#) ■ **PERRY COUNTY COURTS** ([Hottinger, J.](#)) 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. **--1st Hearing-Sponsor**

[Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Burke, D.](#), 466-1731), Rm. 113, 3:00 pm or after session

- This is a meeting of the Subcommittee on Department of Health Programs – Ryan White Part B
- Review of the Ryan White Part B Program and Statewide Efforts around HIV/AIDS by Gregory Craig, Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee; Shancie Jenkins, Ohio Department of Health; Patrick Beatty, Ohio AIDS Coalition and Tara Britton, Center for Community Solutions

[House Select Committee on Medical Marijuana](#), (Chr. [Schuring, K.](#), 752-2438), Rm. 313, 3:00 pm

[HB 523](#) ■ **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** ([Huffman, S.](#)) To authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes and to establish the Medical Marijuana Control Program. **--2nd Hearing**

Thursday, April 21

[Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Burke, D.](#), 466-1731), Senate Finance Hearing Rm, 9:00 am

- Actuary proposal
- Updates on Behavioral Health Redesign, Disability Determination Redesign, and Ohio Benefits System by John McCarthy, Director of Medicaid

[House Select Committee on Medical Marijuana](#), (Chr. [Schuring, K.](#), 752-2438), Rm. 313, 11:00 am

[HB 523](#) ■ **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** ([Huffman, S.](#)) To authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes and to establish the Medical Marijuana Control Program. **--3rd Hearing**

[Grace Commission](#), (Chr. [Coley, B.](#), 466-8072), Rm. 116, 3:00 pm