

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTION THIS WEEK:**

**HB 50 Annexation Petitions** (Snitchler) 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.

*The bill was scheduled for a hearing and amendments on Tuesday. The Chairman did not accept any amendments and there were not witnesses to testify. The OTA has expressed our concern with the new language and potential amendments to now Sponsor Schuring, Chairman Blair and other members of the Committee.*

**HB 188 Constitutional Commission** (Batchelder, B.) To establish the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission and to make an appropriation.

*This bill was favorably reported by the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee this week. It will likely be voted on by the full Senate next Tuesday.*

**HB 194 Election Reform Bill** (Mecklenborg) To revise the election law.

*The Senate Government Oversight Committee had multiple hearings on the bill this week and made several changes prior to sending the bill to the full Senate for a vote. A group of interested parties sent a letter to the House and Senate regarding our concerns with election costs. **The letter is attached.** The full Senate reported the bill by a vote of 23-10. The bill now heads back to the House for concurrence on Senate changes.*

**HB 225 County Auditor Review** (Peterson, Landis) To vest in county auditors responsibility for reviewing and approving property tax exemption applications for some publicly owned property, to authorize county auditors and boards of township trustees to adopt a direct deposit payroll policy, to authorize counties and townships to increase the amount credited to "rainy day" reserve balance accounts to one-sixth of the expenditures made in the preceding fiscal year from the fund in which the reserve balance account is established; and clarify that townships may offer multiple deferred compensation programs to their employees.

*The bill was voted out of the House Local Government Committee on Tuesday and the full House approved the bill by a vote of 94-1. The bill now heads to the Senate for hearings.*

**HB 229 Agriculture Laws** (Buchy) To revise the laws governing agriculture.

*This bill was voted out of the Senate Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. The bill now heads to the Senate floor for a vote.*

**SB 173 Public Deposits** (Hughes, J.) To permit a political subdivision, upon the deposit of public moneys with an eligible public depository, to arrange for the public depository to redeposit those moneys with other federally insured banks and savings and loan associations in accordance with specified conditions.

*This bill had testimony in the Senate Financial Institutions Committee. This is the companion bill to HB 209 which was passed by the House last week.*

## **BUDGET BILL UPDATE:**

**HB 153 Biennium Budget** (Amstutz) To make appropriations for FY 2012-2013 and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state and local programs. *While the plan was for the conference committee to approve the final version of the budget on Thursday, June 23, that did not happen. As of today, we still do not have an agreed upon budget between the House and Senate. Conference Committee was scheduled to meet this afternoon at 3:30 pm but was cancelled and is scheduled to meet tomorrow, Saturday, at 9:00 am. As soon as we have a copy of the final budget, we will let you know what is and is not included in the bill.*

**OTHER ISSUES:**

**SB 5 Collective Bargaining** (Jones) Revises collective bargaining laws in Ohio.

*As of today, signatures have not been submitted to the Ohio Secretary of State to place the question of referendum on the November ballot. The petitioners have announced that they have over 700,000 signatures but they are collecting more and will turn in all signatures next week. We will provide additional information in next week's legislative alert or sooner, depending on what happens.*

**RECENTLY INTRODUCED:**

**HB 276 Agricultural Zoning** (Buchy, J., Gentile, L.) To include the production from certain feedstocks of biodiesel, biomass energy, electric or heat energy, and biologically derived methane gas in the definition of "agriculture" for purposes of the laws governing county zoning, township zoning, and current agricultural use valuation. Am. 303.01, 519.01, and 5713.30.

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK:**

Auditor of State's Office - altering procedure for choosing Independent professional auditing firms

**STATE FAIR - OTA SPONSORED AWARDS:**

The OTA is looking for volunteers to assist us at the 2011 Ohio State Fair. Did you participate in 4-H growing up? Travel back to your youth by volunteering to present clock trophies and other awards at this year's Ohio State Fair. The OTA sponsors numerous awards each year and at least two volunteers are needed each day. The award presentations for this year's state fair will take place July 26 - Aug. 7.

If you are interested in presenting an award, please contact OTA Board of Directors State Fair Committee Chair Shirlee Bostdorff, at 419-265-0057 or sbost@wcnet.org or me at the State Association. The OTA includes photos and a summary of the awards, as well as thank you letters from recipients, in the OTA magazine.

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