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# STATEHOUSE REPORT

*Published by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio*

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**September 18, 2015**

## **Ohio's aging voting machines will need replaced**

[The Columbus Dispatch editorial](#) today urged Ohio officials to start planning to select and pay for replacing the state's voting machines, which are about 11 years old.

"Elect to start tough task early ...Ohio's aging voting machines soon will need replacing" states that Ohio's voting machines are in their last few years of what's considered their generally accepted lifespan. "This does not mean they are in danger of breaking down; they are regularly put through rigorous tests. But it does mean that, recognizing the often time-consuming process of making such decisions and given the microscope that the voting process in Ohio is under, the process needs to get underway."

The editorial acknowledges that the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAE) and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) have been working thru a joint committee to explore voting-machine options.

Also, "Secretary of State Jon Husted, the state's top official overseeing elections, has talked of securing federal funding to help pay for the machines' replacement. But there is no guaranteed, dedicated funding source at this point for a project that will cost millions of dollars.

"So the legislature needs to discuss potential funding, as it recently did in providing \$13 million in state money to replace paper voter ledgers with electronic poll books across the state. That move will speed check-in at polls and pay for itself in reduced paper and personnel costs."

The joint elections committee of OAE and CCAO members will be working this fall on a statewide cost estimate to replace voting machines and will be reaching out to key officials around Cap Square. In addition, CCAO members are urged to talk with their lawmakers about the importance of a state-county partnership in selecting and purchasing new voting equipment.

If you have any questions, please contact CCAO Staffers Cheryl Subler or John Leutz at 614-221-5627 or at [csubler@ccao.org](mailto:csubler@ccao.org) and [jleutz@ccao.org](mailto:jleutz@ccao.org).

## **Timeline for behavioral health redesign shared with legislative committee**

The timeline for implementing major overhauls to the behavioral health system, including integrating such benefits into the Medicaid managed care program, was shared by Ohio Department of Medicaid Director John McCarthy yesterday at the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee.

Department of Medicaid Director John McCarthy said the timeline envisioned by the agency is based on the key priorities of:

- implementing a state plan for home and community-based services, or 1915(i) waiver, for adults with serious and persistent mental illness;
- rebuilding the community behavioral health care system's capacity;
- adding BH services to the managed care plan contract in conjunction with community behavioral health providers; and
- payment innovation.

To view the Administration's timeline as submitted to JMOC, click [here](#).

JMOC Vice-Chair Senator Dave Burke (R-Marysville) indicated the committee will hear an update on the redesign quarterly.

Other stakeholder groups who submitted statements on the redesign include NAMI, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health Providers, and the Ohio Association of Health Plans (representing Medicaid managed care companies) Behavioral Health Committee.

To view the statements and other information on JMOC, click [here](#).

## **Committee discusses local collaboration as strategy to address poverty**

The House Community and Family Advancement Committee finished its tour of summer hearings in Columbiana County earlier this week. Members heard from a variety of local service providers who testified on their experience, challenges, promising developments and needs in trying to address both the causes and symptoms of poverty.

Columbiana County JFS Director Eileen Dray-Bardon provided compelling [testimony](#) to the committee. She addressed the challenges county agencies face in addressing generational poverty, the difficulties faced by the poor, today's economy, and need for adequate resources.

Other local entities who provided testimony to the committee included a local employer, the county behavioral health board, the health department, and others. To view a list of those who provided testimony and view submitted testimony, click [here](#).

Chairman Tim Derickson (R-Oxford) indicated his view that holding meetings around the state to learn more about social services has demonstrated that Ohio is on the right track by

implementing comprehensive case management (the program funded through a combining of a portion of both TANF and WIOA dollars that is to be administered by a county lead agency), as well as the healthier buckeye grant program (the new \$11M grant program, details on which are still forthcoming).

In regard to both programs, and after hearing testimony from local service providers, Derickson said "With what I think we're trying to pursue in regard to workforce development and people in poverty, collaboration seems to be the real answer," he said. "New agencies, new service programs aren't so much needed as just bringing together everyone who is offering those services to the table in a comprehensive approach to helping folks out of poverty."

He encouraged attendees at all hearings to consider forming a local county healthier buckeye council and apply for the grant program.

For more information on the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program, or the Healthier Buckeye Grant Program, contact a member of the CCAO policy staff.

