



COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE  
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

NAIOP OF OHIO

**NAIOP Weekly Legislative Report**  
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**Report created on June 18, 2012**

**Supported Bills**

- HB10 REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED SITE (SEARS B)** To authorize refundable tax credits for the completion of a voluntary action to remediate a contaminated site and for the return of such sites to productive use, and to exempt persons through 2017 who have issued covenants not to sue under the Voluntary Action Program from certain fees and penalties for one year after the issuance of such a covenant.  
*Current Status:* 3/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)
- HB17 TAX CREDIT FOR HIRING UNEMPLOYED (BAKER N)** To authorize a \$2,400 income tax withholding credit for an employer that hires and employs a previously unemployed individual.  
*Current Status:* 1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
- HB134 CAPITAL GAINS INVESTMENTS (SCHURING K)** To reduce the income tax rate on capital gains reinvested in Ohio-based investments.  
*Current Status:* 6/1/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
- HB198 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (COLEY II W)** To permit property tax complaints to be initiated only by the property owner.  
*Current Status:* 5/12/2011 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (Second Hearing)
- HB357 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE - TAXING DISTRICT (RAMOS D)** To require JobsOhio and state agencies offering economic development assistance to obtain Controlling Board approval before providing assistance to a person who, at or near the time of receiving the assistance, relocates employment positions from one taxing district to another or eliminates positions at an existing location.  
*Current Status:* 11/9/2011 - Referred to Committee House Finance and Appropriations
- HB489 STATE DEVELOPMENT OMNIBUS REORGANIZATION (DOVILLA M, HAGAN C)** To rename the Department of Development the "Development Services Agency"; to establish the Office of TourismOhio within the Development Services Agency, create the TourismOhio Advisory Board, and establish a pilot program to test a new funding mechanism for the state's travel and tourism marketing; to modify the operation of JobsOhio; to make changes to the Capital Access Loan Program Fund and to allow transfers to the Capital Access Loan Program Fund from the Minority Business Enterprise Loan Fund; to increase the membership of the Ohio Tax Credit Authority and provide for projects that were started prior to receiving a tax credit; to modify reporting requirements under the Voluntary Action Program; to require the Director of Development Services to administer federal funds received for Brownfields revitalization purposes; to terminate the Water and Sewer Commission; to terminate the Development

Financing Advisory Council as of July 1, 2012; to increase the membership of the Third Frontier Commission; and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 5/1/2012 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**All Bill Status:** 4/25/2012 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; As Amended on Floor Vote 91-5

**HB502 REPLACEMENT PROPERTY TAX LEVY (MARTIN J)** To eliminate the power of taxing authorities to propose a replacement property tax levy.

**Current Status:** 4/17/2012 - Referred to Committee House Local Government

**HB511 MBR-TAX CREDIT ADMINISTRATION CHANGES (BECK P, GONZALES A)** To make various changes to the administration of the investment tax credit, the venture capital loan loss tax credit, and the New Markets tax credit, including the increase of the maximum amount of the investment tax credit and the venture capital loan loss tax credit, the elimination of the Industrial Technology and Enterprise Advisory Councils, and the acceleration of the receipt of New Markets tax credit installments.

**Current Status:** 6/12/2012 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development

**All Bill Status:** 5/23/2012 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 91-6

**HB558 NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT (BECK P)** To make various changes to the administration of the New Markets tax credit, including the acceleration of the receipt of New Markets tax credit installments, allowing community development entities to make credit-eligible investments in a low-income community business that derives 15% or more of its annual revenue from renting or selling real estate, eliminating the requirement to calculate adjusted purchase price of investments in calculating the amount of the credit, permitting entities to identify qualifying equity investments from any community development entity, and clarifying that the maximum allowable credit for each investor is \$1 million.

**Current Status:** 5/24/2012 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

**SB89 LABOR REQUIREMENTS (JORDAN K)** To prohibit state agencies from requiring or prohibiting certain labor requirements as a condition of performing public works and prohibit the appropriations of state funds for public works when political subdivisions require or prohibit certain labor.

