



April 11, 2017

STATE BUDGET ALERT

HOUSE NOW CRAFTING SUBSTITUTE HB 49

Major decisions will be made over the next two weeks as the House crafts their budget proposal into a substitute bill which is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the full House Finance Committee on Monday April 24th.

This substitute bill will be considered by the Finance Committee during the week of the 24th and then there will be a final omnibus amendment made to the bill before it is reported from the Committee. The House vote on HB 49, the biennial State Budget Bill, is expected by May 5th.

It is critically important that you personally talk to your House members this week and next week to ensure that they know your position on the key budget issues which the counties need to see addressed.

AMENDMENTS ADDRESSING CCAO'S FOUR MAIN BUDGET PRIORITIES

Medicaid MCO Sales Tax – There have been multiple proposals submitted for consideration that are designed to address local revenue losses from the elimination of this tax. CCAO asks that you convey our position that the **state must completely and permanently replace** the revenue lost from the elimination of the sales tax on Medicaid Managed Care Organizations.

Indigent Defense – Reps Steve Arndt and Michael O'Brien (both former county commissioners) have submitted an amendment (HC0492X1) – supported by 60 cosponsors - that would:

- Require the state to provide 50% reimbursement to counties for indigent defense expenses as well as change the statute to mandate that the state shall reimburse at the specified percentage rather than through proportional reduction.
- Reimburse counties 100% of their costs for capital cases.
- Appropriate the necessary additional funding - \$14.1 million in FY 2018 and \$15.8 million in FY 2019



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Voting Equipment – Rep Arndt and Rep John Patterson, along with several other supporters, submitted an amendment (HC1187X3) that would:

- Provide \$7 million to partially reimburse counties that have obtained new voting equipment since Jan 1, 2014. Reimbursement will be for 85% of their acquisition costs and is to be paid to county general fund.
- Provide a statement of intent that the General Assembly plans to provide additional funding to counties for voting machines and associated services and equipment for purchases, leases, or reimbursements by FY 19.

Opiate Epidemic –

- **Support to County Jails:** CCAO, the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association, and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities are recommending three specific new programs to assist jails in the treatment of their mentally ill/addicted population. These program elements are addressed in two amendments that have been submitted. Rep Scott Ryan has submitted the amendment that establishes and funds a behavioral health triage program that establishes 6 mental health crisis centers and 9 acute substance use disorder stabilization centers to provide withdrawal management and provide direct client services to jail inmates (HC0487X2). Rep Doug Green has submitted the amendment which provides reimbursement to the counties for the cost of psychotropic drugs dispensed to inmates of county jails (HC1481).
- **Additional funding for child protective services:** Several legislators are drafting amendments to address the increased costs in child protection at varying levels of funding.

OTHER IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS:

Local Government Funds – Rep. Duffey submitted a proposal to remove the governor's plan to re-distribute these funds. This amendment (HC0482) is supported by CCAO, the Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township Association.

DRC's Felony 5 Proposal – Rep Rob McColley, the chair of the House Finance Subcommittee reviewing corrections issues, has provided us with his amendment to modify the Felony 5 proposal. The amendment (HC1191X4) **does not eliminate the mandate** that all counties must participate in the program beginning in July 2019. Please ask that the amendment include the elimination of the mandate.

MARCS Radio System Subsidy - Several House members, including Rep Kirk Schuring, have indicated their interest in offering an amendment to continue the current funding which subsidizes \$10 of the \$20 monthly per unit user fee that must be paid by political subdivisions who are a part of the MARCS radio system.