



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Possible September Sessions

Leaders from both chambers anticipate lawmakers will likely return to Columbus ahead of November's election. "We're coming back in the fall, big-time," [Speaker Bill Batchelder](#) (R-Medina) told reporters this week. "We've got work yet to do. The governor keeps thinking up these things." The speaker said the House would likely return for two session days in September.

Senate [President Keith Faber](#) (R-Celina) also said he expects to hold potential session days near the end of September or the beginning of October, with committees meeting for a week or two in advance.

Speaker Batchelder said the House would likely launch study committees to work on various issues during the recess. "We will have committees out there working and if they continue to develop some of the things we've seen, it's going to be a very productive summer," he said. House Republican leaders haven't yet finalized which topics the study committees may discuss.

Lawmakers pass dozens of bills before Summer Recess

In a sprint to begin summer recess, the General Assembly's last week was a whirlwind in which dozens of bills made their way either out of committee, off the floor to the next chamber or onto the governor's desk in a matter of days. Over 40 bills were sent to Governor for his signature.

This past week [Gov. John Kasich](#) signed 11 bills into law, including of [HB 289](#) ([Kirk Schuring](#), R-Canton) which would prohibit townships and cities from entering into new Joint Economic Development Zones. The bill will go into effect Dec. 31, allowing any contracts currently in the works to be placed on the November ballot.

Townships were opposed to a ban on the economic tool that gave them the opportunity to increase revenue from income taxes that they otherwise could not collect. However, in committee and session debates, lawmakers referred continuously to the practice as a "money grab" that should have been used to spur business growth instead.

[Sen. Edna Brown](#) (D-Toledo) offered her support on efforts to reconsider how entities can partner up to offset budget shortfalls. "When the Ohio Senate received HB289, much of the language threatened the economic development efforts of our communities in Northwest Ohio," she said. "Through successful work with our local officials and through bi-partisan cooperation in the Senate, we improved HB289. The modified bill strikes a balance between preventing taxation abuse and preserving the ability of metro areas like Toledo to continue cooperating on a regional basis."

Recently Passed Legislation

- HB117** **CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES** (HACKETT R, STINZIANO M) To provide for the operation of captive insurance companies in Ohio.
- HB130** **END DEMAND ACT-HUMAN TRAFFICKING** (FEDOR T) To revise Human Trafficking Laws.
- HB213** **CHILD CUSTODY** (PELANDA D, CELEBREZZE N) To permit a court to grant a motion for permanent custody of a child to a movant if the child or another child in the custody of the parent has been adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child on three separate occasions.
- HB286** **TELECONFERENCE-DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL** (SEARS B, LETSON T) To authorize the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to meet via interactive video conference or teleconference.
- HB289** **JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE-DISTRICT** (SCHURING K) To prohibit the creation of new joint economic development zones (JEDZs) and to create and rename JEDZs a municipal utility districts (MUDs)•
- HB292** **AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDY COMMITTEE** (PERALES R) To create the Aerospace and Technology Study Committee.
- HB399** **PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION DAY** (SHEEHY M, SPRAGUE R) To designate the first Friday of May as "Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness and Education Day."
- HB533** **BRENT SPENCE BRIDGE TOLL** (MCGREGOR R, MALLORY D) To provide that a toll project may include the substantial reconstruction or replacement of an existing toll-free highway, bridge, or tunnel, and to impose toll.
- SB3** **RULE-MAKING REFORM** (LAROSE F) To reform rule-making and rule-review procedures and regulatory processes.
- SB99** **ORAL CANCER MEDICATIONS** (OELSLAGER S, TAVARES C) Regarding insurance coverage for orally administered cancer medications.
- SB143** **CRIMINAL LAW REVISION** (SEITZ B) To permit the Attorney General to authorize the release of information relating to certain arrests and delinquent child adjudications pursuant to a request for a criminal records check; to regulate the confidentiality of personal information related to community service block grants; to clarify the authority of boards of county commissioners to establish a community alternative sentencing center; to modify the procedure for sentencing and admitting an eligible offender to a community alternative sentencing center; to clarify that an eligible offender must successfully complete any term in

a center as a condition of a community residential sanction; to include the best interests of the person as a reason for which an alleged or adjudicated delinquent child who is at least 18 but younger than 21 may be held in an adult detention facility; to eliminate the six-month waiting period for making a motion or application for the sealing of a juvenile court record; to specify that the fact of admission and confinement in an adult detention facility of a person under 21 generally is confidential; to authorize a court to order restitution if a person convicted of driving under suspension or driving under financial-responsibility-law suspension or cancellation fails to provide proof of financial responsibility; to authorize a person charged with multiple offenses in connection with the same act to apply for the sealing of records pertaining to an acquitted charge; to modify the requirements regarding testing for HIV of persons charged with specified sex offense; and to increase the sentence of imprisonment that disqualifies an inmate from participating in the prison nursery program.

- SB150** **AGRICULTURAL ADDITIVES, LIME AND FERTILIZER LAW** (HITE C, PETERSON B) 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.
- SB172** **LAND REUTILIZATION-PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURE LAWS** (PATTON T) To modify the laws governing land reutilization programs and property tax foreclosures.
- SB192** **INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES** (MANNING G) To grant the Director of Agriculture exclusive authority to regulate invasive plant species.
- SB263** **TAX COMMISSIONER-TAXPAYER NOTIFICATION** (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.
- SB278** **SUDDEN INFANT DEATH** (JONES S, TAVARES C) To require the completion of a sudden unexplained infant death investigation reporting form (SUIDI reporting form) developed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- SB287** **UNIFORM DEPOSITORY ACT** (HUGHES J) To modify authorized investments of interim moneys and inactive moneys under the Uniform Depository Act.
- SB310** **ENERGY REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS** (BALDERSON T) To make changes to the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction requirements and to create a study committee.

MBR LEGISLATION RECENTLY PASSED

[HB 483](#) **MBR-OPERATION OF STATE PROGRAMS** (AMSTUTZ R) To make operating and other appropriations and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

[HB 484](#) **MBR-HIGHER EDUCATION** (ROSENBERGER C, BROWN T) With respect to the coordination and administration of higher education programs.

[HB 486](#) **MBR-WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS** (BAKER N, STEBELTON G) Regarding various workforce development and economic development programs.

- [HB 487](#) **MBR-K-12 EDUCATION PROGRAMS** (BRENNER A) With regard to education provisions for students in grades kindergarten through twelve.
- [HB 488](#) **MBR-HIGHER EDUCATION-MILITARY VETERANS** (DOVILLA M, LANDIS A) To require state institutions of higher education to award credit for military training, and to make other changes regarding state support and benefits for veterans and their spouses.
- [HB 492](#) **MBR-TAXATION** (SCHERER G) To provide authorization and conditions for the levy and administration of taxes in this state.
- [HB 493](#) **MBR-WORKERS' COMPENSATION** (SEARS B, HENNE M) To make changes to Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law and to make an appropriation.

MBR LEGISLATION STILL BEING DEBATED

- [HB 375](#) **MBR-SEVERANCE TAX-HORIZONTAL OIL AND GAS WELLS** (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, and to repeal a cost recovery assessment imposed on oil and gas well owners.
Current Status: 5/27/2014 – Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
- [HB 489](#) **MBR-DAS LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT PROCESS** (BLAIR T) To modify the Department of Administrative Services' lease-purchase agreement process, to grant the Department the same authority for lease-leaseback agreements, and to require those agreements to be awarded through a request for proposals process.
Current Status: 4/8/2014 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
- [HB 490](#) **MBR-AGRICULTURE-NATURAL RESOURCES-ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS** (HALL D, THOMPSON A) To revise certain laws governing agriculture, natural resources, and environmental protection.
Current Status: 5/20/2014 - House Agriculture and Natural Resources, (Fifth Hearing)
- [HB 491](#) **MBR-GAMING LAW** (BUCHY J, BLESSING III L) To make various changes to the Gambling Law, Lottery Law, and Casino Law.
Current Status: 05/28/2014 Referred to State Government Oversight and Reform Committee

BWC Switch to Prospective Rating Solidified in Statute

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) has solidified its plans to switch employers to prospective rating and payments with the recent passage of [HB 493](#), the workers' compensation mid-biennium review (MBR) measure. While HB 153 (the biennial budget, which received passage about one year ago) gave BWC permissive authority to do prospective rating, HB 493 makes the rating switch a requirement.

Once enacted, the measure will provide that all employers switch to a prospective rating and prospective premium payment system. For public employers, the switch takes effect in policy year (PY) 2016 whereas private employers will be transitioning in PY2015. The delayed implementation for public employers was made in part to give public employers time to adequately plan budgets for the transition.



For the transition year of 2016, payments will be due for retrospectively-rated PY2015 as well as prospectively-rated 2016. BWC, recognizing the challenges two years worth of premium due in one year would present to both public and private employers, has committed to a 50% transition credit for both PY2015 and PY2016. (However, the credit is not reflected in statute.)

Also due in PY2016 for public employers is the first payment for PY2017. For PY2017 and forward, estimated premium payments will be due in December of the prior year. HB 493 permits the BWC to develop rules allowing for installment payments of premium (which may include a nominal fee). Currently the BWC is planning to allow up to 12 installment payments, meaning employers should be prepared to pay 1/12th of estimated premium due in PY2017 in their CY2016 budgets.

For additional information, please contact policy analyst Laura Abu-Absi at labu-absi@ccao.org or (614) 220-7996. Or, you can view information prepared by the BWC which can be found online [here](#). Fact sheets are available for both public and private employers.

Other provisions of HB 493 include changes to allow public employers to participate in the one-claim program and changes to interstate claims, other-states' coverage, and more.