

Dear Township Officials:

Please find below several items that the OTA would like to bring to your attention.

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## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SCHEDULES BEGINNING 9/12/2011**

Wednesday, September 14

House Agriculture & Natural Resources, (Chr. Hall, D., 466-2994), Rm. 121, 5 p.m.

**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. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

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## **INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE**

**SB 211 COURT COSTS** (Bacon, K.)

To require that all moneys collected by the clerk of a municipal or county court be paid to the appropriate person, fund, or entity on or before the twentieth day of each month, to permit a municipal or county court to collect unpaid court costs, fees, or fines from an obligor's state income tax refund, to require the Auditor of State to create and maintain a chart detailing the distribution of court costs, fees, and fines collected by municipal and county court clerks, to create the Committee on Court Costs, and to ensure that neither the Registrar nor any deputy registrar accepts any application for the issuance or renewal of a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or temporary instruction permit, or for the registration or transfer of registration of a motor vehicle of a person who fails to pay court costs imposed for offenses by a municipal mayor's, or county court. Am. 1901.261, 1901.31, 1907.20, 1907.26, 1907.261, and 4503.39 and to enact sections 117.102, 1901.263, 1901.44, 1905.202, 1905.33, 1907.25, 1907.263, 2303.203, and 5747.124

**SB 212 OIL & GAS DRILLING** (Skindell, M.)

To establish requirements governing well stimulation, brine disposal, and water that is used in the drilling and operation of oil and gas wells on state land, including a requirement that oil and gas permittees pay a five percent overriding royalty for each well that is stimulated. Am. 1509.74 and to enact sections 1509.031, 1509.191, 1509.192, 1509.227, and 6111.70

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## **OPERS EMPLOYER NEWS**

Late last week an e-mail was sent to OPERS public employers or the contact they identified as the most knowledgeable regarding their financial statement preparation. The message was sent to raise awareness of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) recently issued exposure drafts concerning Pension Accounting and Financial Reporting which will have a *significant impact on all OPERS participating employers.*

To foster discussion and provide education regarding the proposed changes, OPERS has scheduled three live Q/A Sessions which will be held over the Web. Each will last approximately one hour and will include a high level overview of the changes followed by an open Q/A discussion period. In order to attend employers will need to register for one of the three sessions below by clicking the link and following the instructions.

Attendance is as simple as having a computer and phone line but space is limited so we are encouraging registration today.

This message is being forwarded to you because we understand you are an important link to further spread awareness about these sessions and the importance of registering to ensure all employers have an understanding of the impact of the proposed changes.

Any problems with registration can be forwarded to the Employer Call Center at 888-400-0965.

**Register for a session now by clicking a date below:**

[Tue. Sep 13, 2011 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM EDT](#)

[Fri. Sep 16, 2011 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM EDT](#)

Once registered you will receive an email confirming your registration with information you need to join the Webinar.

If the session you register for is closed, please select another session. Based upon demand additional sessions may be scheduled.

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### **OTA EDUCATIONAL SESSION SURVEY**

We are conducting a survey and would appreciate your feedback. The OTA is looking for information regarding summer educational opportunities. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes and complete the survey, which can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YNV7LMN>.

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### **IMPACT OF FUNDING CUTS TO OHIO'S COMMUNITIES**

Policy Matters Ohio put out a report about a week ago on how the state budget cuts impact local government funding. The full report can be found at [http://www.policymattersohio.org/LocalGovernmentCuts\\_2011.htm](http://www.policymattersohio.org/LocalGovernmentCuts_2011.htm).

It describes in detail the reductions in the Local Government Fund and tax reimbursements. Many jurisdictions lose flexible LGF funds, but also will lose reimbursements for the health and human services levies, street lighting, police and fire pension fund, road maintenance and a host of other services.

While every township is seeing the results up close, it is not well known just how many kinds of impact this will have. If you have questions or would like to follow up after reviewing the report, please contact Wendy Patton at [wpatton@policymattersohio.org](mailto:wpatton@policymattersohio.org).

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### **OHIO FARMLAND PRESERVATION SUMMIT**

Register now for the 12th Annual Ohio Farmland Preservation Summit!

November 17, 2011, 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, OSU Campus

Registration fee: \$40

Register online: [www.regonline.com/ohiofarmlandpreservationsummit](http://www.regonline.com/ohiofarmlandpreservationsummit)

--Jon Scholl, president of American Farmland Trust, will address key considerations for the 2012 Farm Bill  
--Dale Minyo of Ohio Ag Net will interview farmers Renee Winner and Joe Young who have protected their family farms  
--The day will start with a morning reception with Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Jim Zehringer  
--Breakout sessions include topics such as: energy development and farmland preservation, estate planning, conducting an inventory of your community's agriculture, growing the farm business, and more. More information on breakout sessions can be found here: [http://cffpi.osu.edu/summit11\\_speakers.htm](http://cffpi.osu.edu/summit11_speakers.htm)

For more information on speakers, the day's agenda and directions:  
<http://cffpi.osu.edu/summit11.htm>

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