

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

February 9, 2018

Around the Square

Legislature Clears Redistricting Measure

The House approved SJR 5, the congressional redistricting reform bill, at Tuesday's session this week. This bipartisan measure will be filed with the Secretary of State's office by the Wednesday deadline so that voters are able to weigh in on the May ballot. The House passed the plan 83-10 with the Senate unanimously deciding Monday. The resolution would create a three-tiered process through which the General Assembly, then the Ohio Redistricting Commission and then the General Assembly once again will attempt to draw a 10-year map with certain constraints. If that fails, lawmakers must pass a four-year and then a six-year map with stricter requirements including that the map doesn't favor or disfavor a particular party or incumbent.

Political News and Notes

PUCO PowerForward Agenda Revealed

The agenda for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's grid modernization has been finalized and will take place over two weeks and will feature multiple experts and stakeholders. The first week will be March 6-8 and will focus on the customer experience, distribution system planning, electric vehicles, and retail markets. The second week will be March 20-22 and will feature data, cybersecurity, ratemaking, and rate design. View the full agenda here: <http://bit.ly/2G1ig5J>

ODHE Aims to Increase Graduation Rates

The Ohio Department of Higher Education has received the Strong Start to Finish grant in the amount of \$2.1 million to aide collegiate pathways and assist those in historically undeserved attainment gaps. The grant is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates, and The Kresge Foundation. Ohio was one of four entities in the country to receive this award.

State Revenue Boosted Last Month

Preliminary data has Ohio's overall tax intake in January \$204 million above projections, in part thanks to the influx of income tax into the state. The Office of Budget and Management spokesperson John Charlton commented there are several factors which led to the increase in income tax, a portion of which due to the timing of the federal law changes. Neither OBM nor the Department of Taxation have found reason to believe the federal tax cuts will impact Ohio finances, unlike other states thus far.

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