



# STATEHOUSE REPORT

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## Employment services sales tax bill reported by committee, county officials encouraged to contact members to express opposition

The House Economic and Workforce Development Committee reported HB 343 following eight hearings filled with conflicting testimony regarding the impact of this legislation. The legislation would exempt temporary employment services and employment placement services from the sales and use tax.

CCAO opposes this legislation based on the impact of the sales tax exemption on county/transit authority permissive sales and use tax collections as well as the negative impact that the bill would have on distributions to the Local Government Fund.

CCAO issued a legislative alert this week encouraging commissioners, county council members and county executives to contact legislators on the committee to express opposition to this legislation. Now that the legislation has been reported by committee, CCAO encourages county officials to contact their house members to express opposition to the legislation. Points that should be addressed in any conversation should include:

- **Loss of County Funds** – Counties and transit authorities together stand to lose at least \$33 million in lost sales and use taxes. The bulk of the \$33 million figure represents losses to the county general funds of counties across the state. Counties with companies that employ large numbers of temporary employees subject to the tax will experience a disproportionate share of the losses.
- **Reliance of Counties on Sales Tax** – Counties on average receive more than 50 percent of their revenue to the county general fund from the permissive sales tax. The sales tax is the only general fund revenue source that has experienced healthy revenue growth over the past 8 years. Most other general fund revenue sources including state revenue sharing with local governments have declined.

### HB 343

#### Sales tax Exemption on Temporary Employment Services

**Sponsor:** Rep. Ron Young

**Status:** House Rules Committee

**CCAO Position:** Oppose

#### Key Provisions:

Exempts temporary employment services from sales tax base, reducing county sales tax collections by \$33 million per year

The bill was amended by committee to delay the effective date of this legislation until July 1, 2017. The purpose of this amendment was to give the legislature in the context of the next state budget time to consider other options for additional revenue before the tax exemption would take effect. In addition to local revenue losses, the bill reduces state General Fund Revenues by an estimated \$130 million per year. Local Government Funds and the Public Library Fund would share equally in \$4.6 million in annual revenue reductions.

CCAO would like to thank Representatives Kent Smith (D-Euclid), Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) and Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) for voting in opposition to this bill in committee. Based on conversations with staff members in the Ohio House, CCAO does not expect quick action by the full house on HB 343. Due to the sizable financial impact on state and local resources, CCAO anticipates that the revenue impact will have the practical effect of slowing passage of the bill.

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

## **Arndt gives sponsor testimony on comprehensive case management bill**

Representative Steve Arndt gave sponsor testimony on House Bill 500 to the House finance committee on Tuesday. During his testimony he spoke about his inspiration for the legislation saying, “the purpose of HB 500 is to establish a pilot project that will develop a comprehensive case management program that focuses on reducing our poverty rate as well as addressing the skill gap in the labor market”. He cited the Ohio Development Services Agency 2015 [Poverty Report](#), which pegs Ohio's current poverty rate close to 16% - the highest rate recorded in the last 50 years. You can see the poverty rate by county [here](#)

Arndt explained how his bill will support the upcoming Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) that is set to begin on July 1 stating, “The requirement to integrate CCMEP into both the WIOA and TANF programs as part of HB64 creates some challenges and exposure because of competing performance measures and outcome expectations”. He went on to clarify, “It is important to understand that both WIOA and TANF are programs and should not be viewed simply as funding streams”.

The state has requested a waiver from the federal government that would add more flexibility to these funds and allow for the expanded role of CCMEP, but it has not received a response yet. HB 500 helps move the CCMEP initiative forward by providing access to \$7.5 million in incumbent worker training dollars to be utilized when an individual fails to meet certain eligibility requirements and/or when the individual needs other supportive services that are not allowable under the WIOA and TANF programs. This would help Ohio maintain compliance while we wait to hear if the waiver is approved. The bill also contains a provision that would protect counties from CCMEP sanctions for the first 12 months of the program.

CCMEP update:

Training information for CCMEP was just released today. Click the links below for details.

**Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP): Essential Elements for Implementation:** <https://odifs-ccmep-training.eventbrite.com>

## Fiscal and Program Performance Training for Local Caseworkers & Supervisors

June 7 & 10: <http://fiscalperformancetraining-fiscalagents.eventbrite.com>

June 13 – 17: <https://fiscalperformancetraining-caseworkers.eventbrite.com>

If you would like more information please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or [kneithammer@ccao.org](mailto:kneithammer@ccao.org).

