



Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert August 28, 2020

Legislative Action This Week

Senate Introduces Bill for Final Round of CARES Act Funding

Sen. Dolan has introduced [SB 357](#), which would distribute the last approximately \$650 million of local government CARES Act funding. Unlike the two previous distributions that were based on the LGF formula, this round of funding will be distributed on a per capita basis.

Hearings on the bill are set to begin next week (see below), and quick action in the Senate is expected. The OTA will be working alongside local government partners on this legislation.

Bills in Committee Next Week

Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee - Tuesday, September 1st at 9:00am

[SB 333 TAX PAYMENTS](#) (SCHAFFER) - To require the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to make payments in lieu of taxes to local taxing units for significant land acquisitions by the department after 2018.

2nd hearing - proponent testimony; OTA position - support.

Senate Finance Committee - Tuesday, September 1st at 11:00am and Wednesday, September 2nd at 10:00am

[SB 357 COVID RELIEF FUNDS-LOCALITIES](#) (Dolan) - To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions and to declare an emergency.

1st hearing - sponsor testimony; OTA position - support.

If you are interested in testifying on legislation, please contact the OTA.

Recently Introduced Legislation

[HB 751 PROPERTY TAX VALUATION COMPLAINTS](#) (Hillyer) - To modify the law regarding property tax valuation complaints.

[SB 354 BROWNFIELDS](#) (Williams) - To require the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study to determine where brownfield sites are located in this state and to make an appropriation.

[SB 355 CLEAN OHIO REVITALIZATION GRANTS](#) (Williams) - To make an appropriation to the Development Services Agency to award Clean Ohio Revitalization Grants.

[SB 356 TAX FORECLOSURES, COUNTY LAND BANKS](#) (Dolan) - To make changes to the law relating to tax foreclosures and county land reutilization corporations.

[SB 357 COVID RELIEF FUNDS-LOCALITIES](#) (Dolan) - To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions and to declare an emergency.

[SB 359 CIVIL ACTION AGAINST POLICE](#) (Schaffer) - Regarding a civil action for a law enforcement officer based on a civil rights abridgement or false complaint, and modifications to "assault," "felonious assault," and "intimidation" regarding conduct committed because a person is or is perceived to be an emergency service responder, public servant, family member, or co-worker.

BWC Updates

Dividend Payments

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors will vote next month on Governor DeWine's proposal to send Ohio employers up to \$1.5 billion in dividends to ease the impact of COVID-19 on Ohio's economy and business community.

The Board will vote on the Governor's proposal at its monthly virtual meeting Sept. 25th. If approved, the payments are expected to reach employers at the end of October.

The dividend equals approximately 100% of the premiums employers paid in policy year 2019. BWC will apply the dividend to an employer's outstanding balances first, including recent installment deferrals. Any amounts exceeding outstanding balances will be sent to the employer.

Reduction in Public Employer Premiums

BWC announced this week that it will cut rates 10% for the state's 3,700 public employers in 2021. The cut will save those agencies \$14.8 million collectively.

The reduction is possible because of a decline in worker injuries and relatively low inflation in medical costs. It is the 12th cut for public employers since 2009 and follows a 10% cut that went into effect in January.

Additional Face Masks for Ohio Employers

Meanwhile, the Board also met virtually this week and approved Governor DeWine's request to send another round of face coverings to employers to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

2021 Compensation Chart

You can find the most recent township official compensation chart [here](#) or in the "Members Only" section of the OTA website.

2020 Census

The logo for the United States Census 2020, featuring the words "United States" in a small font above "Census" in a large, bold font, with "2020" in a large, bold font below it.

The Census Bureau has recently announced that it will end counting efforts on September 30th. This is the final push to make sure your community is counted accurately!

From recent information, Ohio has a response rate of 68.5% and ranks 13th in the nation. In 2010, Ohio ranked in the top 10. Given the important role that Census plays in federal funding and congressional apportionment, it is essential Ohioans are counted.

There are currently very low response rates in the following counties: Harrison, Meigs, Morgan, Ottawa, and Vinton.

Help spread Census 2020 information and encourage your neighbors to be counted in this last month!

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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