

## Local Government

### Sub. H.B. 34

**Reps.** Hambley and Ryan, Wiggam, Greenspan, Blessing, Hill, Becker, Riedel, Goodman, Bishoff, Arndt, Anielski, Antani, Antonio, Ashford, Boyd, Carfagna, Conditt, Craig, Dever, Edwards, Faber, Fedor, Ginter, Green, Henne, Holmes, Howse, Huffman, Kick, Koehler, Landis, Lanese, LaTourette, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Lipps, McColley, Miller, O'Brien, Patterson, Patton, Pelanda, Perales, Reineke, Rogers, Romanchuk, Scherer, Seitz, Sheehy, Slaby, K. Smith, R. Smith, Stein, Sweeney, Thompson, Vitale, West, Young

**Sens.** Coley, Beagle, Dolan, Hackett, LaRose, Peterson, Uecker, Yuko

**Effective date:** November 2, 2018

#### Government notice

- Allows for several types of official government notices to be sent by ordinary mail and Internet identifier of record, instead of by certified mail.

#### Public records training

- Allows a person who has been elected but has not yet taken office to complete the required public records training for elected officials conducted by the Attorney General before the person takes office.

#### County prosecuting attorney

- Permits a county prosecuting attorney, in the attorney's discretion and with the approval of the board of county commissioners, to contract with a regional airport authority, port authority, or regional planning commission to be its legal adviser.
- Allows the county prosecuting attorney to charge a fee for legal services agreed to under the contract.

### Sub. H.B. 168

**Reps.** Stein, Boccieri, Brenner, Hambley, LaTourette, Seitz, Arndt, Carfagna, O'Brien, Blessing, Antonio, Boyd, Brown, Craig, Cupp, Edwards, Galonski, Ginter, Green, Greenspan, Hill, Holmes, Howse, Ingram, Lang, Leland, Manning, Patterson, Ramos, Reineke, Retherford, Riedel, Sprague, Sweeney, West

**Sens.** Beagle, Tavares, Hackett, Hoagland, Manning, Oelslager, Peterson, Terhar

**Effective date:** October 29, 2018; appropriations effective July 30, 2018

#### Cemeteries

- Establishes the Cemetery Grant Program, to be administered by the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce, providing funds to cemeteries to defray costs

of exceptional maintenance or training cemetery personnel in cemetery maintenance and operation.

- Creates the Cemetery Grant Fund for the grant program, appropriates \$100,000 from the Fund in FY 2018, and requires the Division to deposit into the Fund \$1 of each \$2.50 burial permit fee the Division receives.
- Requires a cemetery to provide reasonable maintenance of cemetery property and of all lots, graves, mausoleums, scattering grounds, and columbaria in the cemetery.
- Requires a cemetery to maintain electronic or paper records about interment, entombment, or inurnment right owners and records indicating a deceased's name, place of death, and date and location of interment, entombment, or inurnment.
- Requires a cemetery to submit, with its annual registration application to the Division, its rules and regulations, a copy of its endowment care trust fund agreement and preneed cemetery merchandise and services trust fund agreement, and proof that individual trustees are bonded or insured.
- Changes the annual expiration of cemetery registrations to September 30 rather than June 30 as under prior law.
- Requires a cemetery to place in trust the funds that it must retain under a preneed cemetery merchandise and services contract.
- Requires individual trustees for endowment care trusts and preneed trusts to be bonded by a fidelity bond rather than a corporate surety, or insured under an insurance policy.
- Requires trustees to hold and invest funds in an endowment care trust or preneed trust in accordance with the Ohio Uniform Prudent Investor Act, if the instrument that creates the trust so provides.
- Requires the Superintendent of Real Estate to maintain an Investigation and Audit Section to investigate cemeteries, and requires the Section to audit a cemetery's financial records for compliance with endowment care trusts and preneed trusts.
- Requires the Section to maintain confidentiality of information it obtains or creates, and provides the information is not public record.
- Allows the Superintendent to issue a registration to the purchaser of an existing cemetery if the purchaser submits the agreement with the seller that provides for the continued preservation of the endowment care trust funds and preneed contract moneys.

