



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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May 27, 2016

House and Senate conclude spring session with flurry of legislative activity, both chambers to return after November election

In a flurry of legislative activity that resembled a lame duck session, both chambers churned out an unusually large number of bills before adjourning for the summer. During a two-day period, the Ohio House passed 34 bills and concurred on Senate amendments to 25 bills – all of the latter bills will be forwarded to the governor for his signature. On the Senate side the Ohio Senate approved 37 bills and concurred with House amendments to another 9 bills which will be forwarded to the governor for his consideration.

Not surprisingly, many of these bills impact counties.

The following is a list of bills that impact counties or county revenues that are on headed to Governor Kasich for his signature:

[HB 50](#) **Extend foster care services to individuals 18-21 years old**

- Interested party [testimony](#) submitted by CCAO asking the legislature to consider adding new resources to the ODJFS budget to cover the state match required for the program;
- The committee accepted amendments that state implementation shall begin “if the general assembly has appropriated sufficient funds to operate the program required under the plan as amended” and delays the implementation date to 15 months from the date of passage;
- Received an appropriation of \$550,000 in HB 390 for the planning of the program;

[HB 483](#) **Developmental Disabilities MBR**

- The committee accepted an amendment that allows county nursing homes to sell beds under the same conditions as private nursing homes;

[HB 166](#) **Local Tax – Fiscal Revisions**

- Extends deadline for filing an application for the homestead exemption or 2 ½ percent property tax rollback to the end of the tax year, to require the county auditor to certify local government fund allocations to subdivisions by regular or electronic, rather than certified mail and other changes;

- Special election fund - requires a board of county commissioners to establish a special elections fund to be used to accumulate revenue paid by political subdivisions for the costs of preparing for and conducting special elections.

SB 296 Polling Place – Extended Hours

- Specifies 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

SB 321 Public Records

- Creates a procedure with the Court of Claims to hear complaints alleging a denial of access to public records and to modify the circumstances under which a person who files a mandamus action seeking the release of court costs and attorney's fees

HB 359 Address Confidentiality

- Creates an address confidentially program for victims of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, rape, sexual battery and other crimes

SB 63 Online Voter Registration

- Creates an online voter registration program

HB 173 Veteran ID Cards

- Authorizes county recorders and county veteran service commissions to issue veterans ID cards

HB 9 Tax Expenditure Review Committee

- Creates a Tax Expenditure Review Committee for the purpose of periodically reviewing existing and proposed tax expenditures
- CCAO submitted written proponent [testimony](#) this week before the Senate Ways and Means Committee

HB 182 Joint Economic Development Districts

- Revises the law governing the creation and operation of joint economic development districts (JEDDS) and enterprise zones
- Convention Facilities Authority Property Tax Exemption – provides a property tax exemption for a convention facilities authority owned arena in a county with a population of more than 1 million, effectively limiting the provisions to Nationwide Arena in Columbus. This provides the arena with the same tax treatment as similarly publicly owned facilities in Ohio.

HB 277 9-1-1 System Levy

- Authorizes a county, township, or municipal corporation to impose a 9-1-1 system levy in only the portion of the subdivision that would be served by the 9-1-1 system
- An emergency clause was added to the bill to permit Delaware County to submit this ballot issue to the board of elections this summer so that the voters may consider a 9-1-1 levy renewal this November. The levy expires in 2016.

HB 390 Municipal Natural Gas Sales Tax Exemption

- Exempts the sale of natural gas by a municipal gas company from the sales and use tax
- This legislation is in response to a bulletin issued by the Ohio Department of Taxation in which the department determined for the first time that the sale of natural gas by a municipal gas company was subject to the sales tax. The legislature is in effect reversing the tax policy determination of the Department of Taxation.
- Only 6 counties have a municipal gas company within the county and all 6 counties were contacted prior to passage of this legislation (Butler, Fairfield, Hancock, Henry, Pickaway, and Preble). The sponsors of this legislation are Representatives Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) and Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton) who represent communities directly impacted by the legislation.
- This bill was amended to become the vehicle for Office of Budget and Management Mid Biennium Review (OBM MBR) and many other provisions adopted by the legislature. (Please see related story on OBM MBR)

