

NAIOP

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NAIOP OF OHIO

NAIOP Weekly Legislative Report
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Supported Bills

- HB10 REMEDIATION 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:* 3/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)
All Bill Status: 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:* 5/24/2011 - House Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
All Bill Status: 3/1/2011 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing)

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: 5/11/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
All Bill Status: 3/30/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
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
- HB198** **PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS** (COLEY II W) To permit property tax complaints to be initiated only by the property owner.
Current Status: 5/12/2011 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (Second Hearing)
All Bill Status: 5/4/2011 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (First Hearing)
4/12/2011 - Referred to Committee House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development
4/12/2011 - 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 & Economic Development
3/9/2011 - Introduced

Bills Introduced Since 5/16/2011

- HB227** **DEGREES IN MATH-BASED FIELDS** (GOYAL J) To grant an income tax credit to individuals who earn degrees in science, technology, engineering, or math-based fields of study and to authorize municipal corporations to grant a credit to those qualifying for the state credit,
- HB228** **LICENSE PLATES** (GOYAL J) To create Power Squadron license plates.
- HB229** **AGRICULTURE** (BUCHY J) To revise the laws governing agriculture.

- HB230 EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION QUESTIONS** (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit employers from including on an employment application any question concerning whether an applicant has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of a felony.
- HB231 LAKE ERIE WATERS** (WACHTMANN L) To establish a program for the issuance of permits for the withdrawal and consumptive use of waters from the Lake Erie basin.
- HB232 COUNTY FACILITIES REVIEW BOARDS** (LETSON T, O'BRIEN S) To expand the authority of a county facilities review board to include any facility where an adult ward of the probate court resides or receives services among the institutions subject to its review.
- HB233 AD SPACE ON SCHOOL BUSES** (LETSON T, HUFFMAN M) To authorize school districts to sell commercial advertising space on school buses.
- HB234 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM** (DEGEETER T) To authorize a nonchartered municipal corporation to establish a community emergency response team within the public safety department of the municipal corporation.
- HB235 ETHNIC INTIMIDATION** (STINZIANO M) To rename the offense of ethnic intimidation identity intimidation and to prohibit a person from committing identity intimidation because of the victim's ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.
- HCR17 NAME OHIO JUDICIAL CENTER** (LETSON T, COLEY II W) To urge the Supreme Court of Ohio to name to Ohio Judicial Center for former Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer.
- HR97 TRANSCANADA KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE PROJECT** (SEARS B) To urge Congress to support the continued and increased importation of oil derived from Canadian oil sands and urge Congress to ask the U.S. Secretary of State to approve the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline project from Alberta to Oklahoma.
- SB171 SUNSET REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS** (GILLMOR K) To implement the recommendations of the Sunset Review Committee by abolishing, terminating, transferring, or renewing various agencies and reestablishing the Sunset Review Committee but postponing operation until the 131st General Assembly, and to declare an emergency.
- SB172 JUDGMENT CREDITOR LANDLORD** (SCHAFFER T) To enable a judgment creditor landlord to obtain a court order directing the Tax Commissioner to pay the judgment debtor tenant's income tax refund to the landlord.
- SB173 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION - PUBLIC MONEYS** (HUGHES J) To permit a political subdivision, upon the deposit of public moneys with an eligible public depository, to arrange for the public depository to redeposit those moneys with other federally funded banks and savings and loan associations in accordance with specified conditions.
- SB174 ADVERTISING ON SCHOOL BUSES** (SCHIAVONI J) To authorize school districts to sell commercial advertising space on school buses.
- SCR11 GRADUATION RATE CHANGES** (LEHNER P) To approve the Department of Education's proposed graduation rate changes to the state accountability system for public schools.

Week in Review

Friday, May 20, 2011

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The attorney general's Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII) will open a new office in Athens to offer better access and foster continued collaboration between agencies. This is the fifth BCII office. Others are in London, Richfield, Bowling Green and Youngstown.

Attorney General Mike DeWine said Tuesday he has signed an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance (AVC) agreement negotiated with Circle K convenience stores to improve efforts to reduce tobacco sales to minors.

