



DevelopOhio

Legislative Update

Enrolled Legislation

Subject	Bill	Status	Effect
Joint Economic Development Zones	Sub. H.B. 289	Signed by Gov. Kasich on 6/5/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renames existing, municipal-only joint economic development zones (JEDZs) to municipal utility districts (MUDs). • Prohibits the creation of new JEDZs or substantial amendment of existing JEDZs after December 31, 2014. • Requires that any JEDZs created or substantially amended between the bill's effective date (June 5, 2014) and December 31, 2014, must be approved by a newly created review council. • Mandates that at least 50 percent of any income tax revenue generated within a JEDZ must be used for the new or expanded services, facilities or improvements set forth in the JEDZ plan until such projects are complete.
Renewable and Advanced Energy Requirements	Sub. S.B. 310	Signed by Gov. Kasich on 6/13/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scales back Ohio's renewable and advanced energy requirements, and delays implementation of the state's new energy efficiency and renewable energy benchmarks by two years. • Reduces a number of other energy requirements in existing law, including those requiring utilities to pursue advanced energy measures and to purchase at least half of their renewable energy from facilities in Ohio.
Community Improvement Corporations	Am. Sub. H.B. 483	Signed by Gov. Kasich on 6/16/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands authority of community improvement corporations to sell, lease or accept conveyance of real property, including buildings, structures and improvements to land owned by a political subdivision, which has designated the corporation as its agent for the purposes of economic development; prior law provided similar authority only for "land and interests in land."
Workforce and Education Development	Am. Sub. H.B. 486	Signed by Gov. Kasich on 6/16/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) to establish criteria to evaluate the performance of state and local workforce programs and post an online "dashboard" to display such information. • Requires the OWT to submit a unified plan for adult basic literacy, career technical education and workforce development programs to the federal government by the end of 2014. • Requires the businesses seeking research and development financial assistance in connection with a relocation to notify the affected local and state officials before entering into an agreement with the state for the assistance. • Synchronizes the due dates for reports regarding several Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) programs.
Levy and Administration of Taxes	Sub. H.B. 492	Signed by Gov. Kasich on 6/16/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows municipalities to offer job creation or retention tax credits regardless of whether the state awards the employer a similar credit. • Reduces the value of certain job creation tax credits during their first year by eliminating the part-year computation of the base provision. • Shortens the minimum holding period of investments in smaller businesses to qualify for an income tax credit from five to two years. • Permits the DSA to access Ohio Department of Taxation information necessary to confirm reported data and to reduce research and development loan tax credits for borrower noncompliance.
Brent Spence Bridge Toll Project	Am. Sub. H.B. 533	Signed by Gov. Kasich on 6/11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes the Ohio Department of Transportation to enter into an agreement with Kentucky to fund the new Brent Spence Bridge system near Cincinnati. • Authorizes tolls to be charged on the new bridge system. • Provides authority for public-private partnerships managing transportation facilities.

Pending Legislation

Subject	Bill	Status	Effect
Municipal Income Tax Revisions	Am. Sub. H.B. 5	Pending in the Senate Finance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutes some degree of uniformity in imposition of municipal income tax throughout Ohio; the Senate Finance Committee recently held hearings on May 27 and June 3 on this piece of legislation that otherwise had been dormant in the Senate since November 2013.
Capital Improvement Projects	S.B. 134	Pending in the Senate Finance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires approval for out-of-state political subdivisions or governmental entities seeking to finance certain capital improvement projects in Ohio.
Tax Increment Financing	Sub. H.B. 198	Pending in the Senate Ways and Means Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes procedure for real property owners outside of a 300-acre "overlay" to opt out of incentive district TIFs.
Natural Gas Company Riders	H.B. 319	Pending in the House Public Utilities Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows natural gas companies to seek approval from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) for an infrastructure development rider to generate revenue for use in certain economic development projects.
Oil and Gas Well Severance Tax	Am. Sub. H.B. 375	Pending in the Senate Ways and Means Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a 2.5 percent severance tax on oil and gas produced through horizontal wells based on receipts from the first sale of that oil and gas rather than on the existing volume-based tax. Reduces the severance tax rate on gas extracted through conventional wells. Allocates a portion of severance tax revenue to local communities at the epicenter of Ohio's shale development.
Financing Regional Transportation Improvement Projects	Am. H.B. 494	Pending in the Senate Ways and Means Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes the creation of Regional Transportation Improvement Projects (RTIPs), a new vehicle in which multiple counties can enter into a cooperative agreement to finance and implement transportation improvements. Empowers RTIPs to finance eligible projects by issuing securities backed by certain revenue pledges of the state of Ohio, the participating counties and political subdivisions within the counties.
JobsOhio Brownfield Cleanup Assistance	H.B. 538	Pending in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires that, if JobsOhio provides financial assistance for cleanup and remediation of brownfields, at least 85 percent must be grant-based.
Ohio Economic Council on Women	Am. Sub. H.B. 575	Pending in the Senate Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the Ohio Economic Council on Women to examine the economic concerns and needs of women in Ohio. Requires the council to make a biennial report of findings, recommendations and proposals to the governor and General Assembly.

For more information, contact one of the following Bricker & Eckler attorneys:

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