



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert

February 15, 2019

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Legislative Action This Week

OTA Legislative Meetings

The OTA has begun the process of meeting with all new members of the General Assembly to introduce our association and discuss our legislative priorities. This week we met with Rep. Stoltzfus (R-Minerva), a former township trustee, and Rep. Cross (R-Kenton) to discuss township funding, a potential township omnibus bill, and other issues.

Additionally, the OTA met with House State and Local Government Committee Chairman Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) to address township issues that may come before his committee, including our proposed omnibus bill.

Continuing the Push for Road Funding

The House Finance Committee is up and running. First on their agenda is the Transportation Budget, which must be passed by April 1. HB 62 was introduced this week as a placeholder for the upcoming Transportation Budget. The committee heard testimony Wednesday from ODOT Director Marchbanks on the current state of Ohio's roads.

Testimony on HB 62 and road funding will continue next week. The OTA will be testifying on Tuesday, February 19th. If you have an interest in this hearing or information for inclusion in our testimony (i.e. examples of road funding issues in your township), please let us know.

The OTA is a member of Fix Our Roads (FOR) Ohio, a group dedicated to educating state leaders on the critical needs of Ohio's transportation infrastructure and advocating for a funding solution that provides long-term, smart investment in Ohio's transportation future. Learn more about FOR Ohio [here](#).

Senate Committee Assignments Released

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Sen. Frank Hoagland - Chair

Energy and Public Utilities

Sen. Steve Wilson - Chair

Finance

Sen. Matt Dolan - Chair

Government Oversight and Reform

Sen. Bill Coley - Chair

Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs

Sen. Joe Uecker - Chair

Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce

Sen. Rob McColley

See a full committee roster [here](#).

Bill Introductions

[HB 62 TRANSPORTATION BUDGET](#) (Oelslager, S) - To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

***Call your legislators! HB 62 must be passed by April 1. Now is the time to convey the needs of Ohio townships related to road funding.**

[HB 17/SB 35 SURVIVING SPOUSES-HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION](#) (Rep. Ginter/Sen. Brenner) - To allow an enhanced homestead exemption for surviving spouses of public safety personnel killed in the line of duty.

[HB 27 PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY](#) (Ingram) - To modify political subdivision liability for an employee's negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

[HB 34 STATE-LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE](#) (Kelly) - To increase the state minimum wage and to allow municipalities, townships, and counties to establish higher minimum wage requirements.

[HB 46 STATE GOVT EXPENDITURE DATABASE](#) (Greenspan) - To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database.

[HB 48 LOCAL GOVT ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND](#) (Greenspan) - To provide for a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund for local governments to fund road improvements.

[HB 51 UNDIVIDED HIGHWAY RUMBLE STRIPS](#) (Ginter) - To require the Ohio Department of Transportation to install rumble strips along the center line for all two-way, undivided state highways with a speed limit exceeding 45 miles per hour, as a part of specified highway projects.

[HB 54 LGF TAX REVENUE INCREASE](#) (Cera, Rogers) - To increase the proportion of state tax revenue allocated to the Local Government Fund from 1.66 percent to 3.53 percent beginning July 1, 2019.

[HB 56 MINE SAFETY EXCISE TAX](#) (Cera) - To allocate 3.75 percent of kilowatt-hour excise tax revenue for mine reclamation, mine drainage abatement, and mine safety.

[SB 10 THEFT IN OFFICE](#) (Wilson) - To expand the penalties for theft in office based on the amount stolen and to include as restitution audit costs of the entity that suffered the loss.

Recent AG Opinion

[No. 2019-05](#). Township Fiscal Officer as Cemetery Sexton.

Requested by Licking County Prosecuting Attorney William C. Hayes.

SYLLABUS:

1. R.C. 511.13 prohibits a township fiscal officer from being employed as the township cemetery sexton or caretaker and being compensated for services provided as cemetery sexton or caretaker. (1937 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 714, vol. II, p. 1278; 1919 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 798, vol. II, p. 1474; 1918 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 1206, vol. I, p. 683; and 1916 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 1462, vol. I, p. 633, overruled; 1949 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 1284, p. 911, modified.)

2. A township fiscal officer may not receive additional compensation for maintaining the cemetery plat for the township pursuant to R.C. 517.06 or for recording cemetery deeds for the township pursuant to R.C. 517.07.

[No. 2019-006](#). County Hospital Management Consultants

Requested by Morrow County Prosecuting Attorney Charles S. Howland.

SYLLABUS:

R.C. 339.06 authorizes a board of county hospital trustees to hire management consultants as the board determines are necessary and desirable to assist in the management of the operation of the county hospital. County hospital operating funds may be used to pay the expense of hiring such consultants. (1961 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 2188, p. 234 and 1961 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 2397, p. 387, overruled, as a result of legislative enactment.)

Funding Opportunity: SAFER Grants

FEMA recently released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants program.

The SAFER Program provides funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the NFPA (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720).

Applications must be submitted no later than March 22, 2019. Click [here](#) for more information.

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