- Requires the Superintendent generally to administer the Cemetery Registration Law, and eliminates the requirement that the Superintendent adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act to carry out the Law.
- Allows the Division to investigate a cemetery that has ceased operation in order to appoint a temporary receiver or trustee.
- Expands the subpoena authority of the Superintendent and Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission.
- Allows any person adversely affected by the unlawful action of a cemetery that is not registered but that is required to be registered to file a complaint with the Division, whereas prior law allows complaints only for registered cemeteries.
- Defines "human remains" for purposes of the law governing cemetery associations and cemetery registration.

### **Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors**

- Notwithstanding Ohio's Open Meetings Law to allow the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to suspend a license or permit via telephone conference call to review the allegations and vote, if the licensee or permit holder presents a danger of immediate and serious harm to the public.
- Prohibits any person from engaging in cremation unless the person holds an Ohio crematory operator permit.
- Prohibits any person with a lapsed license from engaging in the business or profession of funeral directing, engaging in embalming, or operating a crematory or performing cremation.
- Changes the degree of mental culpability from purposely to recklessly for violations of the embalmers, funeral directors, and crematory licensing laws for which the Board may suspend, revoke, refuse to grant or renew a license or permit, or require the license or permit holder to take corrective action.
- Allows a coroner to order a funeral home to hold a body rather than make disposition of it within 30 days after taking custody, as required under continuing law.
- Specifies that a preneed funeral contract seller may collect the initial service fee from a purchaser who is paying installments only after all the installments have been paid.
- Specifies that a quorum of the Board, which consists of four members, must contain three members who are funeral directors, rather than three members who are funeral directors and embalmers as under prior law.

## Sub. H.B. 251

**Reps.** Greenspan, Hambley, Stein, Dever, Anielski, Antonio, Arndt, Ashford, Barnes, Boyd, Brown, Carfagna, Galonski, Gavarone, Ginter, Green, Hill, Holmes, Howse, Lang, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, Miller, Patton, Reinke, Retherford, Rezabek, Riedel, Rogers, Ryan, Schaffer, Schuring, Seitz, Sheehy, Slaby, K. Smith, R. Smith, Sprague, Sweeney, Thompson, West, Wiggam, Young, Rosenberger

**Sens.** Eklund, Beagle, Burke, Coley, Dolan, Gardner, Hackett, Hoagland, Huffman, LaRose, O'Brien, Oelslager, Schiavoni, Thomas, Williams, Wilson

**Effective date:** August 1, 2018

- Increases from five to ten years the maturity period of political subdivision bonds and obligations that are eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund.

## Sub. H.B. 291

**Reps.** Wiggam, Lipps, Seitz, Arndt, Merrin, Goodman, Dean, Stein, Henne, Anielski, Hambley, Carfagna, Antonio, Barnes, Blessing, Brown, Cupp, Dever, Duffey, Edwards, Ginter, Greenspan, Holmes, T. Johnson, Kick, Lang, Lepore-Hagan, Pelanda, Riedel, Rogers, Romanchuk, Ryan, Schaffer, Scherer, Schuring, Sheehy, Sprague, Thompson, West, Young, Zeltwanger

**Sens.** Coley, Gardner, Hackett, Jordan, Kunze, Obhof, Peterson, Terhar, Uecker, Wilson

**Effective date:** March 20, 2019

- Authorizes counties, townships, municipal corporations, school districts, community schools, and libraries to use an "employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty" insurance policy, in lieu of surety bonds, for all officers, employees, and appointees who are required by law to give a bond.
- Requires the policy to be in effect and to apply to an officer, employee, or appointee before the individual begins a term of office or employment, and prohibits the individual from performing official duties until the legislative authority documents the policy coverage.
- Specifies that an individual who begins performing official duties before the coverage is effective vacates the office.
- Names the act the Protect Local Treasuries Act.

