



Ohio Township Association

Legislative Alert

September 11, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

Additional CARES Act Information

In response to questions and concerns from our membership, the OTA has developed a [CARES Act informational packet](#) that addresses many parts of this process - all in one place. In addition to the link provided, we will be mailing this document to all township fiscal officers to ensure that everyone has access to this information. Fiscal officers should receive it next week.

Additionally, the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) has created a document with ideas on how to use CARES Act dollars to help your community. You can access it [here](#).

House, Senate Cancel Sessions

Both the House and Senate have canceled "if needed" sessions for next week. Both chambers still have potential sessions the week of September 21st. [SB 357](#), which would distribute the final round of CARES Act funding to local governments, is still pending in the House.

Bills in Committee Next Week

House Select Committee on Energy Policy & Oversight - Wednesday, September 16th at 1:00pm

[HB 746 ENERGY REPEAL](#) (LANESE, GREENSPAN) - To repeal the changes made by H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the laws governing electric service, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and the changes made to other related laws.

2nd hearing - invited testimony

[HB 738 HB6 REPEAL](#) (SKINDELL, O'BRIEN) - To repeal the changes made by H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly to the laws governing electric service, renewable energy, and energy efficiency and the changes made to other related laws.

2nd hearing - invited testimony

If you are interested in testifying on legislation, please contact the OTA.

Recently Introduced Legislation

[HB 757 LIQUOR SALES](#) (Cutrona) - To reinstate the authorized hours of operation for liquor permit premises that existed prior to the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

OTA Database and Website Changes

The OTA is getting a new website!

As the OTA prepares to move to a new website platform and association management system, we must pause any changes to member information in our database. We will not be able to make any changes or add new members to our database until our new website is ready to launch. If a change is needed in your township, please email Heather Frame (frame@ohiotownships.org) and she will ensure that the information is updated when possible.

Federal Update

Congressional Action

The Senate was in session this week, while the House held "Committee Work Days." In addition to voting on five federal district judge nominations, the Senate held a procedural vote, on Thursday, on the Senate Republicans' new "skinny" coronavirus relief package, the \$500 billion Delivering Immediate Relief to America's Families, Schools and Small Businesses Act (substitute amendment to S. 178; summary available [here](#)). To reduce the net cost, the proposal would cancel \$204 billion out of \$500 billion appropriated to the Federal Reserve and Treasury Department within the CARES Act for loans to businesses, states, and municipalities. Additional unused lending authority would be "clawed back" beginning next year.



The legislation contains an extension of the deadline for localities and states to spend already appropriated Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) money from Dec. 30, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021. However, no additional flexibility or funding for the CRF is provided in the bill.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and his Democratic colleagues remain opposed to the Senate Republicans' proposal. Leader Schumer said in a September 3rd letter to the 47-member Senate Democratic Caucus that a "skinny" bill would fall short of the sweeping legislation they believe is necessary to confront the health and economic fallout from the virus. Senate Democrats have joined with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in calling for at least \$2 trillion in new spending. Ultimately, Senate Democrats blocked further action when the Republican proposal came up for a vote this week.

2020 Census



The Census Bureau has recently announced that it will end counting efforts on September 30th. This is the final push to make sure your community is counted accurately!

From recent information, Ohio has a response rate of 68.5% and ranks 13th in the nation. In 2010, Ohio ranked in the top 10. Given the important role that Census plays in federal funding and congressional apportionment, it is essential Ohioans are counted.

There are currently very low response rates in the following counties: Harrison, Meigs, Morgan, Ottawa, and Vinton.

Help spread Census 2020 information and encourage your neighbors to be counted in this last month!

It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail - all without having to meet a census taker.

Learn more about these updates and ways to be counted [here](#).

[US Census Website](#)

[Ohio Census Website](#)

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