HB 466 Digital Advertising Sales Tax Exemption

- Specifically exempts digital advertising services from the sales and use tax
- This legislation reverses a determination by the Ohio Department of Taxation issued December 15, 2015 that digital advertising services and certain taxable electronic services were subject to the sales and use tax. In other words, this tax was not previously being collected prior to the new Department of Taxation guidance to businesses now subject to the tax

HB 512 MBR - Water System Testing

- Establishes requirements governing lead and copper testing for community and non-transient non-community water systems. (Please see separate story in Statehouse Report)

SB 172 Metal Bullion Investment Sale Tax Exemption

- Exempts from the sales and use tax the sale of investment metal bullion and coins
- An amendment was adopted clarifying that an investment coin is a coin made of gold, silver, platinum or palladium
- Previous legislation to achieve this purpose had been vetoed by the governor, however, the adoption of several other amendments to the bill raise questions about whether the governor will again veto these provisions

HB 60 Treatment of Companion Animals

- Increases penalties for harming companion animals, in some cases to felonies
- Felony prosecution shall not be prosecuted by Humane Society's special prosecutor

The following is a list of bills that impact counties or county revenues passed one chamber and look to be fully passed when the legislature returns in the fall:

SB 308 Child Support

- The committee accepted an amendment that delays implementation to allow for automated system changes and staff training;
- The amended bill was passed by the Senate, Vote 33-0

SB 319 Opiate MBR

- The committee accepted amendments that reduce the effective time period for an opioid prescription from 30 to 14 days, permit for-profit methadone clinics to operate in Ohio and add courts and probation departments to those entities that can administer naloxone;
- The amended bill was passed by the Senate, Vote 33-0.

SB 206 Campaign Finance – Electronic Filing

- To require certain campaign committees and other entities to file campaign finance statements electronically;
- The bill was passed by the Senate, Vote 33-0.

SB 331 Dog Sales by Pet Retailers

- To regulate the sale of dogs from pet stores and dog retailers and to require the Director of Agriculture to license pet stores;
- The bill was passed by the Senate, Vote 21-11.

HB 12 TIF – Incentive Districts

- To establish a procedure by which political subdivisions proposing a tax increment financing (TIF) incentive district are required to provide notice to the record owner of each parcel within the proposed incentive district before creating the district.
- The bill was passed by the House, Vote 65-22

HB 347 Civil Asset Forfeiture

- To eliminate civil asset forfeiture proceedings and to modify the law governing criminal asset forfeitures.
- The bill was passed by the House, Vote 67-23

SJR 1 to wait until the fall

Final action on [SJR 1](#), the joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to establish a Public Office Compensation Commission of nine members to propose pay levels for elected officials, will now wait until November. A substitute version was offered in the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee on Wednesday, however, it was withdrawn and the committee adjourned without acting on the resolution. A House vote Wednesday could have lined up a quick Senate concurrence vote that same day, clearing the measure's path to the ballot in time for the November election.

After the committee adjourned, its Chairman Tim Brown (R-Bowling Green), a former Wood County Commissioner, indicated that there was a belief by some that additional amendments could be made to the Resolution to make it an even better proposition for people of Ohio to consider and therefore the House would take a pause, go back and pick it up in the fall. Brown said that it was never the House's intention to have the measure appear on the ballot this fall, and last week he had suggested that the measure may not pass both chambers prior to summer break.

One such additional amendment suggested during the committee hearing by Representative Mike Curtin (D-Marble Cliff) would grant the General Assembly approval authority of the commission's pay package. Under the current proposal, lawmakers can only reject the commission's recommendations by a three-fifths vote.

