



HOUSING

1. **Residential Economic Development District:** Ohio is at a critical juncture in its economic development, if we do not address housing in areas where it is needed most, we will continue to lose out on opportunities for companies to bring or expand their business in Ohio.

***HOUSE BILL:** Created Housing Accelerator Fund for those local communities which adopted pro-housing policies and allocated \$2.5 million per FY.*

***SENATE BILL:** Included Sen. Reynolds SB 184 created a Residential Economic Development District within 20 miles of a project with at least \$700 million in investment or creation of 700 jobs and allocates \$10 million in FY26 and \$15 million in FY27.*

***CONFERENCE:** Included Senate version while removing some discretion from Director of Development and making applications and scoring metrics subject to public record.*

2. **Township Zoning Referendum Process:** This is crucial for the future of economic development projects in this state by allowing zoning amendments around megaprojects to have immediate effect rather than be bogged down, ultimately increasing capital costs, by referendums.

***HOUSE BILL:** Included LOCCD22 which exempts zoning amendments related to megaprojects from the zoning referendum process.*

***SENATE BILL:** Removed House provision but included raising threshold to referendum a township, municipal, or home-rule township zoning amendment from 15% to 35%.*

***CONFERENCE:** Included House version with exemption and included Senate version raising threshold to referendum a zoning amendment from 15% to 35%.*

3. **Ohio Housing Trust Fund Fees:** Following a constitutional amendment in 1990 which declared housing a public purpose, the Housing Trust Fund was created and has been a pillar in effectively addressing homelessness and affording housing services ever since. Eliminating state oversight of Ohio's housing resources would create 88 new layers of bureaucracy and inefficiency and greatly diminish the state's return on investment. Furthermore, eliminating the OHTF's use of these funds seeks to disproportionately affect sub-urban and rural areas that are often overlooked by federal programs.

***HOUSE BILL:** Included DEVCD57 which eliminated the requirement that a share of the Low- and Moderate-income Housing Trust Fund fees collected by county recorders be deposited into the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.*

***SENATE BILL:** Removed provision.*

CONFERENCE: *Maintained Senate version with no provision.*

EDUCATION

4. **Higher Education:** A strong economy depends on a skilled workforce— especially in high-tech and emerging industries. Furthermore, companies look to invest in states with strong higher education institutions. To keep Ohio competitive amongst its peers, OBRT continues to advocate for OCOG funding, the Choose Ohio First and Governor's Merit Scholarship, TechCred and student-outcome based SSI funding.

HOUSE BILL: *Increased SSI formula by 2% while maintaining most of the Executive higher education provisions except subjecting SSI funding to compliance with accelerated degree attainment (BORCD112) and Pell-eligible student population numbers (BORCD111).*

SENATE BILL: *Maintained House 2% SSI increase while removing new set-asides. Included new \$100 million earmark from the SSI formula to S.B. 1 (136th GA) compliance.*

CONFERENCE: *Maintained Senate version but added compliance with accelerated degree attainment (BORCD112) while extending time to comply to 2027-28 academic year and reduced new earmark for to S.B. 1 (136th GA) compliance to \$75 million.*

5. **Education and Workforce Data Insight Board:** Ohio is blessed to have a strong foundation of early childhood, K-12, higher education, and workforce data. However, the state could be doing much more to make that data more useful for students, families, educators, advocates, and policymakers. Our state needs a strong backbone of secure, cross-agency data covering the student's education journey to aid in making the best policy decisions for our future.

HOUSE BILL: *No provision.*

SENATE BILL: *Established the Education and Workforce Data Insights Board ("Board") to make the state's education and workforce data more useful, applicable, and beneficial to the state's citizens and put the responsibility under OWT.*

CONFERENCE: *Removed Senate provision.*

6. **Career Readiness and Exploration Funds:** This program has demonstrated success in providing students with valuable career-focused opportunities. There is no reason the funding should be pulled on a program that continues to have a positive return-on-investment for Ohio.

HOUSE BILL: *Removed Executive Budget proposal (EDUCD20) that requires the lead district of each career-technical planning district (CTPD) receiving career awareness and exploration funds to report to DEW on the use of those funds.*

SENATE BILL: *Restored provision but reduced earmark to \$5 million in each FY and decreases from \$10 to \$3 the amount multiplied by the enrolled ADM for all districts.*

CONFERENCE: *Maintained Senate version.*

CHILD CARE

7. **Publicly Funded Childcare, Child Care Choice Voucher Program and Tri-Share Model:** This is a top issue for the business community in helping keep (and bring back) talented members of the workforce who have left due to the enormous expense of childcare. The impact that these programs could have, if fully funded, could bring thousands of skilled individuals back to the workforce.

***HOUSE BILL:** Removed Executive provision (KIDCD21) which raised eligibility for PFCC to 160% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and 300% of the FPL for continued eligibility. Also removed Executive provision (KIDCD17) which allowed those families not eligible for PFCC, but that don't exceed 200% of the FPL, to receive a childcare voucher.*

Included the House language (KIDCD52) establishing the Child Care Cred Program, also known as the tri-share model, that allows for costs of child care to be shared by participating employees, employers, and DCY.

