

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
September 27, 2019

Around the Square

Statehouse Resignation

On Thursday, Representative Ryan Smith, the former Speaker of the Ohio House and current representative to the 93rd House district announced that he will resign from his position effective on October 3. He has accepted a position to lead Rio Grande Community College along with the private Rio Grande University. Representative Smith currently lives in Bidwell, Ohio and was the Speaker from June 2018 - December 2018, after the resignation of former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger. Smith was in his final term at the Ohio House. Ohio Office of Budget Management Director Kimberley Murnieks was tasked with leading the search for a new candidate once Executive Director David Williamson announced his June 1 retirement.

Facilities Commission Director

This week the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission voted unanimously to appoint Cheryl Lyman to serve as their next executive director, effective October 21. Lyman currently works as a fiscal officer at The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. She previously served on the now-defunct Ohio School Facilities Commission and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission in a number of roles, including chief of program services, from 2005 to 2013.

Political News and Notes

Capital Budget

Now that the state's biennial operating budget is over, state officials are beginning work on the capital budget. State Office of Budget Management Director Kimberly Murnieks issued guidance to state agencies, instructing them to begin developing their priorities for the next capital budget. Agent priorities are due by October 28. Based on past years, the capital budget will be introduced in early 2020 and passed by April 1. State officials expect the amount earmarked for community projects to be similar to the last bill two years ago, which amounted to about \$150 million for projects like local entertainment, parks, and sports facilities.

Flavored E-Cigarette Ban

Governor Mike DeWine has previously announced support for banning the sale of flavored e-cigarettes, but now Representative Tom Patton (R - Strongsville) has introduced a bill to do exactly that. The bill would create a committee to study the effects of vaping on health. So far, the Ohio Department of Health has identified 17 cases of severe lung illnesses, most likely caused by vaping. The department is still investigating an additional 22 cases that may be vaping related. Nationwide, about 500 people have been diagnosed with breathing illnesses as the result of vaping. Lawmakers in Michigan and New York have outlawed the sale of flavored e-cigarettes, a move that retailers say will put them out of business.

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

This Week's Bills

HB 341 - Addiction Treatment: Regarding the administration of drugs for addiction treatment.

HB 342 - Road Naming: To designate U.S. Route 52 in Adams County the "Adams County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway."

HB 343 - Water and Sewer Funding: To make an appropriation related to emergency water and sewer system funding.

HB 344 - License Plate: To create the "Cleveland Clinic Children's" license plate

HB 345 - Unclaimed Vehicles: To allow the owner of a towing service or storage facility to obtain certificates of title to unclaimed motor vehicles ordered into storage by law enforcement.

HB 346 - Flavored Vaping: To prohibit the sale of flavored electronic smoking devices and flavored vapor products and to establish a committee to study the health risks associated with such products.

HB 347 - Vaping Products: To place restrictions on retailers of vapor products.

HB 348 - Protection Orders: To prohibit a person subject to a protection order from purchasing or receiving a firearm for the duration of the order.

HB 349 - Firearm Magazines: To generally prohibit a person from possessing a large capacity magazine and to establish a large capacity magazine registry.

HB 350 - Animal Protection: To reenact provisions of law governing animal fighting and bestiality.

HB 351 - Rental Agreements: To allow a tenant to terminate a rental agreement if the tenant is a victim of a specified crime.

HCR 12 - Robocalls: To urge the Congress of the United States to grant additional authority to the Federal Communications Commission to stop unwanted robocalls and "call spoofing" and to urge the Commission to educate the public on how to report illegal telephone calls.

HCR 13 - Gender Representation: To encourage equitable and diverse gender representation on the boards and in senior management of Ohio companies and institutions.

HCR 14 - Day Designation: To designate September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Appreciation Day.

HCR 15 - SNAP Program: Urging Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to continue the historical policy of affording states flexibility in administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

SJR 2 - Constitutional Amendments: Application to the Congress of the United States for a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States that is limited to proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress.

SB 203- Firearm Transfers: To regulate the transfer of firearms at a gun show.

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