## Coroner Bill is moving in the Senate



Commissioner Stewart

Legislation that would update coroner laws, including pay structure for coroners, [HB 240](#) had its second hearing in the Senate State and Local Government Committee. Testifying as proponents of the measure were Pickaway County Commissioner Brian Stewart and Ohio State Coroners Association Executive Director David Corey.

Commissioner Stewart expressed support for the measure because it will also require that autopsies for state prisoners be paid for by state prison agencies. In 2014, he said, his county received a \$1200 invoice for the costs related to the autopsy of Ariel Castro, who kidnapped and held captive three young women in his Cleveland home. Mr. Castro hanged himself one month into his life sentence.

Mr. Corey told the committee the bill is important to strengthen Ohio's already proven successful death investigation system. The bill makes several changes, including more clearly defining a decedent's legal residence to clear up jurisdiction issues; explicitly stating that coroners and medical examiners are equivalent for the purposes of charter county governments; allowing counties with a vacancy in the position to contract with other counties for the services; enabling law enforcement officials to be paid for work as a coroner investigator; and providing additional compensation for certified forensic pathologist coroners and forensic autopsy center coroners.

This legislation is of interest to CCAO primarily because it would revise how the office of coroner is filled when a vacancy cannot be filled by election or appointment. The bill authorizes a board of county commissioners to contract with another county's coroner to exercise the powers and perform the functions of the coroner when a vacancy occurs because of the death or resignation of the coroner and it cannot be filled by election or appointment, or when no one runs for the office. Currently FIVE counties do not have a candidate for coroner this fall's election (Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Pike, Vinton).

### HB 240

#### Coroner's Law

**Sponsors:** Reps. Huffman & Johnson

**CCAO Position:** Interested Party

**Status:** State Senate and Local Government

#### Key Provisions:

- To define the legal residence of a dead person for purposes of the body's disposal;
- To recognize that coroners include medical examiners, and 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 who pays for the autopsy of an inmate of a state correctional facility.

*CORRECTION from last week, Erie County was included as a county without a coroner candidate, but Coroner Brian Baxter, will be running for re-election.*

**HB 240 would also do the following:**

- Recognize that coroners include medical examiners;
- Change the qualifications for holding office as a coroner of a charter county;
- Require, under certain conditions, and to authorize, under other conditions, supplemental compensation for coroners who are forensic pathologists;
- Revise how the office of coroner is filled when a vacancy cannot be filled by election or appointment;
- Specify the disposition of a firearm when a person meets death under certain circumstances.

**Specific provisions dealing with changes to coroner compensation:**

***Supplemental compensation for coroners who are forensic pathologists*** - For purposes of compensating coroners, continuing law classifies them based on county population, and pays them according to statutory schedules and whether they elect to engage in the private practice of medicine in a county with a population exceeding 175,000. The bill requires that each coroner who is the coroner in a county with a population of 175,001 or more and who does not elect to engage in the private practice of medicine receive supplemental compensation of an additional 50% of the coroner's annual compensation in each calendar year in which the coroner's office satisfies all of the following:

- 1) The office operates as a regional forensic pathology examination referral center, and the operation generates sufficient coroner's laboratory fund income that is in excess of the fund's expenses and is sufficient to provide the supplemental compensation;
- 2) The coroner is a forensic pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology;
- 3) The coroner performs a minimum of 75 post mortem examinations annually.

But, if the coroner does not satisfy (1) or (3), above, the bill authorizes, but does not require, the coroner to receive, on approval of the board of county commissioners, supplemental compensation of up to an additional 25% of the coroner's annual compensation in each calendar year in which the coroner is a Board-certified forensic pathologist and is performing the county's forensic examinations.

***Notice regarding coroner's return to private practice*** - The bill allows a coroner in a county with a population of 175,001 or more who initially elects not to engage in the private practice of medicine to elect to engage in private practice during the coroner's term of office by notifying the board of county commissioners in writing of the coroner's intention to do so. The notice must state the date on which the coroner will commence private practice, and must be given to the board at least 30 days before that date. On the date stated in the notice, the coroner will be compensated at the reduced rate that applies to a coroner with a private practice. For additional information please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at [bmead@ccao.org](mailto:bmead@ccao.org) or 614-220-7982.

## Senate version of CAUV legislation may pass out of the Senate soon

### SB 246

#### CAUV Computation - Capitalization Rate

**Sponsors:** Reps. Huffman & Johnson

**CCAO Position:** Monitoring

**Status:** Senate Ways and Means

**Key Provisions:**

- To require that the computation of the capitalization rate for the purposes of determining CAUV of agricultural land be computed using a method that excludes appreciation and equity buildup
- To stipulate that CAUV land used for a conservation practice or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program for at least three years must be valued at the lowest of the values assigned on the basis of soil type

Legislation to revise the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) formula, [SB 246](#) (Sen. Cliff Hite), is moving in the Senate. SB 246 had its fourth hearing this week in Senate Ways and Means Committee. The legislation may be voted out of the senate in the next few weeks.

Several witnesses representing farm interests again testified in support of the legislation, while the County Auditors' Association of Ohio cautioned against moving too quickly with CAUV law changes until administrative adjustments and market forces play out

Ted Finnarn, an attorney representing the Ohio Farmers Union, briefed the panel on the creation of CAUV and argued that the recently low interest rates coupled with high crop prices have thrown the formula out of whack. "This bill helps to clarify and further define what is known as the capitalization interest rate used within the formula," he said. "We all know that most recently the CAUV values have skyrocketed tremendously over the past two or three years, with increases from one set of valuations to the next (every three years) of over 200-300%. This has resulted in unwarranted increases in farm real

estate taxes, which jeopardizes Ohio's agricultural productivity and threatens once profitable farming operations."

"One of the chief reasons for the CAUV value increase has been the extremely low interest rates that have been prevalent in the economy, that then find their way into the formula. This has been due mainly to the Federal Reserve System's quantitative easing program wherein the Fed participated in unprecedented monetary policy in order to keep interest rates low after the financial crisis of 2008. There is no way we could have anticipated this in our formula during the past few years."

Shelby County Commissioner Tony Bornhorst, also a member of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation gave proponent testimony as well. He said that while CAUV "has been an invaluable program to the farming community" and the Kasich Administration has made some adjustments, "some problems still exist with the Capitalization Rate and Senate Bill 246 addresses the concerns of the agriculture community."



Com. Bornhorst

Commissioner Bornhorst said he realizes these changes have an impact on local taxes, especially in the case of inside millage, and then a possible shift of taxes from agriculture to residential on voted millage. "There has always been shifting of the proportions of property

taxes paid by residential and agriculture sectors. Realizing that will continue to be the case, I do feel the changes that Senate Bill 246 proposes will ultimately be in the best interest of both the agriculture community and the residents of the State of Ohio," he concluded.

The Legislative Service Commission released its [fiscal note](#) and local impact statement for the bill. The fiscal note indicated that lower tax values on land enrolled in CAUV would result in revenue losses for schools and other units of local government. Lower values due to changes in the capitalization formula would cause net losses estimated at up to \$14 million for schools and up to \$16 million for other units of local government (approximately \$8 million for counties).

The legislation would also remove disincentives to conservation practices by modifying the formula so that it no longer assumes production is continuing when farmers remove the land from production in order to take steps to protect water and soil quality.

Further proponent testimony was provided by 16 other witnesses, including several who submitted only written comments. For copies of testimony please click on this [link to the committee's website](#) and click on committee documents.

County auditors also weighed in as interested parties with concerns. Union County Auditor Andrea Weaver, co-chair of the CAAO Property Tax and Valuation Committee, noted that ODT last year adopted a rule change "that among other things provided for the use of more current data be used in the formula." She said the effects of those changes are just starting to sink in. "Values for tax year 2016 appear to be increasing for some soil types, but at a decreasing rate, and others actually have decreased. Finally, a downward trend seems to be starting," she said. "We truly believe that the already-occurring market changes, along with the adjustments made by ODT last year, have not yet been fully realized. They are certain to cause a downward pressure on real estate values without any further changes."

Athens County Auditor Jill Thompson and County Commissioner Lenny Eliason presented joint testimony calling for different changes to the system and suggesting that a constitutional amendment may be in order.

The officials proposed that:

- Real estate devoted exclusively to commercial agricultural use that qualifies for the CAUV program be appraised by the county auditor in the same way that other property is appraised for tax purposes.
- Qualifying farmland would be discounted by a percentage.
- A fair and uniform valuation process be pursued.
- Farmers should be allowed to appeal the auditor's value to boards of revision when they believe it is too high or unfair.



Commissioner Eliason

CCAO is currently monitoring the legislation and is working with the sponsors and other interested parties. For additional information on agriculture issues, please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at [bmead@ccao.org](mailto:bmead@ccao.org) or 614-220-7982.