The substitute version the committee nearly adopted would have:

- Changed language to reflect the resolution's potential appearance on the 2017 ballot, rather than 2016
- Removed judges and local officials from the jurisdiction of the commission thereby retaining the legislature's discretion over their salaries
- Downsized the commission from nine members to eight by removing a member that was to be appointed by the Chief Justice
- Changes the commission from setting "compensation" to setting "salaries and allowances" of the elected officials

It was a busy week in the area of elections law

Federal Court Case

Provisions of SB 238 of 130th General Assembly which eliminated what has been called "Golden Week," the period during which a person could register and vote on the same day, were found to violate the Voting Rights Act by U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson. In his discussion handed down on Tuesday Watson found that the law resulted in a reduction of early in-person voting opportunities which disproportionately impacted black voters. "Voting in person costs the voter the money and time to get to and from the polling place, and it therefore is more difficult for African Americans than whites to have the resources and ability to take leave from work in order to make two separate trips to register and vote if Golden Week is eliminated or to find a day on which they can vote if the period of early in-person (voting) is shortened," Judge Watson wrote in his ruling.

Democrats praised the ruling. "Today's decision is a huge win for Ohio voters, who will now have the original window for early voting restored, along with ability to register to vote and cast their ballot on the same day," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said in a statement. Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati), president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, called the elimination of same-day registration a "restriction on our most basic democratic right that disproportionately affected minority voters in Ohio," while Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) indicated that she was, "happy the court agreed with Democratic officials that SB 238's removal of the same day registration violates the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution."

Secretary of State Jon Husted indicated that he was pleased the court upheld existing law on nearly every issue presented in the case. One of those issues, which is of significant interest to CCAO, provided for the ability to take into consideration the number of absentee voters when determining the number of voting machines required to be used at an election.

Husted, however, found it “disappointing that a federal judge would again change the election rules after the current laws were upheld in the same federal district court by a settlement agreement we reached with the NAACP and the ACLU.” “This point is further amplified when you consider that, for nearly 200 years, Ohioans voted for only one day,” he continued. “If it was constitutional for lawmakers to expand the voting period to 35 days, it must also be constitutional for the same legislative body to amend the timeframe to 28 days, a timeframe that remains one of the most generous in the nation.”

Later in the week Husted announced that he had filed an appeal to the ruling. Husted said the elimination of “Golden Week,” had a broad coalition of bipartisan support because it had become both an administrative problem and a voter integrity issue and noted that “to ensure we were fulfilling our goal of making it easy to vote and hard to cheat, we expanded weekend and weekday hours for in-person absentee voting as part of a compromise for the reduction in hours that came with the elimination of “Golden Week.” In a statement supporting the decision to appeal, Senate President Keith Faber noted that Ohio offers 28 days of early voting compared to the state of New York which only offers Election Day itself.

Bills sent to the governor

The Legislature sent two bills to the governor regarding online voter registration and polling hour extensions.

The House approved and the Senate later concurred in the House’s amendments to [SB 63](#) that would allow the secretary of state to create an online voter registration system to permit voters to be able to register online beginning in January, 2017.

Some Democrats objected to the delayed implementation date established by the House claiming that it could prevent voters from easily changing their registration information. But Rep. Tim Brown (R-Bowling Green), who ushered the bill through committee, said it just provides citizens with another way to register to vote. He went on to say the members of his committee felt it would be responsible to delay implementation until after the presidential election. “If something did go wrong, many on that side of the aisle would be the first to point fingers and blame the secretary,” he said referring to Democrats and Secretary Husted. Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) also took issue with a portion of the bill that would require a would-be voter to have a license or state-issued ID card to utilize the online registration system. She said that provision could impact as many as 300,000 Ohioans.

Following the votes, Secretary Husted said the bill “moves Ohio forward into the 21st Century for how we run elections and ensures it is easy to vote and hard to cheat in the Buckeye State.” “Ohio is a national leader in many areas of elections administration and with today’s passage of online voter registration we can add one more,” he continued. “Online registration makes voting easier, more secure and saves tax dollars, helping meet the goal of making Ohio a place where it’s easy to vote and hard to cheat.”

