


Volume #73, Report #98 --Friday, May 21, 2004
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POSSIBLE, BUT UNLIKELY, COMMITTEE VOTE ON TAX BILL NEXT WEEK ADDS SPICE TO FULL DISH OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION

A retailers group has characterized it as an "election year ploy," but a broad-based plan to restructure business taxation in the state was nonetheless slated for a possible committee vote next week after only two hearings on the germane substitute version of the legislation. Most likely, the denotation will merely prompt a bigger turnout for the hearing on Thursday, which is the last session day in a busy legislative week leading into summer recess.

Stakeholders' reactions ranged from doubt to surprise to outrage this week when House Ways & Means Committee Chairwoman Sally Conway Kilbane (R-Rocky River) scheduled [HB 58](#) for opponent, proponent and interested party testimony and a possible vote next Thursday. Indeed, the lawmaker's office was subsequently deluged with calls, many of which reportedly were not of the "Have-a-nice-day" variety.

"There hasn't been any opponent testimony, so it's listed for a possible vote," Dwight Crum, spokesman for Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford), explained.

After Thursday, the bill will have had 18 hearings, but 16 of those were held before the measure was officially expanded from a one-page placeholder introduced last year. Several hearings were held concurrently with the biennium budget plan ([HB 95](#)) in 2003, but few of the proposals moved forward and a personal income tax component has been all but abandoned. The committee just last week adopted the substitute version of the bill.

Those who doubt the bill will be voted out have ample reasons to do so, including the fact that even some majority Republicans on the committee think the measure, which would entail the biggest overhaul of the state's business tax code in decades, still needs extensive work. Additionally, the Legislative Service Commission has yet to prepare a Local Impact Statement for the bill, thus a two-thirds committee vote would be needed to report it.

"It would appear that the chairwoman is interested in having more people come forward to testify than have come forward thus far," said Lora Miller, a lobbyist with the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants. "But I doubt there will be a vote on it next week."

Dan Navin, managing director of legislative affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, agreed with the assessment of the chair's aims. "She wants to smoke some folks out," he said. It apparently worked: Both OCRM and the Chamber, at least, are expected to testify or provide information to panelists as to their positions.

OCRM opposes the bill because it would entail significant tax increases for some retailers as the corporate franchise tax is restructured and based on sales (60%), property (20%) and payroll (20%). So many interests have concerns over the measure that OCRM President John Mahaney Jr. described it as "much ado about nothing" and an "election year ploy" that wouldn't make it through the General Assembly this year. (See *Ohio Report* No. 92, May 13, 2004)

Even the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, a group representing the sector that is expected to be most supportive of the changes, has expressed significant concerns with the current version. (See *House Activity Report*, May 19, 2004)

Nonetheless, the appearance of a small asterisk next to the bill on the committee's schedule, which signals a possible vote, added flavor to a week that's expected to entail an overflowing plate of activity for lawmakers as they wrap up work ahead of the summer recess.

"It's a salsa supreme," Mr. Navin remarked.

Noting the Ways & Means Committee's 10 a.m. hearing is ahead of a scheduled 1:00 p.m. House session, Mr. Navin said there's hardly time for a lengthy "laser-focused" discussion on the variety of concerns his group has with the bill. The Chamber, however, will at least provide Chairwoman Kilbane and the committee a letter to that effect, he added. "I think she knows where we are on the bill."

Ms. Kilbane could not be reached for comment prior to deadline Friday, but it's common knowledge that the former college professor, who holds a doctorate in economics, wants stakeholders to take the issue seriously. The lawmaker, who is in her third two-year term, has spent a considerable portion of her tenure working on comprehensive state tax reform and is dedicated to seeing systemic changes enacted.

Over three days of sessions next week that begin Tuesday, the Legislature is expected to wrestle with a range of heady issues before leaving Columbus for the most part until at least September. Those issues include civil lawsuit liability, expanded gambling, state pension fund reform, business tax incentives, and an interim solution to problems bingo operators are experiencing.

Aside from the aforementioned heavy-duty bills, eight pieces of legislation are on Tuesday's House session calendar alone, including a Sunday liquor sales bill (SB 164). The committee hearing schedule for next week is crammed full in both chambers.

One legislative official, who is intimately familiar with pre-recess, often late-night activities in the General Assembly, predicted next week would be of the "Bring-your-pillow-and-blanket" variety.

