



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Capital bill funding sought to replace voting machines



CCAO and the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAE) are asking that funding for new voting equipment be included in the capital bill that should be introduced early next year.

CCAO and OAE will be meeting with Secretary of State Jon Husted next week to ask that the Secretary include funding for new voting equipment as a part of the his office's capital budget request.

CCAO and OAE believe that the funding program for the acquisition of electronic pollbooks that was included in HB 64, the state biennial budget bill, worked very well and are asking for a similar process for the purchase of new voting machines.

When talking to your state legislators please remind them that your current voting equipment is reaching the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced with new voting technology. Also outline and explain the continuing expenses counties must incur to insure the proper functioning of this equipment which include maintenance contracts, a climate-controlled environment for their storage, and proper technology upgrades.

The Office of Budget and Management's [guidance document](#) for preparing the capital budget was distributed to state agencies and institutions two weeks ago and spells out a schedule that includes a November 16 deadline for agencies to submit project requests.

For additional information or questions, please contact CCAO staffers Cheryl Subler at csubler@ccao.org or (614) 220-7980 or John Leutz at jleutz@ccao.org or (614) 220-7994.

Contact your state legislators now to ask them to support funding in the state capital budget to replace the aging voting equipment

Coroner Bill receives second hearing

[HB 240](#) which would update coroner laws had its second hearing in Wednesday in the House State Government Committee. HB 240 is an interest to CCAO because it would revise how the office of coroner is filled when a vacancy cannot be filled by election or appointment.

HB 240 would also do the following:

- Recognize that coroners include medical examiners;
- Change the qualifications for holding office as a coroner of a charter county;
- Require, under certain conditions, and to authorize, under other conditions, supplemental compensation for coroners who are forensic pathologists;
- Revise how the office of coroner is filled when a vacancy cannot be filled by election or appointment;
- Specify the disposition of a firearm when a person meets death under certain circumstances;
- Specify who pays for the autopsy of an inmate of a state correctional facility; and to make other changes to the coroners' law.

State Coroners Association Executive Director David Corey said in his [testimony](#) that the bill is partly aimed at addressing concerns stemming from recent changes to Ohio's Public Employee Retirement System.

"Specifically, by increasing the previous 10 year minimum level of service for retirees to be eligible for healthcare, a very important recruiting tool to attract professionals to run for local office was taken away," Mr. Corey said. "We believe there will be a serious shortage of quality candidates to run for local elected office." To combat that, the bill would allow counties in which the coroner position is vacant or facing an anticipated absence of quality candidates to contract with another coroner.

Mr. Corey said the bill is general revenue fund neutral in that all out of county autopsy payments are retained in the coroner's "Special Lab Fund," which would be the source of additional compensation under the bill.

For additional information on HB 240 please contact CCAO staffer Brian Mead at bmead@ccao.org or 614-220-7982.

First deadline for reduction in number of PSAPs approaching



HB 360 of the 129th General Assembly which passed in December of 2012 provided continuous funding for wireless 9-1-1 costs and also included a timeline for mandatory reductions in the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in each county in order to continue to receive that funding.

As of January 1, 2016, a county may operate no more than four (4) wireless PSAPs, or if the county has a municipal corporation with a population of 175,000+, may operate no more than five (5) wireless PSAPs in order to continue to receive their county' full share of funding from the state's government wireless assistance fund. Counties that are out of compliance with the PSAP limits as of January 1, 2016, will have their Wireless 9-1-1 funding reduced by fifty percent (50%).

The Ohio 9-1-1 Program Office sent a [letter](#) in early September to all of the county 9-1-1 coordinators asking them to complete documents included with the letter to verify the number of

PSAPs currently operating in their respective counties. This letter was followed up with an email reminder to the coordinators this week. The documents are due back to the 9-1-1 Program Office by November 6.

We urge commissioners to check with your county 9-1-1 coordinator to ensure that they have received this letter and have filled out the documents and returned them to the 9-1-1 Program Office before the November 6 deadline. The provisions regarding the mandatory reduction in the number of PSAPs and the corresponding penalty for failure to comply are in Section 128.571 of the Ohio Revised Code.

