

## February 2018 CAAO Legislative Update

- ❖ **HB 49 - State Biennial Budget Updates & HB 69 - Levy Revenue Reimbursement**
  - **Elimination of Sales Tax on Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) (HB 69 Provision)**
    - An additional \$50 million should have been already paid to counties. The amount was based on what each county was receiving in MCO sales tax.
    - The Tax Commissioner shall pay to each county an additional amount up to \$30 million in August 2018 if state revenues do better than expected. The funds will be also distributed based on what each county was receiving in MCO sales tax.
  - **Contents of Property Tax Resolutions (HB 69 Provision)**
    - Amendment included in HB 69 to remove notice required to be sent to County Auditor; you will not receive a notice to proceed.
    - Provision does not apply to levies on May ballot; Amendment goes into effect for levies on the November ballot.
- ❖ **HB 3 – Data Ohio Board Creation- 12/12/2017** Reported out of House Finance Committee
  - Create the DataOhio Board, specify requirements for posting public records online, require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and make appropriations.
- ❖ **HB 291 Employee Dishonesty Insurance 12/13/2017** Passed by House
  - Authorizes certain county, township, and municipal officials to purchase an "employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy," rather than a surety bond, to cover losses due to the fraudulent or dishonest actions of, and the failure to perform a duty prescribed by law by, an officer, official, employee, or appointee of the political subdivision.
  - Insurance policies tend to be more flexible in what they cover and often cover a higher dollar amount. Does not affect the criminal or civil aspects of elected officials and public employees who may engage in gross negligence or malfeasance while in office.
- ❖ **HB 295 Exempt Disabled Veterans from Licensing Fees for Assistance Dogs 10/24/2017** Second hearing in House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security Committee
  - Exempt certain disabled veterans from paying a dog registration fee when application is made to the county auditor that includes proof that the dog is an assistance dog.
  - Definition of mobility impaired person amended to include a person who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States, including reserve components thereof, or of the national guard, who has been discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions, and who has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or any other service-related disability.
  - Bill currently in limbo due to sponsor leaving the House. We are working to get bill reintroduced by someone else.

- ❖ **HB 298 Reduce Public Employee Sick Days** 1/24/2018 Second hearing in House State & Local Government
  - Reduces the amount of sick leave to three and one-half hours for each completed 80 hours of services, excluding overtime hours worked, from four and six-tenths hours. Comparable to current law for state employees.
  - Prohibits an appointing authority from providing paid sick leave in an amount greater than provided in this new law, including a collective bargaining agreement.
  - Unclear whether this bill will move forward.
  
- ❖ **HB 312 Local Government Credit Cards** - Passed Housed. 1/17/2018 – First hearing in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee
  - Requires certain political subdivisions to follow procedures for the use of credit cards including adopting a policy, conducting a quarterly review, and in some cases providing itemized receipts to the political subdivision's fiscal officer.
  - Prohibits the use of debit cards by political subdivisions for any purpose other than law enforcement.
  - Requires all political subdivisions including counties to report to the Auditor of State any amount of money or rewards the political subdivision derives from the use of a credit card rewards program.
  - CCAO proposal to expand use of credit card for additional work-related expenses that include:
    - Employment Advertisement Services, Online Employment Advertisement Services Educational Training Expenses to include expenses for tuition and books and Online Educational Training Expenses. Expenses shall not exceed \$10,000 per quarter.
    - Skills Assessments including Online Skills Assessments, Educational Training Expenses and Online Educational Training Expenses to include expenses for tuition, books and eMaterials. Expenses shall not exceed \$10,000 per quarter.
    - Advertising expenses for the county treasurer to publish tax rates, tax reduction factors, and effective tax rates which are required by the revised code and for advertising expenses for programs established within the purview of the functions of the office of the treasurer. Expenses shall not exceed an annual amount of \$20,000.
    - Expenses for parts, supplies, equipment, and operations when a vendor or supplier will not accept a county purchase order.
    - Expenses for the purchase of prepaid debit cards for wellness incentive programs;
    - Expenses for license applications and registrations.
    - CAAO recommends that these additions should be specifically included in the policy of the Board of County Commissioners; policy must include the specific purposes of the expenditure as well as the review of the total quarterly expenditure.
  
- ❖ **HB 323/SB 181 - Authorize Municipal Corporations to Certify Unpaid Garbage Collection Fees to the County Auditor** - 12/5/2017 – Reported out of House State & Local Government Committee; - 11/29/2017 Third hearing in Senate Ways & Means Committee
  - Extends to all municipal corporations the authority to certify amounts due for garbage collection services to the county auditor, who must enter the fees on the property tax list.

- ❖ **HB 341 Judges Public Records Exemption** - 12/5/2017 Reported out of House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
  - Amend ORC sections 149.43 and 149.45 to include judges and magistrates as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law, and whose addresses public offices, upon request, must redact from records available to the general public on the internet.
  - Expected to pass this session.
  - Possible amendment to include spouses of peace officers.
- ❖ **HB 342 Eliminate August Special Election & Revise Language for Property Tax Levies** - 1/10/2018 Third Hearing House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
  - Permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.
  - Substitute bill would authorize August election that only involves temporary levies.
  - Modify ballot language to reflect levy impact in terms of \$100,000 of market value.
- ❖ **HB 343 Resolution Required to Initiate Property Tax Complaint** - 1/9/2018 Sixth Hearing House Ways & Means Committee
  - Amend ORC section 5715.19 to require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.
  - One authorizing resolution for all contests; notice to each individual property owner.
- ❖ **HB 361 Increase Time for Deciding Property Tax Complaints** 12/5/2017 Reported out of House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
  - Extends the deadline for resolving a BOR complaint to 180 days and delays the beginning of that period until the last day a complaint may be filed, regardless of whether a complaint is filed before the last day.
- ❖ **HB 371 – Exempt from Taxation Increased Value on Residential Development** - 1/9/2018 Sixth Hearing House Ways & Means Committee
  - Exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold.
  - Continued opposition from local government association coalition.
- ❖ **HB 458 – Publish Delinquent Tax List Second Time Online** 1/16/2018 Referred to House Ways & Means Committee
  - Provide that, once the initial publication of a county delinquent property tax list is made in a newspaper of general circulation, the second publication of that list may be done online.