Attorney General Mike DeWine said Thursday that Ohio has joined other states and the federal government to reach an agreement in principle with pharmaceutical manufacturer EMD Serono to settle allegations that the company caused false or fraudulent claims for Rebif to be submitted to the Medicaid program.

AUDITOR OF STATE

Auditor Dave Yost brought his proposal for a "stabilization toolkit" to simplify the process of merging local governments to the Senate Finance Committee Monday. He said that with a budget crunch forcing conversations about consolidations and collaboration, his proposals let governments "choose their own dance partner." Those proposals, some of which are already in the budget and some he's asking to add, would allow townships to merge by a two-thirds vote of each board of trustees, subject to referendum. Voters also could start a referendum, or trustees could place a merger question on the ballot by unanimous vote. In addition, voters could petition for the merger of contiguous counties. In addition, townships would be able to merge with one another without becoming a municipality, which the law now requires.

BALLOT ISSUES

Assistant Secretary of State Scott Borgemenke told the Senate Finance Committee that it could take about 10 times the \$475,000 budgeted for advertising costs to comply with public notice requirements for the referendum on SB5 (Jones), the collective bargaining overhaul. Citing Article II, Section 1g, Borgemenke said attorneys advised Secretary of State Jon Husted's office that the state will be required to print the entirety of SB5 in general circulation newspapers once a week for three weeks, assuming the referendum campaign to place the bill on the ballot is successful.

FY12-13 BUDGET

A new study commissioned by the Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI) titled Revenue Options for Ohio's Future, which reviews Ohio's current tax structure, was released Friday. Authors Bill Fox and Don Bruce, Ph.Ds. from the University of Tennessee said Ohio's state and local tax burden is similar to the national average and is also near the median of a set of benchmark states with local taxes contributing a relatively larger share of combined taxes in Ohio than in most other states. They suggested that broader taxation of Social Security, railroad retirement and other retirement income sources would offer the most productive base-broadening option.

Human service advocates Tuesday urged the Senate to use any new revenue to shore up the state's safety net. Advocates for Ohio's Future told reporters at a news conference that extra revenues "identified during budget discussions" should be appropriated for "health, human services and early care and education programs that support vulnerable Ohioans."

Senate Finance Committee testimony Thursday on the proposed budget, HB153, was dominated by local government officials who sent a common message, asking to restore cuts to the Local Government Fund (LGF), remove the repeal of the estate tax, and return the pension contribution shift on to public employees. The officials told committee members that they know times were tough, and they were expecting cuts to the LGF, but not of the magnitude that Gov. John Kasich proposed.

Three groups with disparate policy and political leanings joined together in a call for the state to systematically review and potentially phase out a wealth of credits, exemptions and deductions in Ohio's tax code, picking up \$300 million worth upfront that they say could be dropped to help with the current budget. The Buckeye Institute, Greater Ohio and the Center for Community Solutions noted in a letter to Gov. John Kasich and legislative leaders that they can't agree how to use the \$300 million but do agree the tax breaks lack merit.

DEATH PENALTY

Daniel Lee Bedford was executed on Tuesday, May 17 after a number of last minute appeals based on claims of mental retardation eventually failed. Gov. John Kasich had denied him clemency on Friday. The 63-year-old who confessed to a double slaying he said he could no longer remember was executed at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville. The execution team had some difficulty finding a suitable vein, reportedly taking just over 10 minutes. Originally scheduled for execution at 10 a.m., Bedford was pronounced dead at 11:18 a.m.

ECONOMY

The Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD) Tourism Division said Thursday that Ohio's tourism economy grew by 7 percent in 2010 and generated \$38 billion in total sales, up from \$36 billion in 2009, according to research conducted on behalf of the division.

EDUCATION

Bob Sommers, director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education, recounted the governor's basic classroom philosophy for the State Board of Education: instructors, including members of Teach for America, will be evaluated based on a performance-based compensation system, awarded salary bonuses based on student success, tested for their professional competence based on student failure, and dismissed as poor-performing teachers based on a more "streamlined" process than has historically been the case.

Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction Stan Heffner also addressed the board as part of the state superintendent's monthly report, updating members on the College- and Career-Readiness Agenda, Race to the Top (RttT), National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials Award, and SkillsUSA Ohio Championship Highlights.

Heffner announced Monday that Lori Lofton is now executive director of the Center for the Teaching Profession, which includes the offices of Educator Licensure, Professional Conduct, Educator Quality and Educator Standards. Lofton takes over for the center's former executive director, Cynthia Yoder.

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett and former Massachusetts Education Commissioner David Driscoll Tuesday addressed the Senate Finance Committee on the subject of education reform. Bennett and Driscoll both called for high performance standards for students, teachers and school administrators alike, with clear professional rewards based on merit rather than seniority or continuing education at teacher colleges. They also agreed on the need for educational options and said outside committee that the profit motive is not a valid argument against private school operators, as long as they produce academic results.

ELECTIONS

The House State Government and Elections Committee approved election reform legislation on a party-line Tuesday in advance of a Wednesday floor vote. Democrats complained about the process for the way an omnibus amendment to HB194 (Mecklenborg-Blessing) was introduced. Ranking Member Rep. Ron Gerberry (D-Canfield) said that after last week's open discussion about amendments, Democrats received little notice about what was contained in the omnibus amendment. Rep. Bob Mecklenborg (R-Cincinnati), the committee's chairman, defended the process, and was joined by others in his caucus, who said it was more open than on other bills. Mecklenborg also said that many of the issues raised by Democrats were incorporated into the omnibus bill.

Three former Cuyahoga County election board employees cleared of wrongdoing in the 2004 presidential election will not receive attorneys' fees for their year-and-a-half defense of a grand jury indictment, even though -- according to the board's former deputy director -- the county prosecutor's office assured them they would be indemnified against legal costs if cleared of the charges. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled against awarding attorney fees 5-2.

ELECTIONS 2012

The Ohio Democratic Party's Executive Committee approved the Ohio Delegate Selection Plan for the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC. Ohio Democrats will send 191 delegates to the convention, who will be selected in a process reflecting Democratic National Committee rules. According to the Democratic Party, 113 delegates and 11 alternates will be selected at pre-primary caucuses on Jan. 5, 2012. Ohio Democrats wishing to be delegates to the 2012 Democratic National Convention must attend these caucuses.

The latest Quinnipiac University Poll found former Secretary of State Ken Blackwell leading the potential Republican primary field for the U.S. Senate nomination in 2012, but U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown leads all potential challengers at this point. Ohioans surveyed also showed mixed emotions on President Barack Obama, who is in a virtual tie with an unnamed Republican for his re-election bid in 2012.

ENVIRONMENT

The Ohio Environment Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Friday announced it will hold a public hearing on draft rules for water quality monitoring performed by watershed groups, state agencies, schools, local volunteers and other organizations to be submitted to the agency for improving and maintaining water quality in Ohio. The revisions are being made to promote scientific validity.

As the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday afternoon was accepting a substitute version of HB133 (Adams) -- the oil and gas leasing bill -- environmental and conservation groups were holding a "camp-in" and news conference at the Statehouse to protest drilling proposals for Ohio's state parks. The House committee plans to pass the legislation sometime the week of May 23, according to Chairman Dave Hall (R-Millersburg). The "We Love Our Parks, We Love Clean Water" event included a news conference and the circulation of petitions and postcards urging legislators to keep drilling rigs out of all Ohio state parks and off state nature preserves and scenic rivers.

GAMBLING

The Casino Commission discussed how it will use the services of a firm the Kasich administration hired to give gambling policy advice, pulling back from the firm's initial suggestion to develop an overall strategic plan and instead asking it to address specific issues.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Four Republican lawmakers Reps. Cliff Rosenberger (Clarksville), John Adams (Sidney) and Peter Beck (Mason) and Sen. Frank LaRose (Akron) left May 13 for trade trip to Israel aimed at drumming up foreign investment in Ohio's aerospace sector.

