



NAWBO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Prepared by: Rachel Winder
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- HB38** **COMMERCIAL CREDIT REPORTING** (HILLYER B) To require a commercial credit reporting agency to provide credit reports to businesses and to establish a procedure whereby a business may dispute statements on the report.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-38>
- HB81** **WORKERS COMP-BODILY FLUID EXPOSURE** (PERALES R) Regarding Workers' Compensation coverage of post-exposure medical diagnostic services for a detention facility employee's exposure to another person's blood or bodily fluids.
Current Status: 6/16/2020 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-81>
- HB159** **INDEMNITY PROVISIONS-PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS** (BLESSING III L) To regulate the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts related to public improvements.
Current Status: 6/2/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Civil Justice, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-159>
- HB218** **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS** (PATTON T) To authorize certain public entities to enter into public-private initiatives with a private party through a public-private agreement regarding public facilities.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - **BILL AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-218>
- HB251** **CONTRACT ACTION-PERIOD OF LIMITATION** (LANG G, HILLYER B) To shorten the period of limitations for actions upon a contract.
Current Status: 6/24/2020 - **BILL AMENDED**, Senate Judiciary, (Seventh Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-251>

- HB258 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE-APPRENTICESHIP (POWELL J)** To require a licensing authority to issue an occupational license to an applicant who completes a registered apprenticeship program and meets other requirements for licensure.
Current Status: 6/11/2020 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Economic and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-258>
- HB263 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING-CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (KOEHLER K)** To revise the initial occupational licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.
Current Status: 6/24/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-263>
- HB308 PTSD COVERAGE - FIRST RESPONDERS (PATTON T)** Concerning workers' compensation and disability retirement for peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical workers diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder arising from employment without an accompanying physical injury.
Current Status: 6/3/2020 - Senate General Government and Agency Review , (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-308>
- HB324 DAMAGES-ADJUST FOR INFLATION (MILLER A)** To raise the limitations on damages for noneconomic loss and punitive damages in certain tort actions based on adjustments for inflation from the year 2005 to 2019.
Current Status: 6/24/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-324>
- HB339 INSURANCE CODE CORRECTIONS (MERRIN D)** To enact the "Insurance Code Correction Act" to make technical and corrective changes to the laws governing insurance.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-339>
- HB368 COMPUTER CRIMES (BALDRIDGE B)** To enact the Ohio Computer Crimes Act.
Current Status: 6/10/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-368>
- HB390 REGARDING INSURANCE PREMIUMS, BENEFITS (CROSSMAN J, CLITES R)** Regarding health insurance premiums and benefits.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - House Insurance, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-390>

- HB429 ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM** (LARE J, ABRAMS C) To make changes to the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State.
Current Status: 6/11/2020 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 92-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-429>
- HB442 PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT CERTIFICATE** (ROEMER B, WEST T) To modify the requirements to obtain a certified public accountant certificate.
Current Status: 6/30/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-442>
- HB469 HEALTH INSURANCE COST-SHARING** (MANCHESTER S, WEST T) To prohibit certain health insurance cost-sharing practices.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - House Health, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-469>
- HB534 IDENTIFYING INFORMATION - COMPENSATION CLAIMS** (UPCHURCH T, CRAWLEY E) Regarding identifying information in the medical management of workers' compensation claims.
Current Status: 6/3/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-534>
- HB606 CIVIL IMMUNITY - COVID-19 TRANSMISSION** (GRENDALL D) To grant civil immunity to a person who provides services for essential businesses and operations for injury, death, or loss that was caused by the transmission of COVID-19 during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 6/30/2020 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Bill Vote 23-6, Emergency Clause 23-6
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-606>
- HB609 TEMPORARY TAX AMNESTY PROGRAM** (WEST T) To require the Tax Commissioner to administer a temporary amnesty program from August 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, with respect to delinquent state taxes and fees, and to repeal Section 1 of this act on January 1, 2021.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-609>
- HB614 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REFORM** (FRAIZER M, RICHARDSON T) To study and reform the application, processing, and administration infrastructure of Ohio's unemployment compensation system.

Current Status: 7/21/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-614>

HB624 COVID-19 TESTING INFORMATION RELEASE (GRENDALL D) To require the reporting and release of certain COVID-19 testing and related information and to declare an emergency

Current Status: 6/30/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-624>

HB631 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCES (ROGERS J, HAMBLEY S) To authorize municipal corporations to establish regional economic development alliances for the sharing of services or resources among alliance members.

