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| **GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.**  17 SOUTH HIGH STREET – SUITE 245  COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3413  PHONE: 614-461-9335  FAX: 614-461-9336  **CORD**  Legislative Activities Report  **September 2021** |

The Ohio Redistricting Commission this month completed its tenth hearing that took place during a weeklong road tour throughout the state. The panel fielded 25 hours of testimony from more than 300 witnesses. The seven-person panel, charged with redrawing Ohio’s House and Senate District maps, have until September 1st to unveil its proposal. If an agreement cannot be reached, legislators will have until September 15th to come to an agreement. The district lines are redrawn every ten years. The process is getting a late start this year as the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the U.S. Census Bureau from compiling the population data necessary to develop the maps. If an agreement cannot be reached, the district lines will remain in effect for only four years as opposed to 10 years. The deadline to draw Ohio’s congressional districts is at the end of September. That process is handled within the Ohio General Assembly, which needs to have 3/5 of the members of each chamber, including at least half the members of each party, agree to the maps. Secretary of State Frank LaRose warned that once the new lines are drawn, that’s not the end of the process. LaRose said, “ there is a lot of administrative work that election officials have to do, and of course candidates need to have ample time to circulate their petitions.” “There are people who are interested in running for office next year that don’t know what district they are living in or are going to live in once the lines are drawn.

The House Health Committee returned early from the summer recess in August to hold a hearing on HB 248, which would prohibit employers from mandating vaccines. The high-profile bill drew national attention earlier this year when proponents made unfounded claims about the vaccines. Meanwhile, opponents claim the bill threatens public health and violates the rights of individual businesses. Committee Chairman Scott Lipps said he encouraged more testimony, with the goal of amending the bill when legislators return to session this fall. Despite staunch opposition from the business community and healthcare advocates, many members of the Republican caucus support the measure. Speaker Bob Cupp issued the following statement on the issue: “We appreciate the continued hard work of the members of the Health Committee on HB 248. This legislation is important to many members of this caucus. Due to the high interest of the bill, we have directed Chairman Lipps to have one hearing with no amendments or votes. We will then pause hearings on HB 248 while we work with the chairman, the bill’s sponsor, and all interested parties on this important issue.

The Department of Development is accepting applications from water and wastewater systems for the $250 million water and sewer quality program created in HB 168 that was passed in June. The legislation uses federal funding, provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), to establish an infrastructure grant program. Each county engineer was charged with prioritizing projects in each county and submitting a list to the Department of Development. Water and wastewater construction projects are eligible for up to $5 million in grant funding, and infrastructure engineering design projects are eligible for up to $250,000. Governor Mike DeWine praised the program saying, “we are going to invest in the Ohio communities that need significant infrastructure upgrades to ensure that they have access to clean, safe drinking water, and reliable sewer infrastructure.”

Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley recently made his gubernatorial campaign official. In making the announcement, Cranley unveiled a list of more than 100 endorsements, which included many prominent state lawmakers. Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley is also seeking the Democratic Party nomination. Ms. Whaley said she respects Mr. Cranley but is seeking to differentiate herself. “We’ve worked together on many issues, but we are different. I come from a very working class, middle class background,” she told reporters. The Ohio Republican Party weighed in on the announcement saying: “Ohioans need to look no further than John Cranley’s mayoral record to know what kind of governor he would be – Cincinnatians face the third highest homicide rate per capita in the nation and suffer from sky high poverty rates, double Ohio’s.”

In other election news, former legislator Rep. John Adams, a Republican from Sidney, Ohio, has announced he will challenge Secretary of State Frank LaRose as he seeks re-election for his second term in 2022. Adams, a former Navy SEAL, served four terms in the Ohio House. He unsuccessfully ran for the Senate in 2016, losing in the primary to current Senate President Matt Huffman. The only Democrat to announce a campaign for secretary of state is Forest Park City Councilwoman Chelsea Clark.

