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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: 6/21/2011 - House Local Government, (Fifth Hearing)
All Bill Status: 6/14/2011 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Local Government, (Fifth

Hearing)
5/24/2011 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
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: 6/1/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
All Bill Status: 5/11/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
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 6/13/2011

- HB257 LAKE ERIE WATERS (MURRAY D)** To establish a program for the regulation of withdrawals and consumptive uses of waters from the Lake Erie basin.

- HB258 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS** (GROSSMAN C, DOVILLA M) To exempt from taxation for five years the earned income of an individual who obtains journeyperson status or a baccalaureate degree and works in Ohio; and to prohibit the Apprenticeship Council from adopting standards for apprenticeship ratios that are stricter than those requirements specified in the federal regulations governing apprenticeship programs and from discriminating against open or merit shops.
- HB259 ALTERNATIVE HEALTH SERVICES** (ADAMS J, YUKO K) Regarding the provision of complementary or alternative health services.
- HB260 COCKFIGHTING** (DERICKSON T) To revise the law governing cockfighting.
- HB261 ALTERNATIVE FUEL FACILITY** (MCGREGOR R) To allow a credit against the personal income tax or commercial activity tax for the installation of an alternative fuel facility.
- HB262 HUMAN TRAFFICKING** (FEDOR T) To require that a minor who is a victim of trafficking in persons be provided with appropriate services, require ODJFS to develop procedures for reuniting the minor with family members in the minors country of origin or destination country, to require the Departments of Health and Mental Health to develop procedures for providing special physical and mental health care tailored to the minor's needs, to provide that a minor is not guilty of the crime of solicitation if the minor is a victim of trafficking in persons when he minor committed the act of the Department of Commerce to create a poster that provides information regarding the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline, to require owners or operators of specified establishments to conspicuously display that poster, and to require the Director if the Department of Transportation is conspicuously display that poster at rest areas.
- HB263 GUN SHOWS** (HEARD T) To require that a gun show vendor obtain a criminal records check of a prospective firearm transferee at a gun show to require that a federally licensed firearms dealer who obtains a criminal records check maintain a record of that check and report to law enforcement the name of any prospective transferee who may not legally receive or possess firearms, and to require a gun show promoter to post a notice of the records check requirement at the gun show in the form prescribed by the Attorney General.
- HB264 SUNSET REVIEW COMMITTEE** (BURKE D, GROSSMAN C) To implement the recommendations of the Sunset Review Committee by abolishing, terminating, transferring, or renewing various agencies and by reestablishing the Sunset Review Committee but postponing its operation until the 131st General Assembly, to terminate the operation of certain provisions of this act on December 31, 2016; to declare an emergency.
- HB265 JURY TRIAL IN CRIMINAL CASE** (SLABY L, O'BRIEN S) To authorize prosecuting attorneys to demand a jury trial in a criminal case, notwithstanding a defendant's waiver of trial by jury and over a defendant's objection.
- HB266 ELECTOR UNDER ISOLATION - VOTE** (STEBELTON G) To establish a process to permit an elector who is confined to a health care facility under isolation to vote with the assistance of bipartisan board of elections employees, and to permit elector's facsimile signature, provided by the hospital, to be used for signature verification purposes.
- HB267 NONPROFIT CORPORATION LAW** (MCKENNEY T) To adopt the Revised Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act and to revise the merger and consolidation provisions of the Nonprofit Corporation Law.
- HB268 JURY SERVICE LAW** (SZOLLOSI M, BUTLER, JR. J) To modernize the language of, to reorganize, and to remove obsolete provisions from the jury service law.
- HB269 DRIVER'S LICENSE** (DOVILLA M) To provide that a person who holds a current, valid driver's license from another state be required to pass only vision screening in order to be issued a driver's license.
- SB187 HIGHWAY NAME DESIGNATION** (GRENDALL T) To designate a portion of United States Route 322 within Geauga County only the "Chief Warrant Officer Christopher R. Thibodeau Memorial Highway."
- SB188 ALTERNATIVE FUEL FACILITY** (PATTON T) To allow a credit against the personal income tax or commercial activity tax for the installation of an alternative fuel facility.
- SB189 HEALTH CARE COMPACT** (GRENDALL T) To join the Health Care Compact.

Confidential

SR89 **HR 2070** (GRENDALL T) To urge Congress to enact HR 2070 requiring the installation in the area of the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C., a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D Roosevelt prayed with the nation on June 6, 1944.

