



# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert

March 8, 2019

To print this alert as a PDF, please click [here](#).

## Legislative Action This Week

### ***Transportation Budget Passes the House***

After a week of numerous changes, the House passed [HB 62](#), the biennial transportation budget, 71-27.

Some key changes include:

- Reduces the increase in the gas tax from the Governor's proposed 18 cents to 10.7 cents for gasoline and 20 cents for diesel (phased in over 2 years);
- Modifies the split between state and local governments from 60/40 to 55/45 - so local governments receive a greater share of the revenue raised;
- Allocates township gas tax revenue based on a formula that gives an equal share to all townships or additional funding based on road miles and vehicle registrations (*formula was established during the last gas tax increase in 2003*);
- Allows cities and townships to levy an additional \$5 motor vehicle registration fee;
- Transfers \$5 million to the Oil and Gas Infrastructure Fund to support the 17 counties in the Utica and Marcellus shale region, earmarking \$1 million for township roads use and \$1 million for township and city general funds.

HB 62 will now go to the Senate for consideration. Senate Finance Committee will begin hearing the bill next week and we expect quick action again.

### ***OTA Executive Director Speaks on Behalf of SB 10***

OTA Executive Director Matt DeTemple stood alongside Sen. Wilson, President Obhof, and Auditor Fabor in support of [SB 10](#), legislation that would mirror private sector penalties for public theft in office and give public entities the ability to recover forensic audit costs used to determine the extent of a theft in office.



SB 10 is currently pending in the [Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee](#). As of this week, it has had two committee hearings.

You can view the full press conference on the Ohio Channel by clicking [here](#).

## **OTA Legislative Meetings**

The OTA had introductory meetings with new members Rep. Hillyer (R-Uhrichsville) and Rep. Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) to introduce the organization and discuss our legislative priorities.

The OTA also met with Sen. Fedor and her staff to discuss OTA priorities, focusing on the transportation budget and the upcoming operating budget.

---

## **Statehouse Committee Updates**

### **House Committee Hearings - Finance**

**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.

*The committee continued to hear testimony on the transportation budget. The committee adopted a substitute bill on Tuesday and made further changes through amendments on Wednesday. OTA position - support.*

### **House Committee Hearings - State and Local Government**

**HB 74 JUNK WATERCRAFT** (Arndt, S.) To prohibit a property owner from leaving a junk watercraft vessel or outboard motor uncovered in the open on the owner's property.

*Rep. Arndt gave sponsor testimony on the bill. OTA position- support.*

### **Senate Committee Hearings - Government Oversight & Reform**

**SB 10 THEFT IN OFFICE** (Wilson, S.) 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.

*The committee heard proponent testimony from Auditor Faber. The OTA submitted written testimony. OTA position - support.*

**SB 52 CYBER SECURITY** (Gavarone, T.) To create the civilian cyber security reserve forces, to make the Secretary of State a member of the Homeland Security Advisory Council, to require the Secretary of State to appoint a chief information security officer, to require the boards of elections to audit election results, and to make an appropriation.

*The committee heard interested party testimony from the Madison County Board of Elections. OTA position - support.*

### **Senate Committee Hearings - Ways & Means**

**SB 8 OPPORTUNITY ZONES** (Schuring, K.) To authorize tax credits for investments in an Ohio Opportunity Zone.

*The committee heard opponent testimony from Policy Matters Ohio. OTA position - interested party.*

---

## **Bill Introductions**

**[HB 116 TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH](#)** (Brinkman) - To make an appropriation related to transportation planning and research.

**[HB 119 LOCAL CONTROL-TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS](#)** (Stoltzfus) - To grant municipal and county courts original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action concerning a traffic law violation, to modify certain requirements governing the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices by a local authority, and to make corrective changes to the distracted driving and texting-while-driving law.

**[SB 85 SCHOOL ZONES](#)** (Maharath) - To establish signage requirements for indicating school zones for speed limit purposes, and to make an appropriation.

**[SB 90 MINIMUM WAGE](#)** (Thomas, Craig) - To increase the state minimum wage and to allow municipalities, townships, and counties to establish higher minimum wage requirements.

---

## Recent AG Opinion

[No. 2019-009](#), Joint Fire Districts

Requested by Licking County Prosecuting Attorney William C. Hayes.

SYLLABUS:

1. Pursuant to R.C. 505.37(B), the boards of trustees of two or more townships may unite for the purpose of creating and operating a joint fire district and may prorate the expense of that joint action on any mutually agreeable terms. (1994 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 94-004 approved and followed in part, and overruled in part.)
2. A township may use tax revenue generated pursuant to R.C. 5705.19(I) to pay expenses associated with joint action taken under R.C. 505.37(B) for the purpose of creating and operating a joint fire district provided that the expenditure is consistent with R.C. 5705.19(I) and the tax levies' authorizing resolutions and ballot language.
3. In order to comply with the constitutional and statutory mandate that tax revenue be expended only for the purpose for which it was levied, a township must take care to ensure that revenue generated by it pursuant to R.C. 5705.19(I) is used to pay expenses of a joint fire district only if such expenses correspond to services provided to the township by the joint fire district.

---

## Federal Updates



### **NATaT Special Report on Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018**

NATaT recently release a special report, "Highlights of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018." This is a \$867 billion bill that covers a broad range of farm and food programs and policies as well as numerous rural development (including broadband), energy, horticulture, trade, and research provisions.

The bill was signed into law by President Trump on December 20, 2018. Its implementation was delayed due to the partial government shutdown, but the US Department of Agriculture is working to administer these programs and policies.

You can read the full report [here](#).

---

### **Ohio Township Association**

6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004  
614.863.0045 | [www.OhioTownships.org](http://www.OhioTownships.org)  
myers@ohiotownships.org



Ohio Township Association | 6500 Taylor Road, Suite A | Blacklick | OH | 43004

[Update Profile and Unsubscribe](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) [zaky@ohiotownships.org](mailto:zaky@ohiotownships.org) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [myers@ohiotownships.org](mailto:myers@ohiotownships.org) in collaboration with



Try it free today