



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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CCAO director continues advocacy for state capital program

Numerous efforts took place throughout the Statehouse this week for the advancement of extending and expanding the State Capital Improvement Program. As you may recall, Senate Joint Resolution 6 ([SJR 6](#)) aims to build upon the state and local partnership established 27 years ago with the passage of the original Issue II Program (State Capital Improvement Program).

This program features a long history of success including the funding of more than 11,500 projects accounting for \$4.2 billion in infrastructure improvements to roads, bridges, culverts, and water supply systems throughout the State of Ohio. If passed, SJR 6 would ask Ohio voters in May to increase the amount of funding for the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) to \$175 million for the first five years, \$200 million for the final 5 years of the 10 year authorization period. This would allow for an increase in over \$525 million in funding over the life of the program.



On Tuesday, January 14th, Senate leaders took great steps in advancing SJR 6 along its path towards voter approval. In the morning, members of the Senate Finance Committee voted to place the resolution before the full chamber of the Senate. Later that afternoon, Senate members voted unanimously to approve this legislation.

Also on Tuesday, members of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee gathered to hear testimony in support of House Joint Resolution 9 ([HJR 9](#)). HJR 9 is the House's companion resolution to SJR 6. Present to support this was CCAO Executive Director Suzanne Dulaney.

While [CCAO's testimony](#) cited the many accomplishments of this program in the past, Dulaney was clear to state the currently inadequate level of funding provided by this program. Dulaney went on to describe the tremendous demands that counties across Ohio are facing in maintaining their aging infrastructure. Her testimony concluded with a call for increased funding to be allocated in order to provide a lasting legacy that will provide for many generations to come.



Suzanne Dulaney

Others present before the House Finance and Appropriations Committee included representatives from the Ohio Township Association, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Contractors Association, and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio.

The House Finance and Appropriations Committee will meet next Wednesday, January 22nd, to hear testimony on SJR 6. Having already heard testimony on HJR 9, which mirrors SJR 6, it is likely that possible amendments will be discussed and a potential vote could be taken to move this legislation before the full chamber. The House of Representatives must approve the measure before February 5th in order to place the matter on the May ballot.

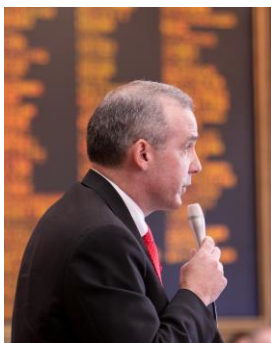
On Wednesday, January 15th, Governor John Kasich held a press conference with Senate and House leadership, bill sponsors from both chambers, and numerous local organizations to raise awareness and support for the State Capital Improvement Program. Among the many statements of support, Gov. Kasich cited this as a program that will work to rebuild Ohio. He concluded by briefly describing a statewide campaign to ensure voter awareness of the many benefits this program has to offer.



To view an article from the Columbus Dispatch summarizing the press conference, please click [here](#). If you would like further information about these proposals, please contact CCAO Managing Director of Research Brad Cole at bcole@ccao.org.

Hearings continue on House severance tax proposal & Administration questions tax exemptions

The House Ways & Means Committee heard criticisms and concerns about the severance tax proposal ([HB 375](#)) sponsored by Rep. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), Tax Commissioner Joe Testa said that the plan to base the tax on net proceeds is problematic. Mr. Testa said in an interview that the House's proposal to overhaul the severance tax (HB 375), which has garnered support from one industry group, creates the potential for taxpayers to exploit loopholes.



Rep. Matt Huffman

Wendy Patton, senior project director for Policy Matters Ohio, said while her organization supports raising the severance tax, it believes parts of HB 375 need to be "strengthened or changed" because the bill "undersells a valuable resource."

Specifically, she recommended:

- Raising the rates to be more in line with other oil- and gas-producing states.
- Giving the Ohio Department of Natural Resources more money for its regulatory work.
- Target the tax credits and exclusions toward specific behavior, like hiring Ohioans.

- Eliminate or narrow the cost recovery period.
- Eliminate the Commercial Activity Tax exclusion, which she labeled a "special interest carve-out."
- Eliminate or narrow the income tax credit, which she said would be difficult to audit.
- Base the tax rate on the gross value of net proceeds.
- Direct revenue resulting from the tax to "the needs of Ohioans," rather than to tax cuts, which she said would favor the wealthy.



Rep. Boose asked why Ohio would want to drive away industry and its attendant jobs with higher tax rates, given that geological research in the past few years has revealed vast oil and gas reserves all around the country and the world.

Patton responded that the bill will be costly to the state, not the industry, because of breaks on the Commercial Activity Tax and personal income tax, tax reductions for vertical wells and repeal of the regulatory cost assessment.

Rep. Letson questioned the need for new tax breaks proposed in the bill, saying the extraction technology is well established by now. He likened it to tax breaks enacted to encourage installation of power plant scrubbers that were left in place long even after such technology became mandatory under environmental regulation.

Rep. Hill noted Patton hadn't provided a specific estimate for a proposed rate increase and asked if she had a number in mind. Patton said a previous proposal of a 5 percent rate, based on studies supporting Gov. Kasich's first severance tax proposal, relied on geological information later found to have overstated the amount of oil in Ohio's shale play.

Rep. Cera asked how other states have used severance proceeds to return money to the areas where resources are produced. Patton said many have set up so-called permanent funds that build up a chunk of money and then use the interest earnings for economic development. Others have returned money via property tax rebates or set up local impact funds.

Rep. Terhar commented that it's important to compare not just the rates paid in other states, but how much oil and gas is being extracted in those states and at what value, given changes in geological estimates about the proportion of oil versus gas in Ohio's shale formations.

Patton and Chairman Beck also had an exchange on the relative value of returning severance proceeds to taxpayers via tax cuts or investing it in community services like education.

In addition, Tax Commissioner Joe Testa said Wednesday that the plan in HB 375 to base the tax on net proceeds is problematic.

Mr. Testa said in an interview that the House's proposal to overhaul the severance tax (HB 375), which has garnered support from one industry group, creates the potential for taxpayers to exploit loopholes.

While the current severance tax applies to the amount of oil or gas coming out of a well, the proposed "net proceeds" approach would create the same kinds of problems that prompted policymakers to eliminate the corporate franchise tax, Mr. Testa said. The last vestige of the corporate franchise tax applied to banks and thrifts was replaced in legislation that created the financial institutions tax in 2012 (HB510, 129th General Assembly).

"The problem with it is it's unpredictable because sometimes people can be very creative about what is expensed so that the net figure becomes smaller and smaller, which is the reason why we felt we had to close those loopholes and close the door on that finally with the financial institutions," he said.

In some instances, financial institutions had managed to reduce their corporate franchise tax liabilities to zero, he said.

The House's new severance tax proposal "is sort of reintroducing that same kind of concept back into this industry, and that's just not a good thing for this state," Mr. Testa said. "We can't, as tax policy, leave an open door like that."

Furthermore, uncertainties about how much of their expenses severance taxpayers would be able to write off make it very difficult to predict how much money the legislation would actually generate, he said.



Tax Commissioner Joe Testa

Nonetheless, the administration, which has twice been thwarted in its efforts to hike the oil and gas severance tax, is happy to see the legislature and industry working on the issue, he said. "We want to do it in such a way that allows these businesses to do their work, drill and produce, and create jobs and so on."

The tax commissioner said the administration has still not decided whether to offer an alternative severance tax proposal when it unveils the mid-biennium review measure later this winter.

A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, and a number of local officials are expected to testify with concerns and suggestions. A [letter](#) from CCAO, the Ohio Municipal League, and the Ohio Township Association was sent as a precursor, expressing concerns with HB 375, which does not provide any additional revenue to the impacted jurisdictions in the shale play area and, moreover, would decrease the Local Government Fund moneys statewide.

If you have questions about the proposal, please contact CCAO Staffers John Leutz or Cheryl Subler at jleutz@ccao.org and csubler@ccao.org. Also, if you are planning on attending the January 22nd hearing, please let CCAO know, especially if you are interested in testifying.

Public employers to switch to prospective premium payment *Feedback on conceptual proposal requested.*

Public employers will be switching to paying their workers' compensation premium payments prospectively in calendar year 2016, and their private counterparts in calendar year 2015. CCAO has been asked to provide feedback on a conceptual proposal for program implementation that is likely to be included in the soon-to-be-introduced mid-biennium budget review (MBR) bill. If your county has any feedback, please share it with CCAO by Thursday, January 23rd.

