

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

October 11, 2019

## Around the Square

### Statehouse Appointment

Speaker Larry Householder announced this week that Cindy Abrams, a Harrison, Ohio Republican, has been selected by the house Majority Caucus to represent the 29th House District. The 29th House District includes portions of southwester Hamilton County. The seat was left vacant by the departure of Louis Blessing, who was appointed to a vacant Senate seat. Abrams previously served as a City Councilwoman for the City of Harrison and worked as a police officer for the Cincinnati Police from 1996 to 2003. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Indiana University.

## Political News and Notes

### Hospital Costs

This week the Ohio Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 97. SB 97, introduced by Senator Steve Huffman, requires hospitals to provide a cost estimate or price range of scheduled services to patients at their advance request, at least seven day in advance. Such estimates must include an estimate of out-of-pocket costs and information on if other costs, such as physician or anesthesiology services, will be billed separately. Plus, hospitals must notify patients if the hospital is not in their insurers network. Hospitals will also be required to maintain a website with the standard costs of common items and services, which is already required under federal law. This allows consumers to price shop. The legislation will now go to the House for consideration.

### Gun Reform

This week Governor Mike DeWine's office offered new proposals to address gun violence in Ohio. DeWine previously announced proposals such as red flag and laws and a requirement for background checks on all gun sales after the mass shooting in August that occurred in Dayton. However, those proposals have not made much progress in the legislature. DeWine's new proposals are intended to increase and improve background checks and works to ensure that those deemed to be a danger by a court do not possess a firearm. His "STRONG Ohio" plan would increase penalties for anyone who provides a gun to someone is legally prohibited from having one, and it requires that certain types of protections orders and arrest warrants be reflected in state and federal law enforcement databases in order to provide more accurate background checks.

### Taxes

This week the Ohio House passed Senate Bill 26, which includes a number of changes to Ohio taxes. The bill allows teachers to claim a tax deduction for classroom supplies, eliminates the sales tax on feminine hygiene products, and it reinstates a tax deduction that was eliminated for lawyers and lobbyists, although kept intact for other small businesses, in the operating budget.

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

## **This Week's Bills**

**HB 356 - Housing Court:** To grant the Cleveland Housing Court jurisdiction in any review or appeal of a final order of an administrative body that relates to a local building, health, or safety code.

**HB 357 - Housing Court:** To grant the Housing Division of the Cleveland Municipal Court concurrent jurisdiction with the Court of Common Pleas in criminal cases related to environmental pollution.

**HB 358 - Day Designation:** To designate the seventeenth day of August as "Eugene 'Gene' F. Kranz Day."

**HB 359 - License Plates:** To allow veterans of World War II to obtain World War II license plates without paying motor vehicle registration taxes and fees.

**HB 360 - Bottle Stations:** To require water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains in certain public school buildings.

**HB 361 - Day Designation:** To designate May 7 as "Ohio Tuskegee Airmen Day."

**HB 362 - Masked Intimidation:** To create the crime of masked intimidation, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

**HB 363 - Day Designation:** To designate October 11 as "Coming Out Day."

**HB 364 - Day Designation:** To designate February 13 as "Aortic Aneurysm Awareness Day."

**HB 365 - Chemical Dependency:** To revise the requirements for a chemical dependency counselor II license.

**HB 366 - Child Enticement:** To revise the general prohibition against criminal child enticement.

**HB 367 - School Counselors:** To require the Department of Education to make recommendations for a job description for school counselors and to designate at least one staff member as a school counselor liaison.

**SB 210 - Joint Filer Credit:** To change the computation of the income tax joint filer credit for taxable years beginning in or after 2021.

**SB 211- Campaign Finance:** To allow a candidate to use campaign funds to pay certain child care costs

**SB 212 - Property Taxation:** To authorize townships and municipal corporations to designate areas within which new homes and improvements to existing homes are wholly or partially exempted from property taxation.

**SB 213 - Veterans Service Commission:** To modify Veterans Service Commission Law and to mandate each county veterans service commission to establish a veterans service committee.

**SB 214 - License Plate:** To create the "National Council of Negro Women" license plate.

**SB 215 - Protected Communications:** To enact the Ohio Citizen Participation Act to provide protections to persons who engage in specified protected communications.

**SB 216 - Homestead Exemption:** To allow school districts to exempt recipients of the existing homestead exemption from additional school district taxes.

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