The House reported from committee and passed and the Senate later concurred in the House amendments to [SB 296](#) (Sen. Bill Seitz, R-Cincinnati) that would restrict court-ordered polling hour extensions.

The House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee which reported the bill heard opponent testimony from a handful of voter rights advocates who, in addition to other concerns especially objected to the requirement that those attempting to receive a court-order polling hour extension would have to pay a cash bond based on the cost of keeping that polling location open.

ACLU of Ohio chief lobbyist Gary Daniels called it a "misguided bill advertised as an improvement" that will "perpetuate the problems it seeks to solve." The law would have no effect on federal court challenges, he said, and therefore would inundate federal courts with voter rights challenges. As with other opponents, he said the bill establishes a steep hurdle for voters to "prove by clear and convincing evidence that no prospect of a fair election exists in the absence of the order," and said the bill allows governments an expedited appeal process, via an appellate court panel, that is closed to voters.

However, Hamilton County Board of Elections Director Sherry Poland, in written testimony, voiced support for the bill, describing court orders for extensions her board received in several recent elections. During the November 2015 general election, for example, she said the board had 40 minutes to notify 2,500 poll workers and 250 board trouble shooters and ballot guards of the extension. She said some polls closed without learning of the extension, some voters voted after 7:30 p.m. who appeared to have not attempted to vote during normal hours, and poll workers had to scramble to adjust to the extension. "The extended voting hours in both the November 2015 and March 2016 elections caused disorder and confusion among voters and poll workers at a cost of over \$57,000 to the taxpayers of Hamilton County," she wrote. "At a time when we should be working to make sure we have sufficient poll worker staffing in voting locations to ensure a smooth and fair election, we are instead creating obstacles to retaining our most experienced poll workers and impeding our ability to recruit new highly skilled poll workers. We need to restore order."

Campaign finance reporting

Finally, on another elections subject of campaign finance reporting, the Senate passed [SB 206](#) (Sen. Frank LaRose, R-Copley Twp.) which would require certain campaign committees and other entities to file campaign finance statements electronically. Local elected officials would be permitted to voluntarily file online. Currently local officials can't file their reports digitally with the Secretary of State's office. The bill would allow them to file their reports in the same system as state officials

Budget update bill clears legislature

The Ohio Senate used a house passed bill [HB 390](#) to become the vehicle for the Office of Budget and Management Mid Biennium Review (OBM MBR) legislation. The underlying bill exempts residents and businesses served by a municipal gas company from the sales and use tax for natural gas purchased from a municipal gas company. A number of important legislative proposals and initiatives were folded into this unrelated bill during the final days of legislative activity this past week. Provisions of interest to counties include:

- Ohio Healthier Buckeye Grant Pilot Program – the language in this bill transfers the unexpended, unencumbered portion of the \$5 million appropriation from FY 2016 to FY 2017 to ensure that all original appropriations will be available over the biennium. The state budget had originally appropriated \$5 million in SFY 2016 and \$6.5 million in SFY 2017.
- County Utilities Services Tax – the language of the bill repeals the County Utility Services Tax, a tax that has been authorized since 1967, but never been used by a county.
- Creates a loan and repayment mechanism to pay off the outstanding unemployment compensation debt owed to the federal government. The state is using between \$225-250 million in unclaimed funds to pay off unemployment compensation debt incurred during the Great Recession. Employers will face a federal penalty if the state does not pay off the debt by November 10th.
- Incorporates separate legislation (HB 463) aimed at foreclosing mortgages on vacant and abandoned residential properties and expediting the foreclosure and transfer of unoccupied, blighted parcels
- Appropriates \$550,000 in SFY 2017 for the purposes contained in House Bill 50/Senate Bill 240 (foster care changes)
- Provides \$500,000 in SFY 15 for the purposes of funding SB 321 (public records)
- Removes the authority to set hourly rates for capital cases from the Supreme Court and instead creates the Capital Case Attorney Fee Council, made up of 5 appellate court judges, to carry out the duty
- Changes the appropriation contained in the bill for lead fixture replacement assistance grants to allow school districts to take part and to increase the amount by \$2 million. These provisions help fund provisions adopted as part of the EPA MBR (HB 512)

