

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

November 15, 2019

Around the Square

Statehouse Appointment

Last week, Rep. Scott Ryan, a Newark-area Republican, resigned from the 71st House District to take a position in the DeWine administration. This week, Mark Fraizer was selected to fill the vacancy and sworn into office on Wednesday. Representative Fraizer received the appointment, beating out six other applicants. Prior to his new role as a state representative he served as a member of Newark City Council since 2015. Fraizer has worked in the banking industry since 2011, and currently works as a senior project manager in IT at Huntington Bank.

Political News and Notes

Water Quality

On Thursday Governor DeWine announced major plans for the H2Ohio program aimed at curbing phosphorus runoffs that cause algal blooms in places such as Lake Erie. Under DeWine's new plan, farmers who voluntarily follow a 10-step phosphorus reduction program will receive an unspecified amount of money from the state based on the number of acres they farm. Farmers in the Maumee River watershed, Ohio's primary source of phosphorus, will be the only qualifying group initially. The program for such farmers will launch prior to Spring 2020, but DeWine has promised that he will expand the program to all Ohio farmers at a later time. Every farm that chooses to participate will receive an individualized nutrient management plan, and each county in the Maumee River watershed area will be given an overarching goal to hold them accountable. The results of this program will be released publicly. This plan has received backing from both agricultural and environmental groups.

Felony Strangulation

Senators Antonio and Kunze are pushing for the passage of their bipartisan bill, Senate Bill 146, to increase strangulation from a misdemeanor to a felony in domestic violence cases. The lawmakers feel this is crucial as strangulations one of the best indicators of a future homicide. Similar legislation passed the Senate last year but failed to make it out of the House.

Suicide Rates

This week the Ohio Department of Health released startling statistics regarding suicide in Ohio. Suicide deaths in Ohio climbed by almost 45 percent from 2007 to 2018, which the rate of suicide among those 10 - 24 increasing by 56 percent in the same time frame. Health Director Amy Acton noted that "suicide is the leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 10 - 14 and the second leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 15 - 34." Still, suicide rates are highest among those 45 - 64, which men having a suicide rate four times higher than women. Governor's DeWine's administration is calling the alarming increase in suicides a public health epidemic. They hope to address the rising suicide rate through RecoveryOhio, which aims to reduce factors that lead to suicide such as mental illness and substance abuse.

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

This Week's Bills

HB 403 - Prisoner Transfers: To eliminate the requirement that a sentencing court must assent to the transfer of a prisoner to a transitional control program.

HB 404 - Remote Meetings: To allow the board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to adopt a policy allowing the trustees to attend a board meeting via means of electronic communication.

HB 405 - Adoption Loans: To create the adoption linked deposit program.

HB 406 - Flag Designation: To designate the Honor and Remember flag as the symbol of Ohio's concern and commitment to honoring and remembering the lives of all fallen service members and their families, and to require that the flag be displayed at the statehouse in Columbus on Memorial Day.

HB 407 - Medical Accuracy: To establish provisions to be known as the "Clinician Integrity and Medical Accuracy Act."

HB 408 - Child Crisis Care: Regarding children's crisis care facilities.

HB 409 - Student Attendance: Regarding student attendance at internet- or computer-based community schools that are not dropout prevention and recovery schools.

HB 410 - Textbook Purchases: To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-secondary students.

HB 411 - License Plate: To establish the Rare Disease Advisory Council.

HB 412- Disease Council: To establish the Rare Disease Advisory Council.

HB 413 - Abortion: To create the capital offense of aggravated abortion murder and the offense of abortion murder.

HB 414 - License Plate: To create the "John F. Kennedy Catholic School" license plate.

HB 415 - Prostitution Proceeds: To prohibit a person from receiving proceeds of prostitution.

HR 266 - Life Skills: To urge the Ohio Department of Education to institute a mandatory four-year life skills program.

HCR 19 - Violence Act: To urge the U. S. Senate to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

SB 236 - Radiation Program: Regarding the Ohio Department of Health's Radiation Control Program and the regulation of radiation technology professionals.

SB 237 - Duty to Retreat: To enact the Ohio Duty to Retreat Act to modify the law regarding self-defense.

SB 238 - Art Therapists: To license and regulate art therapists and music therapists

SCR 8 - Daylight Savings: To urge Congress to enact The Sunshine Protection Act of 2019, which would permanently extend daylight saving time.

SCR 9 - Day Designation: Designating the fourteenth day of November as Cardiac Amyloidosis Recognition Day.

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