Week in Review

Friday, June 17, 2011

AGRICULTURE

After pressure from U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Dick Lugar (R-IN), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced that it would grant Ohio farmers facing record rainfall greater flexibility in removing their cover crops so they may be eligible for crop insurance. Earlier this week, Brown and Lugar pressed RMA Administrator William Murphy in calling for flexibility so that farmers who have implemented conservation practices supported by the USDA are not penalized due to inclement weather.

AUDITOR OF STATE

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency will be among the first entities to undergo a performance audit, Gov. John Kasich and State Auditor Dave Yost said. Asked about the choice, Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols said, "There isn't a lot of oversight of it, it's largely [Washington] D.C. dollars ... so it seemed like a logical one to begin with."

FY12-13 BUDGET

Members of the Conference Committee on the proposed FY12-13 budget are Sens. Chris Widener (R-Springfield), Shannon Jones (R-Springboro) and Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Reps. Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster), John Carey (R-Wellston) and Vern Sykes (D-Akron).

The bulk of unused dollars from a projected \$800 million FY11 surplus should go toward an FDR-style public works administration that would employ workers in all 88 counties, rather than to rumored tax cuts that would not trickle down to Ohio's most vulnerable families, Reps. Mike Foley (D-Cleveland) and Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) said Monday. They will introduce legislation creating the Ohio Works Progress Administration (OWPA) -- a General Revenue Fund (GRF) expenditure of several hundred million dollars to be spread equally across the state for "a variety of beautification and public works projects," including two artists-in-residence per county.

The Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA) continued its campaign against Gov. John Kasich's prison privatization initiative Monday, holding a rally in Marion where the North Central Correctional Institution (NCCI) and former Marion Juvenile Correctional Institution are currently scheduled to go to the highest bidder. A total of six prisons are slated for privatization in the FY12-13 budget, which OCSEA is calling "The Great Prison Giveaway."

House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) said Tuesday that he would be open to holding hearings on some of the provisions inserted by the Senate into HB153 (Amstutz), the biennial budget, including the abortion provisions. Batchelder said he has not committed to hearings, but that he would be open to holding some if there is enough of a push for them.

Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Tim Keen testified before the conference committee on the proposed FY12-13 budget Wednesday, saying while his office is projecting revenue increases for yet this fiscal year, FY11, and for both years of the next biennium, those funds are, for the most part, spent. The \$187 million in unobligated General Revenue Funds (GRF) that OBM has identified in FY11 should go "to begin to replenish the Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF)" while the additional revenues in FY12-13 were essentially spent in the Senate version of the budget, he said.

BUSINESSES

The Ohio chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB/Ohio) converged on the Statehouse Wednesday, hearing from Gov. John Kasich and legislators on what they will do next to address the concerns of small business. Speaking to the group in the morning at the Columbus Athletic Club, Kasich touted provisions in the budget, JobsOhio, and the Common Sense Initiative, and said his administration will listen to any concerns businesses bring to him.

CORRECTIONS

Rep. Michael Stinziano (D-Columbus) said Monday the Corrections Medical Center in Columbus will receive approximately \$110,000 in FY12 to improve medical treatment for inmates and help the state alleviate some of the cost for patient care. He said the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) will rent lower-cost medical equipment for more rapid healing of flesh wounds.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

David Diroll, director of the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, said Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and some lawmakers are pushing to reverse the Senate's move to eliminate the commission in its version of the budget bill.

DEATH PENALTY

The state extended its execution calendar into next summer Tuesday, adding courthouse shooter Abdul Awkal and teen killer Mark Wiles to a schedule that now includes nine death row inmates. The Supreme Court of Ohio set 48-year-old Wiles' execution date for April 18, 2012, and 52-year-old Awkal's for June 6, 2012.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD) Urban Development Division announced that it will receive \$300,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to supplement its existing Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund. The grant will support asbestos and lead abatement in historic buildings, allowing their reuse for future economic development opportunities. Additionally, Cuyahoga County, Akron (Summit County), Medina (Medina County), and Lancaster Port Authority (Fairfield County) received EPA awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$1 million for local brownfield revitalization.

The Ohio Film Office said the state's motion picture tax credit has helped land the Cleveland filming of "I, Alex Cross," a movie based on the James Patterson novel.