In calendar year 2016, public employers will be paying both 2015 premium retrospectively, and 2016 premium prospectively under the proposal. BWC has indicated that, in order to mitigate the budgetary impacts of owing two premiums in one year for both private and public employers, they intend for a 50% credit will be applied to premium due for both 2015 and 2016. (Such credit will need to be established by the BWC Board of Directors by resolution.)

In this transition year, premium payments for both years will be due in May and September of 2016. Additionally, some type of payment will be due for calendar year 2017 premium by December 31, 2016. Initially, BWC had proposed allowing employers to elect if 2017 payment (and beyond) would be made in 1, 2, 4, or 12 installments. CCAO, along with representatives from other public employer associations, raised possible cash flow concerns with having additional payment due for 2017 in the transition year of 2016.

In response, BWC has proposed a delayed payment program into which public employers could opt to participate. Doing so would allow employers to defer payments for a to-be-determined period of time (for example, until April 1st) to allow for the collection of tax revenue. The administrative charge for participation in the delayed payment program will be the BWC's annual discount rate, which has been averaging approximately 4%.

In addition, all employers will automatically be placed on a 12-installment payment plan for calendar year 2017 – so if an employer opts not to participate in the delayed payment program, 1/12th of the projected premium for CY2017 will be due by December 31, 2016. Early payments can be made in a lump sum if preferred without penalty, and employers may opt into any other payment schedule (1, 2, or 4 installments) for future rating years.

The BWC Board of Directors is currently entertaining a proposal of charging a nominal fee of \$5 per installment.

In calendar year 2017, public employers are to report a "true up" of payroll for the previous year, and subject to increases or decreases in payroll may see either a refund of a corresponding portion of premium previously paid for 2016, or may owe additional premium. Actual payroll for the preceeding year must be reported and any premium owed is to be paid or addressed through payment plan by February 15, 2017.



A failure to report and pay true-up will result in immediate removal from any rating programs in which the employer is participating. CCAO has expressed that this penalty seems overly punitive and that ineligibility from rating programs for the *next* year seems more appropriate. BWC has initially responded that timely true-up is necessary to accurately set rates for the following year, and that few if any public employers are likely to miss the deadline. Additionally, they are proposing a "first year forgiveness opportunity" until April 1st, 2017 on the true-up deadline.

The delay until 2016 implementation of prospective premium payments for public employers was announced by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) staff after CCAO and other public employer associations raised questions and suggestions around the transition given the timing of tax revenue receipts, the budgeting process, and so on. Authorizing language for the BWC to examine and promulgate rules around switching to prospective premium payments was included in Am Sub 153, the recent biennial budget measure.

For additional information or to share any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact CCAO policy analyst Laura Abu-Absi at labu-absi@ccao.org or Beth Miller, coordinator of CCAO's workers' compensation rating programs at emiller@ccao.org. Feedback should be shared by Thursday, Jan 23rd in order to be relayed to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

House hears testimony in support of regional jail measure

Gary Hunter, legal counsel for the Corrections Commission of Southeast Ohio (CCSO), testified before the House Judiciary Committee this week in support of [SB 82](#), saying the bill is needed to allow regional jails to borrow money to make needed repairs. Regional jails that were built in the 1990s are now in need of significant repair. He said the CCSO facility is currently in need of nearly \$500,000 of improvements, but doesn't have the money to make the enhancements and since the law doesn't specifically allow regional commissioners to borrow funds as a legal entity one of the member counties must finance the capital repair and improvements projects.

"This means that for a Regional Jail Commission to do a large capital project, one, or more, of the individual participating counties in a regional jail, must be the borrowing entity," Hunter said. "Burdening one, or more, individual counties would significantly reduce the debt limitation of the county borrowing the money, and therefore, a rural county cannot afford to be the borrowing agent for the Regional Jail, and the capital project cannot be funded."

Mr. Hunter said the state auditor's office has determined that the joint borrowing can't occur without specific authority and therefore urged the passage of SB 82.

Hunter's testimony was supported by written testimony submitted by the leaders of Athens, Hocking, Vinton and Morgan counties, as well as John Leutz of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. Click [here](#) to view CCAO's testimony.

It is anticipated that SB 82 will be favorably reported by the House Judiciary Committee next week setting up the opportunity for a vote by the full House in the very near future.