In August, Governor Mike DeWine announced Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff will serve as the next director of the Department of Health (ODH). Vanderhoff was appointed ODH’s chief medical officer last fall. He will succeed Director Stephanie McCloud, who will return to her prior role as administrator of the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation. Dr. Vanderhoff has frequently joined Governor DeWine during his virtual news conferences on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before taking his position, he served as a senior vice president and chief medical officer at OhioHealth. "Working together as a team, Stephanie McCloud and Bruce Vanderhoff guided the Ohio Department of Health over the past nine months," Governor DeWine said in a statement. "I am pleased that Dr. Vanderhoff has agreed to serve as Director of the Ohio Department of Health. His medical and organizational expertise will help the department as we move forward and continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic."

Below is a list of legislation we are tracking during the 134th Ohio General Assembly:

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| **HB13** | **MODIFY THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW** (GRENDELL D, FRAIZER M) To modify the campaign finance law and to declare an emergency. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 4/15/2021 - House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing) |
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| **HB20** | **PROHIBIT FORECLOSURES, EVICTION DURING COVID-19** (LELAND D, CROSSMAN J) To prohibit foreclosure activity and the eviction of residential and commercial tenants during the state of emergency declared regarding COVID-19, to refer such proceedings caused by the state of emergency to mediation, and to declare an emergency. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/23/2021 - House Civil Justice, (Second Hearing) |
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| **HB43** | **PUBLIC BODIES - ELECTRONIC MEETINGS** (SOBECKI L, HOOPS J) To authorize public bodies to meet via teleconference and video conference. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 2/11/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing) |
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| **HB63** | **AMEND EMINENT DOMAIN LAWS** (CUTRONA A, STOLTZFUS R) To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/2/2021 - House Civil Justice, (Second Hearing) |
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| **HB90** | **OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNOR'S AND HEALTH ORDERS** (WIGGAM S, EDWARDS J) To establish legislative oversight of the Governor's executive orders, certain public health orders, and emergency rules, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 2/24/2021 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing) |
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| **HB91** | **AUTHORIZE CERTAIN PUBLIC-PRIVATE INITIATIVES** (PATTON T) To authorize certain public entities to enter into public-private initiatives with a private party through a public-private agreement regarding public facilities. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 4/28/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Infrastructure and Rural Development, (Second Hearing) |
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| **HB103** | **REGARDS ADOPTION/DURATION EMERGENCY RULES** (MERRIN D) Regarding the adoption and duration of emergency administrative rules. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/24/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing) |
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| **HB110** | **OPERATING BUDGET** (OELSLAGER S) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 7/1/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; effective 7/1/21 |
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| **HB146** | **REGARDS APPLYING PREVAILING WAGE LAW TO PUBLIC PROJECTS** (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:*** | 6/23/2021 - House Commerce and Labor, (Second Hearing) |
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| **HB158** | **PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN FIREFIGHTING FOAM FOR TESTING/TRAINING** (BALDRIDGE B) To prohibit the use of class B firefighting foam containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals for testing and training purposes. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/15/2021 - Senate Veterans and Public Safety, (First Hearing) |
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| **HB167** | **PROVIDE RENT, UTILITY ASSISTANCE** (OELSLAGER S) To provide rent and utility assistance and to make an appropriation. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/11/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. immediately |
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| **HB168** | **UNEMPLOYMENT DEBT** (FRAIZER M) To remit funds from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund to repay unemployment advances, to provide funds to support improvements at pediatric behavioral health care facilities, to require the Development Services Agency to establish the Water and Sewer Quality Program, and to make appropriations. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/29/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. immediately |
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| **HB175** | **DEREGULATE CERTAIN EPHEMERAL WATER FEATURES** (HILLYER B) To deregulate certain ephemeral water features under various water pollution control laws. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/23/2021 - House Agriculture and Conservation, (Fifth Hearing) |
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| **HB177** | **ALLOW GOVERNMENTS TO USE BLOCKCHAIN** (CARFAGNA R, FRAIZER M) To allow a governmental entity to utilize distributed ledger technology, including blockchain technology. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/6/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 95-2 |
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| **HB202** | **VOID ORDERS REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS** (POWELL J) To void the order of the Interim Director of Health requiring the use of facial coverings throughout the state and prohibit the Governor or other administrative department heads from requiring the use of facial coverings without approval by the General Assembly. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 4/22/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing) |