## Property tax proposal to freeze valuation on commercial/industrial property

During the past week the Senate Ways and Means Committee reported along party lines legislation SB 235 which exempts from property tax the increased value of property on which industrial or commercial development is planned until an occupancy permit is issued.

The committee adopted an amendment offered by Senator Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) that caps the freeze period in the bill at 10 years so that every 10 years the property would be subject to a reappraisal based on improvements made to the property.

CCAO, the County Auditor Association of Ohio (CAAO), the Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township Association have raised concerns with the legislation. Many of the concerns mirror to a great degree issues raised by CCAO in [testimony](#) on April 5. Issues CCAO has raised include:

- Local control – inability of local officials to approve exemptions, enter into agreements with local property owners relative to investment, time period for exemption, percentage or level of exemptions and other factors
- Inability of locals to exempt certain parcels or areas from the exemption proposed by the bill
- Impact of legislation on existing economic development incentives such as tax increment financing, community reinvestment areas and enterprise zones
- 

Discussions regarding a possible pilot measure that would have included certain counties over 200,000 population raised enough questions that local government groups could not support an amendment that had been prepared to address this option. Consequently, this amendment was not considered by the committee. Interested parties expect this legislation to come to the floor of the Ohio Senate yet this spring and then the conversations will resume with members of the Ohio House. For additional information on this topic, please contact Brad Cole or Cheryl Subler at [bcole@ccao.org](mailto:bcole@ccao.org) or [csubler@ccao.org](mailto:csubler@ccao.org).

### 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:** Rules 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.

## Foster care bill starts its journey through the Senate

After passing with overwhelming support in the House last year, House Bill 50 had its first hearing in the Senate this week. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Dorothy Pelanda, was joined by joint sponsor Rep. Cheryl Grossman to present testimony to the finance committee on Tuesday.

House Bill 50 includes the following changes:

- Requires the Director of Job and Family services to submit amendments to the state's plan for child welfare services to expand foster care and adoption assistance for persons up to age 21.
- Establishes qualification standards and various other procedures and requirements for receiving payments under the foster care and adoption assistance expansion.
- Requires the Department of Job and Family Services to adopt rules to implement the foster care and adoption assistance expansion, including a rule to create an advisory council to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the bill's statewide implementation and rules establishing the scope of practice and training for foster care workers and their supervisors.
- Requires the probate court to furnish appointed guardians with a guardianship guide, if such a guide has been made available by the Attorney General or Ohio Judicial Conference.
- Adds minimum age limits for children determined to be abused, neglected, or dependent to be placed in planned permanent living arrangements.
- Makes changes regarding the provision of independent living services by a public children services agency or private child placing agency.

**HB 50**

**Federal Foster Care**

**Sponsors:** Reps. Pelanda & Grossman

**CCAO Position:** Monitoring

**Status:** Senate Finance Committee

**Key Provisions:**

- Extends the age for foster care and adoption payments from age 18 to 21 and requires the probate court to furnish appointed guardians with a guardianship guide.



Rep. Dorothy Eliason

Rep. Pelanda described some of the challenges that face children when they age out of the foster system and explained how her proposal extends benefits to these individuals "provided they meet education and work requirements". She also discussed the guardianship language, citing that the provision is from a bill she introduced during the last general assembly and "is designed to encourage best practices and raise awareness of the unique issues presented in caring for our 67,000 juvenile and elderly wards."

There was brief discussion from the committee on how other states approach this population and how the proposal would be funded. The bill had an appropriation for planning that was removed right before passage in the House. Rep. Pelanda also informed the committee that Sen. Eklund has a companion bill (SB 240) that has been introduced in the Senate.

If you would like more information please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or [kneithammer@ccao.org](mailto:kneithammer@ccao.org).



## Optical aid sales tax exemption bill heard, CCAO notes potential revenue losses

The Senate Ways and Means Committee took testimony on legislation which would exempt up to \$500 of the cost of prescription optical aids (eyeglasses and contact lenses) from the sales tax.

Under the legislation SB 216 sponsored by Senators Dave Burke (R – Marysville) and Randy Gardner (R – Bowling Green), the first \$500 of any optical item purchased pursuant to a prescription would be exempt from the sales and use tax. This means that high end prescription eyewear would continue to pay the sales tax for any incremental amount of the price of a prescription eyewear item exceeding \$500. Non-prescription eyewear would also continue to be subject to the sales tax.