EPA MBR - Lead Notification bill sent to the Governor

Governor Kasich will soon sign legislation that will cut down the timeline for notifying the public of lead contamination after the Senate passed the bill later Wednesday evening, with no amendments. [House Bill 512](#) cleared the legislature despite concerns and committee debate earlier that day over whether the bill's two-day notification timeline would set local water systems up for failure.

The bill was prompted by lead contamination in Sebring which went undisclosed to residents for more than six months. The bill shortens the notification requirement from 30 days to two, among other changes. But some lawmakers - including [Sen. Bill Seitz](#) (R-Cincinnati) - bristled at the administration's insistence the bill not be amended in order to avoid slowing it down.

"This is a textbook example of rushing stuff through without adequate vetting and having our administration push this through with no amendments, in a big hurry for some reason I can't frankly fathom," Sen. Seitz said moments before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee reported the bill earlier that day.



Senator Bill Seitz

During testimony on the bill, a number of local water systems expressed concern about the feasibility of meeting the two-day timeline. The measure drew unanimous approval from members of the Senate committee. But Democrats and Sen. Seitz weren't happy with the administration's insistence that the bill not be amended.

Sen. Seitz came prepared with two amendments, but told colleagues he wouldn't be offering them. He then blasted lawmakers and the administration for "rushing" the bill through the legislative process. He said many other states, including Michigan and Kentucky, have 30-day notification requirements. "And we're putting in two days' notice," he said. "I understand 30 days is way too much and so does everybody else. But it strikes me it's going to be very difficult for mass notifications to occur in two days."

He also requested the committee ask EPA Director Craig Butler, who was in attendance, to clarify whether social media and mass communication technology could be used to meet the notification requirements. Chairman Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) declined to grant Sen. Seitz's request.

In response, Vice Chairwoman Sen. Shannon Jones (R-Springboro) said witnesses had emphasized the need to act quickly on the issue. "From the testimony that we heard I think the evidence was pretty overwhelming about the need to be as expeditious as possible in informing the public," Sen. Jones said. "I respectfully disagree with my colleague that it's a failure to vet. We just have a disagreement."

The committee also tabled several amendments offered by Democratic members, including language that would have:

- Ensured mail, telephone, social media and other forms of mass communication can be used to meet notification requirements.
- Given water systems 24 hours to notify the public of lead contamination.
- Moved up the timeline EPA notification timeline from 10 business days to five.
- Required lead service lines to be disclosed in rental agreements or real estate transactions.
- Fostered more coordination between local boards of health and the EPA.

Later that evening on the Senate floor, Sen. Balderson said "having access to safe drinking water is critical" and that the measure will help accomplish that. Democratic members agreed the bill has merits, but Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said the legislature's work on the issue isn't finished.

"Even though we are shortening the notification timeframe, we are making some investment in the removal of lead pipes, we need to make that a bigger priority because if you don't have lead

HB 512-EPA MBR

Public Water System Regulations

CCAO Position: Interested Party

Status: Awaiting Governor's Signature

Key Provisions:

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

pipes you don't have lead poisoning," Sen. Schiavoni said. He said there is more to be done on the bill and "I don't think Sebring...was an isolated incident, unfortunately."

CCAO appreciates the efforts of the County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio, the American Water Works Association, the Ohio Municipal League and other interested parties on this legislation. Many of the policy changes will be fine tuned in the administrative rule making process. CCAO will work with Ohio EPA on the proposed Ohio Administrative Code changes.

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

Other Sanitary Legislation Update: House Bill 214 PVC Piping Legislation

Legislation that would restrict when a public authority may preference a particular type of piping material for certain public improvements had its third hearing in House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. CCAO, the County Sanitary Engineers Association of Ohio, and many others are opposed to this legislation, [HB 214](#) (Thompson, A.), and similar versions that have been introduced in previous sessions.

