

NAIOP

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
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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 6/27/2011

- HB282 HIGHWAY NAME DESIGNATION (MARTIN J)** To designate State Route 235 within the municipal corporation of Fairborn the "Army Specialist Jesse Adam Snow Memorial Highway."

- HB283 DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS** (GROSSMAN C) To require each person under eighteen years of age applying for a driver's license to complete a first-aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training course.
- HB284 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS** (GONZALES A, LETSON T) To modify the laws governing physician assistants.
- HB285 MESOTHELIOMA MONTH** (YUKO K, ROEGNER K) To designate September as "Mesothelioma Month."
- HB286 EMPLOYMENT OF UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS** (COMBS C, BUBP D) To adopt provisions related to the employment of unauthorized aliens.
- HB287 OHIO HEALTH CARE PLAN** (HAGAN R, FOLEY M) To enact the Ohio Health Security Act to establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.
- HB288 EMT CIVIL IMMUNITY (SWAT)** (COMBS C) To grant an emergency medical technician who is providing volunteer medical assistance to a county, township, or municipal SWAT team at the SWAT team's request the same civil immunity granted to a political subdivision employee and to permit such an emergency medical technician to carry a firearm onto, or possess a firearm on, lands and premises during the time that the technician is providing such medical assistance.
- HB289 BESTIALITY** (GOYAL J, MCCLAIN J) To make bestiality a criminal offense.
- HB290 ASSAULT AGAINST A DOG WARDEN** (GARLAND N) To specify that an assault against a dog warden, deputy dog warden, humane agent, or animal control officer is a felony of the fifth degree.
- HB291 ELECTION PROCESS** (STINZIANO M, REECE A) To restore local control to Ohio's election process and increase voter participation by permitting an individual who wishes to vote by absent voter's ballots to request those ballots via electronic mail, through the internet, if internet delivery is offered by a board of elections or the Secretary of State, by permitting a board of elections to mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots, and by requiring the Secretary of State to reimburse boards, for costs incurred in sending unsolicited applications for general elections held in an even-numbered year.
- HCR22 SHORT SEA SHIPPING ACT** (KOZLOWSKI C, YOUNG R) To urge Congress to pass the "Short Sea Shipping Act of 2011."
- SB190 PREGNANCY PREVENTION-SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM** (CAFARO C) Regarding assistance for pregnancy prevention and hospital services for victims of sexual assault.
- SB191 BESTIALITY** (HUGHES J, WILSON J) To make engaging in an act of sexual bestiality a criminal offense.
- SB192 STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS** (TURNER N, TAVARES C) To include content on specified historical documents in the state academic standards and in the high school American history and government curriculum.
- SB193 SCRAP METAL DEALERS** (SEITZ B) To require scrap metal dealers to take and keep as part of the sales record a photograph of each person selling or giving an article to the dealer.

Week in Review

Friday, July 1, 2011

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Mike DeWine's office awarded a total of \$3.5 million in grants to help educate K-12 students about the dangers of drug abuse, with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Cincinnati Police Department the biggest recipients.

BALLOT ISSUES

We Are Ohio, the campaign to put SB5 (Jones) up for a referendum on the November ballot, delivered a record-breaking 1.3 million signatures Wednesday to Secretary of State Jon Husted's office after hauling them down Broad St. in a semi-truck as part of a parade of thousands. Husted and local boards of elections must validate the petitions by July 26. Saying they reached the threshold of at least 3 percent of voters in all 88 counties -- not just 44 counties as required by law -- organizers needed only 231,000 valid signatures to make the November ballot.

