



Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Legislative Update

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Legislative Update Overview

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- House Bill 38, Public Safety and Military Protection Act, Rep. Dave Greenspan
- House Bill 69, Levy Revenue Reimbursement, Rep. Bob Cupp
- House Bill 79, Medical Professional Firearms Training, Rep. Wes Retherford
- House Bill 226, Fireworks Study Group and Expansion, Rep. Bill Seitz and Rep. Martin Sweeney
- House Bill 298, Public Employee Sick Days, Rep. Dan Merrin
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132nd General Assembly Update

- The legislature is currently in their second year of the biennium.
- With 2018 being an election year, the General Assembly will break before the May primaries and will take an extended break before the November general elections.
- Any bill will need to be passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kasich before December 31, 2018, or else it will die and need to be re-introduced in the 133rd General Assembly starting January 2019.



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House Bill 38, Public Safety and Military Protection Act



- Sponsored by Rep. Dave Greenspan of the 16th House District.
- The legislation would provide that purposely causing the death of a first responder or military member is aggravated murder. Additionally, HB 38 would toughen the penalty for felonious assault on a first responder or military member from a 2nd degree felony to a 1st degree felony.
- The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association supports the bill. In addition to police officers, all first responders are now targets.
- Evidence: December 2016 Youngstown OH. A fire truck was shot at while responding to a call. One responder was struck in the leg and two responders had shots go through their gear.

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House Bill 69, Levy Revenue Reimbursement



- Sponsored by Rep. Bob Cupp of the 4th House District.
- The bill requires reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing (TIF) district.
- Fire and emergency services are the only taxing entity that is prohibited by a TIF from ensuring they can financially accommodate the increased demand on their services from the growth or development of a TIF district.
- The OFCA has taken a supportive position on the bill. The bill was passed by the General Assembly in December and signed by Governor Kasich.

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House Bill 79, Medical Professional Firearms Training



- Sponsored by Rep. Wes Retherford of the 51st House District.
- The bill provides firearm training for **tactical** medical professionals, and permitting carrying while tactically deployed. Additionally, the bill grants a tactical medic the same right to conceal carry.
- The OFCA supported HB 79 allowing medics that serve on SWAT team the ability to defend themselves and protect other members. Previously, they technically could not carry a firearm, creating problems in these potentially often violent situations.
- The legislation was passed by the General Assembly with a 90-7 vote in the House of Representatives and 31-0 in the Senate. Governor Kasich signed the bill on March 1st.

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House Bill 226, Fireworks Study Group and Expansion

- Sponsored by Rep. Bill Seitz of the 30th House District and Rep. Martin Sweeney of the 14th House District.
- The bill establishes a fireworks study group to review and make recommendations regarding the fireworks law.
- Additionally, the bill extends the moratorium on issuing fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses to July 1, 2020.
- If the fireworks study committee's recommendations are not acted upon by the General Assembly before July 1, 2020 then the following would happen:
 - A fee will be imposed on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks in the state.
 - Expansion on the ability to obtain 1.3G display fireworks and 1.4G consumer fireworks for individuals.



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House Bill 226, Fireworks Study Group and Expansion

- The OFCA is supportive.
- We are excited to participate on the fireworks study group during the extended moratorium and collaborate with other interested parties to determine how to properly update Ohio's fireworks laws.
- Injuries are occurring under current laws and regulations. **We believe that this bill gives us the opportunity to decrease injuries by allowing the fireworks industry and public safety forces to educate the public how best to protect them, and their loved ones.**
- The bill is currently in the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee and has received two hearings. HB 226 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 83-14.

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House Bill 298, Public Employee Sick Days

- Rep. Derek Merrin of the 47th House District.
- HB 298 would make changes to the number of sick days provided to public employees, including those in the fire service.
- The bill changes the state minimum of sick days from approximately 15-days per year to approximately 10-days per year.
- The OFCA opposes this bill due to the change in the number of days, but it also removes the ability from locals to set their own minimum, as long as it was at least the state minimum.



