

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

May 19, 2017

## Around the Square

### House Update

The House approved the Bureau of Worker's Compensation biennial budget on Wednesday. House Bill 27 passed in a 65-29 vote. The \$566.5 million budget was passed after some debate over amendments related to illegal alien workers. None of the amendments were adopted. The House unanimously approved HB 38, which increases the penalties for violent offenses against law enforcement officers, first responders, and military members. The House also passed HB 115 and SB 24 which creates a voluntary registry of people with communication disorders and legislation that creates the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act, respectively.

### Senate Update

The Senate unanimously passed two bills this week. Senate Bill 4 expands expunge-able offense options for human trafficking victims and additionally allows victims of coerced prostitution to apply for intervention in lieu of a conviction. Currently, this provision exists for human trafficking victims but did not extend to victims of coerced prostitution. Also passed unanimously was Senate Bill 8 which requires the School Facilities Commission to create a program to assist districts in purchasing technology and making upgrades to infrastructure and security measures through a one to one match option for qualifying districts.

## Political News and Notes

### Secretary of State Race

Senator Frank LaRose announced his candidacy for Secretary of State this week in a video on his campaign website. View the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcgGz8S17SM&feature=youtu.be>. Rep Kathleen Clyde also announced her candidacy on Tuesday this week. View her campaign site here: <http://kathleencyde.com>. These two candidates join Rep Dorothy Pelanda, who announced in March, in the race for the seat.

### Unemployment Drops

Ohio's unemployment rate for April dropped slightly from 5.1% in March to 5%. According to the Department of Jobs and Family Services, the total number of jobs for the month also decreased. Nonagricultural wage and salary jobs decreased by 5,700 over April and unemployed workers also dropped by 5,000. The national unemployment rate for April was 4.4%.

### Property Tax Contributes to Underspending

The Office of Management and Budget in their monthly report showed property tax reimbursements accounted for the lion's share of the \$289.7 million underspending by the state in April. In total, the state was 10.3% below estimates on spending and 6.4% below revenue estimates for the month. View the full report here: [http://www.obm.ohio.gov/Budget/monthlyfinancial/doc/2017-05\\_mfr.pdf](http://www.obm.ohio.gov/Budget/monthlyfinancial/doc/2017-05_mfr.pdf)

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