



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Statewide standard for Veteran Identification Cards created



Brian Mead, Commissioner Stewart & Commissioner Haller display a sample of the new Veteran ID Card.

as form DD-214. This document is important for a veteran to have in order to obtain veteran benefits. This practice over the years, led to some recorders to make a miniature version of this document, and eventually wallet sized identification card. A similar practice of providing an ID card was also being done by some county veteran service offices.

During this general assembly, the legislature worked to codify in law the authority of counties to provide veterans a standard identification card. The legislative effort was completed with the passage of [House Bill 173](#) (Anielski, M., Terhar, L.) in late May of this year. The act became effective on September 8th.

For many years, county recorders have been recording veteran's military discharge papers, commonly referred to

House Bill 173:

- Allows County Recorders and/or Veteran Service Offices to issue standardized ID cards
 - Board of County Commissioners must pass a resolution to enable either entity to issue cards
 - Offices currently issuing cards must use the newly established standardized ID cards
- Caps the fee charged to a veteran for the ID Card to \$2.00
 - Board of County Commissioners must determine the fee charged, if any;
 - Any funds collected must be deposited into the **County's General Revenue Fund**
- Requires the County Recorder to work with the Veteran Service Office to verify applicants were not dishonorably discharged
- Requires the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, Ohio Recorders Association and the County Veteran Service Officers to form a material and design standards committee to develop a standard statewide ID card

Veteran ID Material and Design Standards Committee:

In July the three associations formed the material and design standards committee. Three people from each association were used to form the committee. CCAO's members are Jackson County Commissioner Paul Haller, Pickaway County Commissioner Brian Steward, and CCAO Policy Analysis Brian Mead.

On Monday, the work of the committee was finalized and with the help of legislative sponsors Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) and Rep. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) the new standardized identification cards were unveiled at a [statehouse news conference](#). Rep. Terhar said the work between veterans' groups, counties and legislators was successful in providing a valuable resource to veterans. "This is an example of how government's supposed to work," he said.

A special thanks goes to Commissioners Stewart and Haller for their hard work on the material and design committee. For additional information on veteran ID cards and other veteran issues please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982.

Mahoning County Commissioners adopt resolution seeking relief from projected Medicaid MCO sales tax losses

The Mahoning County Commissioners adopted a [resolution](#) asking the Ohio General Assembly to stop the potential loss of sales tax revenue associated with the Medicaid managed care organization sales tax, according to a published [article](#) appearing in the Youngstown Vindicator.

The US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has informed the state that the Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) sales tax must be discontinued at the end of the current legislative cycle or budget session, which has been interpreted by the state as the end of the biennial budget period or July 1, 2016.

Mahoning County is projected to lose approximately \$3.7 million in sales tax revenue or 9.5 percent of total sales tax collections for the county in Calendar Year 2015. The Youngstown based Western Reserve Transit Authority stands to lose an additional \$823,000 in sales tax

collections representing 9.6 percent of their collections in 2015. It was reported that Columbiana and Trumbull counties would experience significant sales tax losses as well.

Given the substantial negative impact that elimination of the Medicaid MCO sales tax has on the state general revenue fund budget, roughly \$1.1 billion over the SFY 18 – 19 biennium, and an additional \$2.159 billion over the biennium in state matching dollars and federal Medicaid dollars, it is anticipated that the executive budget to be introduced early in 2017 will include a proposal to address these significant revenue losses. The loss of the Medicaid MCO sales tax to counties and transit authorities that levy a sales tax amounts to approximately \$400 million over the biennium.

For additional information regarding the Medicaid MCO sales tax, please contact Brad Cole at bcole@ccao.org or Kate Neithammer at kneithammer@ccao.org.

Last chance to make your opinion heard – Complete the jail administrators survey today

TODAY is the last day survey responses will be accepted for this critical survey. It is highly important that jail administrators take the survey, because without good data it will be hard to justify good funding. Here is the link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Jailpsych>

The rising cost of psychotropic medication and the management of the mentally ill/addicted inmates in the jail setting have become overwhelming issues to jails that have seen inconsistent and inadequate assistance from the state.

The recommendations being made are specifically designed to assist county jails in managing and caring for the mentally ill and addicted population and would:

- Establish and fund a program managed by the local county behavioral health boards that utilizes Medicaid managed care providers and local providers to assess and treat jail inmates and, upon release, continue treatment under traditional Medicaid coverage. This program will provide a continuity of care for mental health and addiction services that are so critical for many of the individuals incarcerated in our jails.
- Create a state-wide behavioral health triage program that provides regional centers that law enforcement can take individuals to who have been taken into custody or are incarcerated which:
 - Serve as a drop-off center and provide crisis beds for crisis intervention
 - Conduct immediate forensic evaluations
 - Manage detoxification
- Require the Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services' Central Pharmacy to provide all psychotropic drugs prescribed for county jail inmates

For us to be successful we need strong participation, so we urge all jail administrators to respond to the survey today, if they have not done so already.

Hearing Schedule



Thursday, September 22

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

- Value-Based Payments presentation from The Health Collaborative, Dr. Richard Shonk, Chief Medical Director
- Behavioral Health Quarterly Update and Panel Discussion from John McCarthy, Ohio Department of Medicaid; Tracy Plouck, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Hugh Wirtz, Ohio Council; Nelson Burns, Coleman Professional Services; Nicholas Rees, Buckeye Ranch; Leigh Johnson, Wingspan; Jennifer Riha, A Renewed Mind and Jonathan Lee, Signature Health
- Preliminary Report from JMOC Actuary: Estimate of current monthly per capita spending (PMPM)