**Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts
*Legislative Report – Week of April 7 – April 11, 2025***

**GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.
RH RESOURCES**

# Legislative Activity This Week

HB 49 – Water Improvement Districts (Rep. Claggett)

* On Wednesday, April 9, Rep. Claggett provided sponsor testimony on HB 49, which creates “Water Improvement Districts”, modeled after Transportation Improvement Districts.
* The bill was heard in the Ohio House Natural Resources Committee.
* CORD is **opposed** to this legislation.
* Link to [Sponsor Testimony](https://www.ohiohouse.gov/committees/natural-resources/meetings/cmte_h_natural_resources_1_2025-04-09-0900_325)

# New Bill Introductions

**HB 223 - US, OHIO FLAG PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS (Mathews, Willis)**

To prohibit the state or a political subdivision from purchasing a United States or Ohio flag that was not made in the United States.

* [Link to Bill Text](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/hb223/00_IN/pdf/)

**HB 227 - LAW MODIFICATIONS-EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS (Robb Blasdel, Johnson)** To modify excavation requirements.

* [Link to Bill Text](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/hb227/00_IN/pdf/)

# What to Watch Next Week

The General Assembly is on a two-week break for the Easter holiday. Legislative activity will resume the week of April 28th.

# Updated List of Tracked Legislation

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| **HB14** | **INCORPORATE FEDERAL TAX CHANGES** (ROEMER B, WORKMAN H) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since March 15, 2023, into Ohio law and to declare an emergency. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 3/7/2025 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. immediately |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-14> |
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| **HB18** | **DIGITAL ASSET INVESTMENT, CRYPTOCURRENCY RESERVE** (DEMETRIOU S) To address investments in exchange-traded products by the state retirement systems, to permit the Treasurer of State to invest certain interim funds in digital assets, and to name this act the Ohio Strategic Cryptocurrency Reserve Act. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/25/2025 - House Technology and Innovation, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-18> |
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| **HB49** | **CREATE WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS** (CLAGGETT T) To allow for the creation of water improvement districts. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 4/9/2025 - House Natural Resources, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-49> |
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| **HB54** | **TRANSPORTATION BUDGET** (STEWART B) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 3/31/2025 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 3/31/25 |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-54> |
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| **HB92** | **MUNICIPAL RECOVERY, LIEN LIMITATIONS** (JOHNSON M, MCCLAIN R) Regarding limitations on recovery and lien imposition by municipalities against property owners of non-owner-occupied properties for unpaid water, sewer, and disposal services rates and charges. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/26/2025 - House Local Government, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-92> |
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| **HB93** | **RESTORE CLEAN OHIO FUND** (HALL T, SWEENEY B) To restore the Clean Ohio Fund to be administered by the Department of Development and the Clean Ohio Council. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/12/2025 - Referred to Committee House Finance |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-93> |
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| **HB96** | **OPERATING BUDGET** (STEWART B) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 4/9/2025 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 60-39 |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-96> |
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| **HB112** | **RIGHT TO REFUSE MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS** (GROSS J, LEAR B) To prohibit discrimination against an individual for the refusal of certain medical interventions for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions, and to name this act the Conscientious Right to Refuse Act. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/26/2025 - Referred to Committee House Judiciary |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-112> |
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| **HB139** | **REQUIRE FIRE HYDRANT TESTING** (HALL T) To require specified testing of fire hydrant systems. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 4/2/2025 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-139> |
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| **HB158** | **REQUIRE UTILITY BILL ITEMIZATION** (BRENNAN S, THOMAS D) To enact "The Consumer Utility Billing Transparency Act" requiring the itemization of all riders, taxes, and other costs on certain utility bills. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 4/9/2025 - House Energy, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-158> |
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| **HB182** | **PROHIBIT FLUORIDE-PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS** (DEAN L) To prohibit a public water system from adding fluoride to its water. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 3/26/2025 - Referred to Committee House Natural Resources |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-182> |
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| **HB223** | **US, OHIO FLAG PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS** (MATHEWS T, WILLIS B) To prohibit the state or a political subdivision from purchasing a United States or Ohio flag that was not made in the United States. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 4/9/2025 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-223> |
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| **HB227** | **LAW MODIFICATIONS-EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS** (ROBB BLASDEL M, JOHNSON M) To modify excavation requirements. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 4/9/2025 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-227> |
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| **SB3** | **PHASE DOWN OHIO INCOME TAX** (LANG G, HUFFMAN S) To phase-down the state income tax to a flat rate of 2.75% over two years. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 1/29/2025 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-3> |
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| **SB8** | **PROHIBIT EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION-UNION ACTIVITIES** (HUFFMAN S) To prohibit a public employer from providing paid leave or compensation for a public employee to engage in certain union activities. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 3/19/2025 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-8> |
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| **SB9** | **INCORPORATE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE CHANGES** (BLESSING III L) To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since March 15, 2023, into Ohio law and to declare an emergency. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/26/2025 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-9> |
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| **SB15** | **ALLOW ESTABLISHMENT-COMMON BOND FUND PROGRAM** (BRENNER A, WILSON S) To allow port authorities to establish a Common Bond Fund Program to finance port authority facilities. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 1/29/2025 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-15> |
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| **SB45** | **EXPAND ELIGIBLITY-COUNTY SEWER RATE DISCOUNTS** (INGRAM C) To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/12/2025 - Senate Local Government, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-45> |
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| **SB57** | **OHIO BITCOIN RESERVE ACT** (O'BRIEN S) To authorize investment of state funds in bitcoin, to require state entities to accept payment in cryptocurrency, and to name this act the Ohio Bitcoin Reserve Act. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/11/2025 - Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-57> |
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| **SB69** | **INTENTION TO REFORM-STATE PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS** (ROMANCHUK M) To declare the General Assembly's intent to enact legislation to reform the law governing the state's public retirement systems. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/12/2025 - Referred to Committee Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-69> |
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| **SB118** | **REGARDING MUNICIPAL LIEN RECOVERY** (LANG G) Regarding limitations on recovery and lien imposition by municipalities against property owners of non-owner-occupied properties for unpaid water, sewer, and disposal services rates and charges. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 2/26/2025 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-118> |
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