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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 9/12/2011

- HB318 ELIMINATE MARCH PRIMARY ELECTIONS (BLESSING L, O'BRIEN S)** To eliminate

March primary elections in presidential election years by requiring all primary elections to be conducted on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, and to declare an emergency.

- HB319 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES** (HUFFMAN M) To establish Congressional district boundaries for the state based on the 2010 decennial census of Ohio.
- HB320 MILITARY SACRIFICE LICENSE PLATES** (JOHNSON T, BUBP D) To create "Military Sacrifice" license plates.
- HB321 HIGHWAY NAME DESIGNATION** (PETERSON B) To designate a portion of State Route 773 within Ross County the "Staff Sergeant Joshua Gire Memorial Highway."
- HB322 INTEREST RATES** (BRENNER A) To permit Ohio banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions to charge the same interest rate and other charges that out-of-state banks may charge Ohio customers.
- HB323 RETIREMENT SYSTEM** (DOVILLA M, ANIELSKI M) To add extortion and perjury to the felonies committed by a public retirement system while serving in a position of honor, trust or profit under the law governing the forfeiture of retirement system benefits and the termination of retirement system disability benefits.
- HB324 APPORTIONMENT PLANS FOR G.A. MEMBERS** (CLYDE K, LETSON T) To specify that plans of apportionment for members of the General Assembly must include or be accompanied by a district map and corresponding list of census blocks, to specify a time when plans must be ready.
- HB325 HIGHWAY NAME DESIGNATION** (LANDIS A) To designate a portion of State Route 39 within Tuscarawas County the "Lance Corporal Peter James Clore Memorial Highway."
- SB217 MARCH PRIMARY ELECTIONS** (FABER K) To eliminate March primary elections in presidential election years by requiring all primary elections to be conducted on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, and to declare an emergency.
- SB218 INTEREST RATES** (COLEY W) To permit Ohio banks, savings and loan associations, saving banks, and credit unions to charge the same interest rate and other charges that out-of-state banks may charge Ohio customers.
- SB219 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (SAWYER T) To eliminate the exemption for community schools serving dropouts from the requirement to permanently close for poor academic performance.
- SB220 INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT STUDY** (SAWYER T) To require a study of interdistrict open enrollment, and to repeal sections of the Revised Code effective July 1, 2015, to terminate interdistrict open enrollment on that date with the possibility of renewal following the General Assembly's examination of the study's findings.
- SB221 ELEMENTARY-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENTS** (SAWYER T) To make the elementary-level achievement assessments public records.
- SB222 DISPLAY FLAGS ALONG INTERSTATES** (BURKE D) To require certain flags to be displayed at rest areas along the state's interstates and the Ohio Turnpike.
- SB223 TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRAUD** (BACON K) To allow the Attorney General to investigate the offenses of unauthorized use of property and telecommunications fraud, to modify the penalties for telecommunications fraud, and to create the offense of telecommunications fraud perpetrated against an elderly person or disabled adult.
- SB224 WRITTEN CONTRACTS** (OBHOF L) To shorten the period of limitations for actions upon a contract in writing.

Week in Review

Friday, September 16, 2011

AGRICULTURE

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack visited Ohio State University, talking about the economic potential of agricultural research and development and touting aspects of President Barack Obama's new job-creation plan.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine announced Tuesday that Ohio, along with 40 other states, has reached a settlement with Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc., a home health agency based in Baltimore, MD, that provides in-home nursing and home health aide services to people with disabilities in all 41 states. Ohio's federal and state share of the settlement is approximately \$14.8 million, with nearly \$6.1 million representing the state portion.

Legislation being introduced in the General Assembly would extend the authority of Ohio's attorney general (AG) to investigate cyber fraud complaints by giving the AG's office authority to subpoena records and/or equipment and depose witnesses as the office investigates and prepares the cases for local criminal prosecution. Attorney General Mike DeWine said he wants to be able to pursue criminal charges against these "scum" who prey on the state's elderly, explaining that fines associated with civil charges are "just seen as the cost of doing business" by these perpetrators. "They need to go to jail."

