

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

December 6, 2019

Around the Square

Senates Races

While the filing deadline for the Ohio Senate primary is not until December 18, the race is already heating up with Democrats hoping to unseat incumbent Republicans and Republicans looking to unseat incumbent Democrats. Democrats are targeting suburban areas where they picked up many seats in the last election. Currently Senator Kunze (R- Hilliard) has 3 Democratic opponents, but Republicans feel strongly that her name recognition and track record make her seat a strong hold. Meanwhile, Republicans feel that they have a strong opportunity to win the 32nd district, which is currently represented by Senator Sean O'Brien. Financially, the Republican Senate Campaign Committee has the upper hand with \$1.465 million on hand compared to \$153,484 for Ohio Senate Democrats.

Political News and Notes

Plastic Bag Ban

This week Governor DeWine came out in opposition to House Bill 242 and its companion, Senate Bill 222. Both of these bills prohibit municipalities and counties from enacting laws that ban single-use plastic bags by grocery stores and other retailers. Cuyahoga County and the City of Bexley have passed such laws in order to cut down on the environmental harm caused by single-use plastics. Proponents of the legislation say that local bans create a patchwork of regulations across the state, which they feel would be difficult for businesses to navigate when located in multiple locales. Opponents to the legislation, along with Governor DeWine, say that this legislation further diminishes the home-rule authority awarded to local governments through Ohio's constitution.

Ohio Preterm Births

This week March of Dimes released a report card on preterm births in Ohio in 2018. According to the report more than one in ten babies born in Ohio in 2018 were born prematurely. Ohio's overall rate of preterm births for the year was 10.3 percent compared to a national average of just over 10 percent. When broken down by race, disparities emerge showing that black Ohioans have a preterm birth rate of 14.2 percent, while Asian and Pacific Islander Americans had the lowest rate at 8.7 percent. Apart from negative health outcomes, there are major financial consequences as the average preterm birth costs \$62,000.

General Motors - Lordstown

On Thursday General Motors and LG Chem, a South Korean chemical firm, announced a \$2.3 billion partnership to produce electric vehicle battery cells in northeast Ohio. The companies plan to break ground on a new site in Lordstown next year, and they expect that this facility will bring 1,100 jobs to Ohio. The announcement of this new plant comes nearly a year after General Motors decided to close its Lordstown vehicle assembly plant. The closing of that plant led to the elimination of around 1,600 jobs from that area.

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

This Week's Bills

HB 432 - Occupational Licensing: To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances.

HB 433 - Medicaid Managed Care: To require Medicaid managed care organizations to engage in a competitive selection process when contracting with a laboratory services provider vendor.

HB 434 - Month Designation: To modify the laws governing the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board and to designate May as "Maternal Mortality Awareness Month."

HB 435 - Health Care: To enact the "Save Our Mothers Act" for the purpose of establishing continuing education requirements for birthing facility personnel and an initiative to improve birth equity, reduce peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and address implicit bias in the healthcare system.

HB 436 - Dyslexia: With regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

HB 437 - Homestead Exemption: To allow an enhanced homestead exemption for surviving spouses of uniformed service members who die in the line of duty or whose death is otherwise service connected.

HB 438 - Road Naming: To designate a portion of State Route 725 in the municipal corporation of Miamisburg as "Mayor Dick Church, Jr. Way."

SB 248- Storm Shelters: To extend until November 30, 2022, the moratorium on the building code requirement for storm shelters for school construction projects.

SB 249 - Adult Changing Stations: To enact Matthew's Law, requiring public buildings to have at least one rest room facility with an adult changing station and authorizing an income tax credit for installation.

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