FY12-13 BUDGET

After several cancellations and delays in the days preceding, budget conferees passed their compromise version of HB153 (Amstutz) in the final minutes of Monday, adding about \$49 million per year above Senate spending levels and reaching compromise on some major policy differences while leaving others to be dealt with in separate legislation. Among its provisions, the final version reaches compromise on teacher merit pay within the framework of Race to the Top, and on charter school regulations; follows Senate language on K-12 funding, including a \$17 per-pupil bonus for high-achieving schools; largely follows House language on construction reform but Senate language on prevailing wage; removes a proposed legislative pay cut; requires General Assembly approval before the administration can release bid specifications for an Ohio Turnpike lease; removes a requirement for the Ohio Lottery to be privatized; adds about \$31 million for nursing homes and \$8 million for PASSPORT over the Senate version; and authorizes a combined \$180 million for the administration to use on emergency capital project needs and Medicaid cost overruns.

The Senate passed the conference report on the budget Tuesday and the House followed up Wednesday. The House approved the report on a straight party-line vote while in the Senate, Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-Canton) joined the 10 Democrats in voting against the report.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Gov. John Kasich signed HB86 (Blessing-Heard) on Wednesday, capping a multi-year push for sentencing reforms that spanned two budget cycles. He said the bill will help people to restore their lives while urging people not "to think we've lost our discipline," saying violent offenders will still be imprisoned under the bill.

ECONOMY

According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), the index of leading economic indicators for Ohio grew 0.1 percent in May to 90.5. This indicates that employment, on a seasonally adjusted basis, will continue to grow through the summer. The number of initial claims for unemployment compensation fell this month, while both average weekly hours in manufacturing and valuation of housing permits rose. The national composite index of leading economic indicators rose 0.8 percent in May to 114.7. The national economy will likely continue to grow through the summer and fall; however, it will be choppy.

EDUCATION

The Ohio Academy of Science highlighted a new report from the National Academies National Research Council and others in support of its position that a commitment to quality science education in all publicly funded schools, not just standalone STEM schools, is necessary for the state and nation to compete globally.

Gov. John Kasich announced \$16.2 million in federal Race to the Top innovation grants to Ohio schools Wednesday, in the process casting opponents of collective bargaining changes in SB5 (Jones) as working counter to the trends of education reform in Race to the Top and across the nation. "The requirements in RttT are more stringent than those in SB5," he said.

ELECTIONS

Secretary of State Jon Husted released a statement making clear his opposition to photo-ID voting provisions in HB159 (Mecklenborg), saying, "I would rather have no bill than one with a rigid photo identification provision that does little to protect against fraud and excludes legally registered voters' ballots from counting."

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) urged the U.S. Department of Justice to keep a close eye on photo-ID voting requirements proposed or implemented in Ohio and other states to ensure they don't run afoul of civil rights.

ELECTIONS 2012

Former Secretary of State Ken Blackwell ended consideration of a bid to challenge U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) in 2012, saying he would prefer executive office and that running "would require me to make 'nice' with folks whom I would rather not."

Parma Councilman Nicholas Celebrezze, son of former Supreme Court Justice James Celebrezze, announced he'll run in 2012 for the Ohio House seat of Rep. Tim DeGeeter (D-Parma). DeGeeter likely will step down early as he is unopposed in his bid for Parma mayor this fall.

The Senate Conservatives Fund, the political action group of U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC), endorsed Ohio's Treasurer Josh Mandel for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate in 2012.

Former State Sen. Kevin Coughlin took shots at Treasurer Josh Mandel, his rival for the 2012 Republican U.S. Senate nomination, calling himself the true conservative in the race and saying nothing in Mandel's record indicates he's different from other politicians.

ENERGY

Greg Washington, a mechanical engineering professor at Ohio State University, told a Columbus Metropolitan Club audience that world population growth is behind global energy concerns, with India and China driving that. He said solar energy offers the best "bang for the buck" of alternative sources but the inherent problems of cost and land-mass needs must still be dealt with.

On Thursday, USEC entered into a standstill agreement with its investors Toshiba Corporation (Toshiba), acting through its U.S. subsidiary Toshiba America Nuclear Energy Corporation, and Babcock & Wilcox Investment Company (B&W) to provide a limited additional period of time -- until the end of July 2011 -- to obtain a conditional commitment from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a \$2 billion loan to build the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) in Piketon.

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ENVIRONMENT

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency announced it will have a public hearing July 14 on draft air pollution permits related to the planned expansion of Chrysler's Toledo North Assembly Plant.

A coalition, including representatives from the Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, Environment Ohio, Energy Action Coalition, Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, Audubon Ohio, and others, submitted 11,000 comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), calling on the agency to enact strong safeguards against mercury pollution from coal fired power plants.

FEDERAL

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced legislation to bar the export of electronic toxic waste to developing countries and support domestic electronics recyclers.

GAMING

The racetrack relocation bill, HB277, was amended in the Senate Finance Committee to reflect portions of Gov. John Kasich's deal with casino operators Penn National Gaming and Rock Ohio Caesars, including applicability of the Commercial Activity Tax to wagers minus payouts, rather than gross wagers.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The House on Tuesday passed three abortions bills, including HB125 (Wachtmann), the so-called "heartbeat bill," which would enact the strictest abortion ban in the nation. The others passed were HB78 (Uecker-Roegner), which prohibits abortions after a fetus is determined to be viable, and HB79, which bans insurance companies participating in the state's health care exchange from covering abortions. In addition, the House passed HB14 (Sears), which deals with vicious dogs, and HB99 (Damschroder), a texting-while-driving bill.

Aside from its approval of the budget conference report, the Senate on Tuesday largely finished up its business for the summer by passing several bills, although Senate President Tom Niehaus (R-New Richmond) said senators will return July 13 to seat replacements for departing Sens. Karen Gillmor (R-Tiffin) and Jimmy Stewart (R-Albany) and possibly vote on an elections bill. The Senate passed HB231 (Wachtmann), Great Lakes Compact legislation; HB277 (Blessing-Gerberry), the racetrack relocation and casino deal bill; HJR1, a proposal for a constitutional amendment to increase the age at which judges must retire; HB64 (Ruhl-Burke), which adds synthetic cannabinoids to the list of Schedule I controlled substances; HB188 (Batchelder), which would create a Constitutional Modernization Commission; HB229 (Buchy), an omnibus revision to agriculture laws; SB83 (Oelslager), which gives advanced practices nurses greater prescriptive authority; and SB141 (Gillmor), which allows out-of-state doctors to treat members of sports teams with whom they travel.

On Wednesday, in addition to approving the final state budget, the House voted to concur with Senate changes to HB194 (Blessing-Mecklenborg), the elections bill, after a lengthy debate following a familiar course of Republicans' pointing to the need to fight fraud and Democrats' arguing the bill amounts to voter suppression.

The race to fill a vacant Senate seat that will open when Sen. Karen Gillmor (R-Tiffin) takes an appointment at the Industrial Commission was lessened by one Thursday after Rep. Rex Damschroder (R-Fremont) said he would not seek the appointment. Damschroder, a representative from 1995-2003, is serving his second stint in the General Assembly after winning the 81st House District seat last year. He had been considering applying for Gillmor's 26th Senate District seat, a position he sought after Gillmor's last departure in 1997, when Larry Mumper was appointed to the Senate, but decided against it.

Reports surfaced that Rep. Bob Mecklenborg (R-Cincinnati) is due in court July 26 to face a charge of driving a vehicle while intoxicated after he was arrested in Indiana in April. He has pleaded not guilty to the charge. In a statement issued late Thursday, Speaker of the House Bill Batchelder (R-Medina) said he was "shocked and disappointed to learn of the difficult situation that Rep. Mecklenborg and his family are facing. We are working with Rep. Mecklenborg to find a solution that is in the best interests of the representative, his family and all concerned."

GOVERNOR

Gov. John Kasich signed 11 bills on Thursday, June 30 including the FY12-13 budget, HB153. Others included the "guns in bars" bill, SB17 (Schaffer); the recommendations of the Sunset Review Commission sunsetting 85 boards or commissions, SB171 (Gillmor-Wagoner); the clarification that county prosecutors are the legal advisors for tax-supported libraries, SB120 (Beagle); the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, SB122 (Oelslager); changes in Ohio's coal mining laws, HB163 (Balderson); and procedures to allow drilling for oil and gas on state-owned lands, HB133 (J. Adams).

