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## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Ohio's *Government Affairs Update* provides information about government related matters of interest to the commercial building industry and AGC's advocacy efforts. It is e-mailed to AGC of Ohio members and available online at [www.agcoho.com/advocacy.html](http://www.agcoho.com/advocacy.html). Direct questions and comments to Andrea Ashley, VP of Government Relations: [andrea@agcoho.com](mailto:andrea@agcoho.com) or (614) 486-6446.

March 23, 2018

### OHIO LEGISLATURE SENDS CAPITAL BUDGET & REAPPROPRIATIONS TO GOVERNOR PRIOR TO TAKING SPRING BREAK

On Wednesday the Ohio Senate passed [H.B. 529](#), the \$2.63 billion capital appropriations measure; it will now go to the Governor for his signature. The bill passed with a bipartisan vote of 32-1 with Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander) objecting. Earlier this month, the House passed the budget on a bipartisan vote with three nays: Reps. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati), Bill Dean (R-Xenia), and Jonathon Dever (R-Madeira).

Significant spending in [H.B. 529](#) includes: \$600 million for school facilities, \$514 million for local infrastructure projects, \$483 million for public colleges and universities, \$222 million for health and human services facilities, and \$150 million in community projects. View the [LSC Capital Item Analysis](#), which provides all capital projects by [county](#) and a [community projects](#) by county. In addition to new spending, the bill contains \$1.26 billion in reappropriations.

The Governor must sign [H.B. 529](#) by April 1 to ensure it is effective by July 1, the start of the next fiscal year. Since it is a budget bill, the Governor has line-item veto authority.

Legislators are now home on break, campaigning for the primary and November elections. They are expected to return to the statehouse the week of April 9.

### OHIO FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION NEWS

**Increase in Bond Submission Issues:** OFCC recently informed AGC that the Commission has seen a rash of bond submission issues on single prime/GC projects including failure to submit bonds, failure to submit the correct bonds and/or failure to have valid powers of attorney. These failures result in bids that cannot be considered under the Ohio Revised Code (Ohio laws), and low bids have had to be rejected due to these bond errors. Contractors should make certain that someone is reviewing their bonds and ensuring the authority is valid, etc.

**New Website Design:** OFCC will be launching a new website design that will include security enhancements. The most noticeable change will be the layout and look of the website. Navigation to contractors' favorite pages or locations regularly visited should not change.

#### HELP AGC ADVOCATE FOR YOU - *Contribute to AGC of Ohio Action today!*

Fundraising is part of the political process, and a healthy PAC is vital to AGC's success at the Statehouse! Make checks payable to AGC of Ohio Action (non-corporate contributions only). Sole proprietors, partnerships and unincorporated associations, which include limited liability companies under Ohio campaign finance law, may use company funds to contribute; such contributions should include the name of the entity and individual making the contribution.

## BILLS OF INTEREST

The following is a list of bills in which AGC is monitoring of interest to contractors that have been introduced, had hearings, or passed over the past two weeks. Direct questions about any of the bills to Andrea Ashley at (614) 486-6446 or [andrea@agcoho.com](mailto:andrea@agcoho.com).

- HB98** **CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS** (DUFFEY M, BOGGS K) Regarding the presentation of career information to students.  
**Current Status:** 3/21/2018 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0  
**AGC Action:** AGC provided testimony in support of the legislation
- HB158** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION-MILITARY TRANSFERS** (PERALES R, CRAIG H) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.  
**Current Status:** 3/20/2018 - Senate Finance, (2nd Hearing)
- HB164** **ROOFING CONTRACTORS LICENSURE** (PATTON T) To require commercial roofing contractors to have a license.  
**Current Status:** 3/20/2018 - House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor, (4th Hearing)
- HB271** **ACCESSIBILITY LAW VIOLATION NOTICE** (MCCOLLEY R, REZABEK J) To authorize an alleged aggrieved party to provide a notice of an alleged accessibility law violation in advance of filing a civil action and to establish the circumstances under which an alleged aggrieved party is entitled to attorney's fees in a civil action based on the violation.  
**Current Status:** 3/21/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
- HB378** **OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT** (SMITH R, CERA J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.  
**Current Status:** 3/20/2018 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, House Finance, (8th Hearing)
- HB380** **WORKERS COMP-ILLEGAL ALIENS** (SEITZ B, HOUSEHOLDER L) To prohibit illegal and unauthorized aliens from receiving compensation and certain benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law.  
**Current Status:** 3/13/2018 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (1st Hearing)
- HB382** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW** (SCHURING K) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law.  
**Current Status:** 3/21/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (20th Hearing)
- HB415** **LOCAL GOV ROAD IMPROVEMENT** (GREENSPAN D, RYAN S) To allocate one-half of any surplus revenue to a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund, from which money will be distributed directly to local governments to fund road improvements.  
**Current Status:** 3/21/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
- HB504** **INTERIOR DESIGNERS** (PELANDA D) Regarding interior designers.  
**Current Status:** 3/20/2018 - House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor, (2nd Hearing)  
**AGC Action:** AGC has expressed concern about parts of the bill and is gathering feedback from members about the bill's potential impact on interior renovation projects and building depts.
- HB529** **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (RYAN S) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.  
**Current Status:** 3/21/2018 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-1  
**AGC Action:** AGC expressed support for the capital improvement funding measure.
- HJR4** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BONDS** (SCHURING K) To allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program.  
**Current Status:** 3/21/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (20th Hearing)

