

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

June 23, 2017

## Around the Square

### Budget Update

The Senate on Wednesday passed HB 49 with a vote of 24-8. The bill now heads to conference committee, where members of both the House and Senate will wade through the amendments and produce a final legislative bill for Governor Kasich's approval. Conference Committee Chairman Rep Ryan Smith commented he expects the committee to issue its report either Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Other committee members include Rep Scott Ryan, Senator Scott Oelslager, Senator Gayle Manning, Rep Jack Cera and Senator Michael Skindell.

### Workers' Comp Heads to Senate Floor

The Workers' Compensation budget, HB 27, cleared Senate Committee on Tuesday and will head to the Senate floor for a final vote. The \$581 million budget was reported from the Senate Insurance Committee by a vote of 10-3. Senate changes included removing a House provision regarding illegal aliens and adding funding from the State Insurance Fund for several initiatives.

### Kasich Names Himes Director

Governor John Kasich officially made Lance Himes the director of the Ohio Department of Health. Himes has been serving as interim director since March. Prior to his directorship, Himes worked as an attorney for the department for over 13 years, specializing in environmental health and public health compliance issues. He succeeds Richard Hodges, who resigned from his post earlier this year.

## Political News and Notes

### Revised Revenue Update Released

The Legislative Service Commission and the Office of Management and Budget announced to the Conference Committee on Thursday reports that confirm the spending shortfall projected leading into the budget for FY 2018-19. LSC Director Mark Flanders reported tax revenue is projected to come in under expected by \$1.02 billion, and the state's Medicaid costs will be \$59 million higher over the biennium. OBM Director Tim Keen said tax revenues are expected to be short by \$949 million and Medicaid spending to be \$138 million more over the next two years. Analysts additionally project a deficit on tax revenue for the current fiscal year. Director Keen in his testimony added the state will still end FY 2017 in the black regardless that tax revenues lag hundreds of millions of dollars.

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