EDUCATION

Following a second round of interviews by the Executive Committee of the State Board of Education Wednesday, board President Debe Terhar told the House Education Committee that the field had been narrowed to three finalists for the state superintendent's job. They include former Illinois state superintendent Robert Schiller; Director Bob Sommers of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education; and Superintendent Steve Dackin of Reynoldsburg City Schools.

Bob Sommers, director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education, and Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) were part of a "Making Ohio Schools Work" panel this week, with Sommers saying Ohio should move forward on clear examples of excellence rather than bog down in ideological debates, while Lehner voiced concern about lingering bad feelings in the education community over SB5.

ELECTIONS

After sitting dormant for months, legislation to require voters to present photo identification at the polls may move quickly, at least through the Senate committee where it has been assigned. Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Powell), chairman of the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, said he fully supports the concept in HB159 (Mecklenborg-Blessing) and that he hopes to pass the legislation out of committee before the end of June. But he said he is still gauging the interest of his fellow committee members.

Sen. Keith Faber (R-Celina), chairman of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, said he hopes to report out HB194 (Mecklenborg-Blessing), the House elections reform bill, at its second hearing next week.

ELECTIONS 2012

Former Republican State Rep. Jamie Callender announced Tuesday that he will run for the 18th Senate District seat in 2012. The district, which currently includes all of Lake and Geauga counties and a few precincts in Cuyahoga County, will be redrawn later this year. The seat is currently held by Sen. Tim Grendell (R-Chesterland), who is term-limited.

ENERGY

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) is gearing up to help low-income Ohioans beat the heat, by assisting eligible households with cooling costs. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Summer Crisis Program begins July 1 and runs through Aug. 31.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced a \$275 million loan guarantee to help the company Calisolar Inc. to commercialize its solar silicon manufacturing process at a plant on the site of the former General Motors complex in Ontario, Ohio, near Mansfield.

ENVIRONMENT

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), announced the state's response strategy for harmful algal blooms in 2011 Monday. The strategy includes thresholds for algal toxins, three recreational use advisory levels, and drinking water public notice requirements.

GAMING

Moelis and Co., a firm the state hired to give expert gambling advice, says in an initial report that planned casinos in Columbus and Toledo "can withstand tax and fee increases and still produce an attractive return on investment." The report notes that adding video lottery terminals (VLT) would cut into expected casino revenues but would boost overall gambling revenue, estimating that, operating simultaneously, casinos would bring in about \$1.42 billion and VLTs about \$1.27 billion.

Gov. John Kasich announced a deal Wednesday in which Rock Ohio Caesars (ROC) would pay the state an additional \$110 million above the required \$50 million license fee, and Ohio racetracks could install video lottery terminals for a \$50 million fee, with the state also getting 33.5 percent of the revenue. However, Kasich has not yet reached a deal with Penn National Gaming, which will operate the Columbus and Toledo casinos.

However, the Ohio Roundtable blasted the deal's application of the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) and reiterated the group's previous position that adding slots at racetracks is unconstitutional. "The voters approved state Issue 3 and the language, written by the casino industry, which is now the final word on casino gambling in Ohio. Those words can only be changed by the legal process of further amendments. That language of Issue 3 specifically fails to exempt the casinos from paying the Ohio Commercial Activity Tax on gross revenues. The amendment specifically binds the casinos to pay all taxes levied in general against any other Ohio business. The CAT clearly fits into this most obvious description. The governor needs no other language to enforce the CAT tax on the casinos. They enforced it upon themselves in the construction of their own amendment which the voters approved. The failure to collect the CAT tax would

be a violation of the Ohio Constitution and state statutes." In addition, the group said, "If the governor wants to open racetrack casinos with Vegas-style slot machines, he is required by law to take such a proposal to the voters." 1/2

Sen. Mike Skindell (D-Cleveland), current and former Lottery Commission employees, and the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association questioned the Senate budget proposal for privatization of the lottery, raising doubts about its constitutionality and saying a private operator won't necessarily be able to improve performance.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

As expected, Gov. John Kasich appointed Sen. Karen Gillmor (R-Tiffin) as a commissioner of the Industrial Commission of Ohio, replacing current Commissioner Kevin R. Abrams, whose term expires June 30. House members in her district include Reps. David Burke (R-Marysville), Jeffrey McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) and Rex Damschroder (R-Fremont).

