

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

June 28, 2019

Around the Square

Governor's Appointment

This week Governor DeWine appointed Reginald A. Wilkinson to serve on the Ohio Board of Education through December 31, 2022. Wilkinson was previously Ohio's longest-serving director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and worked for the agency for thirty-three years before retiring in 2006. Since retiring, he became highly involved with two nonprofit higher education groups. Additionally, DeWine appointed former Reynoldsburg schools superintendent Stephen D. Dackin to complete a term that ends December 31, 2020.

Political News and Notes

State Budget

The deadline for the state's biennial spending plan must be signed by this Sunday, June 30, but the House has cancelled the session previously scheduled for this Friday. Governor DeWine believes that a deal between the House, Senate, and himself can be reached by the deadline as he feels the differences in their \$69 billion budget are not that big, especially because the plans all have bipartisan support. Governor DeWine, Speaker Householder, and President Obhof met on Thursday to discuss details, but Speaker Householder has said he is prepared to ask for a two week extension. Session will likely be held this weekend.

Nuclear Bailout Bill

On Wednesday the Ohio Senate made major changes to House Bill 6. The new Senate version includes renewable energy like solar and wind, as their lack of inclusion has previously been a major critique of the so-called "Clean Air" program. Furthermore, the Senate version cuts the amount of money that FirstEnergy will receive to \$150 million a year compared to the House proposal which would give the company \$197.6 million a year. Despite these changes opponents still say the bill destroys clean energy programs and serves as a bailout for FirstEnergy Solutions.

School Funding Plan

On Wednesday Representatives Cupp and Patterson introduced new legislation to overhaul Ohio's school funding system, changing their original plan of trying to make school funding formula changes in this year's state budget. The legislators want to phase the new funding plan in over the course of six years, rather than four as they originally planned. The new plan provides extra support to children with special needs or those in high poverty districts. Ohio's current school funding costs approximately \$11 billion a year, and under the Cupp-Patterson plan an additional \$360 million would be spent in the first year, and then \$300 million more than is currently spent in the second year. The legislators hope to meet hold committee meetings to review the bill this summer.

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

Bills Introduced This Week

HB 300- License Plate: To create the “Rabbit Friendly” license plate.

HB 301 - Aircraft Titles: To establish a process by which a person may obtain title to an aircraft that has been left on the person’s property.

HB 302 - Child Abuse: To include certain child abuse-related offenses in the violent offender database, to name the act Jacob’s Law, and to make an appropriation.

HB 303 - Road Naming: To designate a portion of State Route 13 in Richland County as the “PFC Steven D. Smith Memorial Highway.”

HB 304 - Equal Pay: To enact the Ohio Equal Pay Act to require state contractors and economic incentive recipients to obtain an equal pay certificate, to require public employers to establish a job evaluation system to identify and eliminate sex-based wage disparities, to prohibit employers from seeking a prospective employee's wage or salary history, and to prohibit employer retaliation against an employee who discusses salary or wage rates with another employee.

HB 305 - School Funding: To create a new school financing system, and to make an appropriation.

HB 306 - License Plate: To create the “Habitat for Humanity of Ohio” license plate.

HB 307 - Voyeurism: To increase the penalties for the offense of voyeurism.

HJR 1 - Constitutional Amendments: To modify certain signature requirements for a proposed constitutional amendment by initiative petition.

SB 169 - Bridge Naming: To designate three bridges in Canfield Township in Mahoning County, Ohio.

SB 170 - Road Naming: To designate a portion of State Route 422 in Mahoning County as the "PFC Ronald J. Puskarcik Memorial Highway."

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