

NAIOP

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

NAIOP OF OHIO

NAIOP Weekly Legislative Report
Prepared by: Law Offices of Matthew G. Kallner
Report created on April 18, 2011

Supported Bills

- HB1** **JOBOSHIO (DUFFEY M)** To authorize the Governor to create JobsOhio, a nonprofit economic development corporation.
- Current Status:* 2/18/2011 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Eff. 2/18/2011
- All Bill Status:* 2/17/2011 - Sent to Governor for Signature
2/16/2011 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; CONCURRED 60-35
2/16/2011 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 31-2
2/16/2011 - Bills for Third Consideration
2/16/2011 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, Senate Finance, (Fourth Hearing)
2/15/2011 - Senate Finance, (Third Hearing)
2/9/2011 - Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)
2/8/2011 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
2/8/2011 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
2/1/2011 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 59-37
2/1/2011 - Bills for Third Consideration
1/27/2011 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Finance and Appropriations, (First Hearing)
1/26/2011 - Re-Referred to Committee
1/26/2011 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House State Government and Elections, (Second Hearing)
1/25/2011 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House State Government and Elections, (First Hearing)
1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House State Government and Elections
1/11/2011 - Introduced
- HB10** **REMEDICATION OF CONTAMINATED SITE (SEARS B)** To authorize refundable tax credits for the completion of a voluntary action to remediate a contaminated site and for the return of such sites to productive use, and to exempt persons through 2017 who have issued covenants not to sue under the Voluntary Action Program from certain fees and penalties for one year after the issuance of such a covenant.
- Current Status:* 4/13/2011 - House Veteran's Affairs, (First Hearing)
- All Bill Status:* 3/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)
2/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
2/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
2/9/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
2/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

1/26/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
1/11/2011 - Introduced

HB17 **TAX CREDIT FOR HIRING UNEMPLOYED** (BAKER N) To authorize a \$2,400 income tax withholding credit for an employer that hires and employs a previously unemployed individual.

Current Status: 1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

All Bill Status: 1/11/2011 - Introduced

HB18 **TAX CREDIT - EXPANDING BUSINESSES** (BAKER N) To authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for a business that increases payroll and expands into a vacant facility.

Current Status: 2/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 2/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)

2/9/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)

2/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

1/26/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

1/11/2011 - Introduced

Oppose

HB50 **TYPE-II ANNEXATION** (SNITCHLER, T) To require that a political subdivision owner be included in determining the number of owners needed to sign a petition for an expedited type-II annexation.

Current Status: 3/1/2011 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 2/22/2011 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing)

2/15/2011 - House Local Government, (First Hearing)

2/1/2011 - Referred to Committee House Local Government

1/26/2011 - Introduced

Monitoring

HB134 **CAPITAL GAINS INVESTMENTS** (SCHURING K) To reduce the income tax rate on capital gains reinvested in Ohio-based investments.

Current Status: 3/30/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)

All Bill Status: 3/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

3/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

3/2/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

3/1/2011 - Introduced

SB89 **LABOR REQUIREMENTS** (JORDAN K) To prohibit state agencies from requiring or prohibiting certain labor requirements as a condition of performing public works and prohibit the appropriations of state funds for public works when political subdivisions require or prohibit certain labor.

Current Status: 3/8/2011 - Referred to Committee Senate Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review

All Bill Status: 2/23/2011 - Introduced

SB115 **PROPERTY SALE GAINS** (KEARNEY E) To exempt from income taxation any gains from the sale of Ohio property used in a trade or business and held for at least two years.