The Controlling Board deferred a request Monday for a \$50,000 bump in what Ohio Medicaid can pay doctors in administrative positions, which the Kasich administration is seeking so it can make Medicaid's medical director a full-time position. Medicaid Director John McCarthy told the panel he didn't know why the administration hadn't included the request in its budget proposal.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* found that, in Ohio, 33 percent of state legislators had obtained a bachelor's degree, while 48 percent obtained a degree higher than a bachelor's degree, for a total of 80.3 percent with degrees -- higher than state and national averages of 74.7 percent.

House Speaker William Batchelder announced a number of changes in House committee assignments, prompted by the departure of now-Sen. William Coley (R-West Chester). Taking Coley's place as chair of the House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development Committee is Rep. Richard Adams (R-Troy), who had served as the committee's vice chair. Rep. Margaret Ruhl (R-Mt. Vernon) has been appointed financial institutions vice chair.

Members of the Senate Democratic Caucus met with members of the media Tuesday to discuss their concerns with the budget process and with ways other decisions are being made in the upper chamber. Sen. Tom Sawyer (D-Akron) was perhaps the harshest in his criticism of Senate leadership, saying that very important and complex issues ranging from the school funding formula to charter school language to merit pay for teachers have seen "no substantive debate in committee or on the floor."

The Senate passed HB54 (Martin), which brings Ohio into compliance with federal law on the restoration of gun ownership rights to individuals with certain criminal convictions, by a 24-9 vote on Wednesday.

In other legislative action this week, the House Insurance Committee reported out HB218 (Hottinger), which deals with coverage for off-label drug use; the House Judiciary and Ethics Committee reported out SB122 (Oelslager), implementing language for the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, as well as HB170 (Mecklenborg), which deals actions on contracts; the House State Government and Elections Committee reported out HB224, dealing with overseas and military voting; the House Criminal Justice Committee reported out HB14 (Sears), dealing with vicious dogs; the House Health and Aging Committee reported out HB245 (Yuko), which designates September as Pain Awareness Month, as well as HB248 (Boyd), which designates October 13 as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day; the House Veterans Affairs Committee reported out HB193 (Uecker), which deals with tax exemptions for veterans organizations; the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee reported out HB148 (Letson-Anielski), which names March as Macular Degeneration Awareness Month, as well as HB92 (Martin-Beck), dealing with adoption of adult children; and the Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee reported out SB171 (Gillmor-Wagoner), the sunset review bill.

GOVERNOR

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) and the Ohio Attorney General announced the settlement of a discrimination claim against developers, designers, owners and builders of the Stonebridge development in downtown Cleveland. The agreement protects the rights of the disabled to accessible housing under the federal Fair Housing Act and the Ohio Revised Code.

The governor signed HB121 (Rosenberger), which deals with child custody and visitation rights of parents called to active military service.

Following Sunday's 105-95 victory by the Dallas Mavericks over the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals, Gov. John R. Kasich issued a resolution honoring the champions on a successful season and declaring members of the team and their fans to be "Honorary Ohioans." He praised the Mavericks for "the loyalty, integrity and teamwork they demonstrated throughout the season."

Gov. John Kasich said he has proposed for inclusion in the conference committee report a tax break for Ohioans who invest in an Ohio company and hold onto that investment for at least two years. He said in a speech to the Ohio Society of CPAs that the proposal could bring additional investment capital into Ohio.

GUNS

Democratic state legislators led by Rep. Tracy Heard (D-Columbus) and including Reps. Nancy Garland (D-New Albany), Ted Celeste (D-Grandview Heights), Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) and Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus) joined Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman and Columbus City Councilwoman Michelle Mills Monday to decry a loophole in state law which they say allows the purchase of weapons at gun shows without proper background checks. They said the need to close the loophole is even more urgent now after American-born Al Qaeda spokesman Adam Gadahn issued a video urging terrorists to use the loophole to buy weapons for its war against America.

SB17 (Schaffer), which would allow concealed carry weapons in places that sell liquor, is on its way to Gov. John Kasich's desk after the House approved the Senate version of the bill, and the Senate signed off on the House changes Wednesday. Kasich told reporters Wednesday morning that he would sign the bill, noting his support of the Second Amendment. Three Democrats, Reps. Debbie Phillips (D-Athens), Sean O'Brien (D-Brookfield) and Lou Gentile (D-Steubenville) voted in favor, while Reps. Nan Baker (R-Westlake), Mike Duffey (R-Worthington), Gerald Stebelton (R-Lancaster), Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) and Richard Hollington (R-Chagrin Falls) voted against it. The legislators all voted the same way on companion legislation, HB45 (Bubp-Johnson).

