

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

February 15, 2019

Around the Square

JobsOhio Leader Selected

On Thursday, Governor Mike DeWine announced that J.P. Nauseef, chairman and co-founder of digital advertising firm Krush Media Group, was chosen as the new head of the nonprofit economic development group JobsOhio. Nauseef will replace John Minor, who has served as President and Chief Investment Officer since the organization's creation in 2012. Nauseef has a background in economic development, previously serving as President and CEO of the Dayton Development Coalition.

Preliminary Funding Proposals

Governor DeWine unveiled budget proposals this week for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation as well as the Ohio Industrial Commission. He recommended the Workers' Compensation Budget be around \$645 million, including an additional \$15 million dedicated to employee substance abuse support. The proposal is an increase from the current \$581 million biennial budget, reflecting the new administration's commitment to a culture of workplace safety and addressing substance abuse concerns. The increase also takes into account the twenty percent reduction in average premium rates for private employers that will be discussed next week. The Governor also proposed \$109.4 million for the Ohio Industrial Commission's budget, a minor increase from the last biennial budget to maintain current staffing levels and operations.

Political News and Notes

Chambers Begin Legislation, Committee Processes

On Tuesday, the Senate majority caucus outlined its priorities, introducing over 50 bills. From those bills, priorities for the caucus include regulatory and criminal justice reform, economic development opportunities, school facility funding and human trafficking prevention. The first committee memberships and leaders were announced on Tuesday, with the remaining announced later in the week. President Obhof also discussed the chamber's focus on the upcoming budgets, both transportation and operating. The House also began introducing legislation this week, with dozens of bills being brought forth by the caucus. House standing committee assignments were released last Friday by Speaker Householder and committees began organizational meetings and priority setting this week.

Budgetary Outlooks

Preliminary budget requests submitted in fall of 2018 by the previous administration's agency leadership outline anticipated issues and policy recommendations for the biennial budget. Expected concerns include changing revenue streams, increasing personnel costs and shifting policy priorities. The administration is considering these requests and using them to guide the recommendations they will make to the General Assembly by March 15.

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