

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

August 11, 2017

Around the Square

Senate Veto Overrides

Senate President Larry Obhof announced the Senate will likely address the pending budget vetoes in their August 23rd session. Obhof added there will likely be multiple discussions regarding the overrides. The General Assembly has until December 2018 to make a final decision on the overrides and the Senate can only take up overrides passed by the House, since the budget bill originated in the House. Obhof mentioned he might ask the House to send more over as he knows some Senators would be interested in discussing dropout recovery schools and Medicaid, among others.

Medical Marijuana License

Officials told the Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee preliminary licenses for medical marijuana growers are expected to be issued in November, although they could be announced earlier. Missy Craddock of the Medical Marijuana Control Program added applications for marijuana processors and dispensaries won't be accepted until after the cultivator licenses are awarded.

Political News and Notes

NCSL Conference

More than two dozen Ohio legislators are visiting Boston this weekend for the National Conference of State Legislatures' annual meeting. The summit lasts four days and will cover topics such as budget challenges in Medicaid, community police relations, and "Expecting the Unexpected".

Casino, Racino Revenue Up

Ohio's four casinos showed significant increase in July as opposed to June. The casinos went from \$64.1 million in June to \$69.9 million in July. This is up from July 2016 as well, which brought in \$66.1 million. The state's racinos additionally saw an increase over the month. Video lottery at the seven racinos brought in \$84.5 million for the first month of the fiscal year. This is an increase of nearly \$6.5 million from June. The Hollywood Columbus and Hard Rock Racino-Northfield Park were the casino and racino, respectively, to fare the best this month.

Ohio Among Top for Wind

A U.S. Department of Energy has released a report naming Ohio among the top ten in the country for on-site, distributed wind energy. Research from the Environment Ohio Research and Policy Center also show the state having grown renewable energy production 500-fold in the last decade. Read the EORPC report here: <http://bit.ly/2vqzdUB>

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