Current Status: 3/24/2011 - Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development, (First Hearing)

All Bill Status: 3/15/2011 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways & Means &

Bills Introduced Since 4/11/2011

- HB192** **NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY LAW** (COLEY II W) To modify the New Community Authority Law.
- HB193** **VETERANS' ORGANIZATION PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION** (UECKER J) To eliminate the rental income limit that is a condition for the veterans' organization property tax exemption.
- HB194** **ELECTION LAW** (MECKLENBORG R, BLESSING L) To revise the Election Law.
- HB195** **LICENSE SKILL-BASED AMUSEMENT MACHINE OPERATORS** (ANIELSKI M, BAKER N) To provide licensing of skill-based amusement machine operators and distributors and sweepstakes terminal device operators and distributors and to make changes to bingo and other gambling law.
- HB196** **PROFESSIONAL LICENSING FOR SERVICE MEMBERS** (PILLICH C) To provide certain professional licensing and certification rights to service members, spouses of service members, and veterans, and to eliminate the civil service employee exemption from counselor and social worker licensure and certification requirements.
- HB197** **MONEYS COLLECTED BY COUNTY/MUNICIPAL COURTS** (SLESNICK S) To require that all moneys collected by the clerk of municipal or county court be paid to the appropriate person, fund, or entity on or before the twentieth day of each month, to permit a municipal or county court to collect unpaid court costs, fees, or fines from an obligor's state income tax refund, to require the Auditor of State to create and maintain a chart detailing the distribution of court costs, fees and fines collected by municipal and county court clerks, to create the Committee on Court Costs, and to ensure that neither the Registrar nor any deputy registrar accepts any application for the issuance or renewal of a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or temporary instruction of registration of a motor vehicle of a person who fails to pay court costs imposed for offenses by a municipal mayor's or county court.
- HB198** **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS** (COLEY II W) To permit property tax complaints to be initiated only by the property owner.
- HB199** **STATE BUDGET-AGGREGATE REVENUE** (BECK P) To prohibit the Governor from proposing and the General Assembly from enacting a state budget with aggregate general revenue fund appropriations that exceed ninety-five per cent of the total money received in aggregate revenue.
- HB200** **INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR NET CAPITAL GAINS** (BECK P) To allow an income tax deduction of up to ten thousand dollars for net capital gains.
- HB201** **RECOVERY AUDITS** (ROSENBERGER C, BECK P) To require the Auditor of State to perform recovery audits for overpayments made to vendors by certain state agencies and to permit the Auditor to contract with independent audit consultants to conduct those audits.
- HB202** **RETIREMENT BENEFITS - PUBLIC EMPLOYEES** (HOLLINGTON R) To limit the retirement benefit of a re-employed retiree of a public retirement system and eliminate the deferred retirement option plan in the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund and State Highway Patrol Retirement System.
- HB203** **RECALLING ELECTED OFFICIALS** (HAGAN R, FOLEY M) To establish a process for recalling statewide elected officials and members of the General Assembly.
- HB204** **ADVANCED ENERGY FUND** (FOLEY M) To reimburse the Advanced Energy Fund revenue rider on retail electric distribution service rates and to clarify how Advanced Energy Fund grant amounts are to be determined.

- HCR11** **SUPPORT ARIZONA'S CONTROL OF IMMIGRATION** (COMBS C) To express the General Assembly's support of the State of Arizona to control illegal immigration.
- HCR12** **ENCOURAGE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF COAL** (THOMPSON A) To urge the Administration of President Barack Obama to reconsider proposals to increase taxes on producers of coal, natural gas, and petroleum and instead commit to adopting policies that encourage domestic production of these important resources.
- HCR13** **HONOR VIETNAM VETS ON ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST CASUALTY** (BECK P) To honor and commemorate veterans of the Vietnam War on the fifty-fifth anniversary of the first casualty of the war.
- SB145** **TAX CREDIT FOR NONRESIDENTS-MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS** (SCHAFFER T) To require municipal corporations with more than \$100 million in annual income tax collections to provide a tax credit to nonresidential taxpayers.
- SB146** **TAX CREDIT FOR TEACHERS-INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS** (SCHAFFER T) To allow a credit against the personal income tax for amounts spent by teachers for instructional materials.
- SB147** **INCOME TAX CONTRIBUTIONS TO RED CROSS** (SCHAFFER T, HITE C) To allow taxpayers to make contributions to the American Red Cross Ohio Disaster Response Readiness and preparedness Fund through their income tax returns.
- SB148** **ELECTION LAW** (WAGONER M) To revise the Election Law.
- SB149** **MOBILITY IMPAIRED PERSON** (BACON K, JONES S) To revise the definition of "mobility impaired person" to include a person who is diagnosed with autism for purposes of the statutes governing assistance dogs.

