

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

June 16, 2017

Around the Square

Budget Update

As the omnibus amendment deadline came to a close Thursday afternoon, the Senate Finance Committee is expected to vote out the budget bill next Tuesday, June 20. The vote on the Senate floor is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 21.

Reducing Setbacks Sparks Opposition

On Thursday, nearly 20 residents from Northeast Ohio testified in front of the Senate Finance Committee with opposition of an amendment sponsored by Sen. Cliff Hite that would return wind turbine setbacks to pre-2014 levels. The witnesses testified that they are not satisfied with the current setbacks that are already shorter than those in some surrounding states. Supporters of the amendment shared a study that projected Ohio to potentially gain \$2 billion in capital investments, 13,000 jobs and more than \$660 million in tax payments to local governments and schools.

Candidates Interview to Replace Bishoff

House Democrats have interviewed nine different candidates to replace former Rep Heather Bishoff's 20th District seat. Those candidates include Dorian Wingard, Tina Maharath, Naomi Sealey, Katherine Chipps, Alexander Ameter, Leo Almeida, Erica Crawley, Michael Simpkins, and Richard D. Brown. Members are hopeful to fill the vacant seat by the end of this month.

Political News and Notes

State Unemployment Drops

Ohio's state unemployment rate dropped slightly in the month of May from 5% to 4.9%. The Department of Jobs and Family Services released their report today and added the state saw a boost in total employment for the month at 5,515,600, a 6,300 increase. Additionally, the number of total unemployed dropped 2,000 to 286,000. View the report: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/RELEASES/unemp/201706/index.stm>

Supreme Court Upholds Commercial Tax

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday let stand a Missouri appeals court decision that upheld Ohio's claim against Diversified Ingredients, a company that produces pet food ingredients. Diversified does not have Ohio workers and is not registered to work in Ohio, but sells products to customers who direct the delivery of Diversified products to manufacturing plants in Ohio, and therefore subject to taxes. In addition to the U.S. Supreme Court decision, last year the Ohio Supreme Court ruled 5-2 to uphold this Commercial Activities Tax and collect on companies such as Diversified.

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