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House Bill 298, Public Employee Sick Days

- This bill would remove the local control and collective bargaining that currently exists.
- HB 298 has received two hearings in the House State and Local Government Committee with no proponents testifying on the bill.

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House Bill 419, Emergency Vehicles Lights and Sirens

- Rep. Mike Henne of the 40th House District.
- The bill would only allow a liability defense used by a political subdivision if, at the time of the accident, the emergency vehicle was using all lights and sirens simultaneously.
- The OFCA opposes HB 419.
- There are different emergency situations where the use of lights and sirens is not needed, or shouldn't be avoided.
 - When responding to an active crime scene.
 - When transferring an individual to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.
 - When responding to a call late at night when roads are clear.



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Senate Bill 103, County Emergency Management Programs

- Sponsor Sen. Bill Coley of the 4th Senate District.
- SB 103 would allow for the county commissioners to decide to have either the county sheriff, or county fire chief, run the county's EMA
- The OFCA is opposed.
 - No such thing as a county fire chief
 - County Sheriff serving as the emergency management director creates numerous problems & unintended consequences.
- **Potential loss of funding through the EMPG grants that county emergency management programs receive.** Those grants stipulate that the money awarded cannot be administered by a law enforcement official.



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Opioid Legislation

- The following bills regarding the opioid epidemic have been introduced:
 - House Bill 427, Addiction, Overdose Response Programs, Rep. Young
 - House Bill 535, Naloxone-Naltrexone Data Reporting, Rep. Gavarone



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Opioid Legislation

- The current opioid epidemic is a concern for lawmakers and they have taken action to fight the epidemic in different ways, from increased drug offenses to providing more state dollars to treatment.
- House Bill 427 and House Bill 535 are of interest to the fire service because of the inclusion of certain reporting requirements. We have worked with sponsors on our concerns, while still providing insightful input that will help strengthen the legislation.

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House Bill 427, Addiction and Overdose Response Programs

- Sponsored by Rep. Ron Young of the 61st House District.
- The bill includes many different provisions including:
 - Authorizing an emergency medical services person to transport an overdose survivor, without consent, to a hospital or inpatient drug treatment facility for emergency assessment and stabilization.
 - Requires a drug abuse response team (DART), or quick response team (QRT), that receives a grant from the Ohio Attorney General to include an approved faith-based organization, if one exists in the relevant community.
 - Requires monthly reporting from emergency medical services personnel and peace officers who have administered naloxone.

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House Bill 535, Naloxone-Naltrexone Data Reporting

- Sponsored by Rep. Theresa Gavarone of the 3rd House District.
- HB 535 requires the Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS) to report the following information, if the information is collected by DPS regarding the administration of naloxone by emergency medical service personnel or firefighter, to the Ohio Department of Health:
 - The five digit postal zip code plus four digit add-on where naloxone was administered.
 - The date the naloxone was administered.
 - The number of doses administered.
 - The name of the emergency medical service organization or fire department that administered the naloxone.
 - Whether or not an overdose was reversed.
 - Whether the individual receiving the naloxone was taken to a hospital.

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Board of Pharmacy Rules

- Wet Ink Signature Rule
 - Wet ink signatures had historically worked well, but advances in technology are creating confusing because of the use of electronic reporting systems.
 - To alleviate any confusion in reporting standards, we worked with the Ohio Board of Pharmacy on updated rules that would allow for another form of positive identification on mobile units.
 - After months of work with the Board of Pharmacy, the new rule became effective on March 1st.



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Board of Pharmacy Rules

- Fees for satellite locations
 - Recently, the Board of Pharmacy was set to increase the fee for a satellite location to \$220 per location.
 - After working with the Board, increase was administratively delayed until April 2, 2018
 - Fee will be reapplied at the \$220.



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Thank You!

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