## OHIO PUCO TO ADDRESS STATE & FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER RULES AT AGC SAFETY MEETING

During the May 11 AGC of Ohio Safety Meeting, Lillian Lancaster, a safety investigator for the PUCO's Transportation Enforcement Division, will provide and update on state and federal Motor Carrier Safety Rules. Her presentation will address both the interstate and intrastate regulations, and will include major changes like the ELD Rule, National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Rule), etc.

Meetings are held at the AGC office in Columbus; they are free of charge and open to all AGC of Ohio members. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the Motor Carrier Rule presentation will be first on the agenda. Other topics regularly addressed include OSHA regulatory and enforcement activity, workers' compensation issues, and any other safety-related items of interest.

To attend, RSVP to Andrea Ashley at [andrea@agcoho.com](mailto:andrea@agcoho.com) or (614) 486-6446.



## ON THE NATIONAL FRONT... *Information courtesy of AGC of America*

### BILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR CONSTRUCTION IN FY 2018 FUNDING BILL

On March 21, congressional leaders unveiled a [funding bill](#) for fiscal year (FY) 2018 that includes at least \$10 billion in additional infrastructure investment—compared to FY 2017 and promised in the [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018](#)—for roads, bridges, mass transit, airports, ports, flood control, drinking water and waste water facilities, military construction, low income housing construction and more. To view summaries of the various pieces of this legislation, click [here](#) and [here](#).

On Thursday, the U.S. House passed the funding measure on a [256-167 vote](#), and the Senate did the same early this morning by a [65-32 vote](#). The bill will keep the federal government open through September. AGC called on thousands of its [social media](#) grassroots supporters to urge Congress to keep its \$10 billion infrastructure investment promise.

[AGC pushed for Congress](#) to pass the bill; however, the association also noted the litany of critical construction issues that remain unresolved by this bill and Congress, including but not limited to the need for long-term infrastructure funding, border security and immigration reform, and multiemployer pension reform. AGC will provide more details on this FY 2018 funding bill as it continues its review of the legislation.

### COMMERCE DEPT PUBLISHES EXCLUSION PROCESS PROCEDURES FOR STEEL AND ALUMINUM PRODUCTS *AGC Joins Coalition to Help Mitigate Effects of Tariffs on the Construction Industry*

On March 19, the Department of Commerce published its [exclusion process procedures](#) (interim final rule) for steel and aluminum tariffs. The Department's Bureau of Industry and Security will collect comments on the interim final rule until May 18, and the Bureau's website provides more information about the [steel](#) and [aluminum](#) exclusion/objection process, as well as links to downloadable forms. Companies will need to consider both commenting on the rule (so as to address issues with the Department's procedures) and submitting exclusions requests in a prompt fashion. The new duties go into effect on March 23.

At present, there is still no published guidance for the country exemption process, but U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer indicated to the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday that the process will likely be concluded by the end of April. Aside from Canada and Mexico – which are currently exempted due to NAFTA renegotiations – Argentina, Australia, Brazil, South Korea, and the EU will also be exempted for now.

Since President Trump signed the steel and aluminum tariffs, AGC has joined the National Foreign Trade Council's Alliance for Competitive Steel and Aluminum Trade (ACSAT), the premier coalition working collectively to mitigate the tariffs' effects on a range of American industries. As the sole representative of the construction industry within the Coalition, AGC will be leveraging our engaged membership to collect company specific data, executives' quotes, and company anecdotes to demonstrate the tariff's impact on construction so that we can advocate effectively before members of Congress. If your company would like to provide this information, [please forward](#) to AGC's Chief Economist, Ken Simonson. AGC is diligently monitoring developments in this space and is committed to helping members navigate this period of confusion.