## Bills Introduced



- SB 210 BIDDING THRESHOLDS (Balderson, T.)** To increase the monetary thresholds above which competitive bidding is required for township road construction, repair, or maintenance contracts, and to increase the monetary thresholds above which a force account assessment is required for a township road construction, repair, or maintenance project. Am. 5575.01.
- HB 333**
- SB 211 TAX EXEMPTION (Beagle, B.)** To exempt memberships to gyms or other recreational facilities operated by nonprofit organizations from sales and use taxation.
- HB 330 EQUAL PAY CERTIFICATE (Howse, S., Clyde, K.)** To require a contractor or person submitting a bid or other proposal for a state contract or a business entity applying for a grant or other economic incentive from a state agency to obtain an equal pay certificate, to require state agencies and political subdivisions to establish a job evaluation system to identify and eliminate sex-based wage disparities among classes of employees, and to prohibit an employer from retaliating against an employee who discusses the employee's salary or wage rate with another employee. Am. 4117.08 and to enact sections 9.71, 9.72, 9.73, 9.74, 9.75, 9.76, 9.77, 9.78, 9.79, 142.01, 142.02, 142.03, 142.04, 142.05, 142.06, 142.07, 142.08, 142.09, 142.10, 4113.42, and 4117.141.
- HB 333 BIDDING THRESHOLDS (Schaffer, T., Hambley, S.)** To increase the monetary
- SB 210** thresholds above which competitive bidding is required for township road construction, repair, or maintenance contracts, and to increase the monetary thresholds above which a force account assessment is required for a township road construction, repair, or maintenance project. Am. 5575.01.
- HCR 24 CLEAN WATER (Rezabek, J., Ginter, T.)** To encourage the United States Senate to take legislative action opposing a clean water rule proposed by the United States EPA.

# Hearing Schedule



## Tuesday, September 22

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**House Healthcare Efficiencies Summer Study Committee, (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-9624), Mercy Health - Fairfield Complex, 3050 Mack Road, Fairfield, 2:00 pm**  
**Children's Health, Innovative Medical Savings, and Population Health Management**

## Wednesday, September 23

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**Senate Government Oversight & Reform, (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), South Hearing Rm., 8:45 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. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

**HCR 8** ■ **FIRST FLIGHT (Perales, R.)** To repudiate the claim by the State of Connecticut that Gustave Whitehead successfully flew a powered, heavier-than-air machine of his own design on August 14, 1901, or on any other date. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

**SB 143** ■ **FELONY TRIALS (Eklund, J.)** To provide a prosecutor an additional fourteen days to commence a trial after a person charged with a felony has been discharged because the person has not been brought to trial within the required amount of time. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

**Senate Health & Human Services, (Chr. Jones, S., 466-9737), North Hearing Rm., 9:00 am**

**HB 24** ■ **ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (Retherford, W., Dovilla, M.)** To revise the laws governing the provision of adult protective services. --**4th Hearing-All testimony**

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

**SB 208** ■ **SMALL BUSINESS TAX DEDUCTION (Beagle, B.)** To make technical changes to the state income tax law, to modify the requirements for receiving the joint filing credit, and to provide that, for the 2015 taxable year, any taxable business income under \$125,000 for married taxpayers filing separately or \$250,000 for other taxpayers is subject to the graduated tax rates applicable to nonbusiness income, while business income in excess of those amounts remains subject to the existing 3% flat tax. --**1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**

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

**Senate Civil Justice (Chr. Bacon, 466-8064), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 pm or after session**

**SB 201** ■ **NUISANCE LAW (Hughes)** To expand nuisance law to apply to any real property, including vacant land, on which an offense of violence has occurred or is occurring – **1<sup>st</sup> Hearing - Sponsor**

## Thursday, September 24

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**House Ways & Means (Committee Record), (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 10:00 am**  (Updated: 3:14 p.m., September 17, 2015)

**HB 326** ■

**INCOME TAX LAW** ([Amstutz, R.](#), [McClain, J.](#)) To make technical changes to the state income tax law, to modify the requirements for receiving the joint filing credit, and to provide that, for the 2015 taxable year, any taxable business income under \$125,000 for married taxpayers filing separately or \$250,000 for other taxpayers is subject to the graduated tax rates applicable to nonbusiness income, while business income in excess of those amounts remains subject to the existing 3% flat tax. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**