



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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FY 2016 Indigent defense reimbursement numbers

The State Public Defender's Office reports that the total amount submitted by the counties for reimbursement in FY 2016 was \$125.4 million. \$124.2 million was submitted for non-capital cases which was reimbursed at 48% and provided \$59.6 million in reimbursement to the counties. \$1.2 million was submitted for capital cases which was reimbursed at 50% and provided \$600 thousand in reimbursement to the counties.

The state budget bill earmarked \$1.5 million for capital case reimbursement so \$913 thousand of that earmark was lapsed. We have asked that this amount be reappropriated to provide additional reimbursement for FY 16 submitted expenses. It would take an additional \$2.48 million to reach 50% reimbursement.

The amount available for reimbursement is comprised of the general fund appropriation and 87% of the Indigent Defense Support Fund (IDSF). The general fund appropriation totaled \$22,628,268 which included \$1.5 million of this amount being ear marked for death penalty case reimbursement. The IDSF is derived from non-general revenue fund sources which are deposited into it including a state-wide court cost, surcharge on OVI fines, and charges on various BMV fees. Although the Public Defender's Office had estimated this amount would total approximately \$43.7 million, actual receipts deposited into the IDSF were about \$2.2 million below the estimate and totaled \$41,514,565.

The State Public Defender will continue to reimburse at 48% for regular cases and 50% for capital cases again in FY 17.

Diverse priorities highlight the Legislative Platform Survey

While the survey results haven't been completely tallied, initial impressions from the returned surveys show a wide variety of issues are on the minds of our county officials. We asked you to take an active role in helping us shape our recommendations to the standing committees and your response was tremendous. We received more than twice as many responses than the previous survey, from all across the state and through the entire gamut of county officials.



It's no surprise that two related issues seemed to figure heavily in the comments: sales tax and the Medicaid MCO sales tax elimination. While counties are still grappling with the effects that the loss of Medicaid MCO sales tax will bring, the survey revealed that many are concerned with the volatility of having so much of their revenue dependent on the sales tax and would look to stabilize their revenue streams.

The Board of Elections was also a common concern for the survey respondents. Issues ranging from voting equipment replacement to escalating costs with a lack of funding were emphasized. Speaking of unfunded mandates, 911 updates and indigent defense were also frequently mentioned as areas of apprehension.

Water quality was an area of uncertainty for several respondents. The regulation by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) figured prominently as did infrastructure replacement and wastewater treatment.

The Opiate Issue lead to several other concerns including: jail overcrowding, spiraling children's services costs, court services and additional courtroom and other county building security.

All these issues and concerns, along with a host of others from the survey, will help us focus on where we need to direct our efforts. Once the results from the Legislative Platform Survey are finalized, they will be used to refine what our standing committees submit for consideration for the final CCAO platform for the upcoming legislative term.

CCAO has a long standing history of being a forefront leader in public policy given our member-driven process. This only works if our membership takes an active role, and based on the incredible response, you are committed to helping us make positive change. We thank you for your support.

For additional information on these issues, please feel free to contact any member of the CCAO Policy Staff at 614-221-5627.

Statehouse, Etc.



State deposits \$29.5 million into the Rainy Day Fund. The state budget office put the final touches on the Fiscal Year 2016 books Wednesday, with more money going into a reserve fund but a tempered outlook for current year finances.

Office of Budget and Management Director Tim Keen said a stronger-than-expected ending balance for FY 2016 allowed for \$29.5 million deposit to the state's "rainy day" Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF). Looking ahead, however, recent law changes and a continuing

sluggish economy led OBM to revise tax revenue for FY 2017, which began June 30, downward by a total of \$282 million.

That [revised revenue estimate](#) includes \$238.7 less from the original baseline projections, mostly due to slumping personal income tax intake, and \$43.3 million in tax law changes impacting sales and commercial activity taxes. Nevertheless, Mr. Keen said in a statement, "The fiscal condition of the state is strong. We finished the year with a larger ending balance than planned due to state spending that came in below projections, making possible the fifth deposit to our rainy day account in six years," he said. The BSF now stands at a record \$2.034 billion.

Bills Introduced



- [SB 340](#)** ■ **PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS** ([Seitz, B.](#)) To regulate the use of indemnity provisions in contracts related to public improvements. En. 153.81.
- [SB 341](#)** ■ **CONCEALED WEAPONS** ([Jordan, K.](#)) To allow a person who has a concealed handgun license to carry concealed all firearms other than dangerous ordnance or firearms that state or federal law prohibits the person from possessing and to provide that a person 21 years of age or older and not legally prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm by federal law does not need a concealed handgun license in order to carry or have concealed on the person's person or ready at hand a firearm and is subject to the same laws regarding carrying a concealed firearm as a person who has a concealed handgun license. Am. 109.69, 109.731, 1547.69, 2923.11, 2923.12, 2923.121, 2923.122, 2923.123, 2923.124, 2923.125, 2923.126, 2923.128, 2923.129, 2923.1213, 2923.16, and 4749.10 and to enact section 2923.111.

Hearing Schedule



Monday, August 1

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

Tuesday, August 2

[Senate Agriculture](#) ([Committee Record](#)), [House Agriculture & Rural Development](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Hite, C.](#), 466-8150; Chr. [Hill, B.](#), 644-6014), Donahey Nationwide Ag./Hort. Building, Ohio State Fairgrounds, 10:00 am
Testimony from Virgil Strickler, General Manager of the Ohio State Fair; Jack Fisher, Executive Vice President of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation; Dave Daniels, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture; Jim Zehringer, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Craig Butler, Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Dean Rustin Moore, DVM, PhD, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Mary Buehler, Ohio Fair's Queen/FFA State President

[House Rules & Reference](#) ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Amstutz, R.](#), 466-1474), Rm. 119, 1:30 pm

[House Session](#), (Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), 466-3357), House Chamber, 2:30 pm
Session to fill vacancies in the 3rd and 47th House Districts