In written interested party with concerns [testimony](#), CCAO Managing Director of Research Brad Cole pointed to a Legislative Service Commission fiscal note which indicates that SB 216 would reduce state sales tax revenues by approximately \$18 million in SFY 2018 and county/transit authority sales tax revenues by roughly \$4.4 million in calendar year 2017 and increasing amount in future years. In addition, this legislation would reduce distributions to the Local Government Fund and the Public Library Fund by \$0.6 million in SFY 2017.

Cole noted in his written testimony the increasing reliance of both the state and counties on sales tax revenue. CCAO testified, “The sales tax has long been the number one revenue source to the county general fund for virtually every county, however, similar to the state, the dependence of counties on the sales tax has grown in recent years. Due to declines in other revenue sources and healthy revenue growth in the sales tax, county reliance on the sales tax has grown from approximately 41 percent of total general fund revenues in 2007 to over 50 percent of general fund revenues in 2013.”

Given the fiscal impact of the legislation, it is unclear what action the Senate Ways and Means Committee will take on this legislation. For further information on this topic, contact CCAO staffer Brad Cole at [bcole@ccao.org](mailto:bcole@ccao.org).

### SB 216

#### Sales tax exemption for prescription eyewear

**Sponsors:** Sens. Burke & Gardner

**CCAO Position:** Interested Party

**Status:** Senate Ways & Means

#### Key Provisions:

- Exempts prescription eyewear with value of up to \$500 from sales and use taxes. Any incremental cost above \$500 is fully taxable per an item

#### CCAO Concerns:

- Legislation has \$18 million cost to state GRF in SFY 2018 and a \$4.4 million cost to counties/transit authorities in CY 2017. Sales tax exemption also reduces revenue to the Local Government Fund.

## House sends sales tax holiday legislation to Governor

For the second year in a row Ohio is in line for another sales tax holiday focused on back to school supplies following passage of legislation by the Ohio House on April 27th.

The legislation authorizes a sales tax holiday for the first weekend of August of 2016 (August 5 - 7). Eligible goods include items of clothing valued at up to \$75, and school supplies and school materials valued at up to \$20 per item.

As a concession to CCAO and other critics of sales tax holiday legislation, the holiday is once again a pilot program. The Department of Taxation has also promised to gather sales tax data for the appropriate industry classification codes for the months of July, August and September for calendar years 2014, 2015 and 2016. The data will be gathered by county and for the state as a whole for all three years so that additional research can be conducted on the impact of the sales tax holiday for the 2 years (2015 and 2016) that the sales tax holiday will have occurred.



Sen. Kevin Bacon

The legislature received conflicting information regarding the impact of the sales tax holiday legislation in 2015 and the anticipated impact of the authorized sales tax holiday in 2016. On the one hand, the Legislative Service Commission fiscal note predicts a loss of up to \$14.6 million to the state and \$3.7 million to counties and transit authorities as a result of the sales tax holiday in 2016. The fiscal note also reports that during the months of July, August and September 2015, monthly sales tax base growth was greater for interior counties than for border counties, exactly the opposite of what proponents of the sales tax holiday have suggested. Ohio is surrounded by states that do not have a sales tax holiday.

The University of Cincinnati Economics Center reached totally different conclusions from the Legislative Service Commission, concluding that Ohio experienced "a 6.48 percent increase in sales compared to sales that would have occurred had the tax holiday not been instituted." Furthermore, the University of Cincinnati study financed by the research arm of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants reports that border counties "saw a higher increase county sales tax collections as compared to non-border counties, 15.48 percent and 4.56 percent respectively, suggesting a spillover effect from neighboring states."

Faced with ringing endorsements from retail merchants, large and small, and the immense popularity of sales tax holidays with the general public, the legislature is inclined to believe the University of Cincinnati study rather than the Legislative Service Commission fiscal note. CCAO testified as an interested party before the House Finance Committee following prime sponsor Senator Bacon's support for making the sales tax holiday a pilot program instead of a permanent program and the Department of Taxation's willingness to gather data as mentioned above upon which additional research could be conducted.

For additional information on this topic, please contact CCAO staffer Brad Cole at [bcole@ccao.org](mailto:bcole@ccao.org).

## Child support bill gets first hearing

Senator Coley gave sponsor testimony for Senate Bill 308 on Wednesday. This is the second bill to be introduced recently that updates Ohio's child support laws. Coley explained to the civil justice committee how his bill "implements necessary administrative changes that close unintended loopholes, provides consistency of time frames for administrative appeals and allows for more actions to be completed administratively, saving courts and parties the time and expense of a court hearing".