BALLOT ISSUES

The Americans Civil Liberties Union of Ohio endorsed efforts to seek a referendum on election-law changes in HB194 (Mecklenborg-Blessing).

We Are Ohio, the campaign to defeat Issue 2, launched a second television commercial, accusing politicians of giving pay raises and bonuses to staff while asking other public employees to sacrifice.

A group of 30 Ohioans, including Chris Littleton, co-founder of the Ohio Liberty Council, and Maurice Thompson, executive director of the 1851 Center for Constitutional Law, announced their endorsement of U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) for president.

A new study prepared for the Ohio Business Roundtable by Andrew Biggs and Jason Richwine of the American Enterprise Institute concludes that public workers make 43 percent more in total compensation than their private-sector counterparts and as such, the study notes, counters an underlying argument against SB5/State Issue 2, the overhaul of the state's collective bargaining law, "that Ohio public employees are already underpaid relative to private-sector levels and that the provisions of SB5 would increase the size of this pay penalty."

The study arrived at that figure by looking at three elements: wages, benefits and job security.

However, Amy Hanauer, executive director of Policy Matters Ohio (PMO), noted that 24,800 public sector jobs have disappeared since December 2007, and public workers are even less secure now with the cuts in the Local Government Fund that were enacted in the state's budget this year. "They certainly don't feel secure, so I don't know how you can monetize that." She also questioned the machinations used to devalue the Social Security payments of the private sector while inflating the value of the public sector pension, disability and survivor benefits. "This is pretty fuzzy math."

The League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) announced Wednesday that it has taken a neutral position on State Issue 1, the proposed constitutional amendment raising the mandatory retirement age for judges, and State Issue 2, the referendum on the state's collective bargaining overhaul, SB5. It opposes State Issue 3, a proposed constitutional amendment, the Health Care Freedom Amendment, which seeks to exempt Ohioans from certain provisions of federal health reform, the Affordable Care Act.

The Building a Better Ohio campaign has built a coalition of various chambers of commerce and associations around the state who rallied Thursday in support of Issue 2, the referendum on collective bargaining law SB5 (Jones). The campaign also released its latest campaign ad, "The Facts," which will air statewide beginning Friday.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission (OCSC) revived its campaign to simplify the Ohio Revised Code Thursday, informally referring to the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) a proposed rewrite of OVI statutes that could serve as a conceptual basis for the excision of a half million words from the Revised Code.

DEATH PENALTY

The Catholic Conference of Ohio applauded Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor's establishment of a task force to review Ohio's death penalty, saying they hope the group will confirm "that there are serious flaws and systemic disparities within any application of the death penalty."

Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Herb Brown was among those petitioning for clemency for death row inmate Joseph Murphy, whose capital sentence also was opposed by the late Chief Justice Thomas Moyer. Moyer had written in his dissent that he knew "of no other case in which the defendant, clearly guilty of the crime as the defendant is here, was as destined for disaster as was Joseph Murphy as a direct result of the conditions to which he was exposed by his family."

EDUCATION

State Superintendent Stan Heffner said that while the state is overhauling governance of tutoring programs after a critical audit, local schools also bear responsibility for ensuring programs are well run.

Two of Gov. John Kasich's education advisers, Bob Sommers and Barbara Mattei-Smith, gave a preview to the State Board of Education of a new K-12 funding model they'll present in draft form next month, saying state dollars must be focused, equitable and flexible enough to meet individual student needs through multiple delivery systems.

The semantics of school rankings dominated State Board of Education debate on annual report card data this week, when members had their first official opportunity to weigh in on state and local report cards released in late August. The common complaint was a standard of "excellence" that leaves nearly 60 percent of all Ohio school districts in the A or A+ category – well ahead of any reliable grading curve.

