

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
June 1, 2018

Around the Square

New License Requirements

Ohio driver's licenses are getting an upgrade in order to comply with federal security regulations. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles will be offering compliant licenses in addition to standard licenses beginning on July 2nd. Obtaining a new license will require additional documentation that proves an individual's legal name, date of birth, social security number and residency information. The enhanced license will allow travelers to use the new ID to fly commercially and access federal properties. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has started early education campaigns in order to minimize issues before the document deadline of October 2020.

House Speaker Update

Another week passes without the election of a Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives. Speaker Pro Tem Kirk Schuring announced on Tuesday that members of the House had until 5 p.m. today to vote on a permanent speaker or enact a rule change that would allow the Speaker Pro Tem to lead until the next formal election. The proposed rule change was drafted by Schuring, Ohio Republican Party Chair Jane Timken, and Rep. Larry Householder. Supporters of Republican nominee Rep. Ryan Smith and rival Rep. Andy Thompson are calling for an immediate vote. Most Democrats have refused to support any Republican nominee with the intent to nominate Minority Leader Fred Strahorn, but have emphasized the need to elect a Speaker as soon as possible.

Political News and Notes

SMART Program Displays Initial Success

In a report released on Wednesday by Attorney General Mike DeWine, the Ohio Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma (START) program has shown initial signs of success in its mission to assist Ohio families dealing with opioid abuse. Since its launch in November of 2017, 47 families and over 125 individuals have been served by the program. The program includes trauma screening, counseling services and expedited drug treatment opportunities, with an emphasis on supporting children whose parents and families have fallen victim to opioid addiction. The Attorney General's office expects to see the first round of families graduate from the program in the coming weeks.

Ohio's Energy Report

Some of Ohio's largest corporations were joined on Tuesday by researchers and other stakeholders to issue a report on the state of Ohio's energy future. The group, composed of companies including JPMorgan Chase, Proctor & Gamble, Whirlpool and GEM Energy, stated recommendations for the state to capitalize on clean energy opportunities by utilizing clean energy and innovative technology. The "Powering Ohio" report is meant to be a non-partisan plan to develop sustainable, collaborative, efficient energy policies between political, business and investment leaders. The report estimates that Ohio could see \$25 million in investments and 20,000 new jobs with the implementation of several forward-thinking policies.

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