Statehouse Etcetera



State of the State speech to be given in Medina County. Governor Kasich has revealed the location of the next “State of the State” address, announcing that he will be delivering his annual speech in outgoing House Speaker William Batchelder’s (R-Medina) district on Monday, Feb. 24.

The speech will be delivered at the Medina Performing Arts Center, if the General Assembly approves. The governor sent a letter to Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Batchelder asking them to convene a joint session of the General Assembly for his address. Subsequently, the two chambers passed measures approving the location.

Batchelder, who is term-limited, will be wrapping up his decades-long career in the Ohio House at the end of this year. Kasich’s office indicated that Batchelder’s service played into the decision to pick Medina.

O'Connor Announces Plans for New Criminal Justice Commission. Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor will request the creation of a new Ohio Criminal Justice Commission within the Supreme Court of Ohio -- greatly expanding the work of the existing Criminal Sentencing Commission -- to run parallel with the Ohio Judicial Conference and any select criminal justice committees created by the Legislature or the Kasich administration. The new commission will require a larger budget and more staff and criminal justice "experts," though O'Connor said she believes the money can be found under the current Supreme Court line item in the next budget cycle. Click [here](#) to review the Chief’s proposal.

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus behind ballot campaign on voting rights. The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, along with fellow lawmakers, launched a grassroots ballot campaign Thursday that the group said would ensure the rights of voters are protected in the state. Rep. Reece, who has outspokenly championed the issue, urged support for the proposed ballot issue that aims to protect current bipartisan voting laws in the state's constitution.

Specifically, [the proposal](#) seeks to ensure: ballots cast by all Ohio citizens are counted; any eligible, registered voter may cast a ballot; and that the state maintains 'the broadest feasible and accessible means for persons to register and update their registration to vote, including through electronic means."

Among many things, it also: states that voting must be conducted via secret ballot; sets hours for Election Day voting and parameters for early voting; and establishes guidelines for the consideration of provisional ballots.



Rep. Alicia Reese

Legislation of Interest



- [HJR 9](#) ■ **INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS** ([Kunze, S.](#)) Proposing to enact Section 2s of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of additional general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements.
- [HB 399](#) ■ **DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS** ([Sheehy, M.](#), [Sprague, R.](#)) To designate the first Friday of May as "Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness and Education Day." Am. 5.2269.
- [HB 400](#) ■ **OIL AND GAS ROYALTIES** ([Carney, J.](#), [Cera, J.](#)) To require the owner of an oil or gas well to provide a royalty statement to the holder of the royalty interest when the owner makes payment to the holder. Am. 1509.30.
- [HB 402](#) ■ **TAX OVERPAYMENTS** ([Duffey, M.](#), [Landis, A.](#)) To require the Tax Commissioner to notify taxpayers of tax and fee overpayments, to authorize the Commissioner to either apply an overpayment to future tax liabilities or issue a refund, and to make an appropriation.
- [HCR 43](#) ■ **ENERGY NEEDS** ([Boose, T.](#)) To establish a sustainable energy-abundance plan for Ohio to meet future energy needs with affordable, abundant and environmentally friendly energy.
- [HJR 10](#) ■ **ELECTED OFFICIAL RECALLS** ([Becker, J.](#), [Hagan, R.](#)) Proposing to amend Section 38 of Article II and to enact section 3 of Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to Permit the electors to recall an elected officer.
- [SJR 7](#) ■ **STATE OF THE STATE** ([Obhof, L.](#)) Authorizing a joint session of the Ohio General Assembly to meet at the Medina Performing Arts Center in Medina, Ohio, for the purpose of receiving a message from the Governor and calling for a committee to wait upon the Governor in anticipation of his State of the State Address.
- [SB 263](#) ■ **TAX REFUNDS** ([Peterson, B.](#), [Beagle, B.](#)) To require the Tax Commissioner to notify taxpayers of tax or fee overpayments, to authorize the Commissioner to either apply an overpayment to future tax liabilities or issue a refund, and to make an appropriation. Am. 5703.05 and to enact section 5703.77.
- [SB 262](#) ■ **NUTRITION PROGRAM** ([Tavares, C.](#)) To require the Director of Job and Family Services to request a federal waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients. Am. 5101.543

Upcoming Legislative Committee Calendar



Tuesday, January 21

House Agriculture & Natural Resources, (Chr. Hall, D., 466-2994), Rm. 116, 10:00 am