Sen. Coley

According to his testimony, the bill includes the following changes:

- Clarifies that a child support enforcement agency (CSEA) may order a mother to pay child support. Currently, a CSEA can only order a father to pay support in an administrative order.
- Clarifies a uniform effective date for an administrative support orders to bring consistency statewide, as there are currently a variety of effective dates being used county to county.
- Expedites the process for administrative review and adjustment, by shortening the review period from 45 days to 30 days. This will help parties get their child support orders reviewed and adjusted more quickly.
- Clarifies the reasons for administrative termination of an order, including recognizing the marriage of the parents to one another as a reason to terminate a child support order. Additionally, the legislation clarifies when a CSEA can terminate an order and when an order has to be terminated through a court.
- Changes all administrative appeal periods to fourteen days. This will provide greater consistency in the process, as appeal periods currently vary, from five day periods to seven to ten to fourteen to thirty. This will also align CSEA appeal periods with those provided in the court process.
- Allows a CSEA to add or modify an arrearage payment when the CSEA is modifying the current support obligations.
- When parties fail to appear at the support hearing (after proper notice), this proposal allows a CSEA to make reasonable assumptions about income when establishing orders, similar to the existing authority currently used in modification orders. This brings the two processes in line with each other. Parents still retain their right to object to the order once issued.
- Lump sum intercepts are changed to an administrative process to expedite the process.
- To ensure that a CSEA receives federal reimbursement for labor intensive processes, this legislation requires that the case have a completed IV-D application on file.
- Allows for modifications of payment amount in arrears-only cases, giving express authorization to CSEAs to modify the payment under appropriate circumstances. Currently, there is no such express authority in the state.

Senator Coley ended his testimony with clarification between his bill and Senate Bill 262 stating, "While Senate Bill 262 addresses the methodology and mechanisms for establishing and modifying child support guideline orders, Senate Bill 308 fine-tunes the child support administrative processes".

If you would like more information please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or [kneithammer@ccao.org](mailto:kneithammer@ccao.org).

## Statehouse, Etc.



**House Republicans modify their leadership team.** The House Republican caucus this week voted to elevate Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) and Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Bainbridge Twp.) into leadership positions. The move had been expected since Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) informed the GOP caucus last week that he had asked the two lawmakers to seek the positions after Rep. Barbara Sears (R-Maumee) and Rep. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea) opted to relinquish their slots because both will be leaving the House at the end of this Session. Following Speaker Rosenberger, the new House GOP leadership is now Rep. Ron Amstutz (speaker pro tem), Rep. Kirk Schuring (majority floor leader), Rep. Jim Buchy (assistant majority floor leader), Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (majority whip) and Rep. Sarah LaTourette (assistant majority whip). The moves are designed to provide continuity heading into the next General Assembly, when Republicans are expected to retain control of the chamber and all of the returning members of leadership plan to run again for election to the team. That will leave two slots available to current House members or incoming lawmakers.

**Safety Capital Grants.** the Local Government Innovation Council has indicated that it is reviewing a total of 887 grant applications that request more than \$84 million for the FY 2017 round of funding which will award \$10 million. The Council is on track to make the awards at its May 19 meeting. A second round of \$10 in funding will occur in FY 2018.

## Bills Introduced



- SB 319** ■ **DRUG REGULATIONS** ([Eklund, J.](#)) To revise certain laws regarding the regulation of drugs, the practice of pharmacy, and the provision of addiction services. Am. 2925.61, 2929.14, 2947.231, 3707.56, 3719.121, 3719.21, 4729.06, 4729.071, 4729.16, 4729.18, 4729.19, 4729.38, 4729.51, 4729.54, 4729.541, 4729.55, 4729.571, 4729.60, 4729.68, 4729.99, 4731.22, 4731.94, 4776.02, 4776.04, and 5119.391, to enact sections 3707.58, 3707.59, 4729.10, 4729.40, 4729.45, 4729.513, 4729.514, 4729.553, 4729.90, 4729.901, 4729.902, 4729.91, 4729.92, 4729.921, 4729.93, 4729.94, 4729.95, 4729.96, and 4731.943, and to repeal section 4729.42 of the Revised Code and to amend Sections 331.90 and 331.120 of Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly
- SB 320** ■ **RENEWABLE ENERGY** ([Seitz, B.](#)) To revise the requirements for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction, to permit property owners to petition municipal corporations and townships for the purpose of developing and implementing special energy improvement projects, to govern condominium association participation in special improvement districts, to require deployment and permit cost recovery of advanced energy analytics technology by electric distribution utilities, and to revise the law governing net metering service provided by electric utilities and electric services companies. Am. 710.01, 1710.02, 1710.06, 1710.13, 3706.25, 4582.06, 4582.31, 4928.01, 4928.02, 4928.55, 4928.64, 4928.66, 4928.662, 4928.6610, and 4928.67; to recodify section 4928.67 as sections 4928.6711,

