

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

November 8, 2019

Around the Square

Statehouse Resignation

On Wednesday Representative Scott Ryan, a Newark-area Republican, announced that he is resigning from his 71st House District seat, effective this upcoming Tuesday. He is leaving to become the executive director of Ohio Third Frontier, which is a position within the Development Services Agency. Ryan has been a member of the Ohio House and previously served as the House Finance Chair. A replacement for the seat will be recommended by a House screening committee.

Political News and Notes

State Revenue

The State of Ohio's tax revenue for October outpaced analysts' expectations, with tax receipts totaling just over \$2 billion. That is \$25.6 million or 1.3% higher than was predicted based on the Office of Budget Management's (OBM) preliminary revenue numbers. Ohio's tax revenue has consistently outpaced analyst's predictions in 2019. For the current fiscal year-to-date, Ohio's tax receipts have outpaced projections by \$97 million or 1.3 percent. However, personal income tax revenue has been lower than predicted due to tax payers who are receiving tax refunds after filing for an extension from the initial April due date. Such revenue is 2.8% or \$20.6 million below estimates. Meanwhile, overall sales and use tax receipts are up by \$82.3 million or 2.3% compared to estimates, with such taxes exceeding predictions by 5.7% or \$51.4 million in October alone.

Tyler's Law

This week Governor Mike DeWine officially signed "Tyler's Law." This legislation is named in honor of Tyler Jarrell, an 18-year-old Marine recruit who was killed on an amusement ride at the Ohio State Fair in 2017 after the ride malfunctioned and broke apart due to a corroded steel support beam. The bill strengthens safety inspection standards, defines qualifications for ride inspectors, and outlines the responsibilities of ride owners.

Voting Rights

On Wednesday, a federal judge ruled that Ohio's process for incarcerated, pre-trial individuals is unconstitutional. Currently, state law allows voters in hospitals to request absentee ballots until 3 p.m. the day of an election, while only allowing those that are in jail, but have not yet been convicted of a crime, until noon the day of an election to request an absentee ballot. This is an issue that must be fixed by the state legislature, but until then, the judge ordered that county board of election's must accept application until 3 p.m. In such cases, as with those hospitalized, an election official from both major parties must hand deliver ballots to prisoners and then return them to the county board of election. This is estimated to effect roughly 1,000 eligible voters each election.

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This Week's Bills

HB 384 - Traffic Controls: To permit a local resident, neighborhood association, or neighborhood organization to request the erection of a stop sign at an intersection and to support a request for a lower prima-facie speed limit on certain streets and highways.

HB 385 - Insulin Cost Report: To require the Attorney General to investigate insulin pricing and prepare and submit a report.

HB 386 - Truck Driver Students: To establish the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid program and to make an appropriation.

HB 387 - Insulin Cost-Sharing: To cap cost-sharing for prescription insulin drugs.

HB 388 - Out-of-Network Care: Regarding out-of-network care.

HB 389 - Nonprofit Fundraisers: To allow a nonprofit organization to give away alcohol for fundraising purposes under specified circumstances and to declare an emergency.

HB 390 - Health Insurance: Regarding health insurance premiums and benefits.

HB 391 - Minimum Wage: To increase the state minimum wage to ten dollars and fifty-five cents per hour beginning January 1, 2021.

HB 392 - Road Naming: To designate a portion of U.S. Route 22 in Warren County the "Lester and Mary Oeder Memorial Highway."

HB 393- State Beverage: To make apple cider instead of tomato juice the official beverage of the state.

HB 394 - Military License Plate: To allow an applicant for a military license plate to present to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, as evidence of an honorable discharge, a county-issued veterans identification card in lieu of a DD-214 form issued by the United States Department of Defense.

HB 395 - Absentee Ballots: To require the Secretary of State to prepay postage for the return of completed absent voter's ballots.

HB 396 - Pharmacy Benefit Managers: To impose requirements on pharmacy benefit managers.

HB 397- Parental Rights: Regarding parental right of disposition for a deceased adult child.

HB 398 - Election Day Leave: To establish the day of each general election as a legal holiday for which government employees receive paid leave.

HB 399 - Cosmetologists/Barbers: To revise the law governing the regulation of cosmetologists and barbers.

HB 400 - Tax Credit: To authorize a nonrefundable income tax credit for the retail sale of high-ethanol blend motor fuel.

HB 401 - Wind Regulations: To require inclusion of safety specifications in wind farm certificate applications, to modify wind turbine setbacks, and to permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm certificates.

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HB 402 - Interior Designers: To create the Ohio Interior Design Examiners Board to certify and regulate interior designers.

HCR 18 - Diabetes Screening: To urge support of the "Screen at 23" campaign regarding the screening of Asian Americans for type 2 diabetes

SB 230- Day Designation: To enact section 5.2521 of the Revised Code to designate April 26 as "Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) Day."

SB 231- Insulin Cost Report: To require the Attorney General to investigate insulin pricing and prepare and submit a report.

SB 232 - Insulin Cost-Sharing: To cap cost-sharing for prescription insulin drugs.

SB 233 - Election Candidacies: To allow a primary candidate to become a candidate at the general election by being appointed to fill a ballot vacancy.

SB 234 - Wind Regulations: To require inclusion of safety specifications in wind farm certificate applications, to modify wind turbine setbacks, and to permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm certificates.

SB 235- Hair Styling: Regarding the regulation of natural hair styling and boutique services.

SCR 7- Diabetes Screening: To urge support of the "Screen at 23" campaign regarding the screening of Asian Americans for type 2 diabetes.

SR 406 - Day Designation: To designate April 26, 2020 as Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) Day.

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