NON-INVESTMENT BONUSES

The board of the State Teachers Retirement System Friday approved the release of about \$2 million in bonuses for members of the system's investment staff, but declined to offer a scheduled \$1.8 million bonus payment for staff who don't make investment-related decisions.

The board's vote came a week after STRS Director Damon Asbury recommended that the board approve the release of the \$3.8 million total, based on advice provided by the Attorney General's office. That advice suggested that the system - if sued - could be found liable for more than the bonuses would cost.

The 7-2 vote to issue bonuses to the investment staff came over the objections of O'Neal Saunders, who represents Attorney General Jim Petro, and Steven Puckett, who represents State Superintendent Susan Tave Zelman.

The decision to reject the bonuses for non-investment staff was 5-4. Board members Saunders, Puckett, Jack Chapman, Mary Beth Foley and Michael Billirakis formed the five-vote majority to defeat the proposal for non-investment staff.

State Auditor Betty D. Montgomery, whose representative voted against the bonuses for the non-investment staff, said the board gave former executive director Herbert Dyer too much authority in issuing past bonuses. She said her own analysis of the situation shows that the potential liability "is not sufficient" to warrant her vote.

"If our non-investment employees still believe they are morally entitled to the money after reflecting on

the losses suffered by our fund, the state economy and our retirees, they can take their chances in a court of law," she said.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN OHIO GROWS SLIGHTLY IN APRIL TO 5.8%; BUSH, KERRY CAMPS TRY TO WORK NUMBERS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE

A report from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services showed Friday that the state's unemployment rate increased fractionally during April from the preceding month. Release of the data came as the Republican and Democratic presidential campaigns held separate events in the battleground state to use the jobs numbers to their advantage. And a non-profit research institute said that while Ohio's job market continues to show signs of modest growth, the rate is not great enough to make up recent losses any time soon.

Jobs Report: The Department of Job and Family Services pegged Ohio's unemployment rate in April at 5.8%, up from 5.7% in March. The number of workers unemployed in Ohio during April was 341,000, an increase of 5,000 from the previous month. At the same time, non-farm wage and salary employment rose 4,300 over the month, reaching 5,389,500 in April. Nationally, the unemployment rate in April was 5.6 percent.

"For the third time this year, total employment showed a small gain from the previous month, and the number of manufacturing jobs also increased," said Tom Hayes, department director. "The slight increase in Ohio's unemployment rate in April was largely because more people were looking for work than in previous months."

Most sectors of the economy experienced employment gains in April, although declines in others produced the net increase of 4,300 jobs. The largest increase of 4,600 occurred in professional and business services. Service providers gained 2,600 jobs, while educational and health services advanced 2,300. Manufacturing was up 1,300 jobs. The largest employment drop was the loss of 5,000 jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector. Small decreases were seen in financial activities, other services, and information.

Unemployment rates among the state's 88 counties ranged from a low of 3% in Holmes County to a high of 15.2% in Morgan County. Seven counties had jobless rates exceeding 10% during April. In addition to Morgan, the list included Meigs, 13.9; Vinton, 13.4; Adams, 11.8; Monroe, 11.4; Perry, 10.3; and Pike, 10.2 percent.

Unemployment rates declined during April in 81 counties. Eleven counties had jobless rates at or below 4.5 percent for the month. In addition to Holmes, the list included Delaware, 3.3; Hancock and Warren, 4.0; Union, 4.1; Butler and Shelby, 4.2; Wyandot, 4.3; and Logan, Van Wert and Wayne, 4.5 percent.

Policy Matters: Policy Matters Ohio, a research group funded by several private foundations, said in its analysis of the latest numbers that the growth rate in the state's job market must quicken in order to offset earlier losses. "If Ohio were to continue gaining jobs at the rate it did over the first four months of 2004, it would take nearly another two years to get back to the employment level when the recession began," the group said.

Seasonally adjusted payroll numbers from the department show the state had 202,000 fewer jobs in April than it did when the U.S. recession officially began in March 2001. "If job growth in Ohio had kept up with the expansion in the working age population since the recession began in March 2001, the state would have approximately 283,000 more jobs than it currently has," Policy Matters Ohio said.

