A Legislative Briefing from the AOS
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Auditor of State’s Office
• Responsible for auditing 5,800 entities
• Rooting out fraud and corruption in public offices
• Conducting Performance Audits for governments at all levels

Policy Initiatives
• SB 239 – Councils of Government
• HB 312 - Credit and Debit Card Fraud Prevention
• SB 218 - Medicaid Provider Fraud Prevention
• SB 268 – Escalating Penalties for Theft in Office
• HB 50/SB 90 - SNAP
• Financial Health Indicators
• DataOhio
• Village Dissolution Update
SB 239 – COG Reform

- Prevents Councils of Government (COGs) from taking legally binding action until they register with AOS
- Clarifies that membership records are public records
- Members of COGs are subject to Ohio ethics law and cannot claim sovereign immunity for actions that have violated ethics laws

HB 312 - Credit and Debit Card Fraud Prevention

- Sets uniform standards for credit card use in all local governments
- All entities that use a card enact a policy
- 2 Models
  - Custody and Control
  - Compliance Officer

- Creates a penalty for fraudulent or improper use of card charged as an M-1
- Prohibits use of debit cards except by law enforcement and where grant monies are tied to the card.
SB 218 – Medicaid Fraud Prevention

- Requires surety bonds for Medicaid transportation and home health providers
  - Exemption for independent providers caring for a family member with clean structural review
- Require these provider types to complete prerequisite training.

Theft in Office

- Adds higher charges to Theft in Office statute.
  - $150,000 - 750,000 charged as F-2
  - $750,000+ can be charged as an F-1
- Allows forensic audit costs to be ordered as part of restitution in TiO cases

HB 50 & SB 80 – Promoting SNAP Integrity

- 2016 audit report revealed a number of critical areas where fraud may occur
  - Dead recipients, big balances, number of purchases in short time frame
- Congressional testimony on the Farm Bill
HB 50 & SB 80 – Promoting SNAP Integrity

- The bills allow photos to be placed on the SNAP/EBT Cards
- Exceptions to who is required to have a picture
  - Blind, disabled, elderly

DataOhio and HB 3

- HB 3 (Duffey, Hagan) is an initiative to promote transparency in government
- Permissive language establishes a uniform chart of accounts in rule
- Permissive language establishes uniform accounting procedures for all local governments in rule

Financial Health Indicators

- 17 indicators measuring fiscal stress for cities and counties
- 2nd year of indicators now available with new search capabilities
  - Year-to-year
  - Compare all entities in a county
Streamlining Voluntary Village Dissolution

• Provision in the budget that streamlined the procedure for the submission of village dissolution petitions
• Provides the procedures for transfer of assets at onset of dissolution

Dissolution Petitions

• Allows petitions for dissolution to be submitted to the Board of Elections
  – Petitions can already be submitted to the legislative authority
• Decreases the signature threshold to qualify for the ballot from 40% to 30%

Transfer of Assets

• Allows for a timely transfer of tangible assets (equipment, buildings, etc.)
• States that the cash balance can only be transferred after an audit by AOS
• Water and sewer transfers must be done in a timely manner per an agreement by the village and township
Legislative Affairs

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