

# Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse  
September 14, 2018

## Around the Square

### Proposed Cybersecurity Force

State Senator Frank LaRose introduced legislation on Thursday that creates the Ohio Cyber Reserve Force, a volunteer and civilian arm of the Ohio National Guard focused on protecting critical infrastructure. The reserve force would be the first of its kind in the nation and function as a safeguard against a potential attack on elections infrastructure. The force would be under the direction of the adjutant general but would be called into action by the governor. LaRose's opponent for Secretary of State, Representative Kathleen Clyde, stated that the bill does not do enough to protect the integrity of elections.

## Political News and Notes

### Third Frontier Funds and Awards

The Ohio Third Frontier Commission has around \$189 million still available in project funding from the initial allotted \$1.14 billion. The commission has approved 10 proposals so far, including technology and start-ups funds for the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati's Children's Hospital. At a meeting on Wednesday, the commission decided not to fund proposed budgets for the Entrepreneurial Services Provider program, instead giving the applicants additional feedback and time to work out a solution. The Commission also awarded a dozen prizes to winner's of the Opioid Technology Challenge, an initiative supporting developments and projects aimed at solving the opioid addiction crisis in Ohio.

### School Report Cards

The Ohio Department of Education released the 2017-2018 Ohio School Report Cards on Thursday. This year's report cards included a new overall letter grading system for districts and individual schools as a snapshot of performance. The new changes drew some criticism from both sides, with legislators stating that the changes were mostly visual, did not go far enough to portray educational achievement and failed to account for disparities between school districts of different socio-economic makeups. The State Board of Education is working to review further changes and use the report cards to analyze and identify schools and districts in need of help.

### Medical Marijuana Update

The initial Ohio program rollout for medical marijuana has been delayed several months from its original start-date of September 8. However, progress has been made with the addition of services and distribution of licenses to growers. This past week 71 new physicians were added to the list of eligible doctors able to recommend medical marijuana, bringing the total to almost 300 certified. State Auditor Dave Yost has stated he still has concerns with inconsistent standards and data entry errors in the application process. The State Board of pharmacy is working to remedy all delays and hopes to have the program fully accessible by the end of the year.

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