



Governor’s Appointments

Nicholas D. Blois of Strongsville, Anthony L. Sabo of Marysville and Frank W. Welsh of Ashville have been appointed to the Advisory Board on Amusement Ride Safety for a term beginning April 27, 2023 and ending January 1, 2029.

State Budget Process Update – Passes House

The first half of odd numbered years are dominated by debate on the state’s biennial budget bill. The process starts with the Governor’s proposal, which has been introduced as [House Bill 33](#). The House passed their version of the proposal on April 26, 2023 by a vote of 77-19. The House made some significant changes to the Governor’s proposal. The bill will now be considered by the Ohio Senate, who is expected to make significant additional changes. The process will culminate with a conference committee in June to craft a final bill for enactment.

Among the notable changes in the House were regarding tax policy. The House version reduces, beginning in tax year 2023, the number of income tax brackets, by consolidating the lowest bracket (2.765% for income between \$26,050 and \$46,100) with the second lowest bracket (3.226% for income between \$46,100 and \$92,150). Reduces the rate of that new lowest bracket to 2.75%. The Senate will also be looking at tax policy and could propose even great reductions.

Below are items of interest to GOSA

GRF 700511 Ride Inspection	\$ 716,000	\$ 749,000
5780 700620 Ride Inspection	\$ 1,355,000	\$ 1,417,000

While the bill doesn’t propose any specific fee increases for amusement rides, it does propose allowing ODA to charge a reinspection fee if the reinspection is required under the minimum inspections laws and rules of Tyler’s law.

GRF 700501 County Agricultural Societies	\$ 760,000	\$ 760,000
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The Ohio Fair Managers Association is advocating for a substantial increase in the Ohio Department of Agriculture budget line Item GRF 700501 that is used to reimburse county and independent agricultural societies for their Junior Fair activities. The House version did increase the line item from what the Governor had proposed as well as providing additional operating funds in 2024.

In addition to the traditional appropriations for the Ohio Exposition Commission, the bill includes \$95 million per fiscal year for EXPO 2050. This will be used for the renovations to the State Fairgrounds, a priority project for the Governor. While the House did preserve this funding in their version, they also adopted an amendment that would require a study on alternative locations for the State Fairgrounds before any of the funds could be spent.

Minimum Wage Legislation and Ballot Initiative

As is the case every General Assembly, legislation has been introduced to increase Ohio’s minimum wage. This year it is [House Bill 96](#). HB 96 is sponsored by Representatives Dontavius Jarrells and Ismail Mohamed. Under the bill the minimum wage would increase \$1 per year until it reaches \$15 in 2028, after that the rate would increase based on inflation.

Separately, a group called Raise the Wage Ohio is pursuing a statewide ballot initiative. They recently had their language certified by the Ohio Attorney General’s office and the Ohio Ballot Board. This proposal would take the minimum wage to \$15 an hour in January 2026.

Catalytic Converter Legislation

Representatives Bob Young and Bill Roemer have introduced legislation in response to the increase in catalytic converter thefts in Ohio. The bill, [House Bill 110](#), would make catalytic converters a special purchase article, requiring scrap metal dealers who purchase them comply with additional requirements. The bill prohibits a person from selling more than one catalytic converter per day, enhances penalties for theft of a catalytic converter, and creates other regulations. Catalytic converters are a high value item and has made them an increase target for theft at business and of person use vehicles. HB 110 is making progress through the House Criminal Justice Committee.

Distracted Driving Law Goes into Effect

Legislation enacted at the end of 2022 generally made distracted driving a primary offense in Ohio. Drivers have a bit of a grace period before law enforcement starts issuing tickets for violations. For now, police will be issuing warnings, but will start ticketing for violations on October 4, 2023.

Youth Employment Bill Passes Senate

Senator Tim Schaffer (R) has reintroduced [Senate Bill 30](#) regarding youth employment. The bill would allow those under 16 to be employed after 7pm during school year. It would state that with parent or guardian's permission, those under 16 could work until 9pm. The Ohio Senate has already favorably passed SB 30 by a vote of 25-7 and will now be considered by the Ohio House of Representatives. The GOSA has submitted formal testimony in support of this legislation.

4-H Legislation Reintroduced

Legislation was introduced in 2022 to require schools to provide students with excused absences for participating in 4-H activities. Representatives Thomas Hall and Rodney Creech have reintroduced the concept through [House Bill 135](#). This version allows for excused absences for 4-H and FFA activities. The bill does not allow these excused absences to occur during scheduled state testing or during a period of time the student might otherwise be disciplined, suspended or expelled. The OFMA looks forward to supporting this legislation.

Columbus Passes Food Truck Curfew

The City of Columbus has enacted a food truck curfew. GOSA doesn't expect this effect our members. You can read more about this action in the [Columbus Dispatch's](#) coverage.

How to Contact Your Lobbyist

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