The institute said manufacturing jobs have stabilized over the last six months at about 830,000, down from nearly one million when the recession began. Policy Matters Ohio said that since then, jobs have shifted from industries that are more likely to provide health insurance coverage for their workers to industries that are less likely to do so.

Bush-Kerry: The campaigns of President George Bush and Senator John Kerry both responded to the

latest jobs report. Bush-Cheney '04 campaign manager Ken Mehlman and policy director Tim Adams hosted a telephone conference call with reporters regarding the Ohio figures. "This morning, we received more good news about our economy. Real progress is being made and Ohio is on the road to recovery," said Mr. Adams. "The tax relief proposed and signed into law by President Bush was the right action at the right time, taking us from recession to recovery."

U.S. Senator John Edwards (D-North Carolina) and Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman held a roundtable with workers at a union hall on the west side to discuss job losses in the state. Jennifer Palmieri, spokeswoman for the Kerry campaign, said the increase in Ohio's unemployment rate was more bad news for the state. "George Bush may be satisfied with the economic situation, but John Kerry knows we can do better for Ohio," she said. "His plan will bring over 400,000 jobs to Ohio by working to keep jobs in the U.S. and helping small businesses in Ohio succeed. That is the type of leadership this state needs."

Timken-USW: Senator Kerry on Thursday sent a letter to the White House asking Mr. Bush to intervene in a dispute that could lead to a loss of 1,300 union jobs at Timken Company bearing plants in Canton. The Democrat asked the president to urge Timken owners and representatives of the United Steelworkers of America to resume bargaining, with participation of federal mediators if necessary, to pursue resolution of the differences and preserve the Ohio jobs. "Both the power of the presidency and your strong association with Timken's owners commend this course of action as the last best hope of saving the jobs of these hard working citizens," Mr. Kerry said.

DISPUTES OVER MEGAN'S LAW, PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSIONS ON OHIO SUPREME COURT DOCKET NEXT WEEK

The latest in a string of cases stemming from the 1997 enactment of Ohio's version of "Megan's Law" makes its way to the state Supreme Court next week. Justices will be asked to decide whether a defendant convicted of a sexually violent crime may be classified as a sexually violent predator-and thus face a more severe sentence-without having been previously convicted of a sexually violent crime.

Also among the cases heading for oral arguments Tuesday and Wednesday: the constitutionality of a Cincinnati ordinance that charges some employees more money than others to buy pension credits for prior years of public employment.

Megan's Law: The Ohio version of Megan's Law, so named for a New Jersey girl murdered by a previously convicted sex offender, provides for registration and tougher sentencing of certain defendants. It defines a sexually violent predator as an offender who has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to committing a sexually violent offense after January 1, 1997, and found by a judge to be likely to commit future such offenses.

The court will take up a case from Morrow County that involves a Mount Gilead man charged with the kidnapping and rape of his former girlfriend. After finding him guilty, the trial judge used those convictions as the offenses underlying a subsequent finding that the defendant is a sexually violent predator.

The 5th Ohio District Court of Appeals reversed the trial judge and sent the case back for re-sentencing. The appellate court agreed with a separate decision from the 3rd District that interpreted the law to require designation of offenders as violent sexual predators only if they were convicted of a previous qualifying offense prior to conviction on the current charges.

Attorneys for the state appealed the 5th District decision in the Morrow County case. They cited numerous decisions by other appellate districts-there are 12 in Ohio-which found that trial courts may properly use a current offense as the underlying crime in making a sexual predator designation.

Defense attorneys point out that the Ohio Megan's Law identifies defendants as sexually violent predators only after they have been convicted of a violent sexual offense, and requires them to be charged with the predator specification at the time of indictment. Thus, the lawyers argue, it is "a legal

impossibility" to charge defendants with such a specification based on current charges of which they have not yet been convicted.

Pension Credit: Justices will hear arguments over a 1997 Cincinnati ordinance that permits non-uniformed city employees who had previously withdrawn contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System to re-purchase credits for those years of public service and apply them toward the city's own Cincinnati Retirement Plan.

John Andreyko, an assistant city finance director who retired in 1997 after 30 years of employment, tried to buy back pension credits for two years in the 1960s when he worked for the City of Youngstown and subsequently withdrew his contributions. Mr. Andreyko was told he would have to pay 100% of the Cincinnati Retirement Plan's estimated actuarial cost to provide the additional benefits. However, the Cincinnati ordinance allows a former police and fire employee to re-purchase the same years of service credit at half that rate.

