

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

April 21, 2017

Around the Square

Program to Help Children of Addicts Expands

Attorney General Mike DeWine announced on Tuesday that four counties in southern Ohio will be added to the state's pilot program to help children hurt by parental addiction. The program currently has 14 counties slated and Attorney General DeWine has allocated an additional \$1 million to the cause. This program will have \$4.6 million to provide intensive trauma counseling to children abused or neglected due to parental drug use and will provide drug treatment to parents in the program. DeWine additionally announced that if this program is successful, it could see a statewide expansion.

PUCO Announced Grid Initiative

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio launched Phase 1 of the commission's PowerForward Initiative in the form of revolutionary dialogue about the state's energy future. The Initiative has three phases and is intended to modernize Ohio's energy grid. Phase 1 held several seminars during this week. Information regarding the topics and speakers found on PUCO's website. Here is a link to view the PowerForward initiative: <https://www.puco.ohio.gov/industry-information/industry-topics/powerforward/>

Schiavoni Steps Down as Minority Leader

Senator Joe Schiavoni has stepped down as the Senate Minority Leader in order to focus on his campaign for Governor. Senator Kenny Yuko has been selected as Schiavoni's replacement and will officially assume leadership on Tuesday when the Senate is back in session.

Political News and Notes

State Gets \$26 Million to Fight Opioids

Ohio is expected to receive \$26 million from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services to fight heroin and prescription drug usage. The money comes from the 21st Century Cures act, which was established at the end of last year and provides \$1 billion in funds to combat the heroin and prescription drug epidemic. The Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services Department commented the state will use this money over the next two years for medication-assisted treatment, prevention and screening, recovery supports and addressing secondary trauma among first responders.

Air pollution Study

The American Lung Association released their 2017 State of the Air report. In the finding, The Cleveland-Akron-Canton area ranked ninth for the most year-round particle pollution, up from 11th in last year's report. The Columbus-Marion-Zanesville and Lima-Van Wert-Celina areas were among the cleanest cities for short-term particle pollution. Additionally, no Ohio cities appeared on the top 25 list of the most ozone-polluted cities this year.

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