



# Ohio Township Association

## Legislative Alert

October 23, 2020

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## Legislative Action This Week

### ***Another Round of BWC Dividend Checks for Employers***

This week, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation will start mailing dividend checks to Ohio's public and private employers, totaling approximately \$1.5 billion. This is the second dividend of this magnitude this year and it aims to ease financial pressure on employers during the pandemic. You can find more information [here](#).

### ***Governor Creates Vaccine Preparedness Office***

In anticipation of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, the Governor's Pandemic Recovery and Response Leadership Team has created a Vaccine Preparedness Office to coordinate a smooth and swift distribution and vaccination process statewide.

The office will focus on immediate preparedness for:

- A statewide provider distribution framework following CDC advice on phased deployment of the vaccine.
- A Receipt, Storage, and Staging (RSS) warehouse for repackaging and redistributing vaccines to medium-sized and smaller providers across Ohio.
- Onboarding partners to the immunization provider registry, and reviewing progress with stakeholders and the public.

### ***SB 163, Traffic Camera Fix Finalized***

On Thursday, Governor DeWine signed [SB 163](#), which makes several miscellaneous changes and corrects a punitive policy for local governments that use traffic cameras. A provision was included in HB 62 (the transportation budget) that deducts traffic camera revenue from a jurisdiction's LGF allocation, as a way to discourage camera usage. Unintentionally, the provision also affected other communities in the county not operating traffic cameras. SB 163 corrects the issue and restores LGF allocations for those communities. The bill is effective immediately.

### ***OTA Meetings***

The OTA Board had a conference call with Lt. Governor Husted on Friday regarding the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CARES Act, and other items.

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## Updates to CARES Act Treasury Guidance

US Treasury has updated their [CARES Act FAQ](#), as they have done from time to time. In particular, we would direct your attention to questions 58 and 59 regarding purchases of real property and equipment and small business loans.

On the purchase of real property and equipment, the guidance reads (in part): "*In the context of acquisitions of real estate and acquisitions of equipment, this means that the acquisition itself must be necessary. In particular, a government must (i) determine that it is not able to meet the need arising from the public health emergency in a cost-effective manner by leasing property or equipment or by improving property already owned and (ii) maintain documentation to support this determination.*"

If you are considering such purchases, it may be helpful to share this information with legal counsel. Remember to check guidance documents frequently as updates are made.

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## Funding for Senior Centers

The Ohio Department of Aging, in cooperation with the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, recently announced a Coronavirus Relief Funds funding opportunity for Ohio senior centers and adult day service providers. The intent of this funding opportunity is to aid eligible senior centers and adult day service providers that serve older Ohioans by offsetting some of the added costs of the COVID-19 pandemic. Private, non-profit, and publicly-funded senior centers and adult day service providers are eligible to apply. Click [here](#) for more information, and feel free to share this opportunity in your community.

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## OEPA Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant

Does your community want to expand or start a recycling program? Is your nonprofit looking to compost food waste? Are you looking to organize a community litter clean-up event? Ohio EPA has funds available. Local governments and nonprofits can receive funding to purchase equipment for the collection and processing of recyclables and construction and demolition debris. These organizations can also receive funding to implement litter collection events, outreach, and education. Tire amnesty programs, with a minimum \$0.50/tire collection fee, are an eligible activity for local governments. Grantees have 12 months to complete the project. Learn more [here](#).

### **Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant Webinar**

Nov. 5, 2020 and Jan. 7, 2021 (10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

*Presenters: Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant Program, Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance*

Description: These webinars will highlight Ohio EPA's 2021 Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant application process and those activities targeted by this grant program. The webinars will focus on how this competitive grant program provides opportunities for local governments, schools, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to establish and implement recycling & litter prevention programs, recycling market development for manufacturers, expansion of recycling equipment, and processing facilities and recycling infrastructure improvements. The deadline for this online submittal is Feb. 5, 2021 at 3:00pm (EST).

The Jan. 7 webinar will have the same content as the Nov. 5 version, but will also include any updates and feedback about the online grant application process since the grant cycle opened on Nov. 2, 2020.

Click [here](#) to register for the Nov. 5, 2020 (10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) webinar.

Click [here](#) to register for the Jan. 7, 2021 (10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) webinar.

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## Federal Update

### **Congressional Action**

The House was in recess this week and is scheduled to return to Washington on November 16th, while the Senate was back in session. The Senate voted on two separate proposals that include targeted COVID-19 relief. Both bills, however, were unlikely to receive the 60 votes needed to advance and ultimately did not.



The first bill is the Continuing the Paycheck Protection Program Act, which provides \$257.64 billion in funds to support PPP and PPP Second Draw Loans and makes numerous changes to improve the PPP.

The second bill is the Delivering Immediate Relief to America's Families, Schools and Small Businesses Act, which provides roughly \$500 billion in COVID-19 relief. This bill is identical to the "skinny" relief package that the Senate failed to advance on September 10th by a vote of 52-47. The legislation contains no additional relief funding for state and local governments. However, the bill extends the period to utilize Coronavirus Relief Funds (authorized and appropriated in the CARES Act) from December 30, 2020 to September 30, 2021. The bill includes additional coronavirus response supplemental appropriations: \$5 billion for the "Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant" program; \$10 billion for the "Back to Work Child Care Grants" program; \$47 billion for the "Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund" for vaccine, therapeutic, and diagnostic development and testing, contact tracing, and surveillance; \$105 billion for the "Education Stabilization Fund"; \$20 billion for USDA farm programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus; and \$500 million for "Fisheries Disaster Assistance." The bill also includes a restoration and reduction to \$300 per week (from \$600/week) of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program established under the CARES Act through December 27, 2020 and employer liability provisions that extend to local government agencies.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) set a deadline of Tuesday, October 20th to reach an agreement with the White House on a much larger coronavirus relief package if it is to pass before the election. President Donald Trump said that he is ready to match the \$2.2 trillion spending levels demanded by Congressional Democrats - or go higher - despite repeated warnings by Leader McConnell that most Republican senators will oppose a measure that large. The price-tag is not the only obstacle. Speaker Pelosi said on Sunday that the two sides are still haggling over language on a national plan to control the virus. Differences also remain on several key issues, including aid to state and local governments and GOP demands for an employer liability shield, which have stalled a deal for months.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted Thursday morning on Amy Coney Barrett's nomination to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Leader McConnell last week said Barrett has enough support to win Senate confirmation to the Supreme Court.

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### **Ohio Township Association**

6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004

614-863-0045 | [OhioTownships.org](http://OhioTownships.org)

[myers@ohiotownships.org](mailto:myers@ohiotownships.org)

