

Dear Township Officials:

The Senate Finance Committee voted to accept an omnibus amendment late this afternoon. The omnibus amendment included a variety of things that have an impact on townships and township government. Those items of interest are below. You may view the entire 500+ page amendment at [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129\\_HB\\_153\\_SA](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129_HB_153_SA).

The Committee reported the bill 9-4, along party lines. The full Senate is expected to vote on the measure tomorrow. Following tomorrow's full Senate vote, I will send an updated list of items with ORC sections, page numbers and line numbers.

Sincerely,

Heidi

**ITEMS IN SENATE OMNIBUS AMENDMENT OF INTEREST TO TOWNSHIPS:**

Eliminates the ability of townships to use **design/build**

Permits **fire department grants** to be given to private fire companies

Significantly reduces **prevailing wage threshold** and sets forth a scale for increasing threshold over the next three years

For new construction:

- \$125,000 effective immediately (fall 2011)
- \$200,000 one year later (fall 2012)
- \$250,000 one year later (fall 2013)

For reconstruction, enlargement, alteration, repair, remodeling, renovation, or painting of any a public improvement:

- \$38,000 effective immediately (fall 2011)
- \$60,000 one year later (fall 2012)
- \$75,000 one year later (fall 2013)

For projects involving roads, the language did not change so the thresholds are \$78,258 for new roads and \$23,447 for reconstruction and improvements

Extends, by three years, the deadline by which the owner of a qualified **energy project** must meet certain requirements regarding an energy facility which would qualify the project for **tax exemption** (this applies to wind, solar and alternative energy projects)

Permits **limited home rule townships** to use constables for **police service**, as required in RC section 504.16

Expands the allowable **use of police and fire levy monies** to include EMS, communications, administration and pension contributions in fire use and part-time employees, communications, administrative and pension contributions in police use

Requires township to submit a **report** to the state via OAKS **on each capital facilities project** funded wholly or in part by state funds and completed on or after July 1, 2011

Prohibits a township from **using funds to pay** the costs, premiums or other charges associated with a health care policy, contract or plan that provides coverage, benefits

or services related to **an abortion** in non-life threatening cases (this mirrors local law with state law on this issue)

Eliminates the ability of townships to use **reverse auctions** for design and construction services

Provides joint vocational schools sign-off on **TIFs** created by townships, counties and municipalities

Requires the 3 hour **public records training** to include information on records retention and records commissions

Clarifies and consolidates the **records retention procedures** and schedules for townships and revises the procedure used by the Ohio Historical Society for selecting valuable records

Alters the statute of limitations for a civil action on **public record destruction** to 5 years - previous version was 6 years