## Sub. H.B. 312

**Reps.** Schuring and Greenspan, Blessing, Faber, Ginter, Anielski, Antonio, Arndt, Ashford, Barnes, Boyd, Craig, Cupp, Dean, Dever, Edwards, Fedor, Green, Hagan, Hambley, Holmes, Householder, Hughes, Ingram, T. Johnson, Landis, Lang, LaTourette, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, O'Brien, Patterson, Pelanda, Perales, Reineke, Rezabek, Roegner, Rogers, Ryan, Schaffer, Seitz, Sheehy, R. Smith, Sprague, Stein, Strahorn, Sweeney, Thompson, West, Wiggam, Young, Zeltwanger

**Sens.** Coley, Beagle, Dolan, Eklund, Hackett, Hoagland, Huffman, Manning, McColley, Oelslager, Peterson, Terhar, Wilson

**Effective date:** November 2, 2018

### Credit card accounts

- Requires political subdivisions and community schools and STEM schools, but not including counties, to follow procedures for the use of credit card accounts, including adopting a policy, conducting periodic reviews, and in some cases providing itemized receipts to the political subdivision.
- Requires the name of a political subdivision to appear on each credit card and check related to a credit card account the political subdivision holds.
- In political subdivisions where the fiscal officer does not retain possession and control of the accounts and of the related cards and checks, requires the political subdivision to appoint a compliance officer to periodically review their use.
- Specifies that an officer, employee, or public servant who knowingly misuses a credit card account commits the crime of misuse of credit cards.
- Requires a political subdivision's fiscal officer to file an annual report with the legislative authority concerning all rewards the political subdivision derives from a credit card account.
- Prohibits the use of debit card accounts by political subdivisions, including counties, for any purpose other than law enforcement purposes, excluding a debit account related to receipt of grant moneys.

### Financial planning and supervision commissions

- Allows a county auditor or, in a chartered county, a county fiscal officer, to designate an individual within the person's office to serve on a financial planning and supervision commission appointed for a county that is in fiscal emergency, instead of serving personally.
- Requires the Auditor of State, as the financial supervisor of a village or township with a population of less than 1,000, to make reports and recommendations to the legislature concerning the fiscal emergency.

- Requires the Director of Budget and Management, serving as chairperson of a commission, to submit those reports and recommendations, instead of the commission itself as under prior law.
- Requires a commission or a fiscal supervisor to make those reports and recommendations annually by April 1 as long as the commission or the position of supervisor continues to exist, instead of only during the fiscal emergency period.
- Provides a process for filling vacancies in appointed seats on commissions established before October 17, 2017.

### **Auditor of State**

- Increases from three to six the number of deputy inspectors and supervisors of public offices the Auditor of State may appoint, and specifies that no more than three of them may belong to the same political party.
- Prohibits the Auditor from logging a complaint regarding an ongoing criminal investigation in the Auditor's public log of fraud complaints, and instead requires the Auditor to log the complaint not later than 30 days after the investigation is complete.
- Eliminates the requirement that the Auditor publish an annual volume of statistics, and instead requires the Auditor to publish the substance of each public office's annual financial report in an electronic format that is available to the public.

### **Electronic public records requests**

- Allows a person who submits a public records request electronically, instead of by hand delivery or certified mail, to recover statutory damages if the office fails to comply with the Public Records Law.

### **Submerged land leases**

- Establishes a temporary procedure by which a municipal corporation may apply for tax exemption and abatement of unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest charged and payable in 2004 and thereafter for a submerged land lease.

## **Sub. H.B. 454**

**Reps.** Patterson and Arndt, Ashford, Seitz, Becker, Reece, Hambley, Holmes, Boyd, Brown, Anielski, Antonio, Barnes, Craig, Green, Lepore-Hagan, Miller, O'Brien, Perales, Rogers, Sheehy, Sprague

**Sens.** Coley, Eklund, Gardner, Hoagland, Lehner, Manning, O'Brien, Peterson, Schiavoni, Tavares, Terhar, Thomas, Uecker, Williams, Wilson, Yuko

**Effective date:** March 20, 2019

- Requires a township to offer compensation to owners of certain unused cemetery lots or rights who come forward before the lot or right is reclaimed.
- Requires a township to publish on its website the notice required by continuing law before reentering a lot.

