

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



AGC OF OHIO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS QUESTIONNAIRE; LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Complete survey by February 15; [link to survey](#). Legislative Committee meets March 15; [RSVP attendance](#)

AGC of Ohio surveys members every two years to provide guidance for the association's advocacy efforts. To help AGC best represent companies like yours, please complete the [survey](#) by February 15. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss a specific issue, contact Andrea Ashley at andrea@agcoho.com or 614-486-6446. Feel free to forward the [questionnaire](#) to others in your company who may want to share their insight.

The AGC of Ohio Legislative Committee will meet on March 15 from 10:30 a.m. to noon to review the survey results and identify potential legislative priorities, as well as address any current legislative issues. If interested in attending, RSVP your attendance to Andrea Ashley at AGC of Ohio: andrea@agcoho.com.

OHIO STATEHOUSE UPDATE

The 134th General Assembly (G.A.) officially began in January. House and Senate leadership teams have been elected, with much less drama than the last G.A. that included a vicious Speaker's battle. For the first half of this year, the legislature will focus on key budget bills that are introduced during the first few months of each new G.A.: the transportation budget, state operating budget, and the BWC and Industrial Commission budgets. (Note the capital bill is usually introduced during the G.A.'s second year.) Expect efforts to stimulate the economy, financially aid businesses impacted by the pandemic, limit the Ohio Dept. of Health's authority, and lessen bureaucracy and regulations. Committees began hearing legislation over the past two weeks. Several bills of interest to construction have already been introduced. Two of note have received hearings:

SB18 - Internal Revenue Code (Roegner, R-Hudson; Schaffer, R-Lancaster): To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since March 27, 2020, into Ohio law and to declare an emergency. 2/10/2021 - passed by Senate; Vote 32-0, Emergency Clause 32-0. *SB 18 is being fast-tracked and was amended last week with language to exempt the BWC dividends provided to employers from Ohio's CAT tax. The BWC received a legal opinion stating there is no statutory exclusion in Ohio Revised Code, and the dividends would be included in the definition of gross receipts and thus subjected to CAT. Employers will for the first time receive 1099s for their dividends. AGC supports exempting BWC dividends from Ohio's CAT tax.*

SB25 - Prohibit Defrauding Drug Tests (Gavarone, R-Bowling Green): To enhance penalties for certain drug trafficking offenses committed in the vicinity of a substance addiction services provider, to prohibit defrauding an alcohol, drug, or urine screening test, and to name the act's provisions the Relapse Reduction Act. 2/9/2021 - Senate Judiciary, (Second Hearing). *This bill was first introduced during the last G.A. at the request of CEA, which houses the Cleveland AGC, and is supported by AGC of Ohio. After receiving bipartisan support, it was lost in the last-minute chaos and shuffling of legislation during lame duck last year. The reintroduced bill has already received two hearings, and AGC last week submitted testimony in support of the prohibition and penalties for defrauding a drug test.*

Other recently introduced bills of interest that are being monitored by AGC include: HB15 - Designate William Burgett Memorial Highway; HB68 - Private Contractor Payments; HB74 - FY 22-23 Transportation Budget; HB75 - FY22-23 Workers' Compensation Budget; HB76 - FY22-23 Industrial Commission Budget; HB88 - Require License for Commercial Roofing Contractors; HB91 - Authorize Certain Public-Private Initiatives; HB100 - Regards to Jail Construction/Maintenance; SB9 - Reduce Regulations; SB 13 - Shorten Period of Limitations-Contracts; SB 56 - Indemnity-Design Contracts.

SURVEY TO GUIDE EFFORTS ON ONEROUS PROVISIONS ADDED TO PUBLIC CONTRACTS

Click [here](#) to access the survey.

CEA compiled an analysis of the discussed one-sided contract terms being incorporated into public contracts. [This survey](#) shares the analysis and asks contractors to rate each term from 1-5 stars (5 being most important). AGC of Ohio is working with CEA to help educate contractors about the onerous provisions. Respondents' feedback will help direct the effort.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEST PORTIONS OF OFCC'S NEW VERSION OF OAKS-CI

Flexible Time Commitment; Remote Testing from Office/Home

AGC of Ohio has had meetings with OFCC over the past two years about problems with the current version of OAKS-CI. OFCC has been rewriting the program to create a "Version 2," and asked AGC to help find volunteers to perform external stakeholder testing on portions of it. The testing would take place remotely, and volunteers need only to commit the amount of time they have available over the course of two months. If your company would like to volunteer someone who has a familiarity with OAKS-CI, e-mail andrea@agcohio.com and additional information will be forwarded to you.

AGC CONSTRUCTION IMPACT MODEL

Access model [here](#).

AGC of America partnered with a leading regional economist, Brian Lewandowski of the University of Colorado Boulder, to create AGC's Construction Impact Model. The model is a tool that can be used by AGC members, chapters, policy makers and researchers to understand the economic impact of infrastructure investment by state. In fact, AGC of Ohio shared this information with the Ohio's Office of Budget & Management to help tout the economic benefits of the capital bill late last year. To access AGC's Construction Impact Tool [click here](#). For more information on how to use the tool click [here](#).

AGC OF AMERICA ACTION ALERT: PRO ACT REINTRODUCED

Click [here](#) and simply fill in your contact info to express your opposition to Congress

The misleadingly-named Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act was reintroduced in Congress last week. This legislation would dismantle the delicate balance of federal labor policy that has endured for decades by providing unions with additional economic weapons without regard to their detrimental impact on an employee's right to free choice and privacy and an employer's ability to effectively manage its operations regardless of whether it is a union or open shop firm. [Take Action](#) to tell your members of Congress to oppose this anti-worker, anti-privacy, and anti-recovery legislation. Please tell your colleagues and peers in the industry to take action at advocacy.agc.org/proact or by texting "AGCA" to 52886.

A LOOK BACK TO 2020...

Recap of AGC of Ohio's Advocacy: Click [here](#) to view brief recap highlighting some of AGC's advocacy efforts last year.

AGC of Ohio Action Contributors 2020: A huge THANK YOU to those who contributed to AGC of Ohio Action, AGC of Ohio's political action committee (PAC) over the past year. PAC contributions allow AGC to support Ohio legislators and statewide office holders and educate them about the construction industry. AGC Action was instrumental in ensuring construction was deemed an essential industry in Ohio amid the Coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to members' continued support, AGC over the years has been able to build relationships with and educate our elected officials, including those the current Administration.

Thank you to our supporters for 2020!

- AGC of Northwest Ohio PAC
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