

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

April 28, 2017

Around the Square

House Unveils Substitute Budget Bill

The House unveiled the amended budget bill that cut all-funds spending by about \$2.5 billion over the biennium. With the announcement of the \$800 million revenue shortage, the House has cut General Revenue Fund spending by about \$363 million each year. Read the full text here: http://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/cm_pub_api/api/unwrap/chamber/132nd_ga/ready_for_publication/committee_docs/cmte_h_finance_1/submissions/cmte_h_finance_1_2017-04-25-1000_410/subbill.pdf

Obhof Announces Proposed Budget Cuts

In an announcement earlier this week, Senate President Larry Obhof said the Senate will likely further cut spending in the biennial budget bill. The House substitute budget bill was unveiled earlier this week that adjusts spending to account for the \$800 million revenue shortfall, however Obhof does not believe the bill closes the gap enough. The \$170 million invested in fighting the opioid crisis is being considered, but Obhof replied Senator Burke and other health committee Senators are looking at reforms and solutions that work rather than the cost. The House is expected to vote on the bill on May 3rd. This leaves the Senate with an even more abbreviated time with the bill than usual.

Bishoff Resigns

Representative Heather Bishoff resigned from her 20th District House seat on Monday saying she wants to focus on her small business and family. Her resignation was immediate, and the House minority caucus is expected to screen potential candidates to fill her position in the next few weeks. Bishoff was serving her third term in office, having been first elected to the House in 2012.

Political News and Notes

Commerce Department Releases First Quarter Economic Growth

The U.S. economy grew at its weakest rate in three years according to the Department of Commerce's first quarter report. The gross domestic product grew at 0.7 percent with consumer spending barely increasing and less business investment on inventories. Despite the slow pace, the labor market is near full employment and consumer confidence is near multi-year high, suggesting the slowdown in consumer spending might be temporary.

Ohio Unemployment Steady

The state unemployment rate for March remained at 5.1% with 294,000 total unemployed workers. These numbers remain the same as February despite a 4,100 job decrease, according to a report from the Department of Job and Family Services. In the past 12 months there has been a total increase of 9,000 unemployed workers. The U.S. unemployment rate for March was 4.5%.

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