

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY THIS WEEK:

HB 158 AMATEUR ANTENNA (Stebelton, G., Okey, M.) To codify federal restrictions on local zoning of amateur station antenna structures thereby preserving amateur radio service communications as a Homeland Security resource and to place the burden of proof for compliance on the zoning authority.

The bill was amended in the Senate State & Local Government Committee and then favorably reported to the full Senate for a vote.

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.

The Senate favorably passed the bill on Tuesday and the House concurred on Senate changes on Wednesday. The bill will be effective immediately upon the governor's signature, as there is an emergency clause in the bill.

HB 386 GAMBLING LAWS (Blessing, L.) To make changes to the law regarding video lottery terminals, casino gaming, and horse racing, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

After several changes to the bill this week, including removing the provision that required counties to share 50% of their casino revenue with local safety services, the bill was passed out of the House by a vote of 69-24. The bill will now go to the Senate for hearings.

INTRODUCED THIS WEEK:

HB 452 TIF EXEMPTIONS (Beck, P., Maag, R.) To allow townships to exempt from taxation property consisting of at least four residential units under a pre-existing tax increment financing resolution. Am. 5709.73.

Referred to House Local Government Committee

HB 458 DIG NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (Sprague, R.) To modify the call before you dig notification system.

Referred to House Public Utilities Committee

SB 298 ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS (Cafaro, C.) To establish local entertainment districts in municipal corporations or unincorporated areas of counties of specified populations for the purpose of the issuance of D-1, D-2, and D-5 liquor permits under specified conditions.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

State Auditor's Office - HB 326 Use of Public Funds

Sen. Seitz (phone call) - Local Government Fund

Interested Parties - HB 379 Water and Sewer Improvement Charges

Rep. Gerberry - potential legislation, gambling bill

Shared Services Group

Rep. Henne - township requests from his district

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY NEXT WEEK:

The General Assembly will be taking a three-week break for the primary election, which will be held March 6.

PUBLIC NOTICE WEBSITE NOW OPERATIONAL

Created in HB 153 as a tool to help save local governments money, there is now a Public Notice Website for local governments and schools to use. The most recent state budget bill charged the state's Office of Information Technology with creating a state public notice website.

New ORC Section 7.16 allows a state agency or political subdivision, after initially publishing the notice in full in a general circulation newspaper, to subsequently publish an "abbreviated" notice in the newspaper if the notice directs the public to the full notice on the state public notice website. Ohio public entities, including townships, may post public notices to this site at no charge.

Townships will need to register with the Ohio Business gateway and establish an online account to use the site. For more information, please visit <http://publicnotice.ohio.gov/>.

ROAD USE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (RUMA)

The OTA has been informed that ODOT and ODNR will be sending a joint letter out to local government entities regarding the RUMA and the process that will be followed.

SHARED SERVICES PROJECT

Last fall townships, along with all other political subdivisions, were asked to participate in a shared services survey. While the report still has not been released (reportedly will be soon), we were given insight on what to expect in the report.

The shared services plan will be called "Beyond Boundaries" and will consist of three parts: 1) the Plan or what will be referred to as Book 1; 2) the Survey Results or what will be referred to as Book 2; and 3) the Catalog or what will be referred to as Book 3.

The **Plan** will include recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly and political subdivisions regarding sharing services. Those recommendations will include the following.

- Encourage more use of ORC Section 9.482, which is the broad provision allowing collaboration.
- Use of legislation in near future to eliminate any remaining barriers to collaboration.
- Develop regional shared service centers that would assist with technology, administration and instructional support.
- Create two online portals for shared service examples and a purchasing clearing house.
- Require a benchmarking system for local governments and schools.
- Require local governments and schools in fiscal distress to share services.

The **Survey Results** will include an analysis of the data, graphs and tables.

The **Catalog** will include examples of shared services and a road map on replicating those examples. The goal will be that these examples become dynamic, not static, and that additional examples will be created.