

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

August 2, 2019

Around the Square

Statehouse Appointment

Representative Steven Arndt, of the 89th House District retired this Wednesday, leaving his seat vacant for only a few hours prior to the swearing in of Douglas Swearingen (R - Huron) in a non-voting session on Thursday. The new Representative is an attorney at Wickens, Herzer, Panza, and is a graduate of Bowling Green State University and the University of Dayton School of Law.

Political News and Notes

Sales Tax Holiday

This weekend is Ohio's annual sales tax holiday for eligible items. The annual sales tax holiday was passed into law just this year, and permanently marks the first Friday through first Sunday of August. This tax break was created as a way to give students and their families preparing to head back to school a bit of a financial break. Clothes prices at \$75 or less per item, school supplies priced at \$20 per item or less and school instructional material priced at \$20 or less per item all qualify.

Hemp Legalization

This week Governor Mike DeWine signed a bill into law that allows for the cultivation of industrial hemp and also legalizes the manufacture and sale of CBD products, which are derived from hemp. The Ohio Farm Bureau applauded the passage of the bill, saying that it will give Ohio farmers another option for crops and an additional revenue stream. Hemp only contains trace amount of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is the psychoactive ingredient found in marijuana, so hemp does not have psychoactive properties at such trace amounts. The federal government previously legalized hemp cultivation in 2018.

Voter Registration

On Thursday Secretary of State Frank LaRose published a list of voters that will soon be removed from the state's voter roll due to inactivity. LaRose called the searchable "Registration Reset List" a "first-of-its-kind effort." The database is searchable, and includes 235,610 people who have been inactive for at least six years or twelve elections. Unless those included on the list renew their registration, they will be taken off the list of registered voters on September 6. Between now and then, the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, and the Secretary of State's office plan to reach out to these people to encourage them to renew their registration.

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

This Week's Bills

HB 313 - License Plate: To create the “Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution” license plate.

HB 314 - Anti-prostitution: To create the anti-prostitution grant program fund and to make an appropriation.

SB 179 - Front License Plate: To retain and continue current law requiring the display of two license plates for most motor vehicles.

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