



# Ohio Township Association

## Legislative Alert

March 13, 2020

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## Legislative Action This Week

### ***COVID-19 Updates***

As has been widely reported, the State of Ohio has taken numerous steps this week to slowly the spread of COVID-19 (also known as the coronavirus), including closing schools and banning gatherings over 100 people. The OTA issued [this statement](#) today regarding updates and resources for townships during this epidemic.

Attorney General Yost issued [this guidance](#) regarding public meetings during the state of emergency. While the requirement for public officials to meet in-person still stands, under the Governor's official state of emergency, it is no longer required for the public to be allowed attendance in-person.

Additionally, the OTA recommends that all County Township Association (CTA) meetings be postponed until the Governor lifts the ban on mass gatherings. To take the highest precaution and to minimize any possible exposure to township officials, staff, and residents across the state, no OTA staff member will attend CTA meetings or other in-person meetings scheduled over the next three weeks.

As for the General Assembly, both the House and Senate have announced work-from-home protocols until at least April. The Senate has not altered its session schedule, but the House has announced that no committees or sessions will be held until further notice.

Please stay alert on updates to this situation.

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## Bills Recently Introduced

[HB 530 OPERS PROTECTION](#) (Grendell) - Regarding state retirement system fiduciary duties, Public Employees Retirement System management fees and employee pay, and creating the Committee on Pension Salaries and Fees.

[HB 539 TOWNSHIP POLICE](#) - TRAFFIC OFFENSES (Ghanbari, Blair) - To permit a township police officer who serves a population between 5,000 and 50,000 to enforce specified traffic offenses on certain interstate highways if authorized by that township's board of trustees.

[SB 289 CONDOMINIUMS](#) (Blessing III) - Regarding condominiums and planned community properties.

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## Reminder: Indigent Burial Reimbursement

### ***Don't Forget! Reimbursement for Indigent Burials Available***

As of December 2nd, townships can apply for reimbursement for indigent burials that occurred

in their jurisdiction from July 1, 2019 and going forward. Reimbursement applications must be submitted no later than 60 days after the burial transit permit or disposition permit is issued.

To submit an application, visit the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors [website](#). A direct link to the application can be accessed [here](#).

The Board has also provided an [FAQ section](#) on their website for more information.

If you have questions regarding this program, you may contact Marisa Myers at the OTA office at 614-863-0045 or the Board at [indigentsupport@funeral.ohio.gov](mailto:indigentsupport@funeral.ohio.gov).

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## ODOT Research Project

### **Evaluation of Partial Depth Pavement Repairs on Routes Heavily Traveled by Amish Horse and Buggies**

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020  
Time: 9:30am - 11:00am (ET)  
Researchers: Sang Soo Kim (Ohio University) and Munir Nazzal (University of Cincinnati)  
Location: ODOT Central Office, Meeting Room 1C - 1980 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43223

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

A smooth pavement surface with good skid resistance is necessary for comfortable and safe travel of the public. To preserve these characteristics, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) performs routine repairs on roadways in Ohio. Roadways in Ohio with heavy buggy traffic see more frequent partial depth repairs as it encounters more damage. This is typically seen in areas with Amish communities that use buggies pulled by horses as their means for travel. The goal of this research was to improve the service life of partial depth repairs performed on state routes and local roads with Amish buggy traffic.

Specific goals for this project were to:

1. Document ODOT current practices for partial depth repairs performed on roadways with and without Amish buggy traffic;
2. Identify alternative methods and mixtures and their combination that can be used to improve the performance and service life of partial depth repairs performed on Amish buggy routes in Ohio;
3. Evaluate the cost-effectiveness of identified alternative material and repair methods;
4. Identify all possible changes that could be made to the horses or buggies to mitigate their damage to pavement structures; and
5. Develop longer lasting repairs for state routes and local roadways in Ohio particularly those with high buggy traffic.

#### HOW TO ATTEND

The research results presentation is open for in-person or webinar participation. You must attend in person at the Ohio Department of Transportation's Central Office location to receive a CPD credit. There is no fee to participate; however, registration is required by 2:00 pm on Monday, March 30, 2020.

[Click Here to Register](#)

You will receive an email confirming your registration. Certificates of attendance will be made available upon request for those attending in person. Seating is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have any questions, please contact the ODOT Research Section.

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## OPERS Board Report

OPERS staff provided results on Open Enrollment for 2020 health care coverage. The OPERS pre-Medicare plans covers 33,912 lives, while Medicare Connector plan covers the largest number of participants with 142,023.

A breakdown of the Connector plans with the highest enrollment are as follows:

- Plan F, with an average monthly premium of \$168
- Plan N, with an average monthly premium of \$116
- Plan G, with an average monthly premium of \$133
- Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drug plans, with average monthly premiums of \$45 (Humana), \$77 Medical Mutual of Ohio, or \$11 (Aetna)

In addition, approximately 167,000 are enrolled in OPERS dental coverage and vision. Those totals include retirees and dependents.

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## Ethics Commission Newsletter

The newest edition of "The Voice of Ethics" is now available from the Ohio Ethics Commission. You can read it [here](#).

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## Federal Update



### ***Congressional Action***

The House and Senate were in session this week. The House considered ten bills and resolutions under suspension of the rules, including the Moving Our Democracy and Congressional Operations Towards Modernization Resolution ([H. Res. 756](#)), which implements the first two sets of recommendations by the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress regarding the House's human resources, new member orientation, accessibility, information technology support, and legislative databases.

The Senate resumed debate on the bipartisan American Energy Innovation Act of 2020 (substitute amendment to S. 2657), a combination of parts of more than 50 bills already advanced out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee, which covers a range of energy and environmental issues, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, building codes, battery storage, carbon capture, electric grid security, and a new generation of nuclear reactors.

Numerous high-ranking Trump Administration officials were scheduled to testify on Capitol Hill this week before various authorizing and appropriations committees to discuss the President's FY 2021 budget request for their department/agency. Additionally, there were at least six congressional hearings scheduled this week regarding the coronavirus.

Voters in Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, and Washington headed to the polls on Tuesday to participate in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary. On Sunday, March 15th at 8 p.m. ET, the two major Democratic presidential candidates still running, former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), will debate each other in Phoenix, Arizona, co-hosted by CNN, Univision, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

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## 2020 Census

United States  
**Census**  
**2020**

### **All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census**

#### *PSAs Available*

The US Census Bureau has provided a selection of public service announcements intended to help educate the public. You may access them [here](#).

[US Census Website](#)  
[Ohio Census Website](#)

The 2020 Census is headed your way! And it's so important that your township gets an accurate

count. This section will help you get information out to your friends and neighbors to ensure residents in your area are counted. Check here for weekly information and links to important documents and resources.

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**Ohio Township Association**

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