

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse  
July 27, 2018

## Around the Square

### Lending Bill Sent to the Governor

Governor John Kasich has indicated that he will likely sign the payday lending bill sent to his desk earlier this week by the Ohio House of Representatives. The House held a final vote on Tuesday, passing the legislation 61-24 and concurring with changes made by the Senate earlier this year. The governor's signature would conclude the bill's 16-month journey through the Ohio legislature and begin stricter rules surrounding payday lending.

## Political News and Notes

### Early Childhood Report Released

A report released on Wednesday by Groundwork Ohio details socioeconomic factors in early education and suggestions for investment. Titled "Ohio Early Childhood Race and Rural Equity Report 2018," the study finds poverty, race and geography to be major factors in determining long-term educational success. The research suggests a solution of increasing investment in early childhood education, which currently makes up 6.3% of the state education budget. The report is part of a two-year project that includes stakeholder education around the state and bipartisan solutions for education funding.

### Court Ruling on ECOT Claims

The Franklin County Court of Common Pleas ruled earlier this week that the state will be able to prosecute financial claims concerning the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT). The decision, handed down by Judge Michael Holbrook, gives authorization to assign claims ECOT has against third parties and potential debtors to the state. This grants Attorney General Mike DeWine permission to pursue claims and potentially recover the \$60 million that the online school owes the state. The ruling also detailed guidelines for recovered funds as well as claims that cannot be assigned to the state.

### House Passes Veterans Hospital Training Bill

On Tuesday, members of the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass Ohio Representative Marcy Kaptur's bill to encourage training at Veterans Administration hospitals. The measure creates clinical training and observation opportunities for medical students who provide health care services for veterans. Representative Kaptur hopes that the bill will expand health provider options and address the shortage of professionals within the field. After passing the House, the bill must be introduced and passed by the Senate.

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