- [HB 212](#) ■ **SEVERANCE TAX** ([Hagan, R.](#)) To levy a tax on the severance of oil, gas, condensate, and natural gas liquids from horizontal wells, to distribute revenue from the tax to environmental and oil and gas regulatory purposes, local governments impacted and not impacted by horizontal well development, and a permanent fund to promote economic development, and to provide for the administration, investment, and use of the permanent fund. --1st Hearing-Sponsor
- [HB 400](#) ■ **OIL AND GAS ROYALTIES** ([Carney, J.](#), [Cera, J.](#)) To require the owner of an oil or gas well to provide a royalty statement to the holder of the royalty interest when the owner makes payment to the holder. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

House State & Local Government, (Chr. Blair, T., 466-6504), Rm. 121, 1:00 pm

HB 327 ■ **WATER & SEWER PROJECTS** ([Burkley, T.](#)) To require interest income from county water and sewer district assessments and interest on assessments to be used only for water and sewer district purposes and to prohibit counties from depositing such interest income in the county general fund. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

HB 279 ■ **VIDEO MEETINGS** ([Damschroder, R.](#), [Brown, T.](#)) To authorize a joint board of county commissioners to conduct proceedings regarding existing joint county ditches via teleconference or video conference. --2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments

HB 198 ■ **INCENTIVE DISTRICTS** ([Butler, J.](#)) To establish a procedure by which political subdivisions proposing a tax increment financing (TIF) incentive district are required to provide notice to the record owner of each parcel within the proposed incentive district before adopting the TIF resolution, and to permit such owners to exclude their parcels from the incentive district by submitting a written response. --3rd Hearing-All testimony

HB 289 ■ **DEVELOPMENT ZONES** ([Schuring, K.](#)) To require subdivisions to obtain written approval from owners and lessees of real property located within a proposed or existing joint economic development zone (JEDZ) or joint economic development district (JEDD) before approving, amending, or renewing the JEDZ or JEDD contract, to require that income tax revenue derived from a JEDZ or JEDD approved, amended, or renewed after the bill's effective date be used to carry out the JEDZ or JEDD economic development plan before being used for other purposes, and to institute contiguity requirements for which subdivisions may create a JEDZ or JEDD --5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute

House Health & Aging: Opiate Addiction Treatment & Reform Sub., (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 2:00 pm

HB 332 ■ **PAIN MEDICATION** ([Wachtmann, L.](#), [Antonio, N.](#)) To establish standards and procedures for opioid treatment of chronic, intractable pain resulting from noncancer conditions and to require that professional disciplinary action be taken for failing to comply with those standards and procedures. - --5th Hearing-All testimony

HB 341 ■ **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** ([Smith, R.](#)) To prohibit a controlled substance that is a schedule II drug or contains opioids from being prescribed or dispensed without review of patient information in the State Board of Pharmacy's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System. --3rd Hearing-All testimony

HB 366 ■ **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** ([Sprague, R.](#)) To require hospice care programs to establish procedures to prevent diversion of controlled substances that contain opioids. --2nd Hearing-All testimony

HB 359 ■ **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** ([Sprague, R.](#)) To require disclosure of the addictive nature of certain prescription drugs. --2nd Hearing-All testimony

HB 378 ■ **OPIOID ADDICTION TREATMENTS** ([Smith, R.](#), [Sprague, R.](#)) To prohibit a physician from prescribing or personally furnishing certain drugs to treat opioid dependence or addiction unless the patient is receiving appropriate behavioral counseling or treatment. --2nd Hearing-All testimony

Senate Transportation, (Chr. Manning, G., 644-7613), North Hearing Rm., 4:00 pm

SB 246 ■ **RAMP NAMING** ([Tavares, C.](#)) To designate the "G. Thomas Turner, Sr. I-70 East Entrance Ramp." --1st Hearing-Sponsor

HB 206 ■ **LICENSE PLATE** ([Retherford, W.](#)) To create the "Disabled American Veteran" license plate. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

SB 185 ■ **ROAD NAMING** ([Faber, K.](#)) To designate a portion of State Route 67 within Auglaize County as the "Staff Sgt. Sonny Zimmerman Memorial Highway." --2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

