

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

October 6, 2017

Around the Square

Ban on Bump Rifle Stocks

Senator Cecil Thomas, a former Cincinnati police officer, announced he plans to introduce legislation putting a ban on "bump" fire rifle stocks in response to the Las Vegas shooting earlier this week. Reports have indicated it was this device, which enables semi-automatic guns to be fired at a quicker rate, that contributed to the devastation Monday. The proposed bill would make the sale or possession of a bump stock device for personal use a fourth degree felony.

Autonomous Vehicle Bill

The House Transportation & Public Safety Committee heard from two manufacturers regarding autonomous vehicle technology on Wednesday. Jonathan Weinberger of the Auto Alliance and Josh Fisher of the Association of Global Automakers presented information on where the industry is evolving and technical questions. Chairman Green announced testimony heard will be invite only, however any are welcome to submit written testimony.

Deadline to Register to Vote

The deadline to register to vote in the November 7th election is October 10th. Early voting begins October 11th. Several races will be on this election, in addition to two ballot issues that will appear. To view a nonpartisan overview of Issues 1 & 2 from Secretary of State Jon Husted's office, follow this link: <http://bit.ly/2hT1Cye>. The Health Policy Institute of Ohio has additional information and resources for Issue 2, which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2fPv97L>.

Political News and Notes

Federal Grant for Ohio Students

Ohio has been awarded the \$35 million Striving Readers literacy grant from the U.S. Department of Education to improve literacy outcomes of k-12 students. Ohio Department of Education officials commented nearly 95 percent of the 3-year, \$35 million award will be distributed to local schools or early childhood providers, focusing on children in poverty, with disabilities, English learners, and those with a reading disability.

Ohio Senators Recommend Judges to Trump

Ohio U.S. Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown have recommended two justices for two openings in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Those justices are Judge Matt McFarland, who currently resides on Ohio's Fourth District Court of Appeals, and Sarah Morrison, the administrator and CEO of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. The White House will review the potential candidates. From there, they will go before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee for a confirmation hearing and then the full Senate for consideration.

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