Mr. Andreyko asked Hamilton County Common Pleas Court to declare the ordinance unconstitutional because it did not provide equal protection to the pension rights of all city employees. The judge dismissed the complaint after concluding the employee had not proven there was "no conceivable rational basis" for the pension ordinance's different treatment. The 1st Ohio District Court of Appeals overturned the decision. It ruled Mr. Andreyko had demonstrated the city's decision to treat the two classes of employees differently "was not rationally related to a legitimate governmental interest."

Attorneys for Cincinnati maintained the appellate panel erred in not granting a strong presumption of constitutionality to a duly enacted city ordinance. Attorneys for Mr. Andreyko pointed out in response that the PERS and Police and Firemen's Pension funds are both statewide retirement plans whose relationship to the Cincinnati Retirement Plan are "virtually identical."

FUNDRAISER SET FOR 'LADIES' GALLERY' PROJECT HONORING FIRST WOMEN IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A campaign to raise \$250,000 to finance a Statehouse chamber honoring Ohio's first six women legislators begins next week with a reception at which the design of the memorial will be unveiled and chief donors recognized. The 28 women who serve in the 125th General Assembly will host the fundraiser Wednesday evening in the Atrium.

Rep. Nancy Hollister (R-Marietta) and Senator C.J. Prentiss (D-Cleveland) are leading what is known as the Ladies' Gallery Project Committee. The term Ladies' Gallery refers to a balcony at the rear of the House in the 1880s where women visitors were required to sit.

They were able to seek seats on the floor as members of the House and Senate following the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote. Six women were subsequently elected to the General Assembly for the 1923-24 session: four in the House, two in the Senate. All were Republicans. The 1923 pioneers were: Reps. Nettie Clapp, Cuyahoga County; Lulu Gleason, Lucas County; Adelaide Ott, Mahoning County; May Van Wye, Hamilton County; and Senators Nettie Loughhead, Hamilton County, and Maude Waitt, Cuyahoga County.

The Ladies' Gallery project was approved by the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board and supported by the Capitol Square Foundation. A chamber in the southeast quadrant of the Statehouse has been chosen as the site of the room honoring the first women legislators.

A tableau installed in the proposed chamber for Wednesday evening's event will include drawings, photos of the first women legislators, and some furnishings. Jayne Vandenburg, vice president of Schooley Caldwell Associates, designed the gallery. A replica of a 1920s era Plymouth convertible, on loan from the Buddy Byers collection, will be placed in the Atrium adding to what is described as the "Speak Easy" 1920s theme of the fundraiser.

The \$250,000 will be used to prepare the room with plaster, paint, technology and lighting; buy period

furnishings; acquire, restore and securely display artifacts; and build an interactive kiosk.

Rep. Hollister served as Ohio's first elected woman lieutenant governor, and served briefly as governor after former Gov. George Voinovich's election to the U.S. Senate. Also assisting in the Ladies' Gallery project are Republicans Jo Ann Davidson, first woman Speaker of the Ohio House, and Betty Montgomery, the first woman to serve as Auditor of State and as Attorney General.

Tickets for Wednesday evening's event are \$125. The reception is scheduled from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROMOTES GEMMILL TO STATE ARCHIVIST POST

Laurie Gemmill, an eight-year employee of the Ohio Historical Society, has been promoted to the post of State Archivist, the organization has announced.

Ms. Gemmill replaces Charles Arp, who left OHS last fall for a job with Battelle. She has worked most recently with the Society's Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook and previously served as the electronic record archivist in the State Archives. Ms. Gemmill, whose first job with OHS was at the Youngstown Center of Industry and Labor, holds a master's degree in library and information science from UCLA.

Additionally, OHS has announced the promotion of Pari Swift to the position of Assistant State Archivist. Ms. Swift, who has led the County Archivists and Records Managers Association, has served for the last three years as a local government records archivist for the Society.

MEETING NOTICES

The **Tobacco Use Prevention & Control Foundation** will meet Tuesday, May 25 at 11:30 a.m. in Suite 310, 300 E. Broad St., Columbus (This is a meeting of the Grants Committee).

The **Business Gateway Steering Committee** will meet Tuesday, May 25 at 1:30 p.m. in South B/C Conference Rm., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St, Columbus.