## **Sub. H.B. 478**

**Reps.** R. Smith and LaTourette, Becker, Blessing, Boggs, Carfagna, Celebrezze, Duffey, Faber, Gavarone, Hambley, Koehler, Lang, Lipps, Miller, Patton, Pelanda, Perales, Reineke, Rezabek, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Seitz, Sykes, Thompson, West, Anielski, Craig, DeVitis, Greenspan, T. Johnson, Kent, Ryan, Scherer, Schuring, Stein, Wiggam, Young, Rosenberger

**Sens.** Beagle, Burke, Eklund, Hoagland, Kunze, McColley, Peterson

**Effective date:** August 1, 2018

### **Small cell facilities in the municipal public way**

- Replaces micro wireless facilities with "small cell facilities" regarding the municipal public way usage law and makes various other changes to that law.
- Establishes procedures for:
  - Consent for placement of small cell facilities and wireless support structures in the municipal public way by small cell facility operators;
  - Consent for nonoperator (person who is not an operator) placement of these facilities and structures in the municipal public way; and
  - Operator placement of small cell facilities on municipally owned or operated wireless support structures in the municipal public way.

### **Municipal public way usage state policy**

- Changes municipal public way usage state policy to:
  - Promote rapid deployment of small cell facility infrastructure and related capital investment in Ohio by ensuring that municipal corporations grant or deny consent to install, operate, modify, or replace wireless facilities in a timely manner;
  - Protect the integrity of residential and historic locations and ensure that access to and occupancy or use of public ways in those locations is technologically and aesthetically appropriate.
- Repeals the municipal public way usage policy that sought to expedite the installation and operation of facilities to deploy advanced wireless service throughout Ohio.

### **Consent for placement**

- Requires all applications for requests for consent to place small cell facilities or wireless support structures to include the name of the person who owns, or will own, the facility or structure.
- Requires a permit or other record of consent issued by a municipal corporation to include the name of the person who owns, or will own, the small cell facility or wireless support structure.

### **Consent process for operators**

- Prohibits a municipal corporation, regarding an operator request for consent, from requiring any zoning or other approval, consent, permit, certificate, or condition to construct, replace, locate, attach, or operate a small cell facility in the municipal public way, other than when a work permit is required.
- Specifies that, for operator requests for consent, an "operator" includes any person that, at the time of filing the request, provides to the municipal corporation the person's written authorization to perform the specific work for which consent has been requested on behalf of an operator.

#### **Time for approval**

- Requires a municipal corporation to grant or deny the following operator requests for consent to do the following in a municipal public way not later than:
  - 90 days, to collocate small cell facilities on a wireless support structure;
  - 90 days, to replace or modify a small cell facility on a wireless support structure; or
  - 120 days, to construct, modify, or replace a wireless support structure associated with a small cell facility.
- Provides that failure to grant or deny a request within the time periods (if the time period is not tolled) results in the request being deemed granted when the operator provides notice to the municipal corporation that the time period has lapsed.

#### **Tolling of consent time period**

- Alters the consent-tolling time periods regarding a large number of operator requests made in a 30-day period by allowing the municipal corporation to toll the period using a 21-day tolling period, based on the municipal corporation's population and the number of requests.
- Provides for an extension of the 21-day tolling period by additional 15-day periods depending on the number of operator consent requests.
- Imposes a maximum 90-day tolling limit regarding any operator consent request.



- Requires a municipal corporation, on request, to provide an operator written notice of the time limit for a specific consent request.

