**Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts
*Weekly Legislative Report***

***May 5 – May 16, 2025***

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

*This is your weekly legislative report for CORD! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns on pending legislation, please contact Michael Guastella with Governmental Policy Group at michael@gpgrhr.com.*

# Legislative Activity This Week and New Bill Introductions

The following bills were heard this week in their respective committees. Please follow the link(s) to view the bill text, LSC bill analysis, and any relevant testimony under the “committee activity” tab. Additionally, new bills were introduced in the legislature this week. Please follow the link(s) to read the bill text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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:*** | 5/15/2025 - Senate Higher Education, (Fourth Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-96> |
| **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:*** | 5/13/2025 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-223> |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HB265** | **PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES RESELLER REGULATION** (BRENNAN S, FISCHER T) To regulate resellers of public utility services as public utilities. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 - Referred to Committee House Energy |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-265> |
|   |
| **HB272** | **REGULATE FOOD ADDITIVES, FLUORIDE, PFAS** (PIZZULLI J, ROBB BLASDEL M) To prohibit the use of certain food dyes and additives, the release of substances into the atmosphere for certain purposes, and intentionally added PFAS in various products, to revise the law governing fluoride, and to name this act the Protecting Utility and Resources for Enhanced Living, Improved Food, and Environment Act. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 - Referred to Committee House General Government |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-272> |
|   |
| **HB278** | **RELATING TO STATE TREASURER** (MATHEWS T, HALL T) Relating to the Treasurer of State. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 – Introduced |
| **SB183** | **REQUIRE E-VERIFY USE-CONSTRUCTION** (CIRINO J, REYNOLDS M) To require certain construction industry employers to use E-verify and to sanction specified hiring practices in the industry. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 - Senate Workforce Development, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-183> |
|  | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-278> |

# What to Watch Next Week

The following bills will be heard next week in their respective committees. Please follow the link(s) to view the bill text, LSC bill analysis, and any relevant testimony under the “committee activity” tab.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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:*** | 5/21/2025 - House Local Government, (Third Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-92> |
|   |
| **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:*** | 5/20/2025 - House Finance, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-93> |
| **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:*** | 5/21/2025 - House Energy, (Fourth Hearing) |
| **HB227** | **LAW MODIFICATIONS-EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS** (ROBB BLASDEL M, JOHNSON M) To modify excavation requirements. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/21/2025 - House Commerce and Labor, (Third Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-227> |
|   |
| **HB246** | **REQUIRE E-VERIFY USE-CONSTRUCTION** (SWEARINGEN D, FISCHER T) To require certain construction industry employers to use E-verify and to sanction specified hiring practices in the industry. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/21/2025 - House Commerce and Labor, (Third Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-246> |
|   |
| **HB248** | **CHANGES-AUDITOR OF STATE** (THOMAS D) To make various changes regarding the Auditor of State. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/20/2025 - House General Government, (Second Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-248> |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-158> |

# Other Legislative Updates

The amendment deadline to HB 96 was Friday, May 16th at 12 PM! The Senate is now deliberating which amendments will make it into the upcoming substitute bill. This includes the main amendment we have been advocating for on behalf of CORD related to contract retainage reform.

# Updated List of Tracked Legislation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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:*** | 5/21/2025 - House Local Government, (Third Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-92> |
|   |
| **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:*** | 5/20/2025 - House Finance, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-93> |
|   |
| **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:*** | 5/15/2025 - Senate Higher Education, (Fourth Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-96> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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:*** | 5/21/2025 - House Energy, (Fourth Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-158> |
|   |
| **HB182** | **PROHIBIT FLUORIDE-PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS** (DEAN L) To prohibit a public water system from adding fluoride to its water. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 4/30/2025 - House Natural Resources, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-182> |
|   |
| **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:*** | 5/13/2025 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-223> |
|   |
| **HB227** | **LAW MODIFICATIONS-EXCAVATION REQUIREMENTS** (ROBB BLASDEL M, JOHNSON M) To modify excavation requirements. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/21/2025 - House Commerce and Labor, (Third Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-227> |
|   |
| **HB246** | **REQUIRE E-VERIFY USE-CONSTRUCTION** (SWEARINGEN D, FISCHER T) To require certain construction industry employers to use E-verify and to sanction specified hiring practices in the industry. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/21/2025 - House Commerce and Labor, (Third Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-246> |
|   |
| **HB248** | **CHANGES-AUDITOR OF STATE** (THOMAS D) To make various changes regarding the Auditor of State. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/20/2025 - House General Government, (Second Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-248> |
|   |
| **HB265** | **PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES RESELLER REGULATION** (BRENNAN S, FISCHER T) To regulate resellers of public utility services as public utilities. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 - Referred to Committee House Energy |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-265> |
|   |
| **HB272** | **REGULATE FOOD ADDITIVES, FLUORIDE, PFAS** (PIZZULLI J, ROBB BLASDEL M) To prohibit the use of certain food dyes and additives, the release of substances into the atmosphere for certain purposes, and intentionally added PFAS in various products, to revise the law governing fluoride, and to name this act the Protecting Utility and Resources for Enhanced Living, Improved Food, and Environment Act. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 - Referred to Committee House General Government |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-272> |
|   |
| **HB278** | **RELATING TO STATE TREASURER** (MATHEWS T, HALL T) Relating to the Treasurer of State. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 - Introduced |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-HB-278> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **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> |
|   |
| **SB183** | **REQUIRE E-VERIFY USE-CONSTRUCTION** (CIRINO J, REYNOLDS M) To require certain construction industry employers to use E-verify and to sanction specified hiring practices in the industry. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 - Senate Workforce Development, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-183> |
|   |
| **SB184** | **CREATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS** (REYNOLDS M) To establish residential economic development districts and to create a grant program for housing developments within such districts. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/13/2025 - Senate Housing, (First Hearing) |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-184> |
|   |
| **SB190** | **A GOOD DEAL FOR OHIO ACT** (BLESSING III L) To modify the law governing property, income, sales and use, severance, and lodging taxes; to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to public and chartered nonpublic school students; to increase the Local Government Fund; to modify funding for the Low- and Moderate-income Housing Trust Fund; and to name this act A Good Deal for Ohio. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/7/2025 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-190> |
|   |
| **SB203** | **REQUIRE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS-ADOPT CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM** (SCHAFFER T) To require political subdivisions to adopt a cybersecurity program. |
|   | ***Current Status:*** | 5/14/2025 - Introduced |
|   | ***State Bill Page:*** | <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA136-SB-203> |