



# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

## *Monthly Legislative Update*

DECEMBER 2013

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## TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
Secure ODOT TRAC Funding for Regional Projects	A new round of TRAC will begin next year.
Explore Possibility of Local Governments Passing Legislation to Increase Fees for Funding Transportation Infrastructure	MORPC continues to work with associations representing municipalities, counties, townships, county engineers and MPO's to arrive at an agreed-upon legislative solution to license plate fees.
Arrive at Solution for Uniform Municipal Income Tax Issue	House Bill 5 has been passed by the House and is now before the Senate Finance Committee. Because of unfavorable changes that were made to the legislation at during its final days in the House, MORPC opposes the bill. MORPC will be preparing a factual case for opposing the legislation and sharing its case through in-person meetings with legislators.
Establish MORPC as Top MPO Resource for Ohio Congressional Delegation on Transportation Issues	MORPC has continued transportation-related conversations with members of our Congressional delegation and their Capitol Hill staffs. Senior staff and board leadership will be making Capitol Hill visits in the first quarter of next year.
Advocate for Ohio's Renewable Energy and Efficiency standards	Through Sub.SB58, the Ohio Senate is seeking to modify the alternative energy resource, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction law. MORPC has testified as a part of an expert group about what topics should be considered by this legislation. The bill was scheduled to be voted out of the Senate in December, but remained in committee because of a lack of support in that chamber.



## TOP NEWS IN OHIO

### ***MORPC Opposes Substitute Municipal Income Tax Uniformity Bill***

The House passed House Bill 5 and the Senate, in a move surprising to most, referred House Bill 5 to the chamber's Finance Committee and announced that Senator Bob Peterson would serve as the Republican Caucus' point person on guiding the bill through the legislative process.

MORPC is opposed to the bill. The continued provisions of concern in the bill are as follows:

- » The mandatory 5-year net operating loss carry forward (NOL);
- » The mandatory pass-through entity loss offset of other income;
- » The increase in the number of days that casual entrants can work in a municipality without incurring tax liability therein from 12 to 20 days; and
- » The issue of prohibition from taxation of supplemental executive retirement plan (SERP) income was addressed in an amendment.

MORPC will continue to advocate for revenue neutrality as the bill continues through the legislative process. After the first of the year, MORPC will be meeting with state Senators in our delegation to communicate our chief concerns about the legislation and to make recommendations on how the legislation can be improved.

### ***Senate Delays Vote on SB58***

On December 4, Senator Bill Seitz cancelled the meeting of his Senate Public Utilities Committee, which had included on its agenda a possible vote on SB58, a controversial energy overhaul bill. Speculation is that Seitz may attempt to reshuffle debate on SB58 by commencing hearings on [SB34](#), a bill introduced in February of this year, and that, among other things, would repeal the requirement that electric distribution utilities and electric services companies provide 25% of their retail power supplies from advanced and renewable energy resources by 2025.

### ***New Local Government Efficiency Program***

The New Local Government Efficiency Program, funded through the Local Government Innovation Fund, officially kicked off at Cleveland State University on Monday, November 18. The program includes grants of up to \$100,000 to political subdivisions, or scholarships to employees of political subdivisions, for training in and implementation of process efficiency programs. For more information on the program, click [here](#).

### ***State + National Unemployment Numbers for October-November 2013***

On November 22, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced that Ohio's unemployment rate has been steadily rising, going from 7.3 percent in August to 7.4 percent in September, and to 7.5 percent in October. Ohio's unemployment rate is now above the national average.

On December 6, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the national unemployment rate declined from 7.3 percent to 7.0 percent in November, and total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 203,000. Employment increased in transportation and warehousing, health care, and manufacturing.



# NEW BILLS INTRODUCED

### **HB357 (Sales-Use Tax Credits-Recycled Items)**

Representative John Becker introduced HB357 on November 20. The bill seeks to exclude credits afforded by vendors to consumers for conveying items of tangible personal property to the vendor for recycling or remanufacturing from the price of a sale for sales and use tax purposes.

### **HB358 (Joint Economic Development Zone Contracts)**

On November 20, Representative Kirk Schuring introduced HB358, legislation to impose a 90-day moratorium on the authority of townships and municipal corporations to approve new joint economic development zone contracts and new joint economic development district contracts devised under the nonrestricted procedures and on the authority to amend existing contracts for any purpose other than to revise the contract's duration, and to declare an emergency.