The **Recreation & Resources Commission** will meet Tuesday, June 8 at 10 a.m. in Fountain Square, D-3, 1930 Belcher Drive, Columbus.

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees: Stephanie M. Imhoff, from Granville, for a term ending May 17, 2013, replacing Valerie Newell, of Cincinnati, whose term expired.

Ms. Imhoff is the Chief Financial Officer for The Longaberger Company. Prior to joining Longaberger, Imhoff worked 10 years at the public accounting firm of Ernst & Young, specializing in consulting privately owned emerging businesses.

Cleveland State University Board of Trustees: Samuel H. Miller, from Shaker Heights for a term ending May 1, 2013 and Cheng (Katherine) Li, from Fairview Park, as a student member, for a term ending May 1, 2006.

Mr. Miller has a MBA from the Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Case Western Reserve University. Mr. Miller is the Co-Chairman of the Board and Treasurer for Forest City Enterprises. Ms. Li is a sophomore in the College of Business and is a SGA Sophomore Senator, an Associate Arts Editor for CSU's Student Magazine, *Vindicator*; a Campus Activities Board Intern; a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society; a CSU Ambassador; and a Certified Student Leader.

The boards have control over all aspects of contracts with employees and take necessary actions to provide for the continuous and successful operation and maintenance of the University. Members are compensated for expenses only.

Clean Ohio Council: Bruce Cornett, from Yellow Springs, for a term ending November 23, 2005. Mr. Cornett is a Research Director for the Green Environmental Coalition.

The council receives, reviews and approves applications for Clean Ohio grants and loans. Once an application has been approved, the council shall enter into an agreement with the applicant to award a grant or make a loan for the applicant's Brownfield cleanup or remediation project. Members are not compensated.

Governor's Workforce Policy Board: Donald P. Wood, from Athens; Michael D. Linton, from Laurelville and Tom M. Herman, from Toledo, each serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

Mr. Wood is the President and CEO of Don Wood Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Cadillac, GMC Truck Company, Inc. Mr. Linton is a member and general manager of Mock Woodworking Co., LLC. Mr. Herman works for The Image Group.

The board will assist the governor in building the nation's premier workforce development system, ensuring Ohio employers' and workers' economic competitiveness. They will also assist the governor in developing a five-year strategic plan for workforce development as mandated under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Members are compensated for expenses only.

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Ohio Retirement Study Council, (Chr. Wachtmann, 228-1346), Taft Rm. (formerly 122), 8:30 am

--Review of pending legislation.

House Banking, Pensions & Securities, (Chr. Blasdel, 466-8022), Rm. 018, 9 am

--Added to the agenda:

SB 133 RETIREMENT SYSTEM GOVERNANCE (Wachtmann) Regarding governance of Ohio's five public retirement systems. (Substitute bill-Possible vote) [Full Text](#)

Note the change in date and time.

Senate Judiciary, (Chr. Austria, 466-3780), Grant Rm. (formerly 110), 9 am

HB 38 DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Willamowski) Makes the performance of a service for

compensation without a required license, certificate, permit, or registration a deceptive trade practice and creates a civil cause of action for injunctive relief and damages under the Deceptive Trade Practices Law against a person who performs a service without a required license, certificate, permit, or registration. (2nd Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party-Possible amendments &