***SENATE BILL:** Maintained House provisions with PFCC and the childcare voucher while also removing Child Care Cred Program from House version.*

***CONFERENCE:** Maintained Senate provisions with PFCC and the childcare voucher but restored Child Care Cred Program from House version.*

MISCELLANEOUS

8. **NextGen 9-1-1 Fee Increase:** An increased fee from \$0.40 to \$0.60 is a direct tax on businesses and residents in the state of Ohio. Furthermore, the increase is not needed as determined by the State Auditor's audit and DAS testimony which stated that the \$0.40 fee is sufficient to cover projected costs through 2032.

***HOUSE BILL:** Included DASCD29 which increases the Next Generation 911 access fee from \$0.40 to \$0.60.*

***SENATE BILL:** Maintained House increase at \$0.60.*

***CONFERENCE:** Maintained Senate version.*

9. **SNAP Purchase Restrictions:** These types of restrictions would overly burden retailers as they would face complicated compliance costs such as updating point of sale systems, employee training, and record-keeping to name a few. The retail industry provides one in every four jobs in Ohio, more than any other industry in the state. Furthermore, food and agriculture are Ohio's number one industry, adding \$124 billion to our economy each year. Any purchase restriction language sends a negative message about doing business in Ohio—and will accomplish neither cost-savings nor better health outcomes.

***HOUSE BILL:** Included JFSCD40 which requires ODJFS to seek a waiver to exclude sugar-sweetened beverages as items that may be purchased under SNAP.*

***SENATE BILL:** Removed.*

CONFERENCE: *Restored House version.*

10. **All Ohio Future Fund:** One of the key factors that impacts Ohio's ability to compete for—and win—major economic development opportunities is the existence of developable sites. Companies typically have very specific criteria when seeking a site for their investment, and if we cannot provide a site that meets their needs, we do not have the chance to compete for their investment. There are a number of sites in communities across the state that are currently in the queue to receive funds via the All Ohio Future Fund, which the House changes would put in jeopardy. These funds are needed to help expand infrastructure or conduct due diligence activities that would make these sites more attractive to a potential end user.

HOUSE BILL: *Included provisions in DEVCD39 which eliminated appropriating authority for the All Ohio Future Fund and re-appropriated \$250 million from the Fund the Brownfield Remediation Fund in FY26 (DEVCD40).*

SENATE BILL: *Maintained Brownfield Remediation allocation from All Ohio Future Fund at \$250 million but also re-appropriated \$250 million more of the fund to GRF.*

CONFERENCE: *Decreased Brownfield Remediation allocation from All Ohio Future Fund to \$200 million but also maintained \$250 million re-appropriation to GRF.*

11. **PBM Regulation:** This language, which was HB 505 in the 135th General Assembly, will result in a multi-billion-dollar tax hike on prescription drugs that will trickle down directly to the consumer. Furthermore, mandating a new dispensing fee per prescription, the legislation interferes with the free market and imposes significant additional costs on Ohioans at the pharmacy.

HOUSE BILL: *Included INSCD6 which requires pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to reimburse Ohio-incorporated pharmacies that dispense a drug for the "actual acquisition cost" as determined by the Department of Insurance, prohibits a PBM from reimbursing an Ohio pharmacy less than the amount the PBM reimburses its affiliated pharmacies for providing the same drug product, and allows an Ohio pharmacy to decline to provide a drug product if the pharmacy is reimbursed less than the required amount (SC0291).*

SENATE BILL: *Portion of amendment was maintained but most harmful provision related to mandated dispensing fee was removed.*

CONFERENCE: *Maintained Senate provisions but also required that PBMs must reimburse for the "actual acquisition costs" of a drug.*

12. **Air Pollution Fee:** The As-Introduced annual fee for those under the air pollution control program was supported by the energy sector in maintaining solvency in programs that are operated by the Ohio EPA. Without the increase in revenue, these programs run the risk of being taken over by the federal EPA, something the industry does not support. The Executive proposal was well thought out and drafted with the industry at the table while the House version only disrupts the status quo and creates a significant and disproportionate fee increase on Ohio energy-generators.

HOUSE BILL: **Removed** EPACD3 of Executive Budget proposal which established an annual fee of \$5,000 charged to Title V air pollution control permit holders and synthetic minor air facility permit holders in addition to existing emission-based annual fees, and (2) increased fees related to Ohio EPA's air pollution control program, including fees for facility permits to install and annual fees that are based on total air pollution emissions or emission capacity by 50%.

SENATE BILL: **Restored** Executive provisions.

CONFERENCE: **Maintained** Executive provisions.

13. **Data Center Sales Tax Exemption:** To pay for the flat income tax, the Ohio Senate proposed an elimination of the sales tax exemption afforded to data centers. OBRT believes the extensive network of data centers in Ohio contributes significantly to our economic development. As other states are adopting these mechanisms to lure data centers to their states, this move jeopardizes Ohio's competitiveness and economic development momentum.

HOUSE BILL: **No provision**

SENATE BILL: **Included** provision to eliminate the sales tax exemption for data centers beginning October 1, 2025.

CONFERENCE: **Maintained** Senate provisions.