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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.

July 18, 2019

Ohio Legislature Finally Passes State Operating & BWC Budgets; Industry Issues Addressed

On July 17, both the Ohio House and Senate passed the biennial operating budget that funds state government operations ([H.B. 166](#)) and the Ohio BWC budget ([H.B. 80](#)). Both budgets were supposed to be signed into law and their appropriations effective July 1, but the legislature extended the deadlines and provided temporary funding to keep state government operating while the House and Senate worked through their differences on the measures.

The \$69 billion, two-year operating budget included a significant amount of policy, some impacting construction employers.

- The bill's welding standards provisions were modified at AGC's request to do away with an unnecessary bureaucracy that was being created within the Dept of Industrial Compliance, address inappropriately assigned responsibility for structural steel welds to contractors not performing the welding, and some other minor changes.
- AGC was part of a coalition of nine industry groups that had construction removed from a mentorship program designed for manufacturers that did not account for the risk and unique concerns of minors on multiemployer, active jobsites.
- AGC also supported language that authorizes the Superintendent of the Division of Industrial Compliance to administer and enforce the building code on behalf of political subdivisions or health districts, which will local building departments an optional tool to help address any staffing issues and ensure efficient plan review and timely building code inspections.

Also of concern to some contractors were the tax proposals impacting business income. The bill retains the deduction at \$250,000 and the three percent cap on income above that, but excludes attorneys and lobbyists from the deduction.

Governor DeWine signed H.B. 166 this morning, exercising his line-item veto authority on 25 items, most dealing with education and Medicaid. The funding portion of the bill took effect today, and the policy will go into effect in 90 days, unless identified otherwise.

For the Ohio BWC budget, the major policy changes – including one designed to prevent misclassified workers – were removed from the final version of the bill.

Thank you to all AGC of Ohio members who provided feedback on the policy matters contained in the legislation!