Week in Review

Friday, April 15, 2011

AGRICULTURE

The Obama administration appointed former Agriculture Director Robert Boggs to the Ohio Farm Service Agency State Committee.

AUDITOR OF STATE

Auditor of State David Yost said that Plante & Moran, PLLC will be the accounting firm to conduct the first performance audit of a state agency - his. Six firms had responded to the Request for Proposal.

Auditor Dave Yost said Thursday he's opened the application process for the Leverage for Efficiency, Accountability and Performance (LEAP) fund, which can advance the costs of a performance audit to cash-strapped local governments, which they then can repay from savings identified in the audit. The fund was created as part of SB4, which requires expanding performance auditing of state and local agencies.

BUDGET

According to the latest preliminary figures from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), revenues are currently running nearly \$627.2 million or 5.4 percent over estimates for the year. Revenues for March continued the trend for the year, coming in \$157.1 million or 13 percent over estimates.

FY12-13 BUDGET

Hearings continued throughout the week in the full House Finance and Appropriations Committee on the proposed FY12-13 budget. The committee will take the next two weeks to assemble its substitute version of the budget, with that version tentatively due to be unveiled on Thursday, April 28.

Rep. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron), lead Democrat on the House Finance and Appropriations, wrote to Budget Director Tim Keen asking him to provide a variety of information and public records about the budget proposal, saying, "I am apprehensive about the lack of available data necessary to reach a comprehensive understanding of potential impacts [of the proposed state funding cuts] to our schools, businesses and communities."

CENSUS

Secretary of State Jon Husted said that, based on 2010 Census figures, six Ohio villages should now be classified as cities, while nine cities should become villages.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Results of a telephone poll released by Wenzel Strategies found 51 percent of respondents favor repeal of SB5 (Jones), while 38 percent want to keep the law and 11 percent were unsure. Gov. John Kasich received a 37 percent job approval rating in the survey.

CORRECTIONS

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction issued its request for proposals for the sale of the five facilities. They will be broken down into three purchase and operation contracts: the Lake Erie Correctional Complex (LaECI); the Grafton Correctional Complex (GCC); and the North Central Correctional Complex (NCCC). Bids are due June 15.

While a Senate committee was contemplating what Ohio's schools might do to address cyber bullying among and by their students, Ohio Attorney General (AG) Mike DeWine was unveiling steps his office will be taking to tackle cyber safety issues. Those steps include revamping the AG's website and putting a special emphasis on cyber safety and issues affecting children and families; the employing of a "train the trainers" strategy to increase the number of people who can present information about cyber safety and cyber bullying to Ohio kids, parents, law enforcement, and community groups; and sponsoring the second Ohio Cyber Safety Week from Oct. 2-8.

Meanwhile, the Senate Education Committee heard both proponent and opponent witnesses on Sen. Joe Schiavoni's (D-Youngstown) SB127 which requires that public school bullying policies address bullying by electronic means and that the policies address certain out-of-school events.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio came out in opposition to Gov. John Kasich's plan to sell state prisons Thursday, saying private corrections companies nationally have a record of inferior rehabilitative programming, under-trained guards and a profit motive for keeping as many inmates as possible behind bars. Department of Rehabilitation and Correction spokesman Carlo LoParo said in response that the prisons sales are a first step in "completely redesigning" the department, and said the ACLU "completely ignores the comprehensive guardrails, safeguards and mandates Ohio has applied to this process."

DEATH PENALTY

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction said Tuesday it had carried out the death sentence of Clarence Carter. His time of death was announced as 10:25 a.m. Carter had been convicted of murder for the 1988 killing of Johnny Allen, who was a fellow inmate of Carter's in the Hamilton County Jail, where Carter was being held awaiting sentencing for murdering Michael Hadnot, a drug-dealing associate of his.

