

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse  
September 13, 2019

## Around the Square

### House Sessions Cancelled

Speaker Larry Householder has cancelled all three House sessions that were scheduled for next week. There was an if-needed session scheduled for Tuesday, September 17 and session was also set for Wednesday, September 18 and Thursday, September 19. The House Republicans will instead be holding their caucus retreat. Several Senate committees are still scheduled to meet next week.

## Political News and Notes

### Death Penalty

This week a panel of three judges in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Ohio's execution method is constitutional. Ohio currently uses 500 milligrams of Midazolam, which is a paralytic agent, as well as potassium chloride and rocuronium bromide. Opponents have argued that this drug mixture causes effects similar to the feeling of being waterboarded, which would be considered cruel and unusual punishment. However, the appeals court said that while an inmate being executed may feel pain, there is not evidence that it is a level of pain so high that it is unconstitutional. In the U.S., inmates that appeal the use of one form of execution must also offer an alternative method which is readily "available, feasible, and readily implemented." This is complicated by Ohio law, which only allows for executions via lethal injections.

### State Report Cards

On Thursday the Ohio Department of Education released the 2018 - 2019 report cards for the state's school districts. The report cards grade schools and school districts in six areas based on state tests and college and career readiness measures. Each school and district is assigned an overall grade based on these factors. This year 31 districts earned an Overall A grade, whereas last year 28 districts earned an A. Only 4 districts earned an overall F grade, which is a significant decrease from the fourteen districts that received an F last year. 46.4% of districts received an overall grade of a C. Meanwhile, there continues to be debate in the legislature in regards to the fairness of the current state report card system.

### Vaping

The Ohio Department of Health announced that it will spend \$4 million to curb the use of vaping and e-cigarettes, which over \$3 million going toward creating and promoting resources for community groups and organizations to use to teach minors and others about the risks of vaping. About \$800,000 will pay for public education campaigns for young people and parents about vaping the the smoking age being raised to 21. This comes as more than 10 Ohioans have contracted severe lung illnesses from vaping.

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

## **This Week's Bills**

**HB 329 - Sun Lamp Tanning:** To prohibit the provision of sun lamp tanning services to individuals under age 18.

**HB 330 - Worker's Compensation:** Regarding charging workers' compensation experience in firefighter cancer claims.

**HB 331 - Campaign Treasurers:** To require an entity to include with the form to be filed with the Secretary of State when appointing a campaign treasurer a notarized signature of that treasurer acknowledging the appointment and to amend the version of section 3517.10 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2021, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date.

**HB 332 - Road Naming:** To designate a portion of State Route 66 in Defiance County as the "Purple Heart Trail of Defiance County" and to designate the bridge spanning the Maumee River that is part of State Route 66, in the City of Defiance, as the "Purple Heart Bridge."

**HB 333 - Student Records:** To permit public schools to enter into agreements with third parties to provide digital student record storage, management, and retrieval.

**SB 192 - State Historic Site:** To require the Ohio History Connection to designate Poindexter Village as a state historic site.

**SB 193 - License Plate:** To create the "A Kid Again" license plate.

**SB 194 - Voting Equipment Board:** To rename the Board of Voting Machine Examiners as the Board of Voting Equipment Examiners, to require the Board to approve voter registration systems for use in Ohio, and to require a board of elections to decide a protest against a candidate filing within ten days.

**SB 195 - Winery Licensure:** To revise the exemption from retail food establishment licensure that applies to certain wineries.

**SCR 5 - Healthcare Parity:** To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act.

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