

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

April 14, 2017

Around the Square

Budget Cuts

Governor John Kasich, Senate President Larry Obhof and House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger announced yesterday the biennial budget will see \$400 million cuts each year due to the economy and subpar tax revenues. In the announcement, Kasich commented House Bill 49, the budget bill, will have to be adjusted accordingly. Both Speaker Rosenberger and President Obhof have said they are prepared to make cuts where necessary. Governor Kasich added the state has been increasing jobs, but not at the rate it was a few years ago. He also assured the rainy day fund will not be used to balance the budget.

BCMh Language Pulled from Budget

House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Chairman Mark Romanchuk and other House Republican leaders officially announced the Children with Medical Handicaps program will be removed from the budget and dealt with in separate legislation. Romanchuk commented in late March the issue was too complicated to handle during the budget process and the panel was likely to recommend it be removed from the budget language. No legislation has been announced, but it will likely come once the budget has been passed through the Legislature.

Autism Coverage Mandate Bill

Governor John Kasich held a small ceremony commemorating House Bill 463 (131st General Assembly) officially going into effect. This law requires certain insurers to provide coverage for autism treatments for children. The law is only applicable to children on the autism spectrum up to age 14. In his ceremony, Kasich emphasized the importance of early intervention, and applauded the law for coming a step closer to covering those in need.

Political News and Notes

State Spending Slightly Up in March

State revenue taxes took a hit for the month, however overall spending was slight above what was expected by analytics. The state had \$12.2 more in General Revenue Fund spending than expected predominantly due to higher property tax reimbursements. GRF disbursements were \$3.3 billion and the year to date spending is \$912.1 million.

State Board of Education Approves Graduation Requirements

The State Board of Education members on Tuesday voted 16-3 on an emergency resolution to revise the state's graduation requirements to align with the superintendent's workgroup suggestions. This emergency resolution will now call on the General Assembly to establish these new requirements in law. These new requirements are intended to give the class of 2018 more pathways to graduation.

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.