**Current Status:** 3/8/2011 - Referred to Committee Senate Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review

**SB115 PROPERTY SALE GAINS (KEARNEY E)** To exempt from income taxation any gains from the sale of Ohio property used in a trade or business and held for at least two years.

**Current Status:** 3/24/2011 - Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development, (First Hearing)

**SB314 JOBS OHIO II (WAGONER M)** To rename the Department of Development the "Development Services Agency"; to establish the Office of TourismOhio within the Development Services Agency, create the TourismOhio Advisory Board, and establish a pilot program to test a new funding mechanism for the state's travel and tourism marketing; to modify the operation of JobsOhio; to make changes to the Capital Access Loan Program Fund and to allow transfers to the Capital Access Loan Program Fund from the Minority Business Enterprise Loan Fund; to increase the membership of the Ohio Tax Credit Authority and provide for projects that were started prior to receiving a tax credit; to modify reporting requirements under the Voluntary Action Program; to require the Director of Development Services to administer federal funds received for Brownfields revitalization purposes; to terminate the Water and Sewer Commission; to terminate the Development Financing Advisory Council as of July 1, 2012; to increase the membership of the Third Frontier Commission; and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 6/13/2012 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended Vote 84-5

- SB320 ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENTS** (EKLUND J) To extend the time during which local governments may enter into enterprise zone agreements to October 15, 2013.  
*Current Status:* 5/16/2012 - Referred to Committee House Local Government  
*All Bill Status:* 5/15/2012 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0
- SB327 NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT** (BEAGLE B, TAVARES C) To prohibit the New Markets Tax Credit from increasing a claimant's retaliatory tax on foreign insurance companies, to increase the total annual and individual amount of credits that may be awarded, to give a noncompliant entity six months to cure its noncompliance before claimed credits are recaptured, to allow community development entities to make credit-eligible investments in a business that derives 15% or more of its annual revenue from renting or selling real estate, and to prescribe an application process for the credits in which approval is based on the date an application is submitted.  
*Current Status:* 5/24/2012 - Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development, (Fourth Hearing)

### Opposed Bills

- HB50 TYPE-II ANNEXATION** (SNITCHLER T) To require that a political subdivision owner be included in determining the number of owners needed to sign a petition for an expedited type-II annexation.  
*Current Status:* 5/23/2012 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development  
*All Bill Status:* 5/22/2012 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 90-3

### Bills Introduced Since 6/11/2012

- HB566 COURT-ORDERED HIV TEST-VICTIM NOTIFICATION** (SLABY M) To authorize a court to inform the victim of any of certain offenses, without waiting for the victim's request, of the results of a court-ordered HIV test of the person accused of the offense.
- HB567 COUNSELOR-SOCIAL WORKER-MARRIAGE-FAMILY THERAPIST LICENSING LAW** (SEARS B) To modify counselor, social worker, and marriage and family therapist licensing law and to provide certain professional rights to such licensees.
- HB568 DISABILITY LICENSE PLATE-VETERAN** (STINZIANO M, PILLICH C) To create a special license plate for a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and also is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States.
- HB569 NOT-FOR-PROFIT QUARTER AUCTIONS** (BUBP D) To permit charitable organizations to conduct not-for-profit quarter auctions.
- HB570 SEX-SELECTION ABORTIONS** (LYNCH M, GROSSMAN C) To prohibit sex-selection abortions.
- HCR52 FEDERAL EXCISE TAX-MEDICAL DEVICES** (ROSENBERGER C) To urge the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to enact H.R. 1310, to exempt certain emergency medical devices from the impending federal excise tax on medical devices.
- SB356 LOCAL GOVERNMENT-SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPARATIVE DATA** (BURKE D) To require the Auditor of State to adopt rules to solicit comparative data from local governments and school districts and to make that information available to the public.

**Week in Review**  
**Friday, June 15, 2012**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

With the governor's signing of gaming legislation HB386 (Blessing) on Monday, Attorney General Mike DeWine issued guidelines for Internet cafes to file information with his office. DeWine said the bill includes a moratorium on new cafes and requires any existing locations to complete an affidavit with their business information, locations and additional information.

Attorney General Mike DeWine joined his counterparts in 40 states and the District of Columbia in a brief arguing that the "Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act" (PACT) is constitutional, in the case *Gordon v. Holder* pending in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

The Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission gathered Wednesday on the heels of Senate passage of human trafficking bill HB262 (Fedor), which cleared the upper chamber Tuesday almost a year to the day following its introduction in the 129th General Assembly. Director Nicole Dehner of the attorney general's newly funded Crimes Against Children Initiative provided a further update on the relationship between child pornography and human trafficking.

**BALLOT ISSUES**

A group behind an effort to ban dog auctions in Ohio is ending an effort to put the issue before voters in November, citing time and money. The Coalition to Ban Ohio Dog Auctions had collected enough signatures on an initiated statute and submitted it last year to force the General Assembly to consider it. Because lawmakers did not act upon it in the allotted time, the group was given the go-ahead to collect 115,570 signatures and put it before voters.

**BUDGET**

Many state economies still lag pre-recession levels, but state government revenues are projected to grow by 4.1 percent or \$27.4 billion in FY13, according to the latest *Fiscal Survey of the States* from the National Governors Association and National Association of State Budget Officers. The latest survey finds states are acting cautiously as the economy starts to grow slowly, with spending projected to increase \$14.6 billion or 2.2 percent in FY13, about half the amount revenues are expected to grow.

**FY12-13 BUDGET/MID-BIENNIUM REVIEW (MBR)**

Gov. John Kasich delivered his expected veto of additional funding to Ohio nursing homes Monday as he excised language from the mid-biennium review bill 13 times, while also striking two provisions in gambling omnibus HB386 (Blessing).

**CHILDREN**

Ohio's participation in the Summer Nutrition Programs has fallen short of the national average, according to a national report of last year's summer meals services. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) reported that 66,038 children from low-income families received summer meals on an average day in July 2011.

Federal, state and local officials met Monday for the official dedication of Nationwide Children's Hospital's new main hospital tower and adjacent research building, which they said will help make central Ohio one of the best pediatric care sites in the nation.

**DEATH PENALTY**

New laws regarding capital punishment will apply for the resentencing of the man who murdered an Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper, despite his argument that the laws were not in place when he committed

the crime. In a 5-2 decision announced Thursday by the Ohio Supreme Court, the Court ruled that the prohibition against "retroactive laws" does not stop a trial court from applying the state's capital sentencing laws.

The Supreme Court of Ohio ruled Wednesday to uphold the conviction and death sentence of Wayne Powell, the man who killed two women and two children by setting a fire in Toledo in November 2006.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) announced the fourth "How to Start a Business as a Restored Citizen" workshop tailored for people with a criminal record looking to make a fresh start and a new living by starting their own business.

The House Economic and Small Business Development Committee cleared the JobsOhio II legislation, SB314 (Wagoner-Cafaro), in a single hearing Tuesday, but most Democrats objected to passage over fears a proposed development loan program could diminish the amount of money meant to help minority businesses. House members accepted a floor amendment to the bill the next day aimed at allaying those concerns.

The Ohio 10th District Court of Appeals Thursday upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit brought by ProgressOhio and two state legislators challenging the constitutionality of Gov. John Kasich's private economic development entity, JobsOhio. A three-judge panel unanimously ruled that ProgressOhio, Sen. Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Rep. Dennis Murray (D- Sandusky) all lack standing to bring their lawsuit.

## **ECONOMY**

Secretary of State Jon Husted announced Thursday that 7,687 new entities filed to do business in Ohio in May.

Husted's office said the numbers are up from May 2011, when 7,304 new entities filed with the secretary of state. Overall, the office has assisted with 39,252 new business filings from January to May in 2012, a slight increase from the same time period in 2011, when there were 37,157 new business filings.

