

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
May 4, 2018

Around the Square

Medicaid Work Requirements Waiver Submitted

Earlier this week, the Ohio Department of Medicaid submitted the request to levy work requirements, which is expected to affect around 36,000 enrollees. Those affected will have to work at least 20 hours per week, which can include job searching, education and training. ODM received 945 submissions during the comment period, with 93% opposing the waiver. Opponents argue that the proposal will jeopardize coverage for those who have inconsistent work or need health care for the workforce. ODM is hoping for quick federal approval, as they plan to have the program running by July 1.

Amusement Ride Legislation Introduced After Deadly Incident

Rep. Jim Hughes recently introduced legislation that would toughen amusement ride inspections after an 18-year-old was killed in an Ohio State Fair accident. Known as Tyler's Law, HB 631 would create new ride inspector education requirements, require additional ride inspectors, and allow the Ohio Department of Agriculture to demand pictures and detailed descriptions of rides that been repaired. The sponsor is hopeful that this legislation will prevent another accident.

Political News and Notes

Another Hagan Seeks House District 50 Seat

House District 50, comprised of the eastern portion of Stark County, is up for grabs as incumbent Rep. Christina Hagan runs for Congress. Rep. Hagan's brother, Josh Hagan is battling Paris Township Trustee Reggie Stolfus for the Republican nomination. Hagan works for Hagan Heating, Plumbing & Air Conditioning and believes his experiences as a blue collar worker will resonate with voters. His priorities include defending life, tackling the opioid epidemic, and reducing government regulations. Stolfus operates several small businesses and his goals include job creation and strengthening the family unit.

Crowded House District 90 Race

Currently represented by term-limited Rep. Terry Johnson, four Republicans and two Democrats are battling to take the seat in southern rural Appalachia with one common ground: renewed hope. Republican candidates include Gina Collinsworth, a small business owner who plans to focus on the lack of broadband internet access and the opioid crisis. Realtor Justin Pizzulli's goal is to create more jobs, as he feels that Southern Ohio has been abandoned. Scottie Powell, a health administrator, also plans to focus on job creation and expanding internet and cell service. Brian Baldrige is currently serving his fourth term as Adams County Commissioner and was previously a Wayne Township trustee. On the Democratic side, Portsmouth attorney Adrienne Buckler plans to prioritize education funding, economic development, and tackling the opioid crisis if elected. Joni Fearing was motivated to enter the race after volunteering for the League of Women Voters, as she plans to use her religious background to tackle the opioid addiction and maintain Medicaid expansion.

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.