

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

July 12, 2019

Around the Square

State Budget

With the interim budget expiration looming, there is doubt as to whether or not a complete budget will be passed by this upcoming Wednesday, July 17. Ohio House Speaker Householder said that in order for a budget to pass by Wednesday, the House would need to see some negotiations and movement on the Senate's part, while Senate President Obhof and Governor DeWine remain more optimistic that a full operating budget will be passed by Wednesday. One major complicating factor for the budget is shifts from both chambers regarding the small business tax break. The Senate now wants to keep the tax break entirely after scaling it back last month and the House proposed an amendment to take the tax break away from service oriented businesses, such as attorneys, accountants, and consultants. These changes would lead to a change in state revenue, making it difficult to calculate the tax effects with the remaining time.

Political News and Notes

State Takeovers

The state system for taking over school districts that have consistently performed poorly has been a hotly debated issue in the legislature, but the fight is now heading to the Ohio Supreme Court. Oral arguments will begin in October for the justices to determine the constitutionality of the state law (House Bill 70) that shifted operational control of poor-performing school districts from locally elected boards to unelected CEOs. Youngstown, the first district affected by House Bill 70, asked the Ohio Supreme Court to consider the case after an appeals court sided with the state, which argues that the law is constitutional. However, the legislature has been weighing many proposals within the budget and through separate legislation to change or remove the ability for the state to takeover poorly performing districts.

Traffic Cameras

In this year's transportation budget, lawmakers added a provision intended to curtail the use of traffic cameras but many cities, such as Toledo, said that the requirement that traffic camera tickets go through municipal court would cost their cities millions in filing fees. In addition, the provision requires cities to file an annual report with the state detailing the number of civil fees collected using camera, and then the state deducts that amount from each cities Local Government Fund allocation. Toledo has asked for an injunction, and at least one city, Trotwood, has stopped using their cameras until the issue makes it way through Ohio's courts. Both those for and against these provisions expect the matter will ultimately have to be resolved in Ohio's Supreme Court.

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

Bills Introduced This Week

HB 310 - School Bullying: To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and colleges.

SB 173 - Awareness Month: To designate September as "Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness Month."

SB 174 - Day Designation: To designate September 7 as "Ohio Grateful Patient Day."

SB 175 - Construction Contractors: To license residential only construction contractors and to make changes to the law regulating specialty construction contractors.

SR 303 - Health Coverage: To reaffirm the Ohio Senate's support of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

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