



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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September 29, 2017

Senator LaRose testifies on funding for voting equipment

Senator Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) gave sponsor testimony on [Senate Bill 135](#) before the Senate Finance Committee this week. The bill aims to provide funding for new voting equipment.

LaRose told the committee, “With a decade or more old equipment, we need to identify funding for voting equipment in order to ensure future elections are not compromised by failing machines.”



The legislation follows the approach used for the procurement of electronic poll books in the last General Assembly. An appropriation would be given to the Ohio Department of Administrative Services to purchase the new voting equipment and would also provide for reimbursement to counties who have recently purchased new equipment. The state would provide 80 percent of the equipment cost and counties would fund the remaining 20 percent.

“This equipment comprises the essential infrastructure of our democracy, and it is a shared state and local responsibility to ensure that it is properly maintained” LaRose said.

CCAO has identified the replacement of voting equipment as a top priority for this General Assembly and is supportive of the bill. You can read Senator LaRose’s full testimony [here](#).

Medicaid MCO update

Legislative action will be needed to formalize the Senate’s proposal to address local revenues lost from the Medicaid MCO sales tax. The proposal provides a one-time allocation of \$50 M and a possible addition of as much as \$30 M to counties and transit authorities - see more in last week’s [Statehouse Report](#).

[Gongwer](#) news reported that Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said the proposal could be added to a bill (SB 8) that is headed to a conference committee in order to house budget changes. He said the exact vehicle for the plan has yet to be determined.

"We'll discuss it with our caucus and we'll see where we are," Sen. Obhof said of the proposal. "I think it's significant progress from where we were a month ago. It looks like we're going to reach an amenable solution."

One aspect of the proposal that has been refined since we first reported on it last week is the conditional \$30 M. We now know that counties and transits will receive these dollars if the state performs better than SFY 2018 estimates, taking into account both revenues and expenditures.

CCAO has recommended a distribution model for the new dollars proposed (both the \$50M and possible \$30 M) that would be based on the ratio of the average annual Medicaid MCO sales tax revenue being received by each county in 2015/2016. Discussions between the Senate and the House on the MCO proposal continue.

Medicaid MCO Transitional Aid Fund

The state budget provides approximately \$207 million in one-time transitional aid to all 96 jurisdictions that levied a sales tax on January 1, 2017.

Prior to the receipt of transitional aid all counties and 8 transit authorities must create a County Medicaid Sales Tax Transition Fund by October 15. [Click here for a sample resolution](#) which can be used by any county (with appropriate modification locally) to establish the County Medicaid Sales Tax Transition Fund. For more information see this [memo](#) from Brad Cole.

CCAO and Elections Officials testify in support of poll worker reduction bill

Union County Commissioner Gary Lee and Tim Ward, president of the Ohio Association of Election Officials, testified in support of SB 21 (Uecker R-Loveland) which would allow boards of elections to reduce the minimum number of precinct election officials in a precinct in which electronic poll books are used. The bill provides permissive authority for a board to reduce the minimum number of required precinct election officials from four to two if electronic poll books are utilized and the polling location includes more than one precinct.



Commissioner Lee

Lee said electronic poll books mean fewer poll workers need to be present at each location and noted, "The efficiency that has been gained through the use of centralized check-in and e-poll books is bringing us to the point where four poll workers in each precinct in a multi-precinct polling location are no longer needed."

Ward concurred with Lee indicating that the use of electronic poll books has improved the efficiency of polling places by allowing voters to be checked in more quickly and by any poll worker at the location, would not

increase lines and would not affect requirement that polling locations be staffed in a bipartisan way.

According to Ward, given the improvements in voting technology the number of poll workers required to be present at a voting location is artificially high and the legislation would promote the sensible application of poll worker requirements.

Poll workers are the single largest Election Day expense. Recruiting and retaining a sufficient number of qualified and capable poll workers is one of the major challenges facing the boards of elections. Passage of SB 21 is the next, critical step the legislature can take to help boards of elections with this challenge. Read Commissioner Lee's testimony [here](#).

CCAO budget materials

CCAO's regional budget briefings have concluded. For those who were not able to join us, please take a look at our [State Operating/Transportation Budget Overview](#) which was available at the briefings. The policy staff is always available to answer any questions you have. Give us a call at 614-221-5627.

Statehouse, Etc.



Board of Elections Space Survey being conducted - The space provided by the counties to support Board of Elections operations is a critical component of the counties' costs of administering elections. CCAO has sent out a [BOE OFFICE SPACE SURVEY](#) to all counties asking them to provide information for the various costs associated with the various type of office space that the board of elections may maintain. Response has been requested prior to FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017. For more information you may also see this week's Counties Current.

Bills Introduced



SB 199

BROADBAND ([SCHIAVONI, J.](#), [HITE, C.](#))

To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

SB 203

MUNICIPAL TAXATION ([DOLAN, M.](#))

To reinstate the municipal income tax "throw-back rule" used in apportioning business income among municipalities.

HB 361

TAX COMPLAINTS ([GREENSPAN, D.](#))

To increase the time within which boards of revision must decide property tax complaints.

HB 364

VOTER REGISTRATION ([CLYDE, K.](#))

To designate the fourth Tuesday of September as "Ohio Voter Registration Day."

Hearing Schedule



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Senate Judiciary

(Chr. [Bacon, K.](#), (614) 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 am

SB 195

DOGS LAW ([BEAGLE, B.](#))

To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

SB 138

INMATE SEARCHES ([EKLUND, J.](#))

To authorize a corrections officer to cause a body cavity search to be conducted, to establish separate rules and restrictions for conducting strip searches, and to limit the right of any person to commence a civil action for a violation of the law governing body cavity searches and strip searches to violations related to body cavity searches. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

House Aging & Long Term Care

(Chr. [Arndt, S.](#), (614) 644-6011), Rm. 122, 2:30 pm

- Presentation from Dr. Robert Applebaum of the Scripps Gerontology Center: "Policy Does Matter: Continued Progress in Providing Long Term Services and Supports for Ohio's Older Population"

HB 111

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS ([CARFAGNA, R.](#), [RYAN, S.](#))

To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Senate Ways & Means

(Chr. [Eklund, J.](#), (614) 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9:00 am

HB 118

PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS ([MERRIN, D.](#))

To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner. --2nd Hearing-Proponent

SB 186

BUSINESS INCOME ([PETERSON, B.](#))

To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income. --3rd Hearing-Opponent & Interested party

HB 69

TIF DISTRICTS ([CUPP, R.](#))

To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. --4th Hearing-All testimony

House Transportation & Public Safety

(Chr. [Green, D.](#), (614) 644-6034), Rm. 017, 10:00 am

- Presentations on autonomous and connected vehicles from Jonathan Weinberger, VP of Innovation and Technology for the Auto Alliance and Josh Fisher, manager state government affairs for Global Automakers

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

House Session

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), (614) 466-3357), House Chamber, 11:00 am

- If needed

Senate Session

(Chr. [Obhof, L.](#), (614) 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm If needed

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

House Session

(Chr. [Rosenberger, C.](#), (614) 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 pm

Senate Session

(Chr. [Obhof, L., \(614\) 466-4900](#)), Senate Chamber, 1:30 pm