### **Consolidated applications**

- Establishes a cap of 30 small cell facilities or 30 wireless support structure operator consent requests for a single consolidated application.
- Limits a consolidated application to substantially the same type of small cell facilities or wireless support structures.
- Permits a municipal corporation to separately address small cell facility collocations or wireless support structures for which incomplete information has been received or which are denied.
- Permits a municipal corporation to reduce the fee for consolidated applications, to encourage their submission.
- Provides that each small cell facility or wireless support structure constitutes a separate request for consent, for the purpose of the tolling schedule.

### **Collocation on municipally owned/operated wireless support structures**

- Requires a municipal corporation to permit collocation of a small cell facility by an operator on a wireless support structure owned by a municipal corporation and located in the municipal public way if, among other requirements, the collocation is for providing wireless service and meets adopted design guidelines.

### **Consent for nonoperators**

- Requires a person who is a nonoperator to request consent for placement of small cell facilities and wireless support structures in the municipal public way under the preexisting municipal public way usage law.

### **Limitations imposed on municipal authority**

- Applies certain limitations and prohibitions imposed on municipal corporations under prior law for micro wireless facilities to operator and nonoperator placements of small cell facilities and wireless support structures.
- Repeals other limitations and prohibitions imposed on municipal corporations under prior law for micro wireless facilities, thus making them inapplicable regarding small cell facilities and wireless support structures.

### **Authority granted to municipal corporations**

- Permits municipal corporations to do the following regarding placement of small cell facilities and wireless support structures in the municipal public way:

- Reserve municipal public way space or space on a municipally owned wireless support structure or pole for future public safety or transportation uses, in accordance with an approved plan, if it does not preclude placement of a pole or collocation of a small cell facility;
- Require reasonable and nondiscriminatory spacing requirements for new wireless support structures, if the requirements do not prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of wireless service to any location;
- Adopt reasonable design guidelines with objective, technologically feasible criteria reasonably matching the aesthetics and character of the immediate area and apply them in a nondiscriminatory manner;
- Propose alternate locations for proposed wireless support structures consistent with certain distance requirements (appears to apply only to operators);
- Require collocation of a new wireless support structure to be completed within 180 days after issuance of a permit, with certain exceptions and extensions permitted (appears to apply only to operators);
- Set certain restrictions for the height of a wireless support structure and the placement of a wireless facility;
- Require an operator to comply with reasonable and nondiscriminatory requirements prohibiting structures and facilities due to an area requiring undergrounding or requiring them to be placed elsewhere (appears to apply only to operators);
- Require reasonable, technically feasible, and nondiscriminatory design or concealment methods in historic districts (certain provisions apply only to operators);
- Resolve conflicting requests for installation due to spacing, setback, or fall zone requirements through a reasonable and nondiscriminatory manner deemed appropriate by the municipal corporation;
- Impose reasonable requirements for bonds, escrow deposits, letters of credit, or any other type of financial surety to ensure removal of abandoned or unused wireless facilities or damage to municipal property caused by an operator or its agent (appears to apply only to operators).

## **Fees**

- Limits the fee imposed for granting or processing an operator application for consent for placement in a municipal public way to a one-time fee not to exceed \$250 per small cell facility.

- Limits the amount a municipal corporation may charge annually for operator attachment to a municipally owned wireless support structure to an amount not to exceed \$200 per small cell facility.
- Permits the municipal corporation to adjust the above amounts by 10% every five years, rounded to the nearest \$5, and allows adjustments during each five-year period to be applied incrementally or as a single adjustment.
- Prohibits a municipal corporation from charging operators any fees other than those described above and, as described in the act, work permit fees and financial sureties.
- Provides that the placement or attachment of small cell facilities and any associated fees do not subject a municipal corporation to state or local tax liabilities or assessments.
- Permits an operator to stop paying annual charges or fees if the operator removes its small cell facility from a municipally owned wireless support structure.