### **HB377 (Casino Operator Settlement Fund)**

Representative Marlene Anielski introduced HB377 on December 5. The bill would make changes to the second payment from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund to certain local government entities.

### **SB247 (Income Tax Credit-Residential Landlords)**

On December 3, Senator Eric Kearney introduced SB247, a bill to authorize an income tax credit for residential landlords who improve a rental unit's energy efficiency.

### **SB251 (Casino Operator Settlement Fund)**

Senator Tom Patton introduced SB251 on December 4, seeking to make changes to the second payment from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund to certain local government entities.

## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB4** LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT GRANT PROGRAM (STAUTBERG P, BLESSING III L) To establish the Local Government Performance Measurement Grant Program.  
**Current Status:** 12/3/2013 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_4](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_4)
- HB5** MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS INCOME TAXES (GROSSMAN C, HENNE M) To revise the laws governing income taxes imposed by municipal corporations.  
**Current Status:** 11/19/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
**State Bill Page:** [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_5](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_5)



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB10** FISCAL TOWNSHIPS-MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS FISCAL OFFICERS (HAGAN C) To establish education programs and continuing education requirements for the fiscal officers of townships and municipal corporations, to establish procedures for removing those fiscal officers, county treasurers, and county auditors from office.  
*Current Status:* 10/15/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_10](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_10)
- HB69** TRAFFIC LAW PHOTO-MONITORING DEVICES (MAAG R, MALLORY D) To prohibit the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices by municipal corporations, counties, townships, and the State Highway Patrol to detect traffic signal light and speed limit violations.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - Senate State Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_69](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_69)
- HB107** CAREER EXPLORATION INTERNSHIPS-TAX CREDIT (BAKER N) To authorize a tax credit for businesses that employ high school students in career exploration internships.  
*Current Status:* 12/3/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_107](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_107)
- HB172** MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS-HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE VEHICLE (RUHL M, MCGREGOR R) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a highway maintenance vehicle.  
*Current Status:* 10/8/2013 - Senate Transportation, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_172](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_172)
- HB190** PREVAILING WAGE LAW-PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (HOOD R) To increase the threshold to trigger the requirement that the prevailing wage be paid for work on vertical public improvement projects and to allow political subdivisions and state institutions of higher education to elect whether to be subject to the Prevailing Wage Law.  
*Current Status:* 10/16/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_190](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_190)
- HB198** TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (BUTLER, JR. J, BURKLEY T) To establish a procedure by which political subdivisions proposing a tax increment financing (TIF) incentive district are required to provide notice to the record owner of each parcel within the proposed incentive district before adopting the TIF resolution.  
*Current Status:* 11/12/2013 - BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_198](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_198)
- HB219** CONTRIBUTIONS-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (BUTLER, JR. J) To authorize tax credits for contributions of money to economic and infrastructure development projects undertaken by local governments and nonprofit corporations.  
*Current Status:* 12/4/2013 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_219](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_219)
- HB223** RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURE ACTIONS (GROSSMAN C, CURTIN M) To expedite the foreclosure and transfer of unoccupied, blighted parcels and certain abandoned properties and to make other changes relative to residential foreclosure actions.  
*Current Status:* 12/3/2013 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_223](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_223)



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB236** CONCEALED CARRY-GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL (BECKER J) To generally authorize a person who is a state or local government official and has a valid concealed handgun license to carry a handgun concealed into any publicly owned facility that is not a secure facility.  
*Current Status:* 10/29/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_236](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_236)
- HB277** STATE-POLITICAL SUBDIVISION ANNEXATIONS (STAUTBERG P) To require that the state or a political subdivision real estate owner be included in determining the number of owners needed to sign a petition for an expedited type-II annexation, unless the real estate is a road or road right-of-way.  
*Current Status:* 12/3/2013 - House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_277](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_277)
- HB278** FREEWAY TRAVEL-VEHICLE GROSS WEIGHT (SLABY M) To require that a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating or an actual gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds be driven only in either of the two right-hand lanes of a freeway with three lanes of travel in the same direction, except in limited circumstances.  
*Current Status:* 11/12/2013 - House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_278](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_278)
- HB279** JOINT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS (DAMSCHRODER R, BROWN T) To authorize a joint board of county commissioners to conduct proceedings regarding existing joint county ditches via teleconference or video conference.  
*Current Status:* 12/3/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_279](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_279)
- HB289** JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE-DISTRICT (SCHURING K) To require subdivisions to obtain written approval from owners and lessees of real property located within a proposed or existing joint economic development zone (JEDZ) or joint economic development district (JEDD) before approving, amending, or renewing the JEDZ or JEDD contract.  
*Current Status:* 12/3/2013 - House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_289](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_289)
- HB302** ALTERNATIVE ENERGY-PEAK DEMAND REDUCTION LAW (STAUTBERG P) To modify the alternative energy resource, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction law.  
*Current Status:* 12/11/2013 - House Public Utilities, (Sixth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_302](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_302)
- HB321** DATAOHIO BOARD (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To create the DataOhio Board, and to specify requirements for posting public records online.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_321](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_321)
- HB322** UNIFORM ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_322](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_322)



