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# STATEHOUSE REPORT

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**December 22, 2017**

## **FRIENDLY REMINDERS**

A provision in the state budget bill made a change to the date by which a board of county commissioners must annually organize. That date changed from the second Monday in January to *no later than* the second Monday in January.

There will be no Statehouse Report next week (12/29/17). We will start fresh on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Happy Holidays!

## **Conversations about voting equipment are vital**

Conversations about how to replace Ohio's outdated voting equipment are starting to gain traction. Last week's [Statehouse Report](#) highlighted a press release from Secretary of State Jon Husted calling for the state to fully replace Ohio's aging voting machines in the upcoming capital budget.

If you haven't started a dialog with your legislators in the House and Senate yet, NOW is the time for you to weigh in on this important subject. Below are some talking points that may help.

- Funding in the 2018 Capital Budget is critical if the machines are to be replaced before the 2020 presidential election.
- The equipment is nearing the end of its useful life and no federal support is anticipated.
- The electronic poll book model which provided state reimbursement of 85% is preferred.
- Funding should be allocated based on the number of registered voters.



Over the course of the last year, a lot of work has gone into collecting data to inform this process. Both the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Secretary of State's (SOS) office conducted an RFP/interview process with all vendors. Vendor equipment pricing was provided to every county Board of Elections (BOE) and all BOE's met with their County Commissioners before providing the SOS with the type and quantity of voting equipment they intend to purchase.

A proposal is being developed by Senator LaRose that would provide funding for counties to replace voting equipment. We will continue to report on the details of that plan so that you can maintain strong lines of communication with your legislators about what would work best for your county.

If you have questions on election issues please contact CCAO policy staff [John Leutz](#) or [Cheryl Subler](#) at 614-221-5627.



## All wrapped up: Enacted bills for 2017

What bills were signed by the Governor in 2017 and how will they affect counties? The list below gives you a short recap of bills that you may be interested in. If you have questions on any of these bills please reach out to the policy staff at 614-221-5627.

### **House Bill 69** [Reimburse medical service levy revenue forgone because of TIF](#)

HB 69 contained amendments that provided a final proposal to address county revenue losses from the elimination of the MCO sales tax and a tweak to the sales tax increment change contained in HB 49. You can read more in last week's [Statehouse Report](#). The Governor signed the bill today.

*Effective Date: March 22, 2018*

### **House Bill 26 FY** [2018-2019 Transportation budget](#)

HB 26 was passed with a provision that provides commissioners with an additional \$5 permissive motor vehicle license tag fee. This is the first time the fee has been adjusted since 1987. Read CCAO coverage [here](#).

*Effective Date: June 30, 2017*

### **House Bill 27** [2018-2019 Workers compensation budget](#)

HB 27 made some changes to the Public Employer Risk Reduction Program (PERRP) including adding coverage to firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and certain county and municipal correction officers. Read CCAO coverage [here](#).

*Effective Date: June 30, 2017*

### **House Bill 49** [2018-2019 State operating budget](#)

The state budget bill contained numerous provisions affecting counties, most notably, the transition aid to assist counties with lost revenue from the MCO sales tax. Another provision to

note is a change to the date by which a board of county commissioners must annually organize. That date changed from the second Monday in January to *no later than* the second Monday in January. Read CCAO budget overview [here](#).

*Effective Date: June 29, 2017*

**House Bill 103** [Fiscal emergency provisions](#)

HB 103 addresses the process and outcomes for local governments that must create a financial planning and supervision commission as a result of having entered into a state of fiscal emergency. Read CCAO coverage [here](#).

*Effective Date: October 17, 2017*

**House Bill 124** [Vocational school tax levy](#)

HB 124 permits a county to propose as a single ballot question property taxes and a bond issue for the acquisition of, or permanent improvements to, criminal justice-related facilities and the operating expenses associated with such facilities and other criminal justice services. Read CCAO coverage [here](#).

*Effective Date: June 28, 2017*

**Senate Bill 2** [Environmental protection laws](#)

SB 2 aims to improve water quality by requiring all public water systems in Ohio to implement an asset management program by October 1, 2018, Read CCAO coverage [here](#).

*Effective Date: October 6, 2017*

**Senate Bill 9** [August tax holiday](#)

SB 9 provided a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies were exempt from sales and use taxes. Read CCAO coverage [here](#).

*Effective Date: June 13, 2017*

## **New right to work and prevailing wage proposals in the House**

[Gongwer](#) news reported on six ballot proposals targeting labor laws that were introduced Thursday in the House. The proposals, introduced by Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) and Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance), would ban mandatory union dues for both public and private employees ([HJR 7](#)) and prohibit unions from representing non-members in employment-related matters ([HJR 8](#)).



Additional proposals would:

- Prevent a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement project to pay workers the prevailing rate of wages ([HJR 9](#)).
- Forbid certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts ([HJR 10](#)).
- Subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative ([HJR 11](#)).
- Prohibit dues and other fees from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and prohibit those fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the employee ([HJR 12](#)).

If passed by the legislature, the issues would be placed on the 2020 ballot for voters to decide.

Brad Miller, a spokesman for House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said the speaker will review the proposals.

"The issue of right-to-work has been brought forward numerous times in recent years, and it always generates an important and interesting discussion amongst the caucus," Mr. Miller said. "Speaker Rosenberger will review the legislation and will seek input from caucus members before any potential future actions are determined."

## Statehouse, Etc.



According to a report released this week by Public Children Services Association of Ohio, a thousand more Ohio kids will be spending the holidays in foster care this year, compared to 2016. The statewide membership organization for county children services agencies added that by next Christmas, it could be two thousand more if the rate at which children are entering custody due to the opioid epidemic continues along its current trajectory. [Read the report.](#)

Governor Kasich has requested his final "State of the State" address be held in his hometown of Westerville. The legislature is expected to approve the request.

## Bills Introduced



[SB 243 MEDICAID COPAYMENTS \(DOLAN, M.\)](#)  
Regarding Medicaid copayment requirements.

[HB 453 CHARTER HOSPITALS \(GREENSPAN, D.\)](#)

To require that all rights and interests in discoveries, inventions, or patents made by employees using charter county hospital facilities are the property of that charter county hospital.

[HJR 7 UNION MEMBERSHIP \(BECKER, J., RIEDEL, C.\)](#)

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.

[HJR 8 UNION MEMBERSHIP \(BECKER, J., RIEDEL, C.\)](#)

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.

[HJR 9 PREVAILING WAGE \(BECKER, J., RIEDEL, C.\)](#)

Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.

[HJR 10 PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS \(BECKER, J., RIEDEL, C.\)](#)

Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.

[HJR 11 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING \(BECKER, J., RIEDEL, C.\)](#)

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.

[HJR 12 UNION DUES \(BECKER, J., RIEDEL, C.\)](#)

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.