The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools (OAPCS) is applauding the U.S. House of Representatives' passage of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act of 2011 this week, the first of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization bills to be approved.

ELECTIONS

The Republican Governors Association took to the airwaves under the banner of a group called "Making Ohio Great" to run commercials boosting the agenda and record of Gov. John Kasich.

The Ohio Supreme Court reinstated two Lucas County candidates to the ballot, ruling that candidates who withdraw candidacies can re-file their petitions, prompting Secretary of State Jon Husted to rescind a directive that held the contrary.

ELECTIONS 2012

The National Republican Congressional Committee said the second round of its Patriot Program for strengthening campaigns includes three Ohioans – U.S. Reps. Jim Renacci (R-Wadsworth), Bill Johnson (R-Marietta) and Bob Gibbs (R-Lakeville).

ENERGY

Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Powell) introduced legislation to strip away the advanced and renewable energy portfolio standards passed as part of 127-SB221 (Schuler), prompting blowback from environmental groups who said Jordan's bill could hamper job growth the state is seeing in the renewable energy sector.

FirstEnergy Corp. announced an RFP process to secure 10-year renewable energy credits and solar renewable energy credits to meet Ohio's portfolio standards.

ENVIRONMENT

A coalition of energy and environment advocates including the Consumers Union, Environment Ohio, the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE) released a new survey by Public Policy Polling showing that Ohio residents solidly support energy efficiency technologies and would like the government to play a lead role in setting higher standards for appliances, light bulbs and other household products.

FEDERAL

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) praised the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency for temporarily banning illicit chemicals marketed as "bath salts," but reiterated his call for a permanent ban, as called for in legislation he co-sponsored.

President Barack Obama visited Columbus' Fort Hayes High School to promote his "American Jobs Act," including provisions that would provide funding to renovate tens of thousands of schools. Ohio GOP Chairman Kevin DeWine and his national counterpart, Reince Preibus, panned Obama's plan, saying the school-renovation projects sound "like a lot more shovel-ready projects that aren't shovel-ready."

GAMING

Ohio Racing Commission members and staffers estimated Thursday that the agency will run out of money in January 2013 absent new revenue. Racetracks and the commission are expecting a boost from the planned installation of video lottery terminals, but how quickly they'll start generating money isn't yet known. In the meantime, attendance at and participation in horse racing events isn't bringing in enough money to support commission operations in the long term.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Gov. John Kasich appointed Sen. Tim Grendell (R-Chesterland) to the vacancy left on the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas left by the death of Probate and Juvenile Judge Charles Henry. Grendell will be sworn in Sept. 21, but the Senate won't take applications to replace him until new General Assembly district boundaries are drawn by the Apportionment Board.

House Republicans picked retired naval officer Louis Terhar, husband of State Board of Education President Debe Terhar, to replace former Rep. Robert Mecklenborg (R-West Chester), who resigned after being charged with drunken driving in Indiana.

The Statehouse observed the 110th anniversary of the death of former Ohio Gov. and U.S. President William McKinley with its annual Red Carnation Day.

The Ohio Senate Republican Caucus Wednesday unanimously elected Sen. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) majority floor leader for the remainder of the 129th General Assembly. He replaces former Sen. Jimmy Stewart (R-Albany), who resigned earlier this year.

Among the witnesses testifying before the House Technology in State Government Study Committee was John Conomy, chief information officer for the Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS), who told the committee the "unique core business functions" of any given agency "may not be the best candidates for consolidation."

GOVERNOR

Gov. John Kasich said at a Statehouse memorial event marking the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks that Americans should strive toward the unity they felt in the wake of the attacks.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Permanent rules replacing temporary orders Gov. John Kasich issued to implement budget changes to health care and subsidized child care can now go into effect after passing through the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Eastern Gateway Community College reported its enrollment exceeds 2,400 students this fall, a 10 percent jump from the previous year and a figure that comes just two years after classes began at the college created in the FY10-11 biennial budget bill.