- [SB 254](#) ■ **LICENSE PLATE** ([Eklund, J.](#)) To create the 'POW/MIA Awareness' license plate. --2nd Hearing-All testimony
- [SB 209](#) ■ **ROAD NAMING** ([Manning, G.](#)) To designate a portion of State Route 58 within Lorain County as the "Sgt. Louis Torres Memorial Highway." --2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote
- [SCR 27](#) ■ **LICENSE REVOCATION** ([Seitz, B.](#)) To declare that the Ohio General Assembly is opposed to the enactment of a state law, pursuant to a federal mandate, which would require the suspension or revocation of the driver's license of any individual convicted of any violation of the federal Controlled Substances Act or another drug law; to urge the Governor of Ohio to submit a written certification stating the Governor's opposition to such a law along with this resolution to the United States Secretary of Transportation; and accordingly to prevent the United States Secretary of Transportation from withholding a specified percentage of federal transportation apportionments pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 159. --2nd Hearing-All testimony

Wednesday, January 22

Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services, (Chr. Jones, S., 466-9739), South Hearing Rm., 9:00 am

- [SB 182](#) ■ **DRUG TESTING** ([Schaffer, T.](#)) To require the Director of Job and Family Services to operate an Ohio Works First drug testing pilot program and to make an appropriation. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

House Finance & Appropriations, (Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474), Rm. 313, 9:00 am

- [SJR 6](#) ■ **INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS** ([Bacon, K.](#)) Proposing to enact Section 2s of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of additional general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements. --1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote-Pending referral

Senate Agriculture, (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150), Grant Hearing Rm. (110), 10:00 am

- [SB 150](#) ■ **AGRICULTURAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT** ([Hite, C.](#)) To revise the law governing the abatement of agricultural pollution, to require a person that applies fertilizer for the purposes of agricultural production to be certified to do so by the Director of Agriculture, to provide for an agricultural pesticide-use category on commercial and private pesticide applicator licenses, and to make other changes to the Agricultural Additives, Lime, and Fertilizer Law. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

House Health & Aging, (Chr. Wachtmann, L., 466-3760), Rm. 116, 10:30 am

- [HB 307](#) ■ **ADOPTION** ([Buchy, J.](#)) To require that certain pre-birth adoption notifications be sent to each putative father; to reduce the time within which a putative father must register with the putative father registry; to reduce the period of time to appeal an adoption decree; to permit a person to advertise that the person will adopt children; to define for purposes of an adoption "living expenses" of a birth mother and to specify how they must be paid; and to increase the adoption income tax credit. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

- [HB 381](#) ■ **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** ([Sears, B.](#)) To require a retail terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to verify identification when dispensing a controlled substance or tramadol. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

Senate Commerce & Labor, (Chr. Bacon, K., 466-8064), North Hearing Rm., 10:45 am

- [HB 202](#) ■ **ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS** ([Blessing, L.](#)) To make changes to the examination, reporting, and educational requirements of professional engineers and surveyors. --2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

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

House Session, (Chr. Batchelder, B., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 pm

Senate Public Utilities, (Chr. Seitz, B., 466-8068), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 pm

SB 34 ■ **RENEWABLE ENERGY (Jordan, K.)** To repeal the requirement that electric distribution utilities and electric services companies provide 25% of their retail power supplies from advanced and renewable energy resources by 2025. --**2nd Hearing-Proponent**

House Ways & Means, (Chr. Beck, P., 644-6027), Rm. 116, 3:00 pm

HB 375 ■ **OIL & GAS SEVERANCE TAX (Huffman, M.)** To levy a severance tax on well owners of oil and gas severed from horizontal wells, to create a nonrefundable income tax credit for the amount of horizontal well severance tax paid, to repeal a cost recovery assessment imposed on oil and gas well owners, to reduce the severance tax rate on natural gas extracted from nonhorizontal wells, to exclude from the tax base of the commercial activity tax gross receipts from the sale of oil or natural gas severed through use of a horizontal well, and to make an appropriation. --**4th Hearing-All testimony**

Senate State Government Oversight & Reform, (Chr. Burke, D., 466-8049), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 pm

SB 93 ■ **OPEN MEETINGS (Jones, S.)** To require that further information be stated in motions to hold executive sessions under the Open Meetings Act, to expand the fees and expenses that may be recovered for violations of the Act, and to make other changes to the Act. --**1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent**