



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Changes made to county investment authority

The Legislature has passed and the governor has signed [SB 287](#) (Hughes-R Columbus) which makes amendments to [ORC Sec. 135.35](#) which governs the county's investment authority for its inactive funds. The changes take effect on September 4, 2014.



The bill, as introduced, contained a provision which would have amended ORC Sec. 135.35(A)(4) to limit the ability of the county to invest in obligations of another political subdivision by requiring that the county not be the sole purchaser of those investments. Last session CCAO had secured a change in this provision to broaden the counties investment options under this section to go beyond the county's boundaries and include any political subdivision in the state.

Utilizing the county's inactive funds under this section is looked at as a win-win for both the county and the political subdivision offering the obligation. The county can receive a higher interest rate on the obligation that it could in most other investments, and the political subdivision can reduce the costs of issuing the obligation and pay a lower interest rate to the county that it would have to pay if the investment was obtained on the open market. CCAO was successful in having this restriction removed from the bill.

The bill made two major changes in the county investment authority. Current law permits investment in no-load money market mutual funds that are rated in the highest category at the time of purchase by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service and consist exclusively of certain types of U.S. government or U.S. government agency obligations and certain forms of commercial paper. The law will now allow the county to invest in mutual funds that meet either of these requirements instead of both. The new law also removes the requirement that the investment in bankers acceptances could only be made if the obligation was eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve System.

The new law also provides that certain investments by a county investing authority may be made through a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) instead of the National Association of Securities Dealers. The training to qualify a county investing authority to make investments in commercial paper notes and bankers acceptances will now be approved

by, and may be conducted by or provided under the supervision of, the Treasurer of State rather than the Auditor of State.

Representative Terry Blair passes

CCAO is saddened by the passing of State Representative Terry Blair after a short-term illness. Blair was serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives and his second term as Chair of the House State and Local Government Committee. CCAO staff had worked closely with Representative Blair on many occasions. Terry was a conscientious, deliberate and caring steward of the public trust and will be dearly missed. CCAO extends our condolences to his wife Judy, his children and grandchildren.



Rep Terry Blair & Comm Debbie Lieberman

Terry represented the 42nd House District, which includes southern portions of Montgomery County. He served as a Washington Township trustee for 21 years before coming to the legislature. He received a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame and is the past president of the Notre Dame Alumni Club of Dayton. Blair was CFO of Buckeye Pools, extremely active in his community, and a member of Church of the Incarnation. An owner of thoroughbred horses, Blair was also a member of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners.

Race to be the next Speaker may soon be coming to an end

Speaker William G. Batchelder (R-Medina) is urging the two frontrunners to show their cards on Monday, and the candidate with the stronger hand will get the support of the other. [Rep. Cliff Rosenberger](#) (R-Clarksville) and [Rep. Ron Amstutz](#) (R-Wooster) will try to put to rest their long-running and sometimes heated race to become the next House Speaker. The two have been considered the favorites to replace Batchelder, but neither has been able to put together a solid coalition of backers.



Rep Cliff Rosenberger

Amstutz confirmed that he and Rosenberger plan to call House Republicans Monday to verify which side has more supporters. "It's something that Cliff Rosenberger and I decided to do to precipitate a solution to this thing to keep it from dragging on," he said. "If I come in with a coalition that's bigger than his, he supports me. If he comes in with more votes than me, then I support him."



Rep Ron Amstutz

While Reps. Rosenberger and Amstutz are reported to be the frontrunners, they are not the only members positioning themselves to be speaker. Conservative members [Rep. Jim Butler](#) (R-Oakwood) and [Rep. Kristina Roegner](#) (R-Hudson), both claim to have the support of some of the caucus's most conservative members. A potential alliance between Reps. Butler and Roegner could create a bloc of more than a dozen members.

CDJFS Incentive Pilot Program Draft Rules released

Draft rules around the newly created Ohio Works First (OWF) Incentive Pilot Program have been posted for review and comment today in the ODJFS Clearance system. The rules can be viewed and comments submitted online [here](#). Comments are due July 10th.

CCAO staff encourages counties who may be interested in volunteering for the pilot program to work with your JFS director to review the rules and submit comments if necessary.

The program, conceptualized by Senate Republicans and included in the recently passed mid-biennium review bill, HB 483, is to run in five counties for three years. HB 483 called for ODJFS to write rules to develop a program that would reward caseworkers with a bonus each time a former OWF (cash assistance) recipient who the participant helped to find employment had not been on the rolls of the program for six months due to increased earned income.

HB 483 provides that \$50,000 is to be allocated to each participating county for administrative costs and costs of the incentive payments. In addition, the language enables counties to contract with private entities for purposes of this pilot program.

For additional information please contact CCAO policy analyst Laura Abu-Absi at labu-absi@ccao.org or (615) 221-5627.

Statehouse will not be published next week

Please note that **Statehouse will not be published next week** due to the July 4th holiday. Publication will resume on July 11, 2014. The CCAO office will be closing during the afternoon on July 3rd due to the massive crowd that gathers in downtown Columbus to celebrate “Red, White and Boom” and on July 4th. On behalf of the CCAO family, we wish you a happy and safe Independence Day weekend!

