

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
June 29, 2018

Around the Square

Payday Lending Bill Delayed

The Ohio Senate has delayed a vote on payday lending laws until session reconvenes after summer. The bipartisan bill aims to restrict loans to 28 percent and limit loans to \$500, with fees and interest not exceeding a certain portion of the borrower's monthly income. Senate President Larry Obhof stated that the Senate Finance Committee needed more time to consider the complex issue. The committee is also considering an amendment by Sen. Matt Huffman that would cap rates and limit the total allowable loan amount, which would dramatically alter the legislation.

Voting Machines Get Approval

The Senate sent legislation to the Governor's office on Wednesday approving \$114.5 million to update voting equipment. The funds will be distributed to all 88 county boards of elections. Most of the money will be spent replacing old voting machines, and the changes are presumed to be in place by the 2020 presidential election.

Political News and Notes

Supreme Court Recap

Major judicial changes were made this week at the federal level. Justice Anthony Kennedy, a critical swing vote in cases dealing with gay rights, abortion and the death penalty, announced his retirement on Wednesday. This gives President Trump the opportunity to nominate his second Supreme Court justice. Wednesday also saw the Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME*, a decision stating that government workers who are not union members can not be required to help pay for collective bargaining. A day earlier, the Supreme Court voted along partisan lines to uphold the Trump administration's travel ban on immigrants from seven different countries.

DeWine Outlines Child care Policy

As part of his gubernatorial plan, Attorney General Mike DeWine announced new child care policy initiatives to advance the health and wellness of Ohio children earlier this week. The candidate for governor aims to make children his top priority through policies including expanding early education, reforming foster care and increasing home visits. The policy proposals will likely cost around \$200 million per year and require DeWine, if elected, to work strategically with a hawkish legislature to balance the budget.

Session Schedules Released

The Ohio House and Senate released their session schedules for the rest of the year following summer recess. The Senate will officially resume in late September with the intention of finishing all business for the year by mid-December. The recently released schedule also includes sessions in July and August if needed for additional consideration of legislation. The Ohio House also released its session schedule, with a plan to resume business from mid-November to late December. Additional session dates in September may be added as needed.

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