



General Assembly Session Overview

by ORCA Legislative Consultant, Chris Sinagra

Ohio General Assembly is back and starting one of the busiest times of the legislative session. A majority of the new General Assembly's time and energy will go to a few top issues including state budgets, criminal justice reform, energy policy, school funding, and redistricting. Please view more on these topics below:

State Budgets - Ohio's legislators consider hundreds of bills during their two year session, but no legislation is more important than the bills that form the state budget. The major budget bills will be enacted in 2021 to fund state government agencies and make policy changes consist of the state operating, transportation and BWC/ Industrial Commission budgets. Some of the State budget provisions include small business grants, millions in infrastructure projects, millions for workforce investment in economically distressed rural urban areas, moving of the State's Equal Opportunity Services Program (MBE, EDGE, and WBE) from the Department of Administrative Services to the Development Services Agency.

this session. Legislators also want to remove impediments to employment for former offenders.



ORCA has worked to build strong labor and management support for their initiatives. Pictured here is John Hayes, Past President of the Mid-States Council of Roofers and Fred Horner of Advanced Industrial Roofing. Both present to present testimony in support of roofing licensing.



ORCA has worked to build contractor support from across Ohio for their initiatives. Pictured here is: Valerie Pope, ORCA's Deputy Director; Fred Horner, ORCA President from Advanced Industrial Roofing in Massillon and Jim Eckstein ORCA Past President from Eckstein Roofing Company in Cincinnati.

Energy Policy- HB 6 (Energy Policy) was passed and intended to maintain Ohio's Nuclear plants. Key players in HB 6 last year came under federal investigation which continues today. Legislators are not comfortable with how HB 6 was passed. Thus, efforts to repeal the bill or replace portions of it will be a major focus of this General Assembly.

School Funding- Last session a school funding plan did not make it all the way through the process, thus this subject will be a focus again this year. Legislation has been introduced to establish new base costs for educating typical Ohio students and use a mix of property and income wealth to determine the capacity of communities to fund education locally. Legislators are viewing the budget as a vehicle to pass this type of reform.

Criminal Justice Reform- Portions of criminal justice reform passed last year, but legislation to give judges more discretion and divert offenders will be revisited

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Redistricting– Every ten years Congressional and legislative districts must be redrawn based on census numbers. Ohio’s Congressional district map will be created by state lawmakers. The state legislative districts will be drawn by the Ohio Redistricting Commission. The process will be new and look to diminish gerrymandering and involve a more transparent process. Census numbers are likely to be delayed for months which will make the process all the more difficult.

In terms of construction specific issues, these issues will be on the General Assembly’s agenda:

Commercial Roofing Licensing (HB88)– This ORCA supported legislation adds commercial roofing contractors to the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board’s licensed specialty trades. Sponsor Tom Patton’s has reintroduced this bill that passed by a wide margin in the last session, but failed to be



ORCA has worked to unite the industry at the Statehouse. Pictured here is ORCA President, Fred Horner of Advanced Industrial Roofing and Dan Crookston of CC Supply.



ORCA has participated in many hearings at the Statehouse in support of commercial roofing licensing bills. Pictured here before a hearing is: ORCA President, Fred Horner of Advanced Industrial Roofing in Massillon and ORCA Past President, Bill Kilcoyne of K&W Roofing in Pataskala.

considered by the Senate before the session ended. Representative Patton continues to work extremely hard on this bill and is supported by many committee members this session.

License Reciprocity for Out of State Contractors(HB203/SB131)– Two bills have been introduced again this session to grant a license, certification, or registration to any out of state company or individual coming into Ohio if they show that they have a similar license in another state. This does NOT include the same reciprocity for Ohio companies working in another state and has been opposed by not only the construction industry, but many other licensed industries.

Registration of Residential Roofing Contractors(SB64) – This bill would require residential contractors to register with the OCILB and use specific contract language for any residential repair or replacement project over \$750.00.This is not ORCA’s bill and the association is not supportive of this effort.

Private Prompt Pay (HB68)– This legislation has been reintroduced and ORCA has issued a letter of support

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to the House on the bill. It mirrors the public prompt pay provisions from the owner to the prime contractor to 30 days. This bill has passed the House by an overwhelming bi-partisan vote and is headed to the Senate for consideration.

Public Private Partnership Expansion to Vertical Construction (HB91)– The framework of this legislation has been to extend the same ability for Public/Private Partnerships to be used for vertical construction in a similar fashion to how they are used in horizontal construction.

and Design Professional Indemnity Liability Limits (SB56)– This policy idea would regulate the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts related to public improvements.

Payment Assurance for Design Professionals (SB49)– Legislation which creates architect lien rights in a similar way used in mechanics lien rights has been reintroduced this session.

Finally, Ohio Building and Fire Code Exemption from Rulemaking Restrictions (to enable uniform code adoption) are issues that may come up this session too. This is in response to the limitations imposed on code adoption in SB9, the bill designed to reduce regulations in the Ohio Revised Code and Rules.

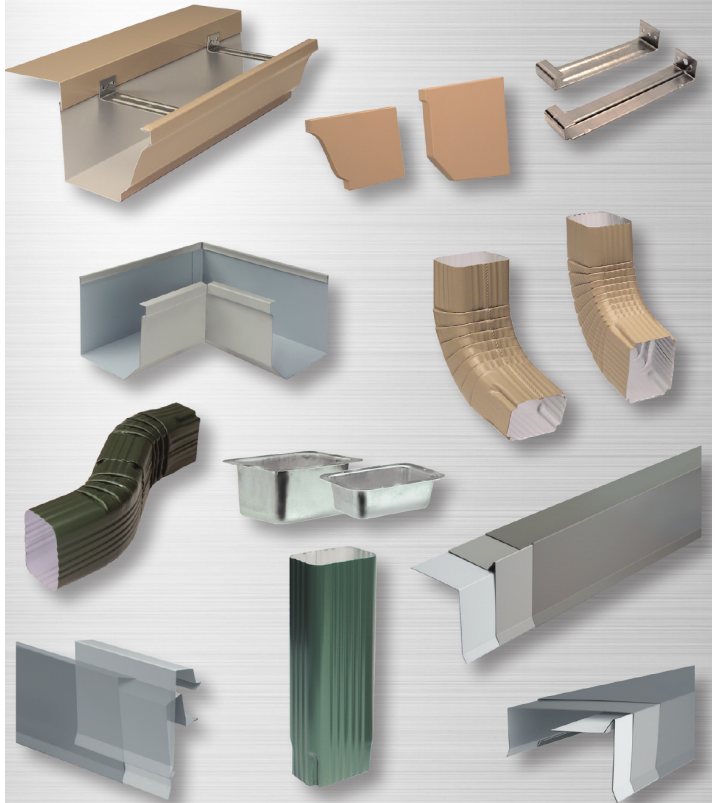


ORCA President Fred Horner of Advanced Industrial Roofing takes the podium for a Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee Hearing.

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