The Ohio Parole Board recommended 9-0 that Gov. John Kasich not grant clemency to 63-year-old Michael Bedford, who was convicted in 1984 in the murder of a former girlfriend and her boyfriend. The board was not swayed by arguments he should not be executed because he is mentally retarded.

The House Criminal Justice Committee convened an initial hearing on HB160, a proposal from Reps. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Ted Celeste (D-Grandview Heights) to abolish the death penalty. They cited cost and length of appeals, questions of racial bias and the potential for wrongful convictions in arguing for passage.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Diebold, Inc. will receive nearly \$100 million in state and local tax credits, loans and other incentives -- about the cost of its proposed new world headquarters -- in exchange for a commitment from the company to retain at least 1,500 jobs. Calling it "very exciting," Gov. John Kasich touted the global presence the new headquarters will give the Akron/Canton.

EDUCATION

The governor's education czar, Robert Sommers, met with media Friday as the House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee was concluding proponent and opponent testimony on the governor's proposed budget. Sommers said, "We can make anything look draconian. I think that any district that starts by cutting teachers is short-sighted." He also commented that the proposed budget is dealing both with "bad policy in the past, not just the lack of state dollars."

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) announced that it has awarded \$11.6 million to 90 projects through the Safe Routes to School Program which encourages and enables schoolchildren to safely walk or bicycle to and from their neighborhood schools.

Gov. John Kasich's office released information showing the funds that each school district would save due to his administration's budget proposal to increase school employees' pension contributions by 2 percent as an offset against other proposed cuts in education funding. The savings, however, are dependent not only on the passage of the proposal but also on expiration of current collective bargaining or other contract agreements.

The 10-9 split on the State Board of Education held off a formal censure of Gov. John Kasich as a constitutional "usurper" but stumbled over the designation of the Republican and Kasich appointee-dominated Executive Committee as the search panel for the new state superintendent -- powers which the nine-person minority said would essentially allow the governor to hand-pick the state's next K-12 leader. At one point, Kasich appointee and Board President Debe Terhar was asked if they or the governor already had a candidate and to "just tell" the rest of the board. Terhar denied the suggestion.

Gov. John Kasich signed HB36 (Carey-Kozlowski), which gives schools five excused snow days, reversing a reduction to three days in the previous General Assembly that was part of former Gov. Ted Strickland's move toward a longer school year. Legislative sponsors said the bill will help schools save money and improve student safety. "But in addition to that," Kasich said, "the great bottom line here is more sled riding. I mean, that's what we're all about here."

ELECTIONS

Secretary of State Jon Husted Tuesday asked county boards of elections to investigate and remove dead residents from voter rolls after sending the counties records of deceased Ohioans maintained by the Ohio Department of Health that had been compared to records of active voters. He found 18,460 matches.

Rep. John Adams (R-Sidney), the House majority whip and a co-sponsor of voter ID legislation HB159 (Mecklenborg), criticized as "misguided" Secretary of State Jon Husted's stated preference to require a full nine-digit Social Security number for voting, rather than photo identification. Adams said it raises privacy concerns, among other issues.

ENERGY

AEP Ohio approaches the two-year mark for its SMART Appliance Recycling Program, which has so far recycled 18,250 old refrigerators and freezers. Removing these older, inefficient appliances from the grid could save customers up to \$150 a year in their utility bills also gives them a \$35 incentive check which arrives four to six weeks later in the mail, once the old appliance is recycled.

ENVIRONMENT

Ohio's power plants emit more smog-forming pollution than power plants in 46 other states, according to the new Environment Ohio report, "Dirty Energy's Assault on Our Health: Ozone Pollution." The report found that power plants in Ohio emitted 95,811 tons of smog-forming pollution in 2009. The report comes as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is set to finalize a standard in July to help reduce smog-forming pollution.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency introduced an online tool to help businesses identify and develop brownfield properties at <http://www.derr.epa.ohio.gov/Process.aspx>.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency released a study of water quality in the Brush Creek watershed in Highland and Adams counties, finding it to be one of the state's better streams, with a wide variety of healthy fish.