- HB 163 DRUNK DRIVING OFFENSES** (Oelslager) Provides an additional prison term or term of imprisonment for certain repeat OMVI or OMVUAC offenders, requires municipal, county, and common pleas court clerks to retain admissible evidence of criminal convictions for fifty years after the entry of judgment of that conviction, gives the police force of a township with a population of greater than 50,000 the same authority to make arrests for specified traffic offenses on interstate highways as now exists for the police force of a township with a population greater than 60,000, and increases the penalty for vehicular assault when the offender also fails to
- HB 316 COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY** (Wolpert) Provides sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and county correctional officers with qualified immunity from damages caused by outside work details consisting of prisoners imprisoned for nonviolent offenses who volunteer for the work detail. (2nd Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible substitute bill & amendments) [Full Text](#)
- HB 369 POLICE ANIMAL HARASSMENT/DISABILITIES** (Collier) Expands the offense of "harassing a police dog or horse"; renames "handicapped assistance dogs" as "service dogs"; requires an offender who commits any of the assault or harassment offenses related to police dogs or horses or service dogs to pay resulting veterinary, replacement, and training costs; makes theft of a police dog or horse or a service dog a third degree felony; includes seizure assistance, response, and alert dogs as "service dogs" for the assault, harassment, and theft offenses related to service dogs; exempts seizure assistance, seizure response, or seizure alert dogs from
- SB 148 CHILD DAY CARE** (Austria) Revises the law pertaining to child day-care. (5th Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party-Possible substitute, amendments & vote) [Full Text](#)
- SB 234 LAND TRANSFER** (Mumper) Authorizes the Adjutant General to transfer a specified parcel of state-owned real estate no longer needed for armory or military purposes to the grantor of the parcel pursuant to the reversionary clause in the parcel's deed and authorizes the conveyance of ten parcels of state-owned real estate that the Adjutant General has determined are no longer required for armory or military purposes to a buyer or buyers to be determined at a later date. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Finance & Financial Institutions, (Chr. Harris, 466-8086), Finance Hearing Rm., 2 pm

- HB 393 MOTORSPORTS COMPLEX FINANCING** (Harwood) Provides that the Ohio Arts and Sports Facilities Commission may participate in the financing of motorsports complexes. (1st Hearing-Sponsor, proponent, opponent & interested party) [Full Text](#)
- HB 420 DEBT ADJUSTING** (Patton, T.) Relative to engaging in the business of debt adjusting for debtors, specifies contribution limits and auditing and insurance coverage duties, requires timely disbursement of debtor funds, provides penalties, including a criminal penalty, for a violation, and eliminates previous provisions regulating entities engaging in the business of debt pooling. (2nd Hearing-1st Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party) [Full Text](#)
- HB 427 JOB DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES** (Martin) Increases from 10 to 15 the number of years enterprise zones or urban jobs and enterprise zone agreements may exempt property from taxation, subject to school board approval; creates the Job Development Initiatives Fund and transfers up to \$25.8 million of unclaimed funds to it, and; makes appropriations. (1st Hearing-Sponsor, proponent, opponent & interested party) [Full Text](#)
- HB 431 HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY** (Schneider) Removes the Ohio Housing Finance Agency from the Department of Development, making the Ohio Housing Finance Agency an independent agency, and makes other changes to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor) [Full Text](#)
- SB 31 INTERNET LOTTERY SALES** (Gardner, Robert) Authorizes the State Lottery Commission to allow lottery games to be played over the Internet under certain conditions. (Accept substitute

bill) [Full Text](#)

SB 176 AFRICAN-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME (Miller, R.) Establishes the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame and makes an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party) [Full Text](#)

SCR 32 SPACE EXPLORATION (Spada) Encourages the United States Congress to support and fully fund the National Aeronautics & Space Administration's Vision for Space Exploration Program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor, proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible vote) [Full Text](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

Senate Agriculture, (Chr. Mumper, 466-8049), Grant Rm. (formerly 110), 9 am
--Presentation by the Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center.

HB 325 BINGO (Hollister) Relative to the conduct of bingo, instant bingo at a bingo session and instant bingo other than at a bingo session by a charitable organization and to other charitable gambling-related matters. (5th Hearing-Possible vote) [Full Text](#)

HB 414 AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREAS (Core) Provides for the establishment of agricultural security areas, limits development within those areas, and provides the opportunity for certain tax exemptions for land within those areas. (1st Hearing-Sponsor) [Full Text](#)

HB 422 ATHLETIC TEAM LIQUOR PERMITS (Carano) Creates the F-7 permit to authorize colleges and universities and professional athletic teams to allow the consumption of beer and intoxicating liquor brought into restricted areas on the property they own or lease. (1st Hearing-Sponsor) [Full Text](#)

SB 233 CATTLEMEN'S LICENSE PLATE (Mumper) Creates the Ohio Cattlemen's Foundation Beef license plates and to provide that money from contributions for the license plates be used to pay for scholarships and other educational activities of the Ohio Cattlemen's Foundation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor) [Full Text](#)

Senate Judiciary, (Chr. Austria, 466-3780), North Hearing Rm., 9 am

HB 38 DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Willamowski) Makes the performance of a service for compensation without a required license, certificate, permit, or registration a deceptive trade practice and creates a civil cause of action for injunctive relief and damages under the Deceptive Trade Practices Law against a person who performs a service without a required license, certificate, permit, or registration. (3rd Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible amendments & vote) [Full Text](#)