### **Other municipal public way changes**

- Provides that a municipal corporation's approval term for an operator's attachment to a wireless support structure is at least ten years, with a presumption of renewal for successive five-year terms, except as terminated under conditions and requirements described in the act.
- Permits an operator to remove its small cell facilities at any time.
- Requires an operator who owns or operates small cell facilities or wireless support structures in the municipal public way to indemnify and hold the municipal corporation and its representatives harmless to the extent that the harm is caused by the operator's or agent's negligence.
- Provides that consent of a municipal corporation is not required for the replacement of wireless facilities with wireless facilities that are consistent with the municipal corporation's current design guidelines and that are substantially similar to, and of the same size or smaller than, the existing facilities.
- Provides that, for certain investor-owned electric utilities and their affiliates, electric cooperatives, and independent transmission companies, the municipal public way usage laws that apply primarily to operators do not affect construction standards or engineering practices, tariffs, contracts, or laws or regulations regarding their utility poles or other equipment.
- Permits a person to construct, modify, or maintain a utility pole or wireless support structure along, across, and under a municipal public way in excess of the size limits, to the extent permitted by the municipal corporation's regulations.

- Requires an operator, on a municipal corporation's request, and in order to accomplish construction or maintenance directly related to health, safety, and public welfare improvements, to relocate or adjust its facilities in the municipal public way at no cost to the municipal corporation if the request is not discriminatory.
- Provides that a cable or video service provider is not required to obtain permits from a municipal corporation or pay fees, except for work permits and associated fees, to place, operate, maintain, or replace micro wireless facilities under an existing franchise or video service authorization.
- Provides that a holder of an existing franchise or video service authorization is not required to obtain additional authorizations or pay additional fees for the placement of micro wireless facilities already covered under an existing franchise or video service authorization.
- Provides that the act's permitting procedures and authorizations apply only to the placement of small cell facilities and wireless support structures in the municipal public way, and do not authorize the construction and operation of a wireline backhaul facility.
- In conjunction with the act's change of focus to small cell facilities, creates and amends numerous definitions governing municipal public way usage law and repeals several definitions.

## Sub. H.B. 500

**Reps.** Carfagna, Arndt, Hambley, Hill, Lang, LaTourette, Patton, Schaffer, Seitz, Stein, Ginter, Anielski, Barnes, Blessing, Brenner, Brown, Craig, Dever, Duffey, Faber, Gavarone, Green, Henne, Holmes, Hoops, Hughes, T. Johnson, Keller, Landis, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, McClain, Miller, O'Brien, Patterson, Pelanda, Perales, Reineke, Riedel, Rogers, Ryan, Sheehy, West, Young, R. Smith

**Sens.** Uecker, Eklund, Gardner, Hackett, Hoagland, Hottinger, Lehner, Manning, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Terhar, Wilson

**Effective date:** March 22, 2019; appropriations effective December 21, 2018; authority to certify ballot issues electronically effective January 1, 2021

### Townships

- Requires a board of township trustees to select a chairperson annually.
- Eliminates the requirement that a township's annual inventory be filed with the county engineer.
- Increases, from \$2,500 to \$10,000, the obligations a board of township trustees may authorize its officers and employees to incur on the township's behalf.

- Increases, from \$5,000 to \$50,000, the amount of township funds that may be spent to erect a monument to commemorate members of the armed forces who died in service to the United States or Ohio.
- Authorizes a board of township trustees of a township that is an owner of an oil and gas well to comply with liability coverage requirements by participating in a joint self-insurance pool.
- Specifies that when a petition to change the name of a township road is submitted to a board of county commissioners, the name automatically changes unless the board adopts a resolution disapproving the petition within 60 days after receiving it.
- Prohibits a board of county commissioners from adopting a resolution to vacate a public road that is a township road unless the board of township trustees has adopted a resolution approving the vacation.
- Requires a hearing for removal of a township zoning commission or township board of zoning appeals member to occur not later than 60 days after the charges are filed against the member, and allows a board of township trustees to suspend a member during that time.
- Specifies that a member of a township zoning commission or township board of zoning appeals who is suspended or removed may appeal the decision under the Local Government Administrative Appeals Law.
- Authorizes a board of township trustees to charge a fee against a person who appeals a zoning decision to the board of zoning appeals, to defray the cost of advertising, mailing, and other expenses.
- Makes permissive, only for limited home rule townships, the requirement that a township submit a proposed zoning amendment or resolution to a planning commission for approval, disapproval, or suggestions.
- Allows a township to require reimbursement of township police, fire, emergency medical, and ambulance levy revenue foregone because of the creation of a township tax increment financing (TIF) incentive district.
- Authorizes certain townships to use TIF payment-in-lieu-of-tax revenue to pay the expenses of maintaining any infrastructure project that was financed with such revenue.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Repeals law allowing the vacation of lots outside a municipal corporation.
- Eliminates the requirement that the total acreage in certain new community districts be at least 1,000 acres.