FEDERAL

Federal income taxes for 2010 must be filed by Monday, April 18 this year, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) said, due to the observance of Emancipation Day, a legal holiday in the District of Columbia (D.C.). April 18 is also the date the state income tax is due.

Ohio will not be getting one of four retired space shuttles, NASA announced on Tuesday. They are going to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center which will house the shuttle Discovery; the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York which will house the shuttle Enterprise; the California Science Center in Los Angeles which will receive the shuttle Endeavour; and Atlantis will be housed at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida.

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden brought their new campaign to support and honor America's service members and their families to Columbus on Thursday.

GAMING

An analysis by the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) says forthcoming casinos in Ohio should pay the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) on the total amount of money wagered at them, rather than the lower amount of wagers less payouts. An analysis by the Ohio Department of Taxation last year came to the same conclusion.

The Department of Administrative Services hired two \$400-an-hour expert firms Thursday, Spectrum Gaming Group and Moelis & Company, to advise Gov. John Kasich on how Ohio's policies and regulations fit together on current and potential forms of gambling. The move came a day after Kasich said he thinks the taxpayers can get a better deal from four planned casinos, though he said that wouldn't necessarily entail raising the 33-percent casino tax rate.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The Controlling Board approved funding Monday for the attorney general to contract with a Vermillion company to cleanup methamphetamine labs across the state. In addition, the Ohio Pharmacy Board received increased funding for Drug Law Enforcement, piggy backing on the Kasich administration efforts to crack down on "pill mills" and prescription drug fraud across the state.

The Ohio Statehouse marked the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War on Tuesday, April 12 with the firing of the cannon and a commemorative tree planting.

The Ohio House, on a bipartisan vote, approved HJR1 (Huffman-Fende) which proposes a constitutional amendment to raise the mandatory age for judges from 70 to 75.

The House also delayed a scheduled vote on HB78 (Jecker-Roegner), which deals with post-viability abortions, to give the speaker the opportunity to look into whether it would pass legal muster.

They have met for more sessions, held more committee meetings, and passed more bills. And then added that more is to come. Both the House and Senate Republican caucuses boasted of their accomplishments in the first 100 days of the 129th General Assembly, drawing a stark comparison to the 128th General Assembly.

House Minority Leader Armond Budish (D-Beachwood) responded that the legislative agenda of Republicans has done nothing but "divide Ohioans, attack middle class families, lose jobs and hurt education reform in Ohio."

Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) issued a memo explaining his side of the reasons behind his committee chairmanship being yanked by Sen. President Tom Niehaus (R-New Richmond), calling the assertion he failed to communicate with the pension bill's sponsor on a sub bill "disingenuous" and "pretextual." Seitz also moved out of the condo he has shared with Niehaus.

The Senate passed SB17 (Schaffer), legislation to allow concealed weapons on bars, on a 25-7 vote Wednesday. However, House Speaker Bill Batchelder (R-Medina) said he's unsure he has the votes to pass it now, citing opposition from restaurants. Other bills the Senate passed Wednesday included SB61 (Wilson), which aligns Ohio law with a federal court ruling on restoration of gun ownership rights; SB21 (Wagoner), which requests Congressional approval for Ohio to replace a statue of former Gov. William Allen with one of Thomas Edison in National Statuary Hall; SCR6 (Patton), which designates April 2011 as Primary Immunodeficiency Month; HB21 (Combs), which would allow Teach for America to set up a program in Ohio; HB139 (McKenney), which would rename the Northeast Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy as Northeast Ohio Medical University; SB38 (Hughes), which designates May 2011 as ALS Awareness Month; and SB120 (Beagle), which specifies that Ohio law allows county prosecutors to represent all tax-funded public libraries. In addition, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Harvey Reed as youth services director.

