



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

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EPA MBR unanimously passes in the House, moves to Senate

The Ohio House passed the administration-backed measure review bill [HB 512](#) to address concerns over lead in drinking water systems.

Democrats say they'll continue pushing for additions to a mid-biennium review bill to strengthen lead contamination notification guidelines that received unanimous support in the House on Wednesday. Minority lawmakers tried unsuccessfully - as they had in committee a day earlier - to amend the measure that would cut the timeline by which local water systems must notify the public of lead contamination to two days from the current 30 days.

If that notification doesn't occur, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency would step in and must alert the public within 10 days. The bill also cuts the 60-day deadline by which to establish a public education program to 30 days.

Tuesday, during committee on the bill, some local officials gave concern with the two-day notification requirement. The committee heard [testimony](#) from the American Water Works Association (AWWA), an association of public water utilities professionals who requested the two-day requirement be changed to five business days. The committee also heard [testimony](#) from the Mahoning County District Board of Health, which was the local board that dealt with the Sebring crisis also indicated that a two-day window would be difficult.

[Rep. John Bocchieri](#) (D-Poland) said the deadline would be tough for local water systems to meet and offered an amendment that would allow operators to develop a pre-plan for how it will distribute public notices about water quality that would be approved by the EPA. This amendment was not accepted into the bill.



Rep. John Bocchieri

The administration proposed the bill following lead contamination in the village of Sebring in Rep. Bocchieri's district. There it was discovered that a local water operator misled the OEPA on whether the public had been notified and that the public went unaware of the contamination for months.

HB 512-EPA MBR

Public Water System Regulations

CCAO Position: Interested Party

Status: House Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Key Provisions:

- Expediting public notice of lead contamination
- Financial assistance to communities and schools to identify and prevent lead contamination.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) said in his floor speech that the bill will ensure that does not happen again in Ohio. "Our state has now learned firsthand that federal guidelines regarding when to alert homeowners of high lead levels are sorely lacking," he said. "House Bill 512 includes critical changes that make our state standards to protect public health more proactive, backed by tighter deadlines with administrative fines."

Democrats said they'd continue to calls for changes to the bill as it moves through the Senate, but believe that the current proposal would bring marked improvements as well.

For additional information on water quality issues, please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982.

CCAO submits testimony on adult protective services bill

House Bill 24 makes changes to Ohio's adult protective services by expanding the definitions of financial harm and financial exploitation, increasing the list of mandated reporters of elder abuse and creating the elder abuse commission. The bill had its sixth hearing in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday. CCAO provided written [testimony](#) that supported the mission of protecting Ohio's seniors but emphasized the need for the state to fund important services like these.

For more information please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or kneithammer@ccao.org.

HB 24

Adult Protective Services

Sponsors: Reps. Dovilla & Retherferd

CCAO Position: Interested Party

Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Key Provisions:

- Expands the definitions of financial harm and financial exploitation, increases the list of mandated reporters of elder abuse and creates the elder abuse commission.

MBR update - Opiates and Developmental Disabilities

The Opiate MBR [SB 319](#) had its first hearing in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday. Senator Eklund, the bill's sponsor, explained the key provisions in SB 319 and talked about his journey to sponsoring the bill. Eklund expressed how he had been hearing more and more about Ohio's heroin problem but he did not understand how people initially got hooked on the drug. As he got more engaged in the issue, he learned that many of Ohio's heroin addicts start with prescription drugs.

He was inspired to try to make a difference by focusing on the prescription drug trigger, hoping this would divert people from graduating to illegal drugs. He went on to describe the seven areas the bill touches:

- **Stronger board of pharmacy oversight of pharmacy technicians**
They will now have to register with the board and submit to background checks
- **Licensing previously exempted dangerous drug handlers**
Veterinarians, dentists and other healthcare professionals who were exempted will now have to be licensed
- **Licensing suboxone clinics**
Owners and employees will have to submit to background checks and clinics will have to follow new rules on facility operation
- **Expanding availability of naloxone**
Homeless shelters, halfway houses, schools and treatment clinics will now have access and funding for naloxone
- **Reallocating financial resources**
To go to Project Dawn sites and support services that are separate but complementary to treatment
- **Promoting new methadone clinics**
Waives the two year residency requirement for out of state clinics to operate in Ohio if they have a proven record of experience
- **Addressing opiate prescription practices**
Puts a 90 day cap on a single prescription of opiates



Sen. Eklund

The Developmental Disabilities MBR [HB 483](#) was reported out of the House Finance Committee on Tuesday and passed out of the House on Wednesday by a vote of 96-0. An amendment that was added in committee made two changes:

- Allows the combining of two or more levies into one
- Permits a developmental disabilities board levy to be renewed specifying "general developmental disability services" rather than a specific school or agency

The bill now moves to the Senate for additional hearings.

For more information please contact CCAO Policy Analyst Kate Neithammer at 614-220-7996 or kneithammer@ccao.org

HB 483

Developmental Disabilities - MBR

Sponsor: Rep Amstutz

CCAO Position: Monitoring

Status: Passed out of the House

Key Provisions:

- Proposes changes to Ohio's developmental disabilities system.

