

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

May 25, 2018

Around the Square

"Stand Your Ground" Causes Controversy

In another party-line vote, a controversial gun measure sponsored by Rep. Johnson and Rep. LaTourette cleared the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee on Tuesday. The bill was supported by gun rights groups and opposed by anti-gun violence advocates including Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. The legislation gives individuals the right to use force in the instance of a perceived threat and ends the duty to retreat. Proponents of the bill champion its protection of rights for gun owners, while others worry that it will increase gun violence and allow for the carrying of firearms without a license.

House Speaker Vote Delayed

The Ohio House of Representatives canceled sessions again this Wednesday and Thursday, delaying discussion on several dozen pieces of legislation until a new leader is elected. Speaker Pro Tem Kirk Schuring announced the postponement shortly before news spread of an FBI raid on properties belonging to former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger. House Democrats continue to urge their Republican counterparts to elect a new speaker, however most refuse to support the nominee. The bitter rivalry to fill the position continues between frontrunner Rep. Ryan Smith and Rep. Andy Thompson, neither able to lock in the necessary 50 votes. If a vote does not occur in the next 3 weeks of session, the House will continue to remain leaderless until the fall.

Political News and Notes

Technology to Assist Developmentally Disabled

On Thursday, Governor Kasich signed an executive order aimed at increasing the use of technology for facilitating individuals with developmental disabilities. The order, coined "Technology First", furthers investment in things such as sensors that help alert caregivers and robots that can teach communication skills to autistic children. This new technology will provide opportunities for customized patient care and expanded options for disability assistance. The order advocates for increased use of technology to improve the state's developmental disability system, as well as to give people with disabilities the respect, support and accessibility they deserve.

Job Creation Tax Credits Expanded

Projects endorsed by the Tax Credit Authority earlier this week are expected to create nearly 2,300 jobs and keep over 900 jobs in the state. On Monday, the state granted Job Creation Tax Credits to 10 Ohio companies that are expected to generate over \$100 million in new payroll and over \$300 million in investments. Credits were awarded to companies including IBOD Company, HomeGoods, Dollar Tree Distribution and Aldi Inc. IBOD Company, Inc. received the largest package of credits and plans to significantly expand operations in Mansfield. If the businesses meet their hiring goals and other specified criteria, Ohio is looking to receive a value of about \$15.6 million in forgone tax revenue.

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