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB323** ONLINE PUBLIC DATA CATALOG (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_323](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_323)
- HB324** LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE GRANT PROGRAM (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_324](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_324)
- HB327** COUNTY WATER-SEWER DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS (BURKLEY T) To require interest income from county water and sewer district assessments and interest on assessments to be used only for water and sewer district purposes and to prohibit counties from depositing such interest income in the county general fund.  
*Current Status:* 11/6/2013 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_327](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_327)
- HB335** GREEN FLEETS LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM (BUTLER, JR. J) To create the Green Fleets Loan Guarantee Program to guarantee the repayment of loans made to governmental entities and private businesses to fund the conversion of all or a portion of their fleet vehicles to run on natural gas fuel.  
*Current Status:* 12/4/2013 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_335](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_335)
- HB336** GASEOUS FUEL VEHICLE CONVERSION PROGRAM (O'BRIEN S, HALL D) To create the Gaseous Fuel Vehicle Conversion Program.  
*Current Status:* 11/26/2013 - REFERRED TO SUBCOMMITTEE, House Finance and Appropriations, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_336](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_336)
- HB357** SALES-USE TAX CREDITS-RECYCLED ITEMS (BECKER J) To exclude credits afforded by vendors to consumers for conveying items of tangible personal property to the vendor for recycling or remanufacturing from the price of a sale for sales and use tax purposes.  
*Current Status:* 12/3/2013 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_357](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_357)
- HB358** JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE CONTRACTS (SCHURING K) To impose a 90-day moratorium on the authority of townships and municipal corporations to approve new joint economic development zone contracts and new joint economic development district contracts devised under the nonrestricted procedures.  
*Current Status:* 12/10/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_358](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_358)
- HB377** CASINO OPERATOR SETTLEMENT FUND (ANIELSKI M) To make changes to the second payment from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund to certain local government entities.  
*Current Status:* 12/5/2013 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_377](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_377)



## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- SB34** ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES (JORDAN K) To repeal the requirement that electric distribution utilities and electric services companies provide 25% of their retail power supplies from advanced and renewable energy resources by 2025.  
*Current Status:* 10/9/2013 - Senate Public Utilities, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_34](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_34)
- SB58** RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE (SEITZ B) To review and possibly modify the energy efficiency, peak demand reduction, and alternative energy resource provisions established by Ohio law governing competitive retail electric service.  
*Current Status:* 11/13/2013 - Senate Public Utilities, (Sixth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_58](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_58)
- SB59** EDUCATION ENERGY COUNCIL (BEAGLE B) To authorize an eligible regional council of governments to establish itself as an education energy council for the purpose of issuing debt to pay for school district energy purchases.  
*Current Status:* 9/25/2013 - Senate Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_59](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_59)
- SB87** OIL/NATURAL GAS-LAKE ERIE (SKINDELL M) To ban the taking or removal of oil or natural gas from and under the bed of Lake Erie.  
*Current Status:* 10/29/2013 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_87](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_87)
- SB134** CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FINANCING (LAROSE F, SAWYER T) Relative to the financing of capital improvement projects in this state by another state or a political subdivision of another state.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_134](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_134)
- SB149** CONTRIBUTIONS-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (BEAGLE B) To authorize tax credits for contributions of money to economic and infrastructure development projects undertaken by local governments and nonprofit corporations.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_149](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_149)
- SB155** JOINT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BOARD (BURKE D) To authorize a joint board of county commissioners to conduct proceedings regarding existing joint county ditches via teleconference or video conference.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_155](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_155)
- SB179** RECYCLED WATER REGULATION (EKLUND J) To include recycled water as a private water system for purposes of regulation by the Department of Health and boards of health.  
*Current Status:* 12/4/2013 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_179](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_179)





## MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- SB194** MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES-SCOOTERS (SEITZ B) To allow certain motor-driven cycles and motor scooters to be parked on a sidewalk so long as the vehicles do not impede the normal flow of pedestrian traffic.  
*Current Status:* 12/3/2013 - House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_194](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_194)
- SB208** MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS-NONRESIDENT TAXPAYERS (SCHAFFER T) To require municipal corporations with more than \$100 million in annual income tax collections to provide a tax credit to nonresident taxpayers.  
*Current Status:* 11/19/2013 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_208](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_208)
- SB218** TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION AUTHORITIES (CAFARO C) To authorize the creation of transportation innovation authorities by specified governmental entities and to establish the powers and duties of such authorities.  
*Current Status:* 10/30/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_218](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_218)
- SB224** SALES-USE TAX EXEMPTION-OPTICAL AIDS (BURKE D, GARDNER R) To exempt from sales and use tax prescription optical aids and components that are prescribed by state-licensed physicians or optometrists.  
*Current Status:* 11/6/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_224](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_224)
- SB247** SALES-USE TAX EXEMPTION-OPTICAL AIDS (BURKE D, GARDNER R) To exempt from sales and use tax prescription optical aids and components that are prescribed by state-licensed physicians or optometrists.  
*Current Status:* 11/6/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_247](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_247)
- SB251** CASINO OPERATOR SETTLEMENT FUND (PATTON T) To make changes to the second payment from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund to certain local government entities.  
*Current Status:* 12/4/2013 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_251](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_251)
- SCR25** GREEN BUILDING RATING STANDARDS (UECKER J) To urge, for Ohio state agencies and other government entities, the use of green building rating systems, codes, or standards that are consistent with state energy efficiency and environmental performance objectives.  
*Current Status:* 11/6/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
*State Bill Page:* [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/res.cfm?ID=130\\_SCR\\_25](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/res.cfm?ID=130_SCR_25)



## STATE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

### ***Housing***

In late-November the Ohio Department of Health received a check from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for \$2.5 million to re-up the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program for another three years. That figure was augmented by an additional \$230,000 from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA).

### ***Local Government***

In late November, the Kasich administration kicked off an adjunct to the Local Government Innovation Fund meant to replicate state government's process-improvement efforts at the local level. According to an administration fact sheet, the program, under the guidance of the Development Services Agency (DSA), will distribute scholarships for local government leaders to attend training programs at local colleges, universities and other certified providers.

### ***Ohio Refuses to Comply with Federal ID Law***

Citing privacy concerns, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles recently announced it will not continue with the federal "Real ID" compliance plan, which could result in Ohio driver's licenses not being accepted as sufficient identification to board airplanes and enter federal buildings in the future. Other states have been using facial-recognition software in complying with the plan, scanning photos to determine if a license applicant was previously issued a license under another name.

Ohio is among a growing number of states that are refusing to comply with the federal standards intended to toughen access to driver's licenses. The standards are contained in a 2005 law, resulting from the 9/11 plane hijackers' use of falsified state identity documents.

### ***Senate Democrats Elect New Leadership Team***

On December 4, the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus evening announced the election of a new leadership team, with Senator Joe Schiavoni assuming the role of minority leader. Also elected to the leadership team were Senators Charleta B. Tavares as assistant minority leader, Edna Brown as minority whip and Lou Gentile as assistant minority whip.

### ***Kearney Drops Lieutenant Governor Bid***

On December 10, after weeks of speculation surrounding his candidacy for lieutenant governor, Senator Eric Kearney officially took himself off the FitzGerald for governor ticket, saying questions about the taxes he and his business owed were threatening to distract from the message of the campaign to unseat Governor John Kasich.

Kearney was selected by Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald to be his running mate in November, but questions surrounding Kearney soon came to light as Ohio newspapers began to reveal the tax burdens owed by Kearney, his wife, Jan-Michele, and their media business.

Kearney's decision leaves FitzGerald back to square one when it comes to choosing a running mate.



## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM



***Provided by Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter***

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