- Beginning in 2021, allows political subdivisions to certify to the board of elections, in electronic form, a question or issue to be placed on the ballot.
- Allows a political subdivision to levy a single property tax for a variety of capital expenses.

### **Appropriations**

- Appropriates \$100,000 GRF in FY 2019 to the Attorney General to defray the costs of ongoing capital case litigation in Pike County.
- Increases by \$5.5 million the FY 2019 GRF appropriation to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund Board for S.B. 296's enhanced benefits to survivors of police officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty or from injuries sustained in the line of duty.
- Authorizes the Director of Budget and Management to transfer up to \$1 million from GRF to the State Employee Health Benefit Fund during FY 2019 to provide the state share of funding for those survivors who elect coverage under the state employee health benefit plan, as permitted by S.B. 296.

## **S.B. 163**

**Sens.** Wilson, Terhar, Beagle, Williams, Eklund, Huffman, Hackett, Coley, Uecker, Brown, Bacon, Balderson, Burke, Dolan, Gardner, Hite, Hoagland, Hottinger, Jordan, Kunze, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Schiavoni, Skindell, Tavares, Thomas

**Reps.** Dever, Hughes, Brenner, Anielski, Boyd, Craig, Gavarone, Green, Hambley, Holmes, Manning, Miller, Patton, Perales, Reineke, Rezabek, Rogers, Romanchuk, Ryan, Scherer, Thompson, West, Wiggam, Young

**Effective date:** September 28, 2018

- Expands the categories of domestic corporate and U.S. depository institution bonds in which a county may invest its inactive funds by allowing a county to invest in bonds rated in the three highest credit rating categories, rather than the two highest under prior law.
- Permits a county to invest its inactive funds in bonds with a maturity date that is no more than three years, rather than two years under prior law, from the date of purchase.

## Sub. S.B. 239

**Sens.** Dolan, Lehner, Beagle, Coley, Brown, Hackett, Hoagland, Huffman, O'Brien, Peterson, Schiavoni, Sykes, Wilson

**Reps.** Hambley, Anielski, Ashford, Brenner, Carfagna, Celebrezze, Craig, Edwards, Green, Henne, Holmes, Hoops, Hughes, LaTourette, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Miller, O'Brien, Rogers, Schaffer, Scherer, Schuring, Sheehy, Sprague, West, Wilkin, Young

**Effective date:** October 29, 2018

### Regional councils of governments

- Requires the officers of a regional council of governments (COG), upon forming the COG and before taking any official action, to notify the Auditor of State of its formation.
- Voids any official action a COG takes before making that notification, including entering any contract.
- Requires a COG to provide the Auditor with a copy of its bylaws.
- Specifies that records containing the names of political subdivisions that are members of a COG or the names of their representatives who serve on the COG are public records and are not considered to be trade secrets.
- Subjects COG officials and employees to the Ethics Law.
- Specifies that a COG is considered a political subdivision for purposes of the laws governing criminal offenses against justice and public administration.
- Provides that under certain circumstances involving violations of the Ethics Law or related criminal offenses, a COG is not required to defend or indemnify its employees in a civil lawsuit.

### Other provisions

- Clarifies that a municipal corporation eligible to designate a tourism development district may designate more than one district.
- Specifies that the American Law Institute's approved "Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance" does not constitute the public policy of Ohio.
- Designates three highways and authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along the highways.