

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

December 1, 2017

Around the Square

House Concurs with Budget Corrections

The House on Wednesday approved conference committee changes to Senate Bill 8, which made funding fixes and adjustments to the budget. The bill was approved 87-4 with Finance Chairman Ryan Smith commending provisions such as \$7.4 million in additional state aid to schools to balance out tangible personal property tax revenues losses, a sales tax exemption for prescription eye products to begin in 2019, and a version of the Ohio Rural Jobs Act.

Fantasy Gaming Clears Senate

The Senate approved House Bill 132 on Wednesday, which defines fantasy sport contests in line with federal law and gives the Casino Control Commission the authority to enforce the rules of the industry. The bill passed the Senate 25-4 and now heads back to the House to concur with the changes made in the Senate Finance Committee.

McColley Replaces Hite

Rep Rob McColley has been selected to replace former Senator Cliff Hite for the 1st Senate District. The caucus announced the Senate Republican screening committee's decision on Tuesday, and McColley is expected to officially assume the position in early December. With now two vacancies in the House, Speaker Rosenberger set a December 15th deadline for interested applicants to make their interest known. Rep Kirk Schuring will chair the screening committees for candidates and a selection will be made likely in mid-January for both seats.

Political News and Notes

Governor's Race

Attorney General Mike DeWine and Secretary of State Jon Husted have joined forces and will be running a joint ticket for the Republican nomination for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, respectively. The announcement came yesterday with stops in both Dayton and Columbus. Candidates Lt. Governor Mary Taylor and U.S. Rep Jim Renacci are continuing their campaigns for the Republican nomination for Governor.

Former Senate President Harris Passes Away

Bill Harris passed away this week after a several month battle against cancer. A U.S. Marine veteran, Harris worked as an auto dealer before entering a lengthy political career where he serves as Senate president from 2005 until 2010. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Harris family during this difficult time.

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