

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse
June 22, 2018

Around the Square

Renewable Energy Bill Receives Testimony

House Bill 114 endured its seventh hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday. The committee heard opponent testimony citing concerns that the legislation does not go far enough to protect Ohio's commitment to renewable energy and fails to maintain strong standards. The bill aims to revise renewable energy provisions and change funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program. The committee drafted a substitute version of the bill after House language stated renewable energy standards as voluntary, and will likely be brought to a vote next week.

Human Trafficking Bill Sent to Governor

One of four bills sent to Governor Kasich by the Ohio House for signing on Wednesday was a piece of legislation aimed at addressing human trafficking. The bill increases the number of offenses that can be expunged on records of human trafficking victims. This measure eases many challenges victims face when trying to re-enter society, and was passed with a vote of 79-12. The three other bills sent to the governor's desk involved purchasing hunting and fishing licenses, hospitalization for mental health and eliminating puppy mills.

Political News and Notes

New Standards for E-School Oversight

The House Education and Career Readiness Committee considered legislation this week which would create new standards of accountability for online schools. House Bill 707 designates clear and consistent guidelines for the Department of Education, as well as financial disclosure and transparency requirements for Internet- or computer-based schools. Many of the legislation's provisions were based on recommendations from State Auditor Dave Yost and solutions in response to the closure of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT).

Poll Gives Election Insight

An independent poll released last week by Quinnipiac University shows a tight race for the next Governor of Ohio. Former Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Richard Cordray was polling at 42 percent, with Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine trailing just two points behind. Cordray has shown large gains in the past few weeks, and most polls have the candidates close to a 50-50 split. The Quinnipiac poll also showed Senator Sherrod Brown leading the senate race against his opponent Representative Jim Renacci by 17 percent. Brown polled at 51 percent with a net favorable rating of 19 percentage points, while Renacci polled at 34 percent. The poll also showed decreasing support for President Donald Trump with a 54 percent disapproval rating.

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