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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. Direct questions and comments to Andrea Ashley, VP of Government Relations: andrea@agcoho.com or (614) 486-6446.

March 8, 2019

OHIO HOUSE PASSES 10.7 GAS TAX INCREASE; SENATE BEGINS DELIBERATIONS NEXT WEEK

The state's \$7.94 billion two-year transportation budget passed the Ohio House Thursday afternoon in a bipartisan vote of 71-27 (view vote [here](#)). The House significantly changed the Governor's original proposal contained in [H.B. 62](#), including slashing the Governor's proposed \$0.18 gas tax increase to 10.7 cents per gallon.

Those favoring the AGC-supported budget and gas tax included 40 republicans and 31 democrats. It was opposed by a third of the majority GOP caucus and won the support of most Democrats. The vote highlights the new political dynamics of the House, where Speaker Householder was elevated to the leadership position with the aid of Democratic votes.

The governor's original proposal called for an increase the motor vehicle fuel tax of 18 cents per gallon effective July 1 without any phase-in and indexed; it would have generated \$1.2 billion. Instead, the House voted to lower the request to 10.7 cents per gallon without an index and phased in over two years; it also increased the diesel fuel tax by 20 cents per gallon, spread over three years. Once fully phased in, the increased taxes would generate an additional \$872 million annually.

Other spending changes of interest in the legislation:

- Increase spending on public transit from \$40 million to \$100 million
- Change in the gas tax revenue allocation from 60-40% split between the state and local governments to a 55-54% split
- \$200 fee on electric vehicles and \$100 for hybrids
- \$5 increase deputy registrar fee

During the House's deliberations, Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) offered a floor amendment that would have doubled the threshold for prevailing wage on public projects. It was tabled in a 71-27 vote (view the votes on page 9 of the [House Journal](#)).

The Ohio Senate will begin hearings on [H.B. 62](#) next week, where additional changes will likely be made. Both chambers must approve and settle any differences in the transportation budget by March 31. Once approved, it would take effect July 1.

EDGE GRADUATION UPDATE; INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

Last year, the Ohio Equal Opportunity Division (EOD) [announced](#) that it would be graduating EDGE participants according to its time limit policy; the division also indicated that a list of graduating EDGE participants would be posted to educate those who may use them on their projects. AGC of Ohio has been informed that companies expiring in 2018 are granted until 10/01/2019 to ensure their affairs were in order before their EDGE certification is ended. OED will put out a list of graduating companies on its web page in the near future.

In other EDGE news, the Ohio Inspector General released a [report](#) highlighting concerns with the EOD's process for approving EDGE companies and failure to remove those whose terms have expired or that are no longer considered financially disadvantaged. View the report [here](#). AGC member McDonald Hopkins published two alerts on the matter that provide a good synopsis: [Hundreds of Ohio EDGE Certifications called into question after investigation by Ohio Inspector General](#) and [An overview of Ohio's EDGE program following an investigative report by the inspector general](#).



ON THE NATIONAL FRONT...

Information courtesy of AGC of America

Learn more about AGC of America's advocacy efforts at <https://advocacy.agc.org>.

OSHA CRANE OPERATOR EVALUATION REQUIREMENT TAKES EFFECT

Listen to ConstructorCast Podcast for all the Important Details

As of Feb. 7, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires all contractors to evaluate crane operators under the [new final rule](#) regulating crane operator qualification and evaluation. AGC of America spent nearly 16 years working with OSHA under three different presidential administrations to make this rule less burdensome and provide the greatest positive safety impact possible. The latest episode of ConstructorCast covers all the important details you need to know to ensure your firm is in compliance as the requirements take full effect and beyond. Download or stream the episode [here](#).

Our mission to help AGC members does not stop when the ink dries on regulations impacting your construction company. We also want to help ensure you have the information necessary to comply. That is why we created valuable [AGC educational resources](#). Specifically, AGC created a [summary of crane operator and evaluation rule](#) operator and evaluation rule and a [sample form for crane operator evaluation](#). These materials represent the hard work of many AGC member safety professionals and AGC staff who want to ensure that this industry is not only safer, but also in compliance with the law. And, more resources will be coming soon.