

LEGISLATIVE ACTION THIS WEEK:

The House and Senate came back to the Statehouse on Wednesday to take care of a few issues before officially recessing for summer break. One of the bills on the calendar was SB 187, which names a portion of a highway in honor of a soldier killed in Iraq. The House amended the bill in committee to include a fix for the truck weight limit issue and an emergency clause for that specific measure.

If you recall, the transportation budget (HB 114) included language to increase axle weight limits for trucks and expanded the list of industries to which the weight limit exemption applies. The Senate had concerns with the language and stripped the newly passed language from law in their version of the biennium budget bill (HB 153). The conference committee on HB 153 put the language back in and the new law as passed in HB 114 took effect June 29.

The amendment to SB 187 clarifies that vehicles receiving the seven and one-half weight variance also receive a seven and one half percent wheel and axle variance. The bill passed the House 91-0, with the emergency clause for the weight limit section. [Please find the amendment attached.](#)

The House and Senate are not expected to come back until August or September.

LGF ESTIMATES:

[Attached are the Local Government Fund distribution amounts](#) the Department of Taxation will soon be posting to its website. There are four different pages included on the spreadsheet.

Ohio law requires the Department of Taxation to notify each county auditor of the amount to be distributed to its county undivided local government fund during the next calendar year. The Department will provide that notification next week (by July 20th). The figures to be contained in the notification will correspond with the calendar year 2012 amounts provided in the [attached spreadsheet](#).

In addition, the Department of Taxation will be posting a document that explains the LGF changes reflected in the recently-enacted budget. [Attached is that explanation.](#)

You will note that due to enhanced state revenue over the last year and an additional \$49 million being added to the LGF pot, the aggregate LGF distributions in CY 2011 will be nearly equal to the amount received in CY 2010. In CY 2012, the total LGF distributions, as required by new law, will be 71.7% of CY 2011 distributions. The total CY Jan-Jun 2013 distributions will equal 50.7 % of the Jan-Jun CY 2011 distributions.

TPP / UTILITY REIMBURSEMENT INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

The FY2012/2013 budget accelerates the scheduled phase-out of certain payments made by the state to localities that replace taxes they once collected on tangible personal property (TPP) and certain types of electricity generation. The phase-out will be accelerated for townships with little reliance on these payments. However, townships that are heavily reliant on these replacement payments will experience a prolonged period of phase-out beyond that in current law. The reliance on these payments was determined by taking into account the total resources available to each township. Total resources for townships include total property tax receipts (including rollbacks/homestead) and total TPP and public utility reimbursements.

Funding changes to townships are measured based on their reliance. The test for whether a township continues to get reimbursement is based on the question of whether a township's reimbursement exceeds 2% of calculated total resources. However, the fact that the proposed change in reimbursement occurs halfway through tax year 2011 complicates the calculation in 2011. The first half reimbursement payment in tax year 2011 is unaffected by the proposed change. Only the payments scheduled to be made after June 30 are compared to 2% of total resources. If the second half payment is less than 2% of total resources, then no payment is made. If the second half payment is greater than 2% of total resources, then the second-half payment is reduced by an amount equal to 2% of total resources. After tax year 2011, the annual reduction in fixed rate reimbursement is limited to no more than 2% of base year total resources. The same methodology applies to both TPP and public utility deregulation replacement payments.

The Ohio Department of Taxation has put together two spreadsheets to show the changes to these payments for townships that currently receive them. The numbers presented in the spreadsheets are by calendar year, since that matches the fiscal year for township government. For that reason, the aggregate numbers shown in these tables will not match aggregate numbers previously released in the budget summary because those numbers were shown on a state fiscal year basis. Additionally, the base year of the calculations is calendar year 2010. The 2010 reimbursements are also adjusted to reflect levies that are no longer in place in 2010. Under current law for TPP and proposed law for SB3, any levy not in place after 2010 does not qualify for phase-out reimbursements.

At first glance it appears that over 800 townships will receive TPP reimbursement in FY 2012, approximately 450 townships will receive revenue in FY 2013 and about 350 townships will receive revenue through CY 2030. With respect to utility reimbursements, fifty townships will receive revenue in FY 2012 and 2013 and approximately thirty will receive revenue through CY 2030.

To view the spreadsheet, please visit http://tax.ohio.gov/channels/government/phase_out.stm. Embedded in the spreadsheet are two different worksheets. There is a separate worksheet for the TPP reimbursements and the SB3 reimbursements. **All calculations in this spreadsheet are subject to change. The calculations represent the Tax Department's best determination at this time as to the proper calculation of every levy in township government.** If you have concerns or questions about the calculations, please relay them to tpp@tax.state.oh.us.

NEWSLETTER FROM OPERS:

The July 2011 newsletter from OPERS is available. [Please find the July 2011 OPERSource attached.](#)

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG):

THE 2011 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS SHORTLY! Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) helps to ensure that firefighters and first responders have the essentials they need to be safe and effective on the job. Your fire department or EMS organization may be eligible for a grant. The key to your success is preparing your application early. Get started today!

2011 AFG GET READY GUIDE IS AVAILABLE NOW

The 2011 AFG Get Ready Guide is your resource for successfully submitting a grant application and may be downloaded at <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>.

NEW THIS YEAR: GRANT RECIPIENTS MUST REGISTER IN THE CENTRAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION (CCR) SYSTEM

As of August 2010, prime recipients of Federal grants are required to register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system. As a potential grantee you are not required to register, but you may wish to do so now in case you receive an award. CCR registration will be required if you are selected for an award

HOW TO REGISTER:

1. Obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. A DUNS number is a required to submit an application. If you already have a DUNS number, skip to #2.
2. Once you have a DUNS number, register here: <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/default.aspx>. For more information on grantee registration in the CCR system, visit their website: <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/grantees.aspx>

NEED HELP? ATTEND A GRANT WORKSHOP

AFG Regional Representatives conduct grant workshops around the country.

Visit http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/js/workshop_schedule_july.html for a complete schedule.

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

- View an AFG Application Tutorial: Coming Soon!
- Review the program guidance (available one week prior to the start of the application period)
- Attend a workshop: Call or email the Help Desk (866-274-0960 or firegrants@dhs.gov)
- Contact your Regional Representative:
http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/program/workshop_schedule.shtm
- Find additional resources under "rules and Tools" on website:
<http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/tools/index.shtm>

2011 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO) SYMPOSIUM:

The Ohio Department of Public Safety will be sponsoring the 2011 PIO Symposium on Aug. 26. This free one-day symposium will provide an opportunity for public information officers across the state to network and receive pertinent knowledge in the field of media relations and communication. For agenda and registration information, please visit: http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/MR2011/07_13_PIO_symp_registration.pdf