

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
April 13, 2018

Around the Square

Speaker Rosenberger Resigns

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger announced Tuesday that he will resign his office on May 1 amid FBI questions into his travel and spending habits. However, after facing many calls to resign immediately, the Speaker officially resigned his seat yesterday. The Speaker claimed that he believed all of his actions have been both ethical and lawful, but understands the nature of the inquiry can be demanding and intensive, and could take months or even years to resolve. Speaker Pro Tempore Kirk Schuring will resume responsibilities as Speaker until a new Speaker is elected by the Ohio House.

Reagan Tokes Bill Passes Senate

SB 201, a bill allowing prisoners to earn longer or shorter sentences depending on their behavior behind bars was voted out of the Senate unanimously on Wednesday. The legislation was introduced after the kidnapping, rape and murder of an Ohio State University student, Reagan Tokes, by a man with a history of bad behavior while in prison prior to being released. This legislation allows inmates to earn a sentence reduction of up to 15% for good behavior or up to 50% of additional prison time for infractions while behind bars.

Senate Passes School Safety Bill

HB 315, a bipartisan measure aimed at establishing training requirements for school resource officers, moved forward with an amendment Tuesday adding \$10 million in funding for school-safety grants. Another amendment was accepted that directs the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to study cost-effective ways to update existing buildings. The legislation was passed 89-1 on the House floor Wednesday. Sponsors Rep. LaTourette and Patterson stated that this legislation is a critical, common sense step forward to enhance school safety and increase student protection.

House District 84 Race

Three Republican candidates are currently battling to replace Rep. Keith Faber's seat in the conservative district that encompasses Mercer County and parts of Shelby, Auglaize, and Darke counties. Rep. Faber's nephew, Travis Faber, is an attorney at Faber & Associates and received encouragement to run with his top issues including boosting the economy and protecting Second Amendment rights. Aaron Heilers hopes to ensure that the agricultural community continues to have a voice in Columbus, as he operates a grain farm and wine grape vineyard, in addition to working in soil and water conservation districts. Susan Manchester, a community outreach director at Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Central Ohio who previously worked for U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, wants to tackle the opioid epidemic and the economy. The winner of the race will likely face Democrat Joe Monbeck in the general election.

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