## **EDUCATION**

The State Board of Education honored two Green Ribbon Schools and three Ohio Schools to Watch (OSTW) Monday at its monthly meeting, when members were set to discuss the goals of the state board as well as community e-school operating standards and dropout recovery performance measures, among other concerns.

After more marathon sessions between the governor's office and House and Senate leadership, augmented by drafting delays, a late-breaking House Education Committee reconvened Tuesday to accept and report out -- for the second time in three weeks -- Mid-Biennium Review education measure SB316 (Lehner), once again adding and retracting various provisions to reflect what committee Chairman Gerald Stebelton (R-Lancaster) described as a Conference Committee-proof final compromise.

## **ELECTIONS**

U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Black Tuesday ruled that the University of Cincinnati's policies restricting student political speech on campus was a violation of the First Amendment. The 1851 Center for Constitutional filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of the student group Young Americans for Liberty and its president, Christopher Morbitzer. The group was seeking to collect signatures on the proposed Ohio Workplace Freedom Amendment that would make Ohio a "right-to-work" state by barring forced participation in a union organization as a condition of employment.

## **ELECTIONS 2012**

While rumors of a potential selection on the presidential ticket have boosted U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's (R-OH) status nationwide, a new ABC News/Washington Post poll shows that 51 percent of the public still have no opinion of the senator.

Secretary of State Jon Husted said this week that he will send absentee ballot applications to registered voters statewide in two rounds as part of a deal struck last year to avoid a showdown with Cuyahoga County. Husted's office will mail applications in early September to voters registered as of July 30, with a second batch hitting mailboxes in early October for those who register or update their information in subsequent months. He said the schedule is meant to ensure voters have enough time to cast ballots and boards of elections have lead time to process the applications ahead of the start of early voting Oct. 2.

Senate Republicans announced this week that Shane Thompson of St. Clairsville has been chosen to run in the 30th Senate District, replacing Laura Groux, who dropped out of the race. Thompson, an unsuccessful House candidate in 2006, will face Sen. Lou Gentile (D-Steubenville).

## **ENERGY**

The State Board of Education honored two Green Ribbon Schools and three Ohio Schools to Watch (OSTW) Monday at its monthly meeting, when members were set to discuss the goals of the state board as well as community e-school operating standards and dropout recovery performance measures, among other concerns.

The development of the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) in Piketon received a boost Wednesday with the announcement of an agreement between the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) that will help create a cooperative research, development and demonstration program (RD&D). A total investment of \$350 million will be spent on the RD&D program, with USDOE paying \$280 million and USEC providing \$70 million.

A retired general of the U.S. Air Force, Ronald Keys is spending his time touring the country to discuss the country's overdependence on fossil fuel and foreign oil while promoting innovative entrepreneurs attempting to create commercial alternative energy. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Keys was accompanied by Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti of the Royal Navy and United Kingdom Climate Energy Security Envoy as they visited different businesses in Ohio that specialize in a variety of energy technologies.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is launching an "extensive" study of the Black River watershed in north-central Ohio to determine water quality in the surrounding five-county region, the agency announced. A 470 square-mile area including parts of Lorain, Medina, Cuyahoga, Ashland and Huron counties drains into the Black River watershed.

Transportation, energy and environment were set as the main topics of discussion for the 2012 Scientific Symposium of Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education hosted by Ohio University.

## **FEDERAL**

Jay Williams, the former mayor of Youngstown whom President Barack Obama appointed auto czar, has switched roles in the federal administration, becoming deputy director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, *The Vindicator* reported.

## **GAMING**

In its first month of operation, the Horseshoe Cleveland Casino hosted nearly 500,000 guests who visited from near and far, including some guests from outside the United States, the casino operators said Thursday.

