

Dear Township Officials:

While the news regarding the state's financial condition worsens, the conference committee members continue to hammer out differences between the House and Senate versions of House Bill 1, the biennium budget. At this time, we are aware of several items that potentially may be addressed in the bill. Those include: TPP reimbursements, Section 125 cafeteria plan mandates, collective bargaining, reverse auctions and HSTS rule changes. Please note that we do not have any information or language on these items at this time. As soon as we get more concrete information we will pass it along to you.

The OTA participated in several hearings this week on bills that have a direct impact on township government.

**HB 141 HSTS Rules (Dodd) - Hearing in House Environment & Brownfield Development Committee**

This is the companion to SB 110 (Niehaus), which revises the Household Sewage and Small Flow On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems Law. The OTA testified in support of HB 141 and our support letter is attached. Additionally, the Ohio Municipal League came out in opposition to the provision in HB 141 and SB 110 that would prohibit forced annexation should a property owner be ordered to tap into a central sewer for health reasons. The OTA response letter is also attached.

**HB 218 Utility Taxes (Winburn) - Hearing in House Ways & Means Committee**

This bill modifies the tax valuation of public utility tangible personal property used to generate electricity from renewable energy sources, specifically wind and solar. Basically, solar and wind energy would pay less in local taxes than traditional utilities. The OTA joined with four other organizations to share concerns of HB 218, specifically the loss of potential revenue should wind and solar companies locate in a township. The wind companies are requesting to pay approximately \$5,000 to \$8,000 per megawatt but should state law as currently written apply, those same companies would pay on average (as each locality would have a different rate) \$40,000 per megawatt. Please note that the money paid per megawatt would be divided amongst all political subdivisions impacted. (schools, counties, townships, other entities that receive TPP tax money) The group letter is attached for your review. The OTA will continue to work with our partners and all interested parties.

**SB 109 Property Taxes (Gibbs) - Hearing in Senate Ways & Means Committee**

This bill would exempt from real property taxation the increased valuation of a single-family residential property owned by a developer or builder until the title to the property is transferred. The Ohio Township Association joined with five other organizations to oppose SB 109 due to the potential loss in property tax revenue. Our opposition letter is attached for your review. The OTA will continue to work with our partners and interested parties on the bill.

**SB 128 Township Dance Halls (Strahorn) - Hearing in Senate State & Local Government & Veterans Affairs**

This bill would allow townships to issue permits for dances held in the township. Please find attached the sponsor testimony of Senator Strahorn.

There have been several bills introduced over the last week or two. Please carefully review these bills. Should you have concerns with these bills, please let me know and please share those concerns with your legislators. To view the complete bill please visit [www.legislature.state.oh.us](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us).

**HB 184 Employee Verification (Combs)**

To require employers to register and participate in a status verification system to verify the work eligibility status of all new employees and to affirm their participation on their state income tax returns, to specify that an employer's failure to affirm their participation in the status verification

system on their state income tax returns constitutes falsification or dereliction of duty, to require public agencies to cancel contracts with private employers who do not participate in a status verification system, to require jail officials to make a reasonable effort to verify the citizenship of confined persons, to collect electronic fingerprints of illegal aliens, and to notify the United States Department of Homeland Security in certain circumstances, to prohibit political subdivisions from restricting communication and cooperation with federal officials regarding a person's citizenship status, to require judges and magistrates to consider immigration status and other factors in determining a defendant's bail, and to declare an emergency. *(referred to House State Government)*

**HB 212 Amateur Radio Zoning (Stebelton, Okey)**

To codify federal restrictions on local zoning of amateur station antenna structures thereby preserving amateur radio service communications as a Homeland Security resource and to place the burden of proof for compliance on the zoning authority. *(referred to House Public Safety & Homeland Security)*

**HB 220 Local Government Notices (Chandler)**

To implement the recommendations of the Local Government Public Notice Task Force by authorizing legal publication to be made in a newspaper of general circulation, eliminating certain publication and postal privilege requirements, reducing the number of times publication must be made, requiring newspapers to establish a government rate for publication, allowing publication of a summary of an ordinance rather than publishing it in its entirety, and allowing the costs of publishing delinquent property tax lists to be charged to delinquent taxpayers. *(referred to House Local Government & Public Administration)*

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