

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

November 1, 2019

## Around the Square

### Senate Hearings

In a move to increase transparency and accessibility for all Ohioans, Senate President Larry Obhof and Minority Leader Kenny Yuko announced this week that all Senate committees will stream online starting in January 2020. While many Senate committees are already streamed online, there are still a number of committees that are not. This move comes after the Ohio House began streaming all committee hearings in September of this year. Those wishing to watch Senate committees remotely can find them on [ohiochannel.org](http://ohiochannel.org).

## Political News and Notes

### Stand Your Ground

Last week a House Republican introduced “Stand Your Ground” legislation, which has been controversial both nationwide and in Ohio. This bill in particular eliminates the duty to retreat before using deadly force in a public space. A quarter of the Ohio House have signed on as cosponsors of the legislation. With such strong support from House Republicans, there has been some thought to the idea that Stand Your Ground legislation could be rolled into the “STRONG Ohio” legislation that is currently in the Senate and backed by Governor DeWine. The STRONG Ohio legislation aims to strengthen background checks and toughen penalties for crimes involving firearms. While DeWine says he supports the Stand Your Ground legislation being considered, he hopes that it and “STRONG Ohio” will be passed independently.

### Surprise Billing

A new piece of legislation to address surprise billing has been introduced in the Ohio House by Representative Adam Holmes. The bill’s focus is to eliminate unexpected charges to a patient that receives in-network care, which is an issue that most commonly arises when a patient goes to an in-network hospital but is treated by an out-of-network provider. A similar provision was included in the state’s biennial budget, but vetoed by Governor DeWine. Holmes legislation, if passed, would require healthcare providers to choose to be paid the in-network rate, the out-of-network rate if the patient’s insurance has out-of-network rates, or the federal Medicare rate. Finally, they can seek arbitration if they are not satisfied with the other options.

### Public Transit

Ohio public transit systems have been awarded \$105 million dollars in grant funding from the state and federal government. The Ohio Department of Transportation will be awarding \$5 million to the Ohio Transit Partnership Program for urban and rural public transit development. Additionally, at least \$4 million will go toward improving transit accessibility for the elderly and disabled.

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

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

**HB 382 - Municipal Taxes:** To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident.

**HB 383 - Awareness Month:** To designate March as "Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month."

**SB 229 - Day Designation:** To designate the second week of November as "Ohio Diabetes Awareness-Heart Connection Week."

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