Ohio State University's Board of Trustees approved a \$4.9 billion budget for the university's campuses, while giving the nod for administrators to search for a vendor to run parking facilities for a lease of up to 50 years.

U.S. News and World Report ranked Ohio State University 17th among public universities in its annual "America's Best Colleges" list.

Chancellor Jim Petro said Thursday that administrative functions related to the four technology operations under the Ohio Board of Regents will be consolidated in the newly formed Ohio Technology Consortium, or OH-TECH, thus permitting the elimination of six of 12 jobs and the saving of \$650,000 in the first year. The four affected entities include Ohio Academic Resources Network, Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC), Ohio Learning Network (OLN) and OhioLINK.

JUDICIAL

The \$40 million tort claim against Columbus-based Chemical Abstract Services (CAS) moved forward last week with oral arguments before the state's highest court. Powerful interests have joined CAS and parent company American Chemical Society (ACS) to contest the charge of "malicious litigation" against a spin-off competitor – a tort that the attorney general's office argued Wednesday does not exist in Ohio.

The Ohio Court of Appeals Judges Association elected the following officers for next year: Fifth District Appellate Judge Sheila Farmer as chief justice; Twelfth District Appellate Judge Stephen Powell as chief justice-elect; and Tenth District Appellate Judge Gary Tyack as secretary-treasurer.

Jackson v. Bartec Inc., the case challenging Ohio's indoor smoking ban and the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) efforts to enforce it, is one of four cases selected by the Ohio Supreme Court to be heard during its next "off-site" hearing set for Wednesday, Oct. 19 in Highland County.

The third Veterans Treatment Docket in Ohio opened Thursday, Sept. 8 as Cleveland Municipal Court Judge Lynn McLaughlin-Murray presided over the first cases, the Ohio Supreme Court reported.

In a unanimous judgment Thursday in the case *Dohme v. Eurand Am. Inc.*, the Supreme Court of Ohio ruled that a former employee of pharmaceutical company Eurand America who was fired after warning an insurance adjuster of perceived fire hazards did not establish a claim for wrongful discharge because he failed to cite a specific public policy supporting his allegations.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Ohio Supreme Court partly upheld lower courts Wednesday by ruling in *State ex. Rel. Robert Merrill v. State of Ohio* that property rights for homeowners along Lake Erie extend to the "natural shoreline,"

rather than the ordinary high- or low-water marks. The Ohio Lakefront Group, an organization of property owners, cheered the ruling.

PEOPLE

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources named Lanny Erdos chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management, promoting him from deputy chief.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) announced Friday that Teresa Kobelt has been hired to help lead two statewide employment initiatives at DODD: the department's Employment First Initiative and its participation in the State Employment Leadership Network.

Former Rep. Jennifer Garrison (D-Marietta) opened a law office that will specialize in helping landowners with oil and gas leases.

Steve Stover, a 36-year Statehouse veteran, will retire from the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) at the end of January 2012. Stover has served as OSBA's legislative counsel since March 2000.

Managed-care company CareSource announced that it has hired Samuel George as its new vice president of information technology. He will be responsible for all application development and support, technology and IT infrastructure and the internal HelpDesk service and support.

Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) Director Tracy J. Plouck Tuesday announced the appointment of Jeffrey L. Sims to head the leadership team at the state-run, 130-bed psychiatric hospital in Massillon, Heartland Behavioral Healthcare.

After 15 years, Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association (OCWGA) CEO Dwayne Siekman is stepping down to pursue new career opportunities. Tadd Nicholson, OCWGA's director of government and industry affairs, has been named interim CEO.

