



### **Senate Introduces Regulatory Reform Bill**

Senators Rob McColley (R – Napoleon) and Kristina Roegner (R – Hudson) have introduced SB 1, one of the Senate’s priority bills for this General Assembly, which seeks to reduce regulatory burdens for businesses in Ohio. SB 1 mandates a 30% reduction in total state regulations by 2022, and requires the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) – which reviews all state agency rules – to consider in its regular review of regulations whether a rule contains restrictions that could be amended or rescinded.

State agencies would be required to meet annual benchmarks for rule reductions, including removing 10% of their restrictions by 2020, 20% by 2021 and finally 30% by the 2020 deadline. No new regulatory restrictions are allowed to be approved after that year, unless another restriction is rescinded, so that the total 30% reduction is maintained into the future. Information on the status of rule reductions for each state agency is required to be published online, along with an annual JCARR report on each state agency’s progress that is sent to the legislature.

Agencies that do not meet benchmarks are required to explain to JCARR why they have not done so, and then JCARR may recommend to the legislature ways to compensate for that agency’s inability to reduce regulatory burden.

Senate President Larry Obhof has stated that he wants government to get out of the way of business and that Ohio is one of the most regulated states. Others have expressed skepticism that 30% is an arbitrary number. As this is SB 1, expect the Senate to make quick work of the legislation.

### **Gas Tax Increase in the Works for Transportation Budget**

As lawmakers begin consideration of the state’s 2020-2021 transportation budget, House Bill 62, they are faced with how to fill a \$1.12 billion infrastructure funding gap that Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jack Marchbanks has himself defined as a “fiscal cliff.”

Depleted Turnpike bond revenues, inflation and the increase of fuel efficient vehicles on the road have all contributed to a decline in motor fuel tax revenues, the primary source of infrastructure funding across the state. Ohio has already halted all new construction, and will see a large portion of bridges closed and roads in poor condition if the crisis is not immediately addressed.

Governor DeWine has made clear this is a priority for his administration. In the Governor’s transportation proposal, officially released on February 21, 2019, has proposed an 18 cent increase and also has proposed indexing the gas tax to inflation. Director Marchbanks has said that every cent increase in the tax translates to about \$67 million in additional revenue, however, the state is required to pass on 40% of that to local governments.

The House has passed their version of the Transportation Budget (by a vote of 71-27). Their proposal reduced the gas tax increase to 10.7¢ over two year and removed the indexing for inflation. Separately they proposed an increase of 20¢ for diesel and other fuels over 3 years, beginning October 1, 2019. The House also proposed increases in public transportation funding.

The bill is now under consideration by the Ohio Senate.

### **ODAg Ride Portal**

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has released an instructional video on how to use the new amusement ride safety portal. It can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukDpM\\_HKRAE&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukDpM_HKRAE&feature=youtu.be)

Ride owners are now required to utilize the amusement ride portal. You can create and manage your account here: <https://www.apps.agri.ohio.gov/amusementrides/>

### **School Start Date Legislation – Not Enacted**

We are disappointed that legislation to have schools start after Labor Day was not enacted last General Assembly. However, the GOSA thanks David Drake for making a trip to the statehouse to testify in favor of the bill. We also thank Melinda Huntley from the Ohio Travel Association for her diligence on this issue. The OTA conducted a terrific survey to gather data on the issue and made the rounds speaking to groups in support of the concept. GOSA has reached out to the OTA to begin discussing reintroducing the legislation this year.

### **ODAg Releases Revised Budget Memo**

Director Dorothy Pelanda released an update budget member. The memo specifically states: “The Division of Amusement Ride Safety and Fairs fulfills a critical role in Ohio employing inspectors who oversee amusement rides, go-kart tracks, water parks and inflatable rides across Ohio. The Agency is requesting additional GRF and additional spending authority for both Divisions. Increases for meat inspection will allow the Division to fulfill its regulatory responsibilities; additional funds for amusement rides will enable the division to increase training in response to technological advances in the industry and will provide resources for more ride inspections to occur.”

Governor DeWine is expected to release his budget proposal on March 15<sup>th</sup>. GOSA looks forward to reviewing the recommendation regarding the Department.

### **House Committees Announced**

Speaker Larry Householder has announced committee assignments for the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. The GOSA is most interested in the House Finance Committee and the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee.

#### **House Finance Committee**

Republican Representatives Scott Oelslager (Chair), Gary Scherer (Vice Chair), Brian Baldrige, Bill Blessing, Jim Butler, Jamie Callender, Rick Carfagna, Sara Carruthers, Jon Cross, Bob Cupp, Jay Edwards, Dave Greenspan, Steve Hambley, Jim Hoops, Scott Lipps, Phil Plummer, Rick Perales, Tracy Richardson, Bill Roemer, Mark Romenchuk, and Shane Wilken.

Democrat Representatives Jack Cera (Ranking Member, Erica Crawley, Paula Hicks-Hudson, Stephanie Howse, Brigid Kelly, Adam Miller, Michael O’Brien, John Patterson, John Rogers, Mike Skindell, Bride Sweeney, and Thomas West.

#### **Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development and Natural Resources**

Republican Representatives Jim Hoops (Chair), Brian Baldrige and Tracy Richardson

Democrat Representatives Paula Hicks-Hudson (Ranking Member) and Michael O’Brien.

## **Agriculture and Rule Development Committee**

Republican Representatives Kyle Koehler (Chair), Todd Smith (Vice Chair), Don Jones, Darrell Kick, Susan Manchester, Don Manning, Jena Powell, Tim Schaffer, Bill Seitz, and Reggie Stolfus.

Democrat Representatives Juanita Brent (Ranking Member), Jack Cera, Randi Clites, Paula Hicks-Hudson, Mary Lightbody, John Patterson and Casey Weinstein.

### **Senate Committee Announced**

During the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Ohio Senate released their committee assignments. The Senate also released their priority legislation which include criminal justice reform and reducing government regulations.

### **Senate Finance Committee**

Republican Senators Matt Dolan (Chair), Dave Burke (Vice Chair), John Eklund, Jay Hottinger, Stephanie Kunze, Peggy Lehner, Rob McColley, Kirk Schuring, Lou Terhar, and Steve Wilson

Democrat Senators Vernon Sykes (Ranking Member), Nickie Antonio, and Sean O'Brien

### **Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Republican Senators Frank Hoagland (Chair), Brian Hill (Vice Chair), Bob Hackett, Steve Huffman, Stephanie Kunze, Rob McColley, Bob Peterson, and Joe Uecker

Democrat Senators Sean O'Brien (Ranking Member), Teresa Fedor, and Tina Maharath

### **How to Contact Your Lobbyist**

Amanda Sines  
Government Advantage Group  
17 South High Street, Suite 750  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-221-7157  
[amanda@gov-advantage.com](mailto:amanda@gov-advantage.com)