

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

October 13, 2017

## Around the Square

### Infant Mortality Data

The total number for Ohio's death rate among infants rose in 2016, however sleep-related deaths declined. The total number of children deaths before their 1st birthday rose from 1,005 in 2015 to 1,024 in 2016 and a 22% decline in sleep-related incidents this year, according to a report by the Ohio Department of Health. View the full report report from ODH here: <http://bit.ly/2kMfgf7>.

### House Introduces Unemployment Compensation Plan

House leaders on Wednesday introduced HB 382 to reassess the state's unemployment compensation system. Additionally, the House plans on including a resolution, HJR 4, to allow a constitutional amendment for the state to issue bonds to pay off any debt garnered if money is needed. Rep Schuring, sponsor of the bill, commented he hopes the bill will move by the end of the year, but acknowledged it may take some time for both sides to agree. The current proposal has employees paying 50.5% to employers' 49.5% through 2030.

### Kasich Announces ODOT Plan

Governor John Kasich announced DriveOhio, a division that will be in the Ohio Department of Transportation, will focus on expanding and preparing the state to be the nation's leader in autonomous vehicle technology. Jim Barna, ODOT's chief engineer and assistant director of transportation policy, commented the intention is for DriveOhio to provide autonomous vehicle advancement in a similar way that JobsOhio does for overall economic development.

## Political News and Notes

### Brown Campaign

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown will report \$8.3 million cash in hand for his third quarter filing, taking in more than \$2.6 million in this period alone. The incumbent has officially doubled his total amount from the 2012 election cycle and his campaign announced this is the second time the campaign has hit a record amount for an off cycle year. The 2018 election will have Brown facing up against either U.S. Treasurer Josh Mandel or businessman Mike Gibbons.

### Casino, Racino Revenue

Ohio's casinos and racinos revenue had little change from this month to last month according to revenue reports from the Casino Control Commission. Casinos brought in \$67.1 million this month, compared to \$66.7 million last month. Racinos brought in \$79.3 million, less than a \$300,000 increase from September but an almost \$7 million increase from September of last year. Read the full report here: <http://bit.ly/2wTY8xV>

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