

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

May 12, 2017

## Around the Square

### House Update

The House on Wednesday passed four bills and swore in a new member. Among these bills was the industrial commissions two-year budget. The commission will have \$51.4 million in FY 2018 and \$52.2 million in FY 2019. Other bills passed include House Bill 118, which prohibits the dismissal of a property tax complaint for inability to identify the property owner, and HB 101, which improves access to the generic version of EpiPens. The House Democratic caucus also unanimously approved Tavia Galonski to replace former Rep. Greta Johnson. Rep. Galonski, a former Summit County Juvenile Court magistrate, was sworn in by her uncle, Judge Randolph Baxter.

### Senate Update

The Senate began finance subcommittee meetings to go over provisions in the biennial budget this week. Senate President Larry Obhof in a press release announced a schedule for the budget hearings with an expected vote date of June 22nd. View the release here: <http://mailchi.mp/ohiosenate/release-senate-announces-budget-hearing-schedule?e=4c870075e>. The Senate Judiciary committee this week unanimously reported Senate Bill 4, which expands the list of expunge able offenses for human trafficking victims.

### ECOT Rally

The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow founder Bill Lager rallied on the statehouse steps on Tuesday to voice his concern over how e-schools have been treated in Ohio. The Department of Education and ECOT are currently in a lawsuit over ODE saying e-schools must show students are logging in to participate in 920 hours of learning opportunities each year. After winning the initial suit, ECOT is currently attempting to get the decision overturned in an appeals court.

## Political News and Notes

### Governor's Race

Two more candidates announced this week for the 2018 gubernatorial race. Secretary of State Jon Husted announced his candidacy to be the Republican nominee via twitter and a campaign video. View the video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB0Myap9\\_Xc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB0Myap9_Xc). Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley also announced her candidacy to be the Democratic nominee for Governor this week. View Whaley's campaign website here: <http://nanwhaleyforohio.com>.

### Controlling Board OKs I-670 Shoulder Proposal

The Controlling Board approved \$7 million for a project to allow drivers to use the shoulders on Interstate 670 in Columbus to relieve traffic congestion. This project is one part of a strategy from the Department of Transportation to relieve traffic along the route.

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