SB 319

Opiates - MBR

Sponsor: Sen. Eklund

CCAO Position: Monitoring

Status: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Key Provisions:

- Revises laws regarding drugs, pharmacy practice and addiction services.



Historic Medical Marijuana Vote. With a constitutional amendment on the horizon, the Ohio House voted 71-26 on [HB 523](#) to potentially make Ohio the 26th state to give residents access to legalized medical marijuana. According to Columbus Dispatch reporter Jim Siegel, “Some members expressed reluctance about the bill — a vote on which would have been near unfathomable just a few years ago — but after hearing of the drug's benefits and facing the prospect of a less-restrictive constitutional amendment on the November ballot, the bill was sent to the Senate.” To see how your state representative(s) voted, [click here](#). Also, if you would like to read more about the bill, please [click here](#) to access prior CCAO Statehouse Report stories. Hearings are scheduled in the Senate this coming week. For more information, contact CCAO Legislative Counsel John Leutz at 614-221-5627 or at jleutz@ccao.org.

Local Residency Requirement Prohibition Bill Passes Senate. A bill to prohibit any public authority including any local government from requiring contractors to hire set percentages of laborers from a specific geographic area (typically coinciding with the boundaries of the political subdivision) passed the Ohio Senate 23-10 along party lines. [HB 180](#) is similar to a bill already passed by the Senate that was amended by the House last week to also ban project labor agreements. HB 180, which does not include the project labor agreement prohibitions, will be forwarded to the governor for his signature.

Private Label Credit Card Bad Debt Sales Tax Deduction and Refund Bills pending in both House and Senate. The House Ways and Means Committee is hearing legislation [HB 473](#) supported primarily by the Council of Retail Merchants which among other provisions would permit certain bad debt sales tax deductions and refunds for unpaid private label credit card debts. Existing law permits vendors to claim the bad debt deduction only if bad debts are charged off as uncollectible on the vendor's books. HB 473 and a similar bill, [SB 244](#), pending before the Senate Ways and Means Committee would permit vendors (retail merchants) with private label credit cards to take a deduction or claim a refund even though the debt is charged off as uncollectible on the books of the vendor's affiliates, the lender, or any person that acquired the card accounts. Bad debts on credit cards are a cost of doing business to the vendor and any lender, and such costs on unpaid merchandise and the sales tax are typically shared to some degree by both vendors and lenders, according to testimony provided to legislators. Both bills would result in the loss of sales tax dollars of approximately \$9.0 million to the state GRF and to counties and transit authorities of roughly \$2.3 per year, according to a fiscal note prepared by the Legislative Service Commission.

Senate Passes Public Records Dispute Bill. A bill providing a system through the Court of Claims to resolve public records disputes passed the Senate Wednesday. The public records dispute resolution bill [SB 321](#) passed 32-0, and was sponsored by Senate President Keith Faber(R-Celina). Senator Faber said it would create a system by which Ohioans can more easily access records. The bill would create a separate system through the judicial branch to resolve disputes over what is or is not a public record. Currently, the Attorney General and the Auditor of State have systems to resolve those disputes, but Sen. Faber said the court system is where those cases belong. For additional information on public records or open meeting issues, please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982.

Bills Introduced



- [SB 328](#)** ■ **CHILD CARE** ([Coley, B.](#)) Regarding host family affidavits for the care of children. Am. 3109.04, 3109.78, 3109.79, 3109.80, 3310.51, 3313.64, 3313.649, and 3313.672 and to enact sections 3109.84, 3109.841, 3109.842, 3109.843, 3109.844, 3109.845, 3109.846, 3109.847, 3109.848, 3109.849, 3109.8410, 3109.8411, 3109.8412, 3109.8413, 3109.8414, 3109.8415, and 5153.164
- [HB 554](#)** ■ **RENEWABLE ENERGY** ([Amstutz, R.](#)) To revise the requirements for renewable energy, energy efficiency savings, and peak demand reduction and to revise provisions governing which customers can opt out of related programs. Am. 4928.64, 4928.66, and 4928.6610
- [HB 559](#)** ■ **MEDICAL CLAIMS** ([Cupp, R.](#)) To grant qualified civil immunity to certain medical providers who provide emergency medical services as a result of a disaster or mass hazard; to provide that certain communications made regarding an unanticipated outcome of medical care, the development or implementation of standards under federal laws, and an insurer's reimbursement policies on health care are inadmissible as evidence in a medical claim; to provide that medical bills itemizing charges are inadmissible as evidence and a payment for medical services accepted by a defendant from an insurer is admissible as evidence of the reasonableness of the charges; to specify the manner of sending a notice of intent to file a medical claim and provide a procedure for the discovery of other potential claims within a specified period after the filing of a medical claim; to provide that any loss of a chance of recovery or survival by itself is not an injury, death, or loss for which damages may be recovered; to provide civil immunity to certain medical providers regarding the discharge of a patient with a mental condition that threatens the safety of the patient or others; to require that governmental agencies that receive peer review committee records maintain their confidentiality; and to clarify the definition of "medical claim." Am. 2305.113, 2305.252, 2305.51, 2317.421, 2317.43, and 2323.41 and to enact sections 2305.2311, 2317.44, 2317.45, 2323.40, and 2323.451.
- [HB 561](#)** ■ **PARK COMMISSIONERS** ([Bocchieri, J.](#), [Clyde, K.](#)) To require boards of county commissioners to appoint additional park board commissioners and allow for public comment during appointment process. Am. 545.05 and 1545.06
- [HB 562](#)** ■ **MAIL DELIVERY** ([Hambley, S.](#), [Ryan, S.](#)) To authorize local governments and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. Am. 9.312, 124.327, 128.07, 303.14, 307.204, 307.699, 340.02, 343.01, 505.109, 505.391, 505.511, 902.04, 931.03, 940.20, 3791.12, 4301.39, 5713.082, 5715.12, 5715.19, 5715.20, 5717.01, 5721.30, 5721.31, 5721.32, 5721.33, 5727.75, and 5747.51