4928.6713, 4928.6715, 4928.6717, 4928.6723, and 4928.6725; and to enact sections 1710.20, 1710.21, 1710.22, 1710.24, 1710.241, 1710.26, 1710.28, 3745.28, 4928.41, 4928.6620, 4928.6621, 4928.671, 4928.672, 4928.673, 4928.676, 4928.677, 4928.679, 4928.6719, and 4928.6721

**SCR 20** ■ **AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY** ([Peterson, B.](#)) To support the use of science-based data to assess the impacts and regulation of modern agricultural technologies, and to oppose federal, state, or local legislative or regulatory actions that are not based on sound science and that may result in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies.

**HB 529** ■ **FIREARMS** ([Retherford, W.](#), [Hagan, C.](#)) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training or comparable training and who is authorized to carry firearms by the law enforcement agency the professional is serving to carry firearms while on duty in the same manner, to the same extent, in the same areas, and subject to the same potential for civil and criminal liability as a law enforcement officer of the agency; and to grant such a professional, while on duty in that capacity, the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a person who was issued a concealed handgun license. Am. 109.71, 109.73, 109.75, 109.79, 109.801, and 2923.126 and to enact sections 109.748 and 109.771

**HB 530** ■ **CHILD CARE CENTERS** ([Retherford, W.](#)) To provide for the licensure of sick-child care centers. Am. 5104.01, 5104.015, and 5104.99 and to enact sections 5104.0113, 5104.15, 5104.16, and 5104.17

**HB 531** ■ **MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS** ([Hill, B.](#)) To require townships to provide mileage reimbursement to a member of a board of township trustees and to a township fiscal officer for travel within the township that is necessary in the performance of the member's or fiscal officer's duties. Am. 505.242 and 507.091

**HB 535** ■ **MILITARY BENEFITS** ([Perales, R.](#)) To extend employment and reemployment protection to a person who is a member of another state's national guard or organized militia and who is employed in Ohio. Am. 5903.02 of the Revised Code

**HB 538** ■ **DEPUTY REGISTRARS** ([Boyce, K.](#)) To require the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to adopt rules that establish a training program for deputy registrars and their employees regarding the proper issuance of driver's licenses that includes training on evaluating all types of documentation necessary for issuing a driver's license and a cultural competency component, and that establish an administrative penalty applicable to a deputy registrar that improperly denies a driver's license to an eligible applicant. Am. 4503.03

## Hearing Schedule



### Tuesday, May 3

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**Senate Government Oversight & Reform** ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Coley, B.](#), 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:00 am

- Informal Hearing-Sponsor testimony on bill from Sen. Faber on public records-Pending referral  
**HB 325** ■ **DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT** ([Green, D.](#), [O'Brien, S.](#)) Regarding encouraging pregnant women who are addicted to controlled substances to seek treatment. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

[SB 270](#) ■ **PAWNBROKERS** ([Eklund, J.](#)) To make changes to the law relating to pawnbrokers. --**3rd Hearing-Opponent**

[SB 293](#) ■ **NATURAL RESOURCES** ([Balderson, T.](#)) To revise specified laws relating to natural resources. --**3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**

**Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth**, (Chr. [Gardner, R.](#), 466-8060), South Hearing Rm., 1:00 pm  
Testimony from Director Plouck, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Director McCarthy, Ohio Department of Medicaid

**House Finance** ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Smith, R.](#), 466-1366), Rm. 313, 1:00 pm

[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 vote**

[HB 475](#) ■ **FILM TAX CREDITS** ([Schuring, K.](#)) To authorize motion picture companies to transfer the authority to claim refundable motion picture tax credits to other persons, to adjust how the credit is calculated, to increase the total amount of credits that may be awarded per year, to remove the limit on the maximum credit amount that may be awarded to a motion picture, and to create a job training program for resident film crew members. --**2nd Hearing-All testimony**

[HB 483](#) ■ **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** ([Amstutz, R.](#)) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation. --**2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute**

[SB 315](#) ■ **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING** ([Manning, G.](#)) To make supplemental appropriations related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017, and to declare an emergency. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral**

**House Energy & Natural Resources** ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Landis, A.](#), 466-8035), Rm. 017, 1:30 pm

[HB 512](#) ■ **WATER SYSTEMS** ([Ginter, T.](#)) To establish requirements governing lead and copper testing for community and nontransient noncommunity water systems, to revise the law governing lead contamination from plumbing fixtures, to make appropriations to the Facilities Construction Commission for purposes of providing grants for lead fixture replacement in eligible schools, and to revise the laws governing the Water Pollution Control Loan and Drinking Water Assistance Funds. -**2nd Hearing-Proponent & opponent**

**House Local Government** ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Anielski, M.](#), 644-6041), Rm. 018, 2:00 pm

[HB 455](#) ■ **BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE** ([Patterson, J.](#), [Roegner, K.](#)) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. --**4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote**

[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. --**4th Hearing-All testimony**

**House Ways & Means** ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Schaffer, T.](#), 466-8100), Rm. 313, 3:30 pm

[HB 466](#) ■ **TAX EXEMPTION** ([Smith, R.](#)) To specifically exempt digital advertising services from sales and use tax. --**2nd Hearing-All testimony**

[HB 473](#) ■ **TAX POLICY** ([Amstutz, R.](#)) To require voter approval before a county may levy a new utilities services tax, to allow small businesses to count employees of related or affiliated entities towards satisfying the employment criteria of the business investment tax credit, to permit a bad debt refund for cigarette and tobacco product excise taxes paid when a purchaser fails to pay a dealer for the cigarettes or tobacco products and the unpaid amount is charged off as uncollectible by the dealer, and to allow vendors to receive a refund of sales taxes remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards when the debt is charged off as uncollectible by the credit card lender. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**

## Wednesday, May 4

**Senate Civil Justice** ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Bacon, K.](#), 466-8064), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:00 am

[SB 157](#) ■ **BICYCLE HELMETS** ([Jones, S.](#)) To generally require any person under sixteen years of age to wear a helmet while on a bicycle, to require bicycle rental businesses to inform any person under

sixteen years of age who rents a bicycle of this requirement and provide helmet rentals, and to provide limited civil immunity for bicycle rental businesses that comply with these requirements. --

**4th Hearing-All testimony**

- [SB 165](#) ■ **LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT** ([Lehner, P.](#)) To establish procedures for the use of medical orders for life-sustaining treatment and to make changes to the laws governing DNR identification and orders. --**6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**
- [SB 262](#) ■ **CHILD SUPPORT** ([Jones, S.](#)) To make changes to the laws governing child support. --**3rd Hearing-Opponent**
- [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. --**3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote**
- [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. --**3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote**
- [SB 301](#) ■ **PREGNANCY ACCOMMODATIONS** ([Jones, S.](#), [Cafaro, C.](#)) To enact the "Pregnancy Reasonable Accommodation Act" to generally require employers to make reasonable accommodations for employees who are pregnant or breastfeeding. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**

[Senate Ways & Means](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Peterson, B.](#), 466-8156), South Hearing Rm., 9:30 am  (Updated: 4:37 p.m., April 28, 2016)

- [SB 219](#) ■ **TAX REFUNDS** ([Hughes, J.](#)) To allow taxpayers to contribute all or a portion of their income tax refunds to a Metropark. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**
- [SB 244](#) ■ **SALES TAX REFUNDS** ([Patton, T.](#)) To allow vendors to deduct or apply for a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards used to make purchases from the vendor. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**
- [HB 182](#) ■ **DEVELOPMENT ZONES** ([Schuring, K.](#)) To revise the law governing the creation and operation of joint economic development districts (JEDDs) and enterprise zones. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**
- [HB 390](#) ■ **TAX EXEMPTION** ([Schaffer, T.](#), [Retherford, W.](#)) To exempt the sale of natural gas by a municipal gas company from the sales and use tax. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**
- [HB 166](#) ■ **TAX LAWS** ([Green, D.](#)) To extend the deadline for filing an application for the homestead exemption or 2 1/2% property tax rollback to the end of the tax year, to require that auditors certify Local Government Fund allocations to subdivisions by regular or electronic, rather than certified mail, to require that notices of appeal from a decision of the Board of Tax Appeals originating with a county board of revision be filed with that board and the county auditor, to clarify the effect of certain certifications related to the repealed personal property tax, and to repeal laws requiring county auditors to issue permits for traveling shows, issue licenses for new merchandise public auctions, certify the annual state tax interest rate to local courts. --**4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**