|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.**  17 SOUTH HIGH STREET – SUITE 245  COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3413  PHONE: 614-461-9335  FAX: 614-461-9336  **Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts**  Legislative Activities Report  **April 2019** |

The State Operating budget (HB 166) was introduced this month. The $150 billion spending plan calls for most state agencies to receive slight increases in funding. The massive spending proposal will be the most substantial bill legislators address during the 133rd General Assembly, as it funds state government for the next two years and touches nearly every facet of state government. HB 166 calls for additional spending in programs dealing with children, workforce development, addiction recovery and natural resources without raising taxes. The House and Senate will spend the next three months debating the measure. The Ohio Constitution requires the budget bill to be passed and signed by the governor by June 30th.

Governor DeWine’s budget proposal includes just over $85 million in the first year of the biennium for the newly created H2Ohio program, which seeks to address water quality issues throughout the state of Ohio. Governor DeWine has indicated that additional funding, roughly $900 million over the next ten years, will be set aside in dedicated purpose fund to ensure the funds are available in the future. The budget language allocates the money among the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Natural Resources to ensure a collaborative, multi-faceted approach to improving water quality. The Department of Agriculture will use its funding on nutrient management efforts, the Environmental Protection Agency will invest in infrastructure in underserved areas, and the Department of Natural Resources will use its funding for wetland development in targeted areas.

Legislation designed to protect water and sewer infrastructure facilities from vandalism recently received its second hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. SB 33, introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland, would enhance the penalties for attacks on critical infrastructure facilities. The Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts was involved in developing this legislation since last session and submitted proponent testimony on the bill.

A total of 11 applicants have submitted resumes to replace Brian Hill who was selected over his other House Collogues last December to fill the seat left open with Troy Balderson’s departure for Congress. Rep. Ron Hood and Rep. Tim Schaffer are among the applicants currently in the legislature. The remaining applicants are Jeff LaRe, executive VP, The Whetstone Group; Kyle Miller, student, Capital University; Jeanette Moll, attorney at law, Jeanette M. Moll LLC,; Brian Stewart, Pickaway County commissioner Melissa Bell, director of membership outreach for the Ohio Pork Council; Leif Bickel, deputy sheriff with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office; Charles Blake, retired military, Special Forces; Christian Neff, IT project manager with JP Morgan Chase; Carl Raines, VP of the Morgan Local School Board and executive director of the Morgan County Improvement Corporation. Hill’s resignation from the Senate is set for the first week of April.

The House appointed Haraz Ghanbari (R-Perrysburg) to the seat formerly held by Sen. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green). Gavarone was appointed to the Senate when Randy Gardner left to be chancellor of the Department of Higher Education. Mr. Ghanbari is a public affairs officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, serving as a lieutenant commander, and has also served in the Army National Guard. He was a member of Perrysburg City Council and the director of military and veteran affairs at the University of Toledo. A first-generation American, Mr. Ghanbari also worked as a photojournalist for the Associated Press in Washington, working as a member of the White House Press Corps.

Below is a list of legislation we are currently tracking during the 133rd Ohio General Assembly:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HB27** | **PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY** (INGRAM C) To modify political subdivision liability for an employee's negligent operation of a motor vehicle. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/19/2019 - House Civil Justice, (Third Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **HB46** | **STATE GOVT EXPENDITURE DATABASE** (GREENSPAN D) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/27/2019 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **HB62** | **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. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/27/2019 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Not Concur, Vote 0-98 |
|  | | |
| **HB78** | **PREVAILING WAGE-PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS** (RIEDEL C, MANCHESTER S) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 2/20/2019 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor |
|  | | |
| **HB79** | **INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION BUDGET** (OELSLAGER S) To make appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Commission programs. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/12/2019 - Re-Referred to Committee |
|  | | |
| **HB80** | **BWC BUDGET** (OELSLAGER S) To make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the bureau's programs. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 2/26/2019 - House Insurance, (First Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **HB84** | **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS-SEWER LATERALS** (HOLMES G) To expressly include, as eligible projects under the State Capital Improvements Program, water and sewer laterals located on private property. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/27/2019 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **HB95** | **BRINE-CONVERSION OF WELLS** (SKINDELL M) To alter the Oil and Gas Law with respect to brine and the conversion of wells. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Energy and Natural Resources |
|  | | |
| **HB115** | **REGULATOR RESTRICTION REDUCTION** (RIEDEL C, ROEMER B) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulator restrictions and to amend the versions of sections 106.021 and 106.03 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect August 18, 2019, to continue the provision of this act on and after that effective date. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government |
|  | | |
| **HB163** | **WATER AND SEWER PRACTICES** (BRINKMAN T) To create a process for withholding local government funds and state water and sewer assistance from municipal corporations that engage in certain water and sewer practices with respect to extraterritorial service. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/25/2019 - Introduced |
|  | | |
| **HB166** | **OPERATING BUDGET** (OELSLAGER S) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/28/2019 - House Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, (Third Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **SB1** | **REDUCE REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS** (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions and to continue the provision of this act on and after August 18, 2019. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/5/2019 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **SB2** | **STATEWIDE WATERSHED PLANNING** (PETERSON B, DOLAN M) To create a statewide watershed planning structure for watershed programs to be implemented by local soil and water conservation districts. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 2/20/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources |
|  | | |
| **SB8** | **TAX CREDITS-OHIO OPPORTUNITY ZONE** (SCHURING K) To authorize tax credits for investments in an Ohio Opportunity Zone. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/12/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **SB10** | **THEFT IN OFFICE PENALTIES** (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. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/19/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice |
|  | | |
| **SB33** | **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES OFFENSES** (HOAGLAND F) To modify certain criminal offenses with respect to critical infrastructure facilities and to impose fines and civil liability for damage to a critical infrastructure facility. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/20/2019 - Senate Judiciary, (Second Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **SB38** | **WATER AND SEWER FUNDS-MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS** (SCHURING K) To revise the law governing municipal corporation use of water and sewer funds. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/26/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **SB50** | **INCREASE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FEE** (EKLUND J) To increase state solid waste disposal fee that is deposited into the Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance Fund, and to make an appropriation. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/12/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing) |
|  | | |
| **SB86** | **UTILITY SERVICE RESELLERS** (MAHARATH T) To regulate certain resellers of utility service. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities |