



Ohio Township Association

Legislative Alert

July 31, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

House Vacates the Office of Speaker, Selects Replacement

After the arrest of Speaker Larry Householder, the Ohio House voted on Thursday to remove him from his position as speaker. Householder still remains a member of the General Assembly unless he resigns, is convicted, or the House votes to remove him entirely from the chamber.

Shortly after, the House selected Rep. [Bob Cupp](#) (R-Lima) to replacement Householder as speaker.

Governor Announces County Fair Changes

Governor DeWine announced that county and independent fairs with an opening day on or after July 31, 2020 will be limited to specific junior fair events. Junior fair activities, such as livestock competitions and 4-H and Future Farmers of America competitions, for kids and teenagers may continue as planned, but junior fairs must develop a plan that reduces crowding in barns, such as limiting entrance to only the immediate family of those actively showing their animals or projects. A 10 p.m. curfew will also be instituted for the barns, buildings, and midways. Harness racing can proceed with no spectators, but rides, games, and grandstand events will be prohibited to limit crowds and prevent coronavirus spread.

Bills Recently Introduced

[HB 735 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IDENTIFICATION](#) (Smith, Robinson) - To require certain law enforcement officers to wear a clearly visible badge and identification on their person while on duty and to impose a fine on the appointing authority of an officer who fails to comply.

[HB 737 MODIFY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW](#) (Manning, Miranda) - To modify the Campaign Finance Law regarding independent expenditures and political action committees.

[HB 739 MODIFY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW](#) (Sweeney, Russo) - To modify the campaign finance law, to name this act the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act, and to amend the versions of sections 3517.10, 3517.105, and 3517.106 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect January 1, 2021, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date.

[HB 741 ADD OFFENSES-PUBLIC RETIREMENT BENEFITS](#) (Manning, Greenspan) - To add extortion and perjury and certain federal offenses to the offenses that may result in forfeiture or termination of public retirement system benefits.

[SB 347 CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW](#) (Manning) - To modify the Campaign Finance Law regarding independent expenditures and political action committees.

CARES Act Funding Registration

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) has provided a [tracking sheet](#) of CARES Act resolution submissions and portal registrations. As of July 27th, OBM has received 575 resolutions and approved 567 registrations for local governments in Ohio.

With Congress debating increased flexibility for these funds in the next COVID-19 package, the OTA encourages townships to accept these funds, as townships may face future expenses and/or federal guidelines may change on the use of these funds.

If your township intends to participate in the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program under HB 481, please submit resolutions and registration to OBM ASAP. If your township is absolutely sure that you will not be participating, please also notify OBM of that via email.

Registration is available [here](#) under the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program. Resolutions may be submitted to OBM via e-mail at grants@obm.ohio.gov or may also be mailed to their office.

Please note: If a jurisdiction attempted to register on the portal on July 21st or 22nd but did not receive an email notification that the registration was received and are not marked as received on the above list, please register again. An issue occurred with OBM's database and registrations were not properly saved.

Questions can be directed to the Ohio Grants Partnership at grants@obm.ohio.gov.

Indigent Burial Funding

Don't Forget: Townships are eligible for reimbursement of indigent burial expenses up to \$1,000. In 2019, the General Assembly allocated \$1 million per year for local government indigent burial reimbursements through the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. The OTA has been made aware that, as of April, only \$18,000 of the fund has been used.

The Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors has experienced delays in processing reimbursements, but the OTA encourages townships to submit eligible reimbursements, as they must be fulfilled if requirements are met and funds are available. For more information on the program, click [here](#). To access the application, click [here](#).

First Responder Summit

In collaboration with the Ohio Fire Academy, Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) would like to invite all first responders to attend a one-day, **First Responder Summit: Wellness, Self-Care and Resilience**.

This online summit will take place on **Wednesday, August 26, 2020 from 8:00am until 4:15pm**. Ohio EMA Director Sima Merick will provide the opening keynote address regarding partnerships and collaboration. A number of topics will be covered, including assisting first responder families, building relationships between the first responder community, mental health resources in your area, and more. The summit is targeted to first responders - law enforcement, fire service, EMS, dispatch, and corrections.

There is no cost to attend You may register in advance if you have a State Fire Academy account or you can join the day of the summit through the links below:

[First Responder Summit: Wellness, Self-Care, and Resilience - Morning Session](#)
[First Responder Summit: Wellness, Self-Care, and Resilience - Afternoon Session](#)

Please share with the first responders in your community. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Click, First Responder Liaison, Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services at steven.click@mha.ohio.gov or 614-466-9938.

Federal Update



Congressional Action

The Senate Republicans began releasing their version of the next coronavirus relief package reportedly totaling approximately \$1 trillion. The package is a series of bills, including:

1. Safe to Work Act ([S. 4317](#))
2. Restoring Critical Supply Chains & Intellectual Property Act ([S. 4324](#))
3. Safely Back to School and Back to Work Act ([S. 4322](#))
4. American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act ([S. 4318](#))
5. Continuing Small Business Recovery and Paycheck Protection Program Act ([S. 4321](#))
6. TRUST Act of 2020 ([S. 4323](#))
7. Supporting America's Restaurant Workers Act ([S. 4319](#))
8. Coronavirus Response Additional Supplemental Appropriations Bill ([S. 4320](#))

There is no additional state and local aid similar to the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). There is additional flexibility with the CRF, but it is limited:

1. The deadline to spend CRF is extended to 90 days after the local government's fiscal year 2021.
2. Recipients can use CRF to cover revenue shortfalls if the government certifies it has distributed at least 25% of CRF funds to downstream governments and a government can use no more than 25% of its allocation to cover revenue shortfalls.
3. Revenue shortfalls eligible for recovery are those experienced from March 1, 2020 to 90 days after the last day of the government's FY 2021.
4. CRF cannot be used to replenish rainy day funds and cannot be used for pensions or postemployment benefits.

NATaT has created a [Coronavirus Guidance webpage](#) to store NATaT letters, memos and briefs on the outbreak, as well as critical information and guidance released by Congress and the Administration.

2020 Census



All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census

2020 Census Field Operations have resumed in Ohio as of June 3rd. Operations field staff will be hand delivering census packets as part of the Update Leave operation. These are the forms delivered to areas where they do not receive mail at their home address (P.O. Box Delivery). The operation does not require person to person contact. Census field staff will have mask and gloves and will leave the questionnaire packet at the door or on the porch in a plastic bag. They will not knock on doors.

Currently, the planned completion date for data collection for the 2020 Census is July 31, 2020, but that date can and will be adjusted if necessary as the situation dictates in order to achieve a complete and accurate count.

It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail - all without having to meet a census taker.

Learn more about these updates and ways to be counted [here](#).

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

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