Rep. Nan Baker (R-Westlake), the sponsor of a House bill to regulate Internet "sweepstakes" cafes around Ohio said that work will continue on the legislation over the summer as they watch a case against distributors of software for the machines unfold in Cuyahoga County. HB195 (Anielski-Baker) was introduced more than a year ago and has not had a hearing since December.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

Lawmakers returned for a final week of legislative action before summer recess, wrapping up work on two big education bills -- HB525 (Amstutz-Williams), the Cleveland schools plan, and SB316 (Lehner), the education mid-biennium review proposal -- while also passing a wave of other legislation.

Senate President Tom Niehaus (R-New Richmond) said it's possible but unlikely that the Senate will return for sessions before the election. House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) said he could bring the House back in September to vote on pension reform legislation, with committee hearings due to begin after the delivery of a consultants report in July. He said the House also might have hearings on school funding.

Aside from the education bills, other legislation lawmakers sent to Gov. John Kasich's desk this week included SB19 (Hughes), which addresses suspension of juvenile drivers licenses; SB193 (Seitz), which changes regulations on scrap metal dealers; SB305 (Hughes), which criminalizes adding hidden compartments to vehicle for drug smuggling; HB331 (Dovilla-Bubp), which creates the Cybersecurity, Education and Economic Development Council; HB262 (Fedor), the latest effort to crack down on human trafficking; HB509 (Blair), which contains mid-biennium review proposals on local government; HB490 (Dovilla), the mid-biennium review legislation for veterans services; SB196 (Wagoner), which changes the state's business opportunity plan law; SB224 (Obhof), which shortens the period of limitations for actions on written contracts; SB314 (Wagoner-Cafaro), the JobsOhio II legislation; HB415 (Sprague), which expands the Agricultural Linked Deposit Program; HB437 (Roegner), which increases the distance school vehicles are allowed to travel out of state; SB337 (Seitz-Smith), which is aimed at curtailing collateral sanctions faced by released convicts that can prevent them from getting work; SB321 (Beagle), which addresses library districts; and SCR30 (Widener-Kearney), which designates Central State University as a land grant university.

Tuesday's House session also saw members refuse to agree to Senate amendments on two bills, HB375 (Butler), which addresses sales of school property, and HB433 (Damschroder), which would create a Sandusky County Municipal Court. Members also passed HCR51 (Baker), which urges Congress to pass the Stop Invasive Species Act, and HR384 (Dovilla), urging federal action on Chinese currency manipulation. In Wednesday's session, the House passed HB143 (Stinziano-O'Brien), addressing head injuries and concussions in youth sports; HB497 (Hagan-Blessing), which addresses Ohio's Legacy Trust Act.; HB535 (Hill), which addresses parents' interception of children's electronic communications; SB309 (Hite), which addresses agricultural commodity marketing agreements; and HB495 (Johnson), which makes changes to Ohio's laws on concealed carry permits and carrying guns in cars.

In the Senate Wednesday, members also passed SB15 (Turner), which directs the State Board of Education to develop standards for drop-out recovery programs run by traditional school districts; and SB338 (Bacon), which is aimed at stopping disreputable home air duct cleaning services.

"The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board's (CSRAB) Holocaust Memorial Committee met for the second time Tuesday and confirmed that a contract had been signed with Schooley Caldwell Associates subsequent to a professional services request made to the firm. The committee also discussed Gov. John Kasich's recommendation of Site 3, which is located on the South Plaza of the Statehouse across State Street from the Ohio Theatre. Site 3 is over the Statehouse garage, which prompted dialog about weight restrictions for the memorial.

## **GOVERNOR**

Gov. John Kasich had a supportive crowd in front of him when he spoke to the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) meeting in Chicago June 8, getting cheers as he highlighted some of the accomplishments of his administration and how he handled Ohio's state budget.

Gov. John Kasich made a rare appearance in the Senate chambers Wednesday to talk up the legislative accomplishments of the past few weeks and thank lawmakers for enacting many of his proposals. "I'll tell you, when you look in the mirror at the end of the day, know that you did something that helped these young kids with an education, and giving people another chance. You look in the mirror and you say, 'I did something in my service.' And that's what's happened here in the last few weeks," the governor said. Senate Minority Leader Eric Kearney (D-Cincinnati) said Kasich exaggerated the bipartisan nature of the legislation action, saying, "He is citing examples where Democratic members have, in voting for the interests of their districts, joined bills that were important to him. That's not bipartisanship, that's just us voting."