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| **HB203** | **REQUIRE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE IF EXPERIENCED IN OTHER STATE** (POWELL J) To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances and to amend the version of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on April 12, 2023, to continue the changes on and after that date. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/9/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing) |
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| **HB232** | **OHIO EQUAL PAY ACT** (HOWSE S, MIRANDA J) To enact the Ohio Equal Pay Act to address wage disparities in public and private employment. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/22/2021 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing) |
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| **HB245** | **EXPAND ELIGIBILITY - COUNTY SEWER DISCOUNTED RATES** (INGRAM C) To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 4/14/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government |
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| **HB247** | **REVISE PLUMBING INSPECTION LAW** (WEST T, KELLY B) To amend the law related to plumbing inspections. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/26/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health |
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| **HB267** | **LIMIT PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS** (JORDAN K) To limit the duration of public health orders and to allow the General Assembly to act via concurrent resolution in response to a public health emergency if the Governor or Department of Health does not. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government |
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| **HB269** | **REPEAL SB22** (GALONSKI T) To repeal the version of Section 3 of S.B. 22 of the 134th General Assembly scheduled to take effect on June 23, 2021, to repeal the changes made by S.B. 22 of the 134th General Assembly to the laws governing legislative oversight of certain orders and rules issued by the executive branch, including the establishment of the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee, and to declare an emergency. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government |
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| **HB275** | **EXPAND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION JOINT PURCHASING AUTHORITY** (LAMPTON B) To expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/12/2021 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing) |
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| **HB299** | **CONSUMER UTILITY BILLING TRANSPARENCY ACT** (SKINDELL M) To enact "The Consumer Utility Billing Transparency Act" requiring the itemization of all riders, charges, taxes, and other costs on certain utility bills. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/19/2021 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing) |
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| **HB309** | **FAIR, OPEN COMPETITION ACT** (BRINKMAN T) To enact the Fair and Open Competition Act regarding project labor agreements in public improvement contracts. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/18/2021 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor |
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| **HB350** | **PROHIBIT MANDATORY COVID-19 VACCINE** (CUTRONA A) To prohibit mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations, requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and certain other actions relating to an individual's COVID-19 vaccination or health status and to declare an emergency. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/22/2021 - House Civil Justice, (First Hearing) |
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| **HB364** | **WATERWORKS INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION** (PATTON T) To make changes to the application process for the waterworks infrastructure improvement surcharge. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 7/1/2021 - Introduced |
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| **HB365** | **DRINKING WATER SAFETY RULES** (LIGHTBODY M, RUSSO A) To require the Director of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing maximum allowable contaminant levels in drinking water and water quality standards for certain contaminants. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 7/1/2021 - Introduced |
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| **HB376** | **OHIO PERSONAL PRIVACY ACT** (CARFAGNA R, HALL T) To enact the Ohio Personal Privacy Act. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 7/12/2021 - Introduced |
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| **HB385** | **PROHIBIT DISCHARGE OF WASTE INTO OHIO WATERS** (CROSS J) To prohibit a municipal corporation located within the Western Basin of Lake Erie from discharging any amount of waste into Ohio waters. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 8/6/2021 - Introduced |
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| **HB388** | **REGARDING VACCINE REFUSAL** (JORDAN K) To prohibit taking certain actions against an individual because the individual refuses to be vaccinated against a disease. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 8/12/2021 - Introduced |
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| **HB401** | **EMPLOYER-MANDATED COVID VACCINATION INJURY** (EDWARDS J) To exempt an injury or disability caused by an employer-mandated COVID-19 vaccination from the Workers' Compensation Law and to allow the employee to sue the employer for damages. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 8/24/2021 - Introduced |
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| **HR19** | **URGE CONGRESS TO CREATE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK** (SOBECKI L, STEPHENS J) To urge the United States Congress to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 2/24/2021 - House Infrastructure and Rural Development, (First Hearing) |
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| **SB9** | **REDUCE REGULATIONS** (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions in their administrative rules. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/20/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing) |
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| **SB15** | **FISCAL OFFICERS-LIABILITY** (WILSON S) To change the circumstances in which certain fiscal officers may be held liable for a loss of public funds. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government |
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| **SB19** | **REGARDING PROPERTY TAXATION** (SCHAFFER T) To modify the law regarding property taxation and sales and use tax. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/28/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 61-36 |