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

A referendum on "Obama Care" is one step closer to the November ballot following a 24-9 vote Wednesday vote in the Senate on SJR1 (Grendell). Supporters of the resolution maintain that the federal health care law violates the U.S. Constitution.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Ohio University President Roderick McDavis has been appointed to the executive committee of the Mid-American Conference (MAC), in which Ohio University sports teams compete.

Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor, executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences at the University of Toledo, will serve as co-chair of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) responsible for accrediting all U.S. and Canadian medical schools.

Ohio State University hired Kathleen McCutcheon as vice president and chief human resources officer.

JUDICIAL

A divided Supreme Court of Ohio ruled that employers may not dismiss an injured worker under any circumstance without just cause. Leading the majority opinion, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said Thursday that the Ohio Revised Code establishes a "clear public policy" against retaliatory firing before or after a workers' compensation claim is filed, establishing a separate tort claim for wrongful discharge.

The Ohio Supreme Court's Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline named Michelle Hall as senior staff counsel.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Following a lengthy debate, the Senate approved HB133 (J. Adams) permitting oil and gas drilling in the state's parks by a vote of 22-10.

The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee accepted a substitute version of the Great Lakes Compact bill, HB231. However, many environmental groups maintain the bill does not incorporate a comprehensive, science-based approach necessary to protect the surface and ground water that sustains Lake Erie.

NONPROFITS

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that approximately 275,000 organizations nationwide, including nearly 10,700 in Ohio, automatically lost their tax-exempt status because they did not file legally required annual reports for three consecutive years.

PEOPLE

The John Glenn School of Public Affairs at Ohio State University (OSU) has named State Rep. Ted Celeste (D-Columbus) the recipient of its "Outstanding Public Service Award" for career contributions to public service.

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) has recently hired Trish Lanahan as director of Clean Energy Campaigns and legislative affairs associate.

American Electric Power (AEP) announced Monday that Susan Tomasky, president of AEP Transmission, will retire from the company effective July 31 to pursue other professional opportunities. A replacement for Tomasky will be named in the near future.

Former State Chief Information Officer and Director of the Ohio Office of Information Technology Mary Carroll has joined Sean P. Dunn & Associates.

The probate judges association and juvenile judges association elected new officers. They include Judge Kathleen L. Giesler of the Ottawa County Probate/Juvenile Court who was elected to a two-year term as president of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges and Judge Theresa Dellick of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court who was elected to a one-year term as president of the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges.

Janelle Teeters Mead was appointed as the chief of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Markets Division by Director Jim Zehringer on Wednesday.

Strategic Health Care and SGI Group in Ohio promoted Elise Geig to vice president of government relations.

REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT

The Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, Reapportionment and Demographic Research, whose members include House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) and Senate President Tom Niehaus (R-New Richmond), House and Senate Minority Leaders Rep. Armond Budish (D-Beachwood) and Sen. Capri

Cafaro (D-Hubbard), and Republicans House Chief of Staff Troy Judy and Senate Chief of Staff Matt Schuler, held its first meeting of the 129th General Assembly.

TREASURER OF STATE

Treasurer of State Josh Mandel Monday initiated a \$25 million emergency financing program to assist Ohioans whose small businesses, farms and homes were damaged by flooding and severe weather in 2011 in all 88 counties. Through the Ohio Treasury's "Renew Ohio & Rebuild Ohio" linked deposit programs, small business owners, farmers and homeowners affected by the floods and severe weather are now eligible to receive emergency financial assistance through interest rate reductions on loans.

UTILITIES

FirstEnergy's Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. will held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Emergency Operations Center for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, which will provide overall management of activities related to maintaining public health and safety during the event of an emergency at the plant by using state-of-the-art equipment to monitor environmental conditions and communicate with state and local emergency representatives.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) held its final of four public hearings Tuesday on the proposed American Electric Power (AEP) electric security plan (ESP), which could increase rates between 11 percent and 15 percent. Most of the testimony supported AEP's proposed rate plan. Proponent testimony came from various organizations such as the Community Shelter Board, Habitat for Humanity Ohio and the United Way, with the witnesses stating that AEP has been a tremendous community partner in helping low income families.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Administrator Stephen Buehrer said Wednesday seven people were convicted or pleaded guilty to charges related to defrauding Ohio's workers' compensation system during the month of May. The court actions are the result of investigations conducted by BWC's Special Investigations Department.