Gov. John Kasich and lead GOP lawmakers celebrated the scope, weight and pace of the busy spring session Thursday during an event at the official governor's residence in Bexley. Kasich described the Mid-Biennium Review and other high-priority legislation passed in recent weeks as "the most aggressive reform agenda in modern Ohio history" while also casting the actions as modest compared to the budgets and administration initiatives to come. "I have to say, as much as has been accomplished in the budget and the Mid-Biennium Review, you ain't seen nothing yet," the governor said.

## **GUN CONTROL**

The House State Government and Elections Committee approved Tuesday a bill to change state laws on concealed carry permits and carrying weapons on vehicles. The vote on HB495 (Johnson) -- which passed the full House Wednesday -- was preceded by debate between gun rights advocates and representatives of law enforcement groups.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) Office of Medicaid reversed itself on two of five plans selected to provide Medicaid services to more than 1.6 million Ohioans back in early April. On June 8, the department announced it was bumping Aetna for Buckeye Community Health Plan and Meridian Health Plan of Ohio for Molina Healthcare of Ohio, with CareSource, Paramount and United Healthcare filling out the provider list.

Ohio University's Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine said Monday it signed an agreement with the Cleveland Clinic to develop a regional extension campus in Northeast Ohio.

The pharmaceutical industry rallied support for Ohio's bioscience and clinical trial sectors at the Statehouse Tuesday. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), representing pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, announced a new report identifying nearly 5,000 clinical trials in Ohio since 1999, with more than half addressing the nation and state's major chronic diseases: asthma, cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and mental illnesses.

In an effort to promote and increase organ donation registration in the state, the Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) and Donate Life Ohio launched a year-long campaign called "Hospital Champions." The campaign was launched during OHA's 2012 Annual Meeting Awards Recognition Dinner on Tuesday.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Two House Democrats, Reps. Debbie Phillips (D-Athens) and Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent), sent a letter to Gov. John Kasich asking him to delete a section of HB487 (Amstutz) that addresses the state treasurer's office acting as a servicer of federal student loans.

Ohio State University officials said Friday that they will recommend the school's board of trustees adopt a \$483 million lease of campus parking operations to an Australian firm.



Ohio State University announced Friday that long-time trustee Leslie H. Wexner will step down from his remaining term, which ends in May 2020. Alex Shumate, whose second term on the board concluded earlier this year, has been reappointed by Gov. John Kasich to fill the remaining eight years of Wexner's term.

Youngstown State University's Upward Bound program has received \$250,000 in federal funding to continue for another year. Upward Bound is a program that helps Youngstown city high school students prepare for college.

## **JUDICIAL**

Gov. John Kasich Friday announced the appointment of Anjanette C. Arabian Whitman of Rocky River (Cuyahoga Co.) to serve as judge of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division. Whitman will assume office on Monday, June 18. She must run in November 2012 to retain the seat for the unexpired term, which ends Dec. 31, 2016.

The Board of Commissioners of the Clients' Security Fund of Ohio (CSF) awarded \$182,234.56 to 47 victims of attorney theft. Three deceased persons were cited along with the 25 living attorneys. Former attorney John Slagle of Highland County triggered the highest single payout in the last round of awards and actually exceeded it this month with \$20,132 to one Ohioan. He was far from the dubious first spot, however, which went to disbarred attorney Bryan Freeman of Cuyahoga County and the \$61,000-plus paid to one of his former clients.

The Supreme Court of Ohio has issued a 46-page prospectus on pending changes to the state requirement for continuing legal education under Rule X of the Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio and Rule IV of the Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio. Proposed amendments were published on June 11, with the public comment period ending July 7.