The House on Wednesday passed HB174 (Batchelder), which would name the new I-90 bridge in Cleveland after George Voinovich; HR31 (Mallory) which seeks federal approval to use the insecticide Propoxur on bedbugs; HB415 (Weddington-Derickson), which would make changes to the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood; HB148 (Letson-Anielski), which would designate April as Macular Degeneration Awareness Month; and HB128 (Carey-Peterson), which addresses ambulance staffing. The House also consented to Senate amendments on HB123 (Hottinger), the Bureau of Workers' Compensation budget, and HB21 (Combs), which allows Teach for America to set up a program in Ohio.

Among committee actions this week, the House Veterans Affairs Committee reported out HB121 (Rosenberger), which deals with child custody and visitation rights for parents called to active military duty; the Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee reported out SB88 (Jordan), which would allow nonrefundable tax credits for people who donate for scholarships to low-income students in private schools, and SB90 (Jordan), which would repeal the estate tax; and the Senate Education Committee reported out SB118 which addresses schools' participation in the body mass screenings.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) expanded the information available on its website *Hospital Compare* to include hospital reports on serious conditions that develop during an inpatient hospital stay.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Karin Zuckerman, former chief executive officer of Easter Seals of Central and Southeast Ohio, was named the new director of the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center, effective April 11.

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College announced the appointment of Nan Kohnen Cahall as director of government and community affairs. Cahall most recently served as state director for U.S. Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH).

Cleveland State University announced Tuesday that Berinthia R. LeVine has been appointed vice president for university advancement and executive director of the CSU Foundation, Inc. The appointment will be effective in mid-May.

Robert G. Frank, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Kent State University, was appointed to the federal Defense Health Board, which advises the U.S. Department of Defense.

The University of Toledo said Chancellor Jim Petro will give the address at its afternoon commencement May 8, while Chrysler Group CEO Sergio Marchionne will give the morning commencement address.

INSURANCE

A late February deluge that brought several inches of rain to parts of Ohio and significant flood, wind and water-related losses caused at least \$68.9 million in insured losses, according to the Ohio Insurance Institute (OII).

JUDICIAL

The Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College launched the Judicial eCademy, which will offer judicial education courses online. The Court said it is accepting registrations for six new national courses on science and technology issues that arise in court proceedings.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Ohio deer hunters have donated more than 125,150 pounds of venison to local foodbanks through the 2010-11 deer hunting season, according to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

PEOPLE

Mark Kvamme, Gov. John Kasich's director of job creation, had surgery Wednesday to repair injuries suffered in a motocross accident on Saturday. Kasich said he broke a bone near his eye.

Former Justice Francis Edward Sweeney, who served on the Ohio Supreme Court from 1993 to 2004 and who authored the original *DeRolf* school funding decision, died April 10 at the age of 77.

Matthew Forney has joined the Ohio Chamber of Commerce as managing director of governmental affairs as Linda Woggon, former vice president of governmental affairs, assumes the new position of executive vice president.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director David Mustine announced Tuesday the appointment of Ted Lozier as chief of the Division of Soil and Water Resources and the Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention.

TRANSPORTATION

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is predicting that it would cost the state \$422.4 million annually if it were to assume responsibility for the upkeep of every state route regardless of jurisdiction. The study had been ordered by the Legislature as part of 128-HB2. Currently, ODOT is responsible for

maintaining all interstate, U.S. and state routes except for those that fall in the jurisdiction of local municipalities.

The Transportation Review and Advisory Council (TRAC) approved the 2011-15 major new project list after making a few revisions that included dropping the Cincinnati streetcar project and any references to the 3C passenger rail project pushed by former Gov. Ted Strickland.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced that it has recovered more than \$9.8 million in fraudulently obtained unemployment benefits issued during 2010. ODJFS said it has stepped up efforts to identify fraudulently obtained benefits and has introduced new fraud detection tools. Agency fraud investigators conduct electronic cross-matching of employer new hire reports and quarterly employers wage reports. They share data with the ODJFS Office of Child Support and the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation, and investigate tips and leads from concerned citizens. Most fraud overpayments occur when claimants return to work but fail to disclose the work and earnings to ODJFS.

UTILITIES

Customers of Dominion East Ohio are able to get home-energy audits for a reduced price of \$50, down from an earlier reduced price of \$125, the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel said.