Gov. John Kasich appointed County Commissioners' Association of Ohio Executive Director Larry L. Long as a member of the 9-1-1 Council.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal Monday awarded the fire service's highest honors to firefighter and citizen heroes during the state's 31st annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame ceremonies. Franklin Township (Richland County) Lt. Jeremy Gillam, Franklin Township (Richland County) firefighter Joe Lucas, Columbus firefighter David Eyerman and Columbus firefighter Donald Honeycutt were presented the Ohio Fire Service Valor Award. Kelly and Mike Linek, of Columbus, and Marcin and Marek Trzeciak, also of Columbus, were honored with the Ohio Fire Service Citizens Award. Retired Forest Park Fire Chief Trish Brooks was honored with the Ohio Distinguished Fire Service Award.

REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT

In the space of three days, House Republicans introduced, pushed through committee and passed on the floor a new Congressional map that appears to give the party a good chance of winning 12 of the 16 new districts. Three African-American Democrats voted for HB319, while five Republicans opposed it. Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Cleveland) were drawn together into a district that stretches along Lake Erie, while Rep. Betty Sutton (D-Lorain) was drawn into Rep. Jim Renacci's (R-Wadsworth) district. Republicans set up their own primary battle by drawing Reps. Steve Austria (R-Beavercreek) and Mike Turner (R-Centerville) into the same district. The map also creates a new Franklin County district that would be easy for Democrats to win but whose creation helps create more strongly Republican districts for Reps. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus) and Pat Tiberi (R-Westerville).

Democrats decried not just what they said was blatant gerrymandering but also the fact that almost all chance of public input into the process was granted before the actual maps were revealed. The Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting, which staged a public contest to draw more competitive maps, said its formula showed Republicans' map scored lower than every other map submitted during the contest. Illinois Rep. Mike Fortner was announced as the winner of the contest, following his win in the contest for re-drawing General Assembly districts.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern said his party will consider lawsuits and a referendum as ways to stop the redistricting bill, but House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) said the Senate might add an appropriation to the bill, which would cause it to take effect immediately and be immune to referendum.

Fed by the redistricting spat between House Republicans and Democrats was a conflict about HB318, to move the Spring 2012 primary from March to May to give candidates more time to file for new districts. House Minority Leader Armond Budish (D-Beachwood) initially backed the idea but on the condition of sufficient public input on new congressional maps – a condition he said this week was not met as he announced he was pulling his support. The current filing deadline for the March primary is Dec. 7, fewer than 90 days away, meaning Republicans needed some Democrats' support for an emergency clause to let the bill take effect immediately. However, the bill was passed Thursday without the emergency clause after failing to get the needed votes.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Controlling Board approved the Department of Job and Family Services' request to make a \$70.9 million first interest payment on the \$2.3 billion Ohio has borrowed from the federal government to pay unemployment benefits. The department said failure to make the payment could sacrifice payroll tax discounts businesses now get, potentially costing them billions of dollars.

Inspector General Randy Meyer said in a report that two liquor agents in the Ohio Investigative Unit falsified records to hide the fact that they lived more than 75 miles from the office to which they were assigned, in violation of Department of Public Safety policies.

TRANSPORTATION

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) announced it will administer a project on behalf of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) that will link the Norfolk Southern, CSX and the Indiana & Ohio (Rail America) Railroad to a Leipsic industrial park. The \$800,000 for the project was awarded by the Transportation Review and Advisory Committee (TRAC).

UTILITIES

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio announced a redesign of its website, www.puco.ohio.gov, saying it should improve public access to utility-related information.

Oral arguments regarding the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) staff-proposed economic development tariff were Wednesday. Eleven stakeholders including the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, FirstEnergy, FirstEnergy Solutions, Duke Energy Ohio, AEP-Ohio, Dayton Power and Light, the Ohio Energy Group, the Retail Energy Supply Association and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy presented their positions regarding the proposal and responded to questions from the five PUCO commissioners.

WORKFORCE

Columbus-based Community Research Partners released a study on Ohio's Workforce Investment Act policies, focusing on the following four local area policies that directly affect the provision of training services for low-income adults: (1) Individual Training Accounts (ITAs), (2) Limited Funds/Priority of Service, (3) Supportive Services, and (4) On-the-Job Training (OJT).