A new advisory opinion by the Ohio Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances & Discipline concerning "surreptitious or secret" recordings by counsel reaches back to the Watergate scandal of the Nixon administration to address a difficult legal standard, which the board says admits so many "variables" and "exceptions" that it provides no guidance for lawyers in the state of Ohio. The board has now withdrawn its 15-year-old advisory opinion declaring secret tape or digital recordings off-limits for attorneys in most "routine circumstances."

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Governor's Office of 21st Century Education and the Office of Budget and Management released a report Thursday titled "Beyond Boundaries" that discusses the potential of shared services as a cost saver for local governments. Compilation of the report was required by the biennial budget bill.

## **PENSION FUNDS**

The Ohio Retirement Study Council voted Wednesday to approve its fourth consecutive annual budget with no increases, and Sen. Keith Faber (R-Celina) said the council could vote in the fall to adopt a revised budget that actually shrinks spending. Faber, the council chairman, said the \$770,405 budgeted for FY13 might shrink as new Executive Director Bethany Rhodes gets more familiar with the jobs and learns more about the effects of various cost-saving steps she's taking.

## **PEOPLE**

Stephen Mitchell, Ph.D., a sport pedagogy professor at Kent State University in the School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies, is the new president-elect of the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE).

Mousa Kassis, director of exports for Global Equipment and Connections in Youngstown, has been named the international trade adviser with the International Trade Assistance Center (ITAC) at Youngstown State University (YSU).

Former state legislator Gene Krebs told the House Ways and Means Committee Wednesday that, effective Friday, he was leaving the "smart growth" statewide organization Greater Ohio Policy Center.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) along with the Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association (OAIMA) and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has kicked off this year's "Stay-Out and Stay-Alive" program to promote summer water safety.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

Sen. Chris Widener (R-Springfield) issued a new warning Monday that state agencies should find Ohio companies for state contracts, or he and fellow senators on the Controlling Board might not approve their requests.

Medicaid changes and collateral sanctions on school bus drivers passed without comment at the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) Monday, although members heard from a long list of witnesses on Ohio Department of Health (ODH) rule changes that would give its director unilateral authority to "restrict, reduce or eliminate" HIV services for some Ohioans -- currently first-come, first-serve -- in order to prioritize the most vulnerable and critically ill.

## **TAXATION**

The House Ways and Means Committee Wednesday heard from a parade of 15 witnesses discussing the pros and cons of any number of measures the Legislature could enact in the name of uniformity and simplifying the municipal income tax code. Wednesday's witnesses fell into two camps: small business owners and their certified public accountants (CPAs) and representatives of local governments.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

If every state adopted all five components of the toughest young driver laws in the nation, then 500 lives could be saved while decreasing the number of collisions by 9,500 -- that according to a recent study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI).

Ohio Department of Transportation Director (ODOT) Jerry Wray appeared before the House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee Wednesday to update lawmakers on the status on the agency's funding situation and took questions from lawmakers concerned about a possible lease of the Ohio Turnpike.

## **UTILITIES**

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Wednesday authorized Aqua Ohio to increase the water and wastewater rates it charges to customers in the former Ohio American Water service territory. Under the new rates, Aqua Ohio will generate an additional \$4.2 million annually, a 10.85 percent increase over current operating revenues, the PUCO said in a release.

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Administrator/ Steve Buehrer said Thursday that 11 people were convicted or pleaded guilty to charges related to BWC fraud with the help of the bureau's special investigations department (SID). The individuals were both employees and employers who were found guilty of falsifying records and other offenses.

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer announced this week that the agency has instituted a 10-percent increase in funding provided to support Ohio's 80 safety councils, which work to increase safety awareness in the workplace and educate businesses on occupational safety and health issues.

## **WORKFORCE**

The U.S. Department of Labor announced that two Ohio workforce agencies will be receiving a combined \$18 million in grants through the Workforce Innovation Fund. Under the awards announced Thursday, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will receive \$12 million, while the Workforce Initiative Association in Canton will get \$6 million. The grants were among 26 announced, ranging from \$1 million to \$12 million.