

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

November 17, 2017

Around the Square

Senate Bill 8 Passes

A conference committee was held to pass SB 8, which addresses budget fixes. The Senate unanimously approved the measure. The amendments adopted by conferees include several relating to education issues, sponsor ratings for charter schools, and small businesses ability to take advantage of a previously enacted tax cut, among others. The legislation still needs House approval, which is expected to take place after Thanksgiving break.

Senate Approves Abortion Ban

The full Senate on Wednesday approved SB 164 that imposes penalties on physicians who perform abortions on patients who have been informed about a possible Down syndrome diagnosis through pre-natal testing. All Democrats and several Republicans voted against the measure as it passed 20-12. This bill serves as a companion to HB 214, which cleared the House earlier this month.

Goodman Resigns

Rep Wes Goodman was asked to resign by Speaker Cliff Rosenberger following allegations of "inappropriate behavior" in his office. Goodman is the second Ohio lawmaker to resign for inappropriate behavior, the other being former Senator Cliff Hite. On Monday, Senate Chief of Staff Michael Premo also stepped down due to similar allegations. Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko did not go into detail regarding the allegation to maintain the privacy of those that came forward.

Political News and Notes

Patton Drops Out

Rep Tom Patton announced on Tuesday he plans to drop his candidacy for U.S. Rep Jim Renacci's vacating seat and instead will focus on reelection for his current Ohio House seat. He disclosed family priorities as his reason for exiting the race. Other candidates include Rep Christina Hagan and Anthony Gonzales, a business executive and former football player.

Cordray Resigns, Rumored Gubernatorial Run

Richard Cordray, former attorney general and state treasurer, announced his resignation from the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Many believe this announcement proceeds Cordray's entrance in the 2018 run for Governor. Although there has been no confirmation, Cordray will potentially be the fifth Democratic candidate for the nomination. Other candidates include Senator Joe Schiavoni, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, former lawmakers Connie Pillich and Betty Sutton, as well as Supreme Court Justice Bill O'Neill, but only if Cordray fails to enter.

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