When signing the budget, Kasich vetoed seven items including the following: a transfer of funds from the Facilities Establishment Fund for mental health (although he notes mental health funding does not change); restrictions placed on repurchase of a privatized prison; an earmark for Hattie Larlham

Community Living; requirements on the Lottery Commission regarding reporting on tickets and advertising the percent of education funding provided by the Lottery; some of the changes to the School Facilities Commission program which are "beneficial to select districts" while having "adverse impacts on others"; removing duplicative language regarding the study of health care pooling; and removing a voluntary body mass index (BMI) screening program in Ohio schools enacted in 2010.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Cardinal Health Foundation announced 39 grants totaling \$1.2 million to improve efficiency, efficacy and excellence of care through its E3 Grant Program, with six Ohio hospitals or hospital systems making the list.

The Cincinnati-based U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals delivered a 2-1 panel ruling upholding the individual insurance mandate in the federal Affordable Care Act, a major victory for President Barack Obama and the law's supporters. "The Commerce Clause does not acknowledge a constitutional distinction between activity and inactivity, and neither does the Supreme Court," wrote Judge Boyce F. Martin in the ruling. "Furthermore, far from regulating inactivity, the provision regulates active participation in the health care market."

HIGHER EDUCATION

Trustees at Ohio State University, Ohio University and Miami University all voted to approve tuition increases of 3.5 percent, the maximum allowed under the new state budget.

Kent State University's Board of Trustees approved a tuition increase of 3.5 percent, the maximum allowed under the new state budget, the university announced Thursday. The increase applies to graduate and undergraduate students at all eight Kent campuses effective fall semester. The university projects it was in line to receive \$16 million less from the state under HB153 (Amstutz). The increase will increase undergraduate rates \$158 per semester, to \$4,673, and graduate rates \$168 per semester, to \$4,791.

Kent State University reported a 6.57 percent increase in summer enrollment for 2011 across its eight campuses.

Cleveland State University announced the largest donation in its history Tuesday, a \$10 million gift from alumnus Monte Ahuja to fund scholarships and an endowed professorship in business.

HOUSING

Ohio housing sales for January through May are down 13.2 percent from the same period a year earlier, while sales prices were down 5.8 percent and total dollar volume was down 18.2 percent, the Ohio Association of Realtors reported.

JUDICIAL

The Ohio Supreme Court's Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline scheduled a disciplinary hearing for July 19 in the case of Joshua Engel, the former chief counsel at the Department of Public Safety, who was demoted and later fired amid a scandal involving a cancelled sting operation against inmates accused of smuggling contraband while working at the governor's official residence.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional a statute allowing county commissioners to remove a county treasurer over missing funds, raising questions over who should hold the seat: former Stark County Treasurer Gary Zeigler or the duly elected current treasurer, Alexander Zumber. Despite Zeigler's demand that he be restored "immediately," the county prosecutor said he is weighing legal alternatives and is in no hurry to respond to the ruling.

The Ohio Supreme Court said its Advisory Committee on the Judicial Family Networks will be chaired this year and next by Robert Lanzinger, husband of Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the incomplete audit of county financial reports before the Auditor of State's Office governs the "reasonable" response time in which authorities must provide requested documents under the Ohio Public Records Act. The Court issued the 7-0 ruling in its latest rebuff of a public records claimant who eventually received the requested records but nevertheless demanded legal fees, costs and statutory damages.

The Ohio Supreme Court Thursday issued a reminder that every odd-numbered year, all Ohio attorneys on active or corporate status must register for the next biennium with the Court's Office of Attorney Services by Sept. 1 and pay a \$350 registration fee. Attorneys who fail to register and pay fees by the deadline or within the late registration period will be suspended.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Former Gov. George Voinovich echoed the calls of another Republican former governor, Bob Taft, for the General Assembly to pull back on HB231, implementation legislation for the Great Lakes Compact. Among Voinovich's concerns were that the bill curtails the ability to scientifically determine adverse impacts and fails to consider the cumulative effect of water withdrawals.