Decrying the "nanny state we have become," Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Powell) Tuesday lent his support to passage of Sen. Gary Cates' legislation, SB118, which permits schools to "opt in" to implementing body mass index (BMI) screenings rather than "opt out," as current law provides. Jordan noted that he had opposed the provisions originally and opposes them today. SB118 passed by a vote of 20-10.

The Senate also passed the following: HB93, which addresses the prescription drug crisis in the state, passed unanimously after the Senate accepted an amendment that removed a Board of Pharmacy provision regarding contracting with a private vendor for monitoring, which is also in the budget bill, and which addressed the rights of employees of a county hospital being sold to a private entity; and HCR14, which spells out the Legislative Code of Ethics for members and employees of the House and Senate.

The House passed legislation to update Ohio's corporation laws during a session Tuesday, despite concerns raised by Democrats over a section restricting the time frame in which claims can be brought against certain corporations. A version of HB48 (Mecklenborg-Carney) passed in a near unanimous vote through the House in the previous General Assembly as 128-HB379 (Carney-Mecklenborg). But this time, Rep. Bob Hagan (D-Youngstown) said he was worried that reducing the statute of repose from 15 years to five years would keep people who discover health issues later from seeking redress.

In a rare occurrence for a legislative leader, House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) went before the House State Government and Elections Committee (R-Medina) to give sponsor testimony on HB188, which would create a commission to review Ohio's Constitution and make suggestions of changes that would go before voters.

The screening committee of the Senate Republican Caucus Thursday announced it has selected Rep. William Coley (R-West Chester) to fill the 4th Senate District seat being vacated by Sen. Gary Cates (R-West Chester). It covers all of Butler County. Coley will be sworn-in on Tuesday, May 24 after Cates officially resigns on Monday, May 23 to become senior vice chancellor at the Ohio Board of Regents. House Speaker William G. Batchelder (R-Medina) must now open a search for Coley's replacement -- both as legislator and as chair of the House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development Committee.

The following bills were reported out of various committees this week: the House Criminal Justice Committee reported out HB62 (Gonzales) which increases the penalty for assault of a health care workers; the House Health and Aging Committee designated three months to look at specific conditions or illnesses, reporting out SCR6 (Patton) designating April "Primary Immunodeficiency Month," SB38 (Hughes) designating May as "ALS Awareness Month," and HB184 (Martin) designating March as "Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month" while the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee designated weeks for special attention. They included HB185 (Carey-O'Brien) designating the third week of July "Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Awareness Week" and HB207 (Balderson-Letson) designating the first week of April as "Ohio Coal Miners Week." Meanwhile, the Senate got into the act, passing SB101 (Patton), designating May as "Substance Abuse Awareness and Education Month."

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

With no new funds coming in, the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line will be limiting its coverage to the uninsured, Ohio residents on Medicaid and pregnant women beginning in July and could have no funding beyond the next fiscal year.

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) and Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) are taking up the cause of fighting cancer, announcing Thursday that they are putting together the Cancer Caucus for the 129th General Assembly.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Columbus State Community College President David Harrison will propose at the next trustees meeting to stretch the institution's run of keeping tuition flat at \$79 per credit hour into a sixth year.

Former Rep. Jennifer Garrison (D-Marietta) is one of five candidates vying to become president of Washington State Community College (WSCC), the *Marietta Times* reports. Garrison served three terms in the General Assembly but chose not to run for reelection last year. The newspaper said the candidates were to meet with members of the public this week. The five candidates were narrowed down from a list of 35.

Cleveland State University's Nance College Business received the Presidential "E" Award for Exports, the highest recognition any U.S. organization may receive for making a significant contribution to the expansion of U.S. exports. It was presented by U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gary Locke at the department's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Kent State University said Tuesday that Sonia Alemagno, a health policy professor and associate dean for the College of Public Health, will become the college dean July 1. She has served the past year as interim vice president for research.

HOUSING

Housing sales in Ohio remained down in April compared to a year earlier, and year-to-date performance also lagged 2010, the Ohio Association of Realtors reported Thursday. Statewide housing sales of 9,119 in April were 12.5 percent lower than the 10,427 units sold in April 2010. Numbers for January through April are down by less, dropping 7.5 percent compared to the same period a year ago, from 30,132 to 27,860.

INSURANCE

The Department of Insurance (ODI) said new rules aimed at "putting an end to misleading practices by insurance agents and brokers with regard to the sale of annuities" will go into effect on July 1. Under the new rules, insurers will be required to provide product specific training to their agents and establish a system to supervise recommendations made in the marketing and sale of annuities by July 1, 2011. In addition, insurers and insurance producers, prior to recommending a particular annuity to a consumer, will be required to make a "reasonable effort" to obtain specific suitability information from a consumer.

JUDICIAL

The Ohio Supreme Court reversed itself Tuesday in a prevailing wage dispute on Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) projects, ruling without explanation that it had previously accepted an appeal on the case "improvidently" and dismissing the matter. The case dealt with a school construction project in the Barberton district, which was sued by Associated Builders and Contractors of Northern Ohio, an unsuccessful bidder on the project and several local taxpayers. They argued that Barberton had exceeded its legal authority by requiring bids to specify prevailing wage.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Seven Ohio State Parks received Service Excellence Awards, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The awards are based on customer feedback, including customer satisfaction surveys, and are given annually to individual parks in recognition of outstanding facilities, helpful staff and friendly volunteers. The parks recognized included Wingfoot Lake State Park, Jackson Lake State Park, West Branch State Park, Maumee Bay State Park, Mohican State Park, Pymatuning State Park and Malabar Farm State Park.

In addition, volunteer efforts at Mosquito Lake State Park were recognized with the Volunteer Park of the Year Award for 2010, according to ODNR.

Environmental groups including the Buckeye Forest Council, the Ohio Environmental Council, the Sierra Club Ohio Chapter, and Voices for the Forest Monday pointed to the Shawnee State Forest Economic Study, which they commissioned and which was released late last year, to say that a budget plan for logging will be a loss for Ohio taxpayers. Specifically, the study found that the Division of Forestry's published costs of timber harvesting in state forests is substantially less than the actual cost of those practices. Beyond personnel costs, logging costs also include timber-related equipment costs and money spent on constructing and maintaining forest roads and bridges which were not taken into account.

The introduction of a substitute version of HB133 (Adams) in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday encompassed what the sponsors, Reps. John Adams (R-Sidney) and Dave Hall (R-Millersburg), said are positive changes to the legislation that would create the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission and establish a procedure by which the commission can enter into leases for oil and gas production on land owned or under the control of a state agency.

PENSION FUNDS

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), head of the Ohio Retirement Study Council subcommittee drafting bid requirements for an outside pension adviser, said he'd like to have a request for proposals approved by the full council even earlier than its next regular meeting, scheduled for June 8.

PEOPLE

Health Policy Institute of Ohio President Amy Rohling McGee announced Monday the naming of Reem Aly as the institute's new health policy associate. Most recently, Aly worked as an administrative resident at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She replaces Lisa Frazier.

David B. Lane has been appointed chief of the state's Division of Wildlife by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director David Mustine. Lane has served as acting district manager for the division's District One Wildlife Office in central Ohio since October of 2009. He replaces David M. Graham, who retired from the position earlier this year.

The Ohio School Boards Association said it has recently promoted Kathy LaSota to director of school board services. She takes over the position from Rob Delane, who became full-time OSBA deputy executive director.

Delaware County Treasurer and former Rep. Jon Peterson suffered a heart attack Wednesday morning.

TRANSPORTATION

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) Governing Board adopted a resolution opposing any efforts to sell or lease the Ohio Turnpike, saying its does not see a long-term benefit to the state.

UTILITIES

In the midst of a pending 51.3 percent biennium budget cut to the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) proposed by the Kasich administration, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine attended the OCC Governing Board meeting on Tuesday to learn about the mission of the Ohio utility consumer advocate, while board members stressed the importance of restoring the agency's original budget request.

The Ohio Consumers' Counsel and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy asked the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Thursday to reject the revised rates filed by American Electric Power (AEP) last week and to require the utility to immediately file rates that conform with PUCO's directive. In the filing, the two groups maintained that AEP "has not completely removed unlawful charges from customers' rates despite being ordered to do so" by PUCO.