For more information of if you have questions regarding this issue contact CCAO staff member John Leutz at jleutz@ccao.org or (614) 220-7994

Prohibition on Contractor Labor Residency Requirements Heard by House State Government Committee



The House State Government Committee heard testimony from Senator Joe Uecker (R-Miami Township) in support of Senate passed legislation (SB 152) which prohibits any public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain number or percentage of laborers from the public authority's defined geographic area or service area for the construction or design of a public improvement. This bill would also prohibit public authorities from providing a preference to contractors who employ laborers in certain percentages from a specific geographic area.

In testimony Senator Uecker said, "Residency requirements displace qualified employees and unfairly impact employee contracts. Employees are denied opportunities to provide for their families for simply residing in the wrong zip code."

Uecker added that the requirements can disrupt collective bargaining agreements while giving an advantage to out-of-state employees and their employers since the U.S. Constitution prohibits discrimination against out-of-state employees.

This legislation passed the Ohio Senate in June along largely partisan lines. The Associated General Contractors and the Ohio Contractors Association are strong supporters of this legislation. An attempt was made during consideration of the state transportation budget to amend these provisions into the budget, but a decision was made that this controversial issue was best considered as stand-alone legislation.

For additional information on this topic, contact CCAO staffer Brad Cole at bcole@ccao.org

Statehouse, Etc.



Sales Tax Exemption Legislation Abounds in Legislature – the legislature is awash in sales tax exemption bills for everything from feminine hygiene products (HB 272 - Johnson) to sales tax exemptions for textbooks for college students (HB 308 – Duffey). Other bills would exempt memberships to gyms and other recreational facilities operated by nonprofit organizations (HB



334 – Buchy and SB 211 - Beagle), the first \$500 of prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical aids sold by licensed dispensers (SB 216 – Burke), and employment services and employment placement services (HB 343 Young). At least one bill (HB 26) to exempt investment metal bullion and investment coins from the sales tax has gained enough traction to pass the House and is now pending in the Senate. HB 26 and a companion bill (SB 172 – Jordan) are pending in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The investment coin exemption would cost the state about \$5.6 million per year and counties/transit authorities about \$1.4 million per year according to the Legislative Service Commission. It is interesting to note that the sales tax exemption bills seem to be proliferating at the same time the state has shifted its reliance from the state income tax to the state sales tax as the primary means of funding state government services. The state has been increasing its reliance on sales taxes and reducing its reliance on income taxes for many years. In the SFY 2014 state budget the state sales tax surpassed the state income tax as the number one revenue source to the state general revenue fund.

Bills Introduced



- SB 219 TAX REFUNDS (Hughes, J.)** To allow taxpayers to contribute all or a portion of their income tax refunds to a Metropark. Am. 5747.113 and to enact section 1545.30
- SB 220 DEFERRED COMPENSATION (Hottinger, J.)** To authorize the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board and local governments to establish designated Roth account features and other tax-deferred or nontax-deferred features permitted for government deferred compensation plans. Am. 148.04 and 148.06
- SB 222 ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY (Lehner, P., Williams, S.)** To create an address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, sexual battery, and other crimes. Am. 149.43, 2929.18, 2929.28, 3503.13, 3503.16, 3503.21, 3503.23, 3503.24, 3503.26, 3504.02, 3504.04, 3505.181, 3505.182, 3505.183, 3509.03, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3509.06, 3509.07, 3509.09, 3511.02, 3511.05, 3511.11, and 3511.12 and to enact sections 111.41, 111.42, 111.43, 111.44, 111.45, 111.46, 111.47, 111.48, and 111.99.
- SB 224 AGRICULTURE LAWS (Brown, E.)** To revise the application and enforcement of the law governing operation and management plans, and to require certain animal feeding facilities to annually report the amount of manure that is applied by or for the facilities. Am. 939.03 and 939.07 and to enact sections 901.80 and 901.81.
- HB 355 EMPLOYEE DEFINITION (Retherford, W.)** To create a generally uniform definition of employee for specified labor laws and to prohibit employee misclassification under those laws. Am. 1349.61, 4121.01, 4123.01, 4123.026, 4141.01, and 5747.01 and to enact sections 4175.01, 4175.02, 4175.03, 4175.04, 4175.05, 4175.06, 4175.061, 4175.07, and 4175.99
- HB 359 ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY (Duffey, M., Gonzales, A.)** To create the address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, sexual battery and other crimes. Am. 149.43, 2929.18, 2929.28, 3503.13, 3503.16, 3503.21, 3503.23, 3503.24, 3503.26, 3504.02, 3504.04, 3505.181, 3505.182, 3505.183, 3509.03, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3509.06, 3509.07,

3509.09, 3511.02, 3511.05, 3511.11, and 3511.12 and to enact sections 111.41, 111.42, 111.43, 111.44, 111.45, 111.46, 111.47, 111.48, and 111.99

HR 214 PHOSPHORUS AGREEMENT ([Sheehy, M.](#), [Fedor, T.](#)) To encourage support for the agreement between Ontario, Michigan and Ohio regarding the reduction of phosphorus in the western basin of Lake Erie.

