

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

August 23, 2019

## Around the Square

### School Violence Prevention

On Wednesday Governor DeWine announced a new state office, created by executive order, dedicated to school safety and preventing violence in schools. The Ohio School Safety Center will operate within the Ohio Homeland Security office. The office will include seven current state employees, but it may expand if it receives additional funding through the state or grants. The office will be tasked with scanning social media for school threats, training school personnel to identify threats and evaluating school emergency plans.

## Political News and Notes

### Lead Abatement

This week Governor DeWine said that Ohio's Department of Medicaid has received federal approval for its plan to expand the state's lead abatement program. The program operates through the Children's Health Insurance Program, and will allow the Ohio Department of Health to work on hazard control projects in the homes of Medicaid-eligible children or pregnant women. This recently enacted state budget allocates \$5 million in each Fiscal Year to fund this effort.

### Fantasy Sports Regulation

On Wednesday the Ohio Casino Control Commission unanimously approved a number of new regulations for the operation of fantasy sports sites like DraftKings. The new regulations for operating in Ohio include a ban on using "autodrafts" to select players, so that the games are based on skill rather than luck. Additionally, it bans athletes, coaches, referees, and fantasy site employees from participating in any contests for public fantasy sports. The new rules take effect on September 3, and the commission does not feel that these new regulations will change the way that gamers use these sites.

### Voter Registration

This week Senators Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) and Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) introduced a bipartisan bill (Senate Bill 186) to create an automated voter registration system in the state. This differs from automatic voter registration, as automatic registration enrolls everyone to vote once they turn 18. Rather, this proposed automated system allows voters to update their registration information any time they visit the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. BMV clerks will ask for information that can be used to update an individual's voting address, and then the individual can approve it via an electronic system instead of using the current paper form. This legislation has the backing of Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose.

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

### **This Week's Bills**

**HB 321 - Sexual Abuse Education:** With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and inservice staff training in child sexual abuse prevention.

**SB 184 - Protection Order:** To enact the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act to allow family members, household members, and law enforcement officers to obtain a court order that temporarily restricts a person's access to firearms if that person poses a danger to themselves or others.

**SB 185 - Road Naming:** To designate a portion of State Route 550 in Washington County the "SGT Meredith L. Barnett Memorial Highway."

**SB 186 - Voter Registration:** To create a voter verification and registration system, to modify the requirements for the administration of the statewide voter registration database, and to allow electors to register as affiliated with a political party.

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