Law enforcement officers contacted 1,907 boaters, made eight arrests and issued 112 violations and 503 warnings as part of Operation Dry Water, an effort among the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and other enforcement agencies to crack down on drunken boating.

The Ohio Department of Health launched a new beach safety website at www.odh.ohio.gov/healthybeaches for users to check on bacterial or algal bloom advisories at any of 62 monitored beaches on Lake Erie or inland lakes.

PENSION FUNDS

The Ohio Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal of an Eighth District Appellate Court ruling that boards of county commissioners must offer early retirement incentive plans to all county agency employees, or offer no plans at all, which contradicts the longtime practice of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System in approving selective early retirement plans.

Members of the Ohio Retirement Study Council unanimously voted Thursday to release bid specifications for a contract to give expert advice on proposed pension reforms in HB69 (Wachtmann) and other potential changes to the state's five retirement system despite concerns raised by the five plans about the review's time demands, cost and scope.

PEOPLE

Ashland County resident John Joliff, the Ohio Tree Farm Committee's 2011 inspector of the year, was named among the top four tree farm inspectors in the United States by the American Tree Farm System, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

House GOP spokesman Mike Dittoe and his wife, Erica, became the parents of a baby girl, Emma Margaret.

J. Warren Bettis, former head of the Ohio Supreme Court's Office of Disciplinary Counsel, died in Salem at age 86. He also was a former common pleas judge, prosecutor and Public Utilities Commission member.

The Ohio State Bar Association said its long-time executive director, Denny L. Ramey, will retire in July 2013.

The Columbus Chamber appointed Michael Hartley, recently head of the Office of Public Liaison for Gov. John Kasich, as vice president of government relations.

Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus) was named to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Health Committee for the 2011-12 biennium.

Charles Whalen Jr., a Republican who represented the Dayton-area Third Congressional District from 1966-1979, died Monday in Bethesda, MD.

U.S. Rep. Mike Turner announced his new district director will be former Public Utilities Commission of Ohio member Valerie Lemmie, who was Dayton's city manager when Turner was mayor.

The House of Representatives Wednesday paid tribute to a former member, Dr. William Taylor, who died June 22 at the age of 87. A dentist in Norwalk, Taylor served in the House from 1995 through 2000. He was also a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War.

The governor appointed Jerry N. Hruby of Brecksville (Cuyahoga Co.) as a member of the Ohio Turnpike Commission for a term beginning June 29 and ending June 30, 2013 and Timothy P. Smucker of Orrville (Wayne Co.) as a member of the Ohio State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning June 29 and ending May 13, 2020.

UTILITIES

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio established a social media presence at www.facebook.com/PUCOhio and www.twitter.com/PUCOhio.

A coalition of groups representing American Electric Power customers asked the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to initiate a refund by AEP to customers of \$23.7 million for the cost of a planned integrated gasification combined-cycle power plant that wasn't built. They said a five-year deadline for AEP to start construction has been reached.

On Thursday, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed recommendations with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for more than \$787 million in rate adjustments in current rates and to offset the collection of future rates for customers of American Electric Power (AEP) that are consistent with the Supreme Court of Ohio's April 19 decision. The Court had said the PUCO improperly allowed AEP to collect unjustified expenses from customers with OCC recommending reduced base generation rates by eliminating carrying charges for past environmental investments and removing charges for AEP's risk to provide backup electricity for shopping customers.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Sen. Tim Grendell (R-Chesterland) wrapped up the Competitive Workers' Compensation Task Force, making modifications to its final report to the governor and legislators. The report outlines three options: continue the current system but pursue reforms; pursue a constitutional amendment to totally privatize the market; and allow private insurers to compete directly with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation.