

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

July 5, 2019

Around the Square

Governor's Appointments

This week Governor DeWine appointed Martin J. Grunder from Bellbrook, Ohio and Andrew J. Platt from Xenia, Ohio to positions on the Wright State University Board of Trustees. Grunder is a University of Dayton graduate, and is currently president and CEO of Grunder Landscaping Co, while Platt is a 2009 Wright State graduate and serves as a managing director at Northwestern Mutual.

Political News and Notes

State Budget

For only the third time in twenty-eight years, Ohio lawmakers failed to meet the constitutional deadline of June 30 to pass the state budget. Previously, lawmakers failed to pass a budget by the deadline in 1991 and 2009. The Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC) budget failed to pass by the June 30 deadline as well. Additionally, House Bill 6, the controversial nuclear bailout bill, failed to be passed by June 30, which was the date that FirstEnergy Solutions originally said they would need a resolution by in order to keep the two Ohio nuclear plants open. On Sunday, the House voted for a seventeen day interim state operating budget and a thirty day extension for the BWC budget. This allows state agencies to continue to operate until Ohio lawmakers pass a permanent budget.

Nuclear Bailout Bill

FirstEnergy Solutions previously told lawmakers that they would need a nuclear bailout bill, like House Bill 6, to be passed by this June 30 to keep their Ohio nuclear plants open. However, after lawmakers were unable to pass HB 6 or a state budget by June 30, FirstEnergy Solutions now says they will close their plants if a legislative solution is not reached by July 17, which is not the new deadline for lawmakers to pass a state operating budget. Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee met over the weekend to review amendments. However, the bill did not pass out of committee, as the committee said they have not yet had time to review several amendments. The legislation remains in the Senate Energy and Public Utilities committee.

Bills Introduced This Week

HB 309- Transit Staff: To increase the penalty for assault when the victim is an operator of an Ohio transit system bus or rail car; to authorize Ohio transit systems to post a sign regarding abuse or assault of staff; and to increase the penalty for evading payment of the known fares of a public transportation system.

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