HB 163 DRUNK DRIVING OFFENSES (Oelslager) Provides an additional prison term or term of imprisonment for certain repeat OMVI or OMVUAC offenders, requires municipal, county, and common pleas court clerks to retain admissible evidence of criminal convictions for fifty years after the entry of judgment of that conviction, gives the police force of a township with a population of greater than 50,000 the same authority to make arrests for specified traffic offenses on interstate highways as now exists for the police

HB 181 ELECTED OFFICIAL SUSPENSIONS (Schaffer) Permits the Governor to suspend from office in accordance with a specified procedure any elected local official charged with a felony related to the official's administration of, or conduct in the performance of the duties of, the office and prohibits a person who is convicted of certain theft offenses, or any other felony or recent misdemeanor involving fraud, deceit, or theft, from holding a public office or position of public employment, or serving in certain unpaid volunteer positions, that involve substantial management or control of certain public or private property. (3rd

HB 316 COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY (Wolpert) Provides sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and county correctional officers with qualified immunity from damages caused by outside work details consisting of prisoners imprisoned for nonviolent offenses who volunteer for the work detail. (3rd Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible substitute, amendments & vote) [Full Text](#)

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or service dogs to pay resulting veterinary, replacement, and training costs; makes theft of a police dog or horse or a service dog a third degree felony; includes seizure assistance, response, and alert dogs as "service dogs" for the assault, harassment, and theft offenses related to service dogs; exempts seizure assistance, seizure response, or seizure alert dogs from

- SB 148 CHILD DAY CARE (Austria) Revises the law pertaining to child day-care. (6th Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible substitute, amendments & vote) [Full Text](#)
- SB 197 FRAUDULENT CLAIMS (Goodman) Prohibits and provides civil penalties for the filing of false or fraudulent claims with the state and for defrauding the state of money or property; creates a procedure for the investigation by the Attorney General of suspected violations and authorizes the Attorney General and private persons to bring civil enforcement actions on behalf of the state. (4th Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Finance & Financial Institutions, (Chr. Harris, 466-8086), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:30 am

- HB 393 MOTORSPORTS COMPLEX FINANCING (Harwood) Provides that the Ohio Arts and Sports Facilities Commission may participate in the financing of motorsports complexes. (2nd Hearing-Possible vote) [Full Text](#)
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- SB 176 AFRICAN-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME (Miller, R.) Establishes the Ohio African-American Hall of Fame and makes an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-Possible vote) [Full Text](#)

Senate Civil Justice, (Chr. Goodman, 466-8064), South Hearing Rm., 10 am

- HB 36 DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE FEES (Willamowski) Relative to the award of attorney's fees and litigation expenses in certain domestic relations cases. (4th Hearing-Amendments & Possible vote) [Full Text](#)

Senate Health, Human Services & Aging, (Chr. Wachtmann, 466-8150), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 pm

--Confirmation hearings on Carol L. Enger and Lance A. Talmage, State Medical Board and Melvin W. Mock, Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board.

- HB 105 HOME MEDICAL SERVICES LICENSING (Collier) Requires licensure of home medical equipment services providers by the Ohio Respiratory Care Board. (2nd Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible vote) [Full Text](#)
- HB 377 DRUGS DATABASE (Raga) Requires the State Board of Pharmacy to establish and maintain a dangerous drugs database to monitor the use, misuse and diversion of dangerous drugs. (1st Hearing-Sponsor) [Full Text](#)
- HB 392 ANATOMICAL GIFTS (Wagner) Permits a declarant of a declaration or living will to make an anatomical gift in the declaration. (1st Hearing-Sponsor, proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible vote) [Full Text](#)
- SB 147 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (Wachtmann) Regarding the practice of physician assistants, including the establishment of physician-delegated prescriptive authority. (5th Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible amendments & vote) [Full Text](#)
- SB 196 PHARMACIST COMPOUNDING (Wachtmann) Provides a procedure whereby a pharmacist may, pursuant to a compounding request by a licensed provider, compound and dispense a dangerous drug to that provider, in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of

Pharmacy. (3rd Hearing-Proponent, opponent & interested party - Possible vote) [Full Text](#)

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