



# Ohio Township Association

## Legislative Alert

October 30, 2020

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## Legislative Action This Week

### **Gov. Requests Yet Another Round of BWC Dividend Checks**

Ohio employers just started receiving the latest round of BWC dividend checks, totaling approximately \$1.5 billion. You can find more information on these dividends [here](#). Additionally, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation announced on Wednesday that it will award a \$5 billion dividend to 178,425 public and private employers - the largest in the state's history. The amount each employer receives will depend on a variety of factors, but will average about \$28,000 per employer.

### **State Sends Out \$426M in COVID Relief**

Ohio is distributing \$425.6 million in CARES Act relief funding. This latest round will go to small businesses, universities, hospitals, and others. The breakdown is as follows:

- \$125 million to small businesses
- \$100 million to public colleges and universities
- \$62 million for rural and "critical access" hospitals
- \$50 million for rent/mortgage/utility assistance available for those making 200% or less of the poverty level
- \$45 million for non-profits and performing arts organizations
- \$37.5 million for bars and restaurants
- \$4.6 million for law enforcement

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## Bills Recently Introduced

[HB 777](#) Alcohol Sales (Lang, Perales) - 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.

[HB 781](#) Truck Equipment (Patton) - To require certain trucks to be equipped with an audible alarm that sounds upon raising the truck bed, and to name the act the "Daniel Rippepi Act."

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## OPWC Loan Updates

If you have an infrastructure project that was recently closed out in 2020, your new loan amortization schedule(s) is now available for download online [here](#). As a reminder, OPWC continues to telework and is discontinuing the practice of mailing out the schedules once the loans go into billing.

Some important items to note with the upcoming January 2021 Billing Cycle:

- Please do NOT submit payment for January 2021 until notified. Invoicing information will go out in mid-November as per normal. If you recently sent in a payment, it will not be

deposited until OPWC opens up their billing cycle.

- OPWC is requesting that their customers make use of their new online payment portal for January 2021 invoices. More information on how to use that is forthcoming. Note: If you still choose to make payment via check, OPWC cannot guarantee the timeframe in which the checks will be processed due to an extremely reduced office presence.
- You are welcome to make two payments (one for July 2020 and one for January 2021) as part of your January 2021 payment if you wish to do so. This will reflect as a double payment for January 2021 and your loan will just be paid off one period earlier than the new schedule reflects. OPWC will not be re-amortizing the schedule again if you make two payments.

Please review your schedules and email OPWC at [OPWC.Loans@pwc.ohio.gov](mailto:OPWC.Loans@pwc.ohio.gov) with any issues or questions.

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## Petroleum Board Appointment

The Petroleum UST Release Compensation Board is seeking qualified individuals to apply for gubernatorial appointment to the Board. There are currently two unfilled vacancies, which include a representative of retail petroleum dealers and a representative of businesses that own underground storage tanks.

Any individual interested in being considered for appointment must complete an application to serve on the Board and submit a resume or short biography. The application is available on the Boards and Commissions website by clicking [here](#).

For additional information, call 614-752-8963 or email [info@petroboard.org](mailto:info@petroboard.org).

General Considerations for Appointment:

- Appointments to the Board are for a three-year term;
- Meetings are held in the Board's office located in Westerville, Ohio;
- There are typically five or six meetings each year that begin at 10:00 a.m. and last two to three hours;
- Appointed members are compensated on a per diem basis for each day of actual attendance at meetings;
- Members receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties;
- Members may be asked to serve on the Board's Finance or Rules Committees.

Note: Due to the current makeup of the Board, only individuals who are not affiliated with the Republican Party can be considered for appointment.

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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. On Monday evening, the Senate took a final vote on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, a position with life tenure. The Senate began its recess immediately after Judge Barrett's confirmation and will return to Washington on November 9th.



With only eight days remaining before Election Day, it remains very unlikely that a COVID-19 relief package will be agreed to by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), the Trump Administration, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), written, voted on by the House and Senate, and signed into law by President Trump by November 3rd. However, negotiations continued this week in preparation for potential action on a relief bill in the Congressional lame-duck session taking place in November and December. Other major items Congress will likely take action on during the lame-duck session include: FY 2021 appropriations bills; the 2020 Water Resources Development Act; the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization

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