HB 361 COMMUNITY EVENT FUNDING ([Brenner, A.](#)) To authorize boards of township trustees and boards of park commissioners to expend funds for the public purpose of presenting community events in their parks and at other recreational facilities. Am. 505.261, 511.23, and 755.13.

Hearing Schedule



Tuesday, October 13

Senate Finance ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Oelslager, S.](#), 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 pm

HB 46 GOVERNMENT SPENDING ([Dovilla, M.](#), [Dever, J.](#)) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure database. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

SB 5 POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS ([Patton, T.](#), [Brown, E.](#)) To make peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical workers diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder arising from employment without an accompanying physical injury eligible for compensation and benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law. --**6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote**

House Judiciary ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Butler, J.](#), 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 pm

HB 134 BLIGHTED PROPERTY FORECLOSURES ([Grossman, C.](#), [Curtin, M.](#)) To establish summary actions to foreclose mortgages on vacant and abandoned residential properties, to expedite the foreclosure and transfer of unoccupied, blighted parcels, to make other changes relative to residential foreclosure actions, and to terminate certain provisions of this act on December 31, 2019, by repealing sections 3767.51, 3767.52, 3767.53, 3767.54, 3767.55, and 3767.56 of the Revised Code on that date. --**2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**

HB 353 SEX OFFENDERS ([Ruhl, M.](#)) To require a sheriff to mail a notice to every adult member of a household where a person who is required to register as a sex offender resides informing those household members that the person has committed a sexually oriented offense or a child-victim oriented offense. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

HB 347 CIVIL FORFEITURES ([McColley, R.](#), [Brinkman, T.](#)) To eliminate civil asset forfeiture proceedings and to modify the law governing criminal asset forfeitures. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**

Wednesday, October 14

Senate Government Oversight & Reform ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Coley, B.](#), 466-8072), South Hearing Rm., 8:45 am

SB 206 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS ([LaRose, F.](#)) To require certain campaign committees and other entities to file campaign finance statements electronically and to require the Secretary of State to make the information in those statements available online. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

SB 212 ELECTION PROCEDURES ([Uecker, J.](#)) To reduce the minimum number of precinct election officials in a precinct in which electronic pollbooks are used and to eliminate the requirement that a board of elections send a notice to a person's residence address when the board cancels the person's voter registration because it received a report of the person's death. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor**

House Health & Aging ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Gonzales, A.](#), 466-4847), Rm. 116, 9:30 am

HB 187 ANIMAL TREATMENT ([Ginter, T.](#)) To authorize a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic, emergency medical technician-intermediate, emergency medical technician-paramedic, or volunteer firefighter to stabilize an injured animal in an emergency. --**4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute**

HB 230 CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY ([Sprague, R.](#)) Regarding the practices of chemical dependency counseling and prevention services. --**3rd Hearing-Opponent**

HB 248 MEDICAID DRUG COVERAGE ([Sprague, R.](#), [Antonio, N.](#)) To prohibit certain health care plans and the Medicaid program from denying coverage for opioid analgesic drugs with abuse-deterrent technology based solely on cost. --**3rd Hearing-Opponent**

Senate Ways & Means ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Peterson, B.](#), 466-8156), South Hearing Rm., 9:30 am

SB 85 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS ([Coley, B.](#)) To limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county in which the property is located. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**

SB 209 RURAL JOBS ([Hite, C.](#)) To enact the "Ohio Rural Jobs Act" which authorizes a nonrefundable tax credit for insurance companies that invest in rural business growth funds, which are certified to provide capital to rural and agricultural businesses. --**2nd Hearing-All testimony**

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. --**4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote**

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

Thursday, October 15

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee ([Committee Record](#)), (Chr. [Sears, B.](#), 466-1731), Rm. 313, 10:00 am

- Ohio Benefits System Update