

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

March 23, 2018

Around the Square

Capital Budget Passes Senate

HB 529, the FY 2019-20 capital budget has passed the Senate with a 32-1 vote. The \$2.63 billion spending measure received no changes since its introduction last month, so it will go directly to the Governor for his signature.

Sales Tax Holiday Bill Headed To Governor

Lawmakers on Wednesday approved a bill that would allow Ohioans to take advantage of the sales tax free holiday weekend indefinitely as it heads to the Governor's desk. The three-day tax holiday will begin the first Friday of every August. Clothing and shoes priced at \$75 or less and school supplies \$20 or less will be exempt from state and local sales tax during those days. The bill also allows educational service centers to raise revenue through new local taxes for school safety, security, and mental health illnesses.

JEOC Names New Chair

Senator Gayle Manning has been appointed to Chair of the Joint Education Oversight Committee as the committee calls for leadership to rotate yearly between chambers. The Chair's priorities include a deeper dive on report cards and the third-grade reading guarantee. The committee will meet each month and will hear presentations on career tech schools and the value-added measure on state report cards.

Senate Leaders focus On Reducing State Regulations

Senate Republicans announced plans for legislation to be introduced next month that would repeal and better track regulations that are hampering Ohio's economic growth. Among the proposals is a requirement for officials to repeal two regulations for every one rule that is issued. Research from George Mason University has indicated that Ohio has the third-most regulatory restrictions at 246,852 out of the 22 states that the group has analyzed. The goal of the bill is to strengthen legislative oversight and create a system to track regulations to ideally translate into a 30% reduction in regulations.

Political News and Notes

Medicaid Work Requirements Comments Question Costs

A proposed waiver establishing work requirements for certain Medicaid enrollees has received pushback from advocacy groups in public comments submitted to the state ahead of the application's submission to federal regulators. Opponents of the plan argue that it would not achieve the stated goal of driving long-term improvement, adding costs to state and local governments and could eventually lead to wider than expected loss of coverage. Proponents suggest that the plan would encourage Medicaid recipients to find work and lead them out of poverty and toward healthier lives.

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