Hearing Schedule



Tuesday, May 17

[House Insurance](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Sears, B.](#), 466-1731), Rm. 121, 9:00 am

[SB 129](#) ■ **PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS** ([Gardner, R.](#), [Cafaro, C.](#)) To amend the law related to the prior

- authorization requirements of insurers. --3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute
HB 275 ■ **VISION CARE** ([Schuring, K.](#)) Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision care services. --2nd Hearing-Supplemental sponsor testimony-Possible substitute
HB 416 ■ **SELF INSURANCE** ([Schuring, K.](#)) To enable state colleges and universities to establish joint self-insurance pools. --1st Hearing-Sponsor and possible proponent

Senate Government Oversight & Reform ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Coley, B.](#), 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 am

- HB 5** ■ **BUSINESS CASE STUDIES** ([Kunze, S.](#), [Koehler, K.](#)) To allow the Auditor of State to conduct business case studies regarding the efficiency of local public offices and state agencies, to authorize the Auditor of State to establish a shared equipment service agreement program among political subdivisions, and to specify that a political subdivision that uses the loaned equipment has potential liability for its use under the Political Subdivision Tort Liability Law. --5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

- 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-All testimony

Senate Agriculture ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Hite, C.](#), 466-8150), South Hearing Rm., 11:15 am

- HB 187** ■ **ANIMAL TREATMENT** ([Ginter, T.](#)) To authorize specified emergency personnel to provide certain emergency medical services to an injured dog or cat. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

- HB 215** ■ **ANIMAL FIGHTS** ([Sears, B.](#), [Bishoff, H.](#)) To prohibit and establish an increased penalty for knowingly engaging in activities associated with cockfighting, bearbaiting, or pitting an animal against another. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

- 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. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

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

- 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. --3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

- HB 547** ■ **APPROPRIATIONS ADJUSTMENTS** ([Smith, R.](#)) To provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs and to make appropriations. --3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

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

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

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

House Local Government ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Anielski, M.](#), 644-6041), Rm. 113, 2:30 pm

- 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. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

- 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. --5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

- HB 378** ■ **TRAFFIC ARRESTS** ([Hambley, S.](#), [Rezabek, J.](#)) To authorize law enforcement officers of township police districts and joint police districts, and township constables, serving specified small

populations to make arrests for motor vehicle-related violations committed on an interstate highway in the same manner as township law enforcement officers serving larger populations. --5th
Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

Wednesday, May 18

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record), (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 8:45 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-All testimony

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record), (Chr. Peterson, B., 466-8156), South Hearing Rm., 9:30 am

SB 211 ■ **TAX EXEMPTION** (Beagle, B.) To exempt memberships to gyms or other recreational facilities operated by nonprofit organizations from sales and use taxation. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

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

HB 182 ■ **DEVELOPMENT ZONES** (Schuring, K.) To revise the law governing the creation and operation of joint economic development districts (JEDDs) and enterprise zones. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

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. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote

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. --6th 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

HB 235 ■ **CCW LICENSES** (Terhar, L.) To waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces and retired and honorably discharged veterans and to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience. --3rd Hearing-All tesimony-Possible vote

HB 387 ■ **SMALL CLAIMS COURTS** (Terhar, L., Dever, J.) To raise the maximum allowable limit of the monetary jurisdiction of small claims divisions of municipal courts. --3rd Hearing-All tesimony-Possible vote

SB 308 ■ **CHILD SUPPORT** (Coley, B.) To amend the child support laws. --3rd Hearing-All tesimony-Possible vote

SB 323 ■ **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (Jones, S.) To make changes in the child abuse and neglect reporting law. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

SB 328 ■ **CHILD CARE** (Coley, B.) Regarding host family affidavits for the care of children. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

SB 268 ■ **EMPLOYMENT LAW** (Seitz, B.) To modify Ohio civil rights laws related to employment and the statute of limitations for other specified claims against an employer. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

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. --3rd Hearing-Opponent

Thursday, May 19

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