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| **SB22** | **LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT-PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS** (JOHNSON T, MCCOLLEY R) To establish legislative oversight of orders issued by the executive branch, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/24/2021 - Consideration of Governor's Veto; House Overrides Veto, Vote 62-35 |
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| **SB27** | **AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT-DEFERRED COMPENSATION** (HOTTINGER J) To authorize automatic enrollment of new state government employees in the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/8/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 9/7/21 |
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| **SB39** | **COOPER'S LAW - CRIMES & RECORD RETENTION** (SCHAFFER T) To eliminate the 20-year statute of limitation for felonious assault and aggravated assault if the victim is a peace officer, to modify the law regarding records retention schedules developed by counties, municipal corporations, and townships, to modify the penalties for aggravated assault, tampering with evidence, falsification, and falsification in a theft offense, and to name this act Cooper's Law. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 2/9/2021 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing) |
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| **SB56** | **INDEMNITY-DESIGN CONTRACTS** (BLESSING III L) To regulate the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts related to public improvements. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/22/2021 - House Civil Justice, (First Hearing) |
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| **SB78** | **JUNETEENTH-LEGAL HOLIDAY** (CRAIG H, BRENNER A) To establish the nineteenth of June as Juneteenth, a legal holiday for which government employees receive paid leave. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform |
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| **SB83** | **BROWNFIELDS** (WILLIAMS S, RULLI M) 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. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/23/2021 - House Agriculture and Conservation, (Second Hearing) |
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| **SB84** | **CLEAN OHIO REVITALIZATION FUND** (WILLIAMS S, RULLI M) To make changes to the law relating to the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/23/2021 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing) |
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| **SB95** | **REGULATE UTILITY RESELLERS** (MAHARATH T) To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged and to regulate certain resellers of utility service. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/31/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing) |
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| **SB96** | **PREVENT UTILITY DISTRUPTION-COVID** (WILLIAMS S) To prevent the disruption of utility service during the state of emergency declared regarding COVID-19 and to declare an emergency. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/31/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing) |
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| **SB105** | **MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES** (SYKES V, SCHURING K) To require political subdivisions to recognize state certifications of minority business enterprises. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Economic and Workforce Development |
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| **SB110** | **RENT, UTILITY ASSISTANCE** (O'BRIEN S, WILSON S) To provide rent and utility assistance and to make an appropriation. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance |
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| **SB111** | **VACCINATIONS, CORONAVIRUS RECOVERY INCLUDING TOWNSHIPS** (BLESSING III L, BRENNER A) To prohibit certain mandatory vaccinations and other activities related to an individual's vaccination status and to make an appropriation related to coronavirus local fiscal recovery. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/24/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 62-34 |
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| **SB131** | **LICENSURE RECIPROCITY** (ROEGNER K, MCCOLLEY R) To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances and to amend the version of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on April 12, 2023, to continue the changes on and after that date. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/26/2021 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (Second Hearing) |
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| **SB143** | **ADOPT MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL-ALUMINUM** (O'BRIEN S) To require the Director of Environmental Protection to adopt a maximum contaminant level for aluminum in drinking water. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/15/2021 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (Third Hearing) |
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| **SB152** | **FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE TASK FORCE** (HOAGLAND F) To establish the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Task Force in the office of the Attorney General and to make an appropriation. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 4/21/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance |
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| **SB175** | **LABOR AGREEMENTS-PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS** (LANG G) To enact the Fair and Open Competition Act regarding project labor agreements in public improvement contracts. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 5/5/2021 - Introduced |
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| **SB180** | **EXPANDED DISCOUNTED SEWER RATES** (THOMAS C) To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/8/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing) |
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| **SB193** | **UNPAID WATER CHARGES** (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit political subdivisions from placing a lien on property for unpaid water charges. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 6/2/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities |
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| **SJR2** | **PERMIT BONDS-CLEAN WATER IMPROVEMENTS** (GAVARONE T, YUKO K) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund clean water improvements. | |
|  | ***Current Status:*** | 4/21/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance |
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