The committee heard from Josh Young of the American Chemistry Council offered supportive testimony. While he said chemical manufacturers across the county and in Ohio have not been given opportunities to compete through a limitation



Brad Cole

on materials for water pipe infrastructure projects, he testified more specifically on a proposed amendment that would clarify that the engineer have the ultimate authority and flexibility when designing a community's water project. Vince Squillace, executive vice president of the Ohio Home Builders Association, submitted written testimony in support of the measure.

Otherwise, a flood of opposition was voiced from various pipe manufacturers, professional engineers, local governments and representatives of city public utility works.

Donald Mader, executive director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio, said the legislation is being opposed for one very simple reason with that being their belief that only one entity should decide the type of pipe that will be used on a public water or wastewater project. And that one entity, he continued, is the independent professional engineer of record who puts his or her license and livelihood on the line when designing critical public infrastructure.

HB 214
PVC Piping

Public Water System Regulations

CCAO Position: Opposed

Status: House Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Key Provisions:

- To restrict when a public authority may preference a particular type of piping material for certain public improvements

Mr. Mader said certainly there are municipalities skeptical of the merits of PVC pipe, but it is the obligation of the PVC pipe industry to sit down with the engineering staffs of those municipalities and demonstrate the merits of their products rather than asking the General Assembly to help force open the doors of the marketplace to gain an advantage over competitors by mandating the use of their product.

CCAO Managing Director of Research, Brad Cole, also provided opposition [testimony](#). Other notable opposition was submitted by the Ohio Municipal League, the County Engineers Association of Ohio, the Ohio Rural Water Association, the Ohio Steel Council, and the American Concrete Pipe Association.

For additional information, please contact CCAO staffers Brad Cole bcole@ccao.org or Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org.

Adult protective services bill remains in committee

House Bill 24, the bill that makes changes to adult protective services (APS) laws was not voted out of committee as expected on Wednesday. Interested parties were working together to craft a series of amendments that were going to be voted on before the bill moved out of committee, but at the end of the day, the Chair decided not to move the bill. CCAO submitted testimony that can be found [here](#). We'll continue to watch for activity on APS through the summer.

If you have questions regarding HB 24 please contact 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.

Legislature adopts bill to legalize medical marijuana

Two weeks after the House passed [HB 523](#) the Senate reported and passed the measure on Wednesday. The Senate approved the measure by a vote of 18-15, with four Democrats joining 11 Republicans in opposition. Hours later, the House voted 67-28 to accept the Senate's changes. It now goes to the governor for his action.

In making the argument for the bill before the Senate, the bill's Senate managers Senator Dave Burke (R-Marysville) and Senator Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) took different approaches to garner their colleagues support.

Sen. Burke, who joined Sen. Yuko on a three-city listening tour to explore the issue and later shepherded the bill through a number of changes in the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, said the bill wasn't perfect, but it was better than the legislature doing nothing. Burke noted that public support exists for medical marijuana as evidenced by polling from last year's failed Issue 3 vote and suggested that the passage of the bill was far better than having a constitutional amendment pass on the ballot this November. A constitutional

amendment would institute a program that would be nearly impossible to adjust while passage of HB 523 would be subject to change and maturity as Ohioans change and mature. Burke said that the bill was carefully crafted to limit the possibility for diversion and abuse. The bill does not allow for home grow plants, smoking, or recreational use of marijuana.



Yuko discussed what medical marijuana could do for patients of debilitation and difficult-to-treat diseases in Ohio. He shared stories from patients who testified about how marijuana has helped them reduce seizures and fight chronic pain without the risks of opioid painkillers. Yuko argued that here is no reason why Ohioans should be made to suffer any longer, and, although the bill is not perfect, it is what Ohio needs.

Under the legislation either the legislative authority of a municipal corporation or a board of township trustees may adopt regulations to prohibit, or limit the number of, retail dispensaries within their political subdivision independent of the their zoning authority. The bill also requires that land used to cultivate or process medical marijuana be taxed based on fair market value rather than current agricultural use value (CAUV) and there are no special taxation provisions for medical marijuana provided.

Despite the bill's passage, however, Ohioans for Medical Marijuana, indicated it will continue to proceed to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to legalize medical marijuana,. The group's proposal includes a few provisions not in the bill, including legalizing home grow and the smoking of marijuana. The group claims that their constitutional amendment builds on the legislature's work by incorporating national best practices and offers voters an opportunity to enact a law free of the horse-trading inherent in the legislative process that protects the rights of patients in the Ohio Constitution, not leaving that important issue vulnerable to the reach of special interests

Statehouse, Etc.



Governor Kasich is Dropping Hints About His Final 31 Months as Governor. The Governor sat down with reporters from cleveland.com and the Columbus Dispatch this week to discuss his now ended bid for the White House, Donald Trump and his agenda for Ohio over the next 2 ½ years.

In the [interview](#) Kasich hinted that he has big plans for the remainder of his term saying, "Some of it will get done, probably most of it will not, because there's going to be a lot of stuff. We don't have it all – we're just working right now. But it's going to be a very aggressive, bold agenda designed to put Ohio on a path where we can become world-class in about everything."

When asked about the centerpiece of the agenda, he likened his approach to "Uberizing the government of Ohio", a reference to Uber, the rideshare company that is changing the landscape of transportation in cities across the country.

"The centerpiece is innovation. Does that mean we create a chief technology officer? I don't want to get ahead of myself here. ... My goal is to Uberize the government of Ohio as best as I can."

Bills Introduced



- [SB 334](#)** ■ **VEHICLE SALVAGE DEALERS** ([Eklund, J.](#)) To amend the law regulating motor vehicle salvage dealers. Am. 4517.02, 4738.01, 4738.02, and 4738.99
- [SB 335](#)** ■ **AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES** ([Patton, T.](#)) To regulate non-bank automated teller machines. Am. 1181.081
- [SB 336](#)** ■ **USED TIRES** ([Hite, C.](#), [LaRose, F.](#)) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. Am. 1345.99 and to enact section 1345.022
- [HB 574](#)** ■ **USED TIRES** ([Sprague, R.](#), [DeVitis, T.](#)) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. Am. 1345.99 and to enact section 1345.022
- [HB 575](#)** ■ **BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY** ([Boyce, K.](#)) Regarding qualified aliens' eligibility for Medicaid, Ohio Works First, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program during their first five years in the United States. Am. 5162.06 and to enact sections 5101.543, 5107.101, and 5163.11
- [HR 428](#)** ■ **CANCER DRUGS** ([Antonio, N.](#), [LaTourette, S.](#)) To urge the Congress of the United States, the United States Food and Drug administration, and the National Institutes of Health to address the cost and availability of cancer drugs.
- [HCR 35](#)** ■ **SMART CITY** ([Kunze, S.](#), [Craig, H.](#)) To urge the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to select the City of Columbus as the award winner for the USDOT Smart City Challenge.

Hearing Schedule



Wednesday, June 1

[Senate Rules & Reference](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Faber, K.](#), 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:00 am (Updated: 11:04 a.m., December 21, 2015)
[Senate Session](#), (Chr. [Faber, K.](#), 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm
If needed

Monday, June 6

[Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Uecker, J.](#), 466-4086), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 pm

Tuesday, June 7

[Senate Session](#), (Chr. [Faber, K.](#), 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 11:00 am
If needed
[House Session](#), (Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), 466-3357), House Chamber, 11:00 am
If needed
[Senate Rules & Reference](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Faber, K.](#), 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:00 am

Wednesday, June 8

[Senate Rules & Reference \(Committee Record\)](#), (Chr. [Faber, K.](#), 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:00 am

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

If needed

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

If needed