Current Status: 6/11/2020 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-631>

HB669 SALE, DELIVERY - ALCOHOL (SWEARINGEN D, LARE J) To enact provisions of law relative to the sale and delivery of alcoholic beverages by liquor permit holders and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 7/21/2020 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-669>

HB671 PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER LIMITS (ABRAMS C, STEPHENS J) To establish limits on certain public health orders issued by boards of health and the Department of Health, to prohibit a licensing authority from taking disciplinary action against a licensee for engaging in permitted activities during a pandemic, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 6/9/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-671>

HB673 BUSINESS OPERATION, EDUCATION COMPLETION (ROEMER B) Regarding the operation of businesses, practice of certain professions, and completion of education as it relates to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 6/24/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government and Agency Review

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-673>

HB674 REVISES LIQUOR LAWS (HILLYER B) To revise specified provisions of the liquor control law and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 7/21/2020 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-674>

HB680 MAIL VOTING-HEALTH EMERGENCY (ABRAMS C) To create a procedure to conduct an election entirely by mail in the case of a public health emergency, to modify certain deadlines for absent voting, and to direct the Secretary of State's use of federal CARES Act funds.

Current Status: 7/21/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-680>

HB693 SCHOOLS OPENING TIMELINE (SWEARINGEN D, MANNING G) To prohibit, for the 2020-2021 school year only, public and chartered nonpublic schools from opening for instruction prior to the Wednesday after Labor Day and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 6/9/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-693>

HB701 SOCIAL IMPACT BOND FUND, PROGRAM (HOLMES A, CROSSMAN J) To establish the social impact bond fund and the social impact bond program to be administered by the department of rehabilitation and correction.

Current Status: 6/10/2020 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-701>

SB1 REDUCE REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions and to continue the provision of this act on and after August 18, 2019.

Current Status: 6/4/2020 - House Appoints Managers; S. Wiggam, B. Seitz & B. Kelly Named as House Conferees

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-1>

SB175 CIVIL IMMUNITY-NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS (SCHAFFER T) To grant civil immunity to nonprofit corporations and persons associated with them for certain injuries, deaths, or losses resulting from the carrying of handguns.

Current Status: 6/10/2020 - House Civil Justice, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-175>

SB257 ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS (O'BRIEN S, RULLI M) To authorize tax incentives for the purchase of plug-in electric motor vehicles and charging stations.

Current Status: 6/9/2020 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-257>

- SB274** **CREATE LIQUOR PERMIT** (WILLIAMS S) To create the F-11 liquor permit, which authorizes specified entities to sell beer and wine at special functions, including social and benevolent functions.
Current Status: 7/21/2020 - Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-274>
- SB276** **LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES** (ROEGNER K) To enact the Ohio Revised Limited Liability Company Act.
Current Status: 6/30/2020 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, Senate Judiciary, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-276>
- SB282** **UNEMPLOYMENT COMP COMPLAINTS** (HOAGLAND F) To require the Director of Job and Family Services to establish a process for employers to make complaints regarding unemployment compensation benefits.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-282>
- SB293** **OPEN MEETINGS LAW COMPLAINTS** (MANNING N, BLESSING III L) To create a procedure within the Court of Claims to hear complaints alleging a violation of the Open Meetings Law.
Current Status: 6/10/2020 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-293>
- SB307** **SALES TAX EXEMPTION-PPE** (GAVARONE T) To authorize a temporary sales and use tax exemption for personal protective equipment and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 6/9/2020 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-307>
- SB308** **CIVIL LIABILITY-EMERGENCY SERVICES** (HUFFMAN M) To revise the law governing immunity from civil liability and professional discipline for health care providers during disasters or emergencies, to provide qualified civil immunity to service providers providing services during and after a government-declared disaster, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 6/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Civil Justice
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-308>
- SB310** **FEDERAL COVID FUNDING** (DOLAN M) To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 6/10/2020 - Consideration of House Amendments; Senate Does Not Concur, Vote on Emergency Clause 10-22

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-310>

SB311 RESCIND DIRECTOR OF HEALTH ORDERS (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To rescind certain orders of the Director of Health regarding COVID-19, to require the approval of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review for Department of Health orders to be effective for more than fourteen days, to require statewide Department of Health orders to include the Governor's signature, to modify the Department's rulemaking authority, to allow in-person high school graduation ceremonies, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 6/24/2020 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-311>

SB318 EXTEND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION (KUNZE S, WILLIAMS S) To extend the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission until December 31, 2021.

Current Status: 6/10/2020 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-318>

SB319 EDUCATION LAW-COVID-19 (HUFFMAN M) To make changes to education law for the 2020-2021 school year in response to implications of COVID-19, to require the Department of Education to make an additional payment in fiscal year 2020 or 2021 to certain school districts that experience a decrease in the taxable value of the district's utility tangible personal property, to permit furloughing of certain school employees through June 30, 2021, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 6/10/2020 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-319>

SB320 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR (HUFFMAN M) To require public and private schools to decide whether to be open for instruction in the 2020-2021 school year, to permit parents providing home instruction to determine whether a building in which they provide instruction has adequate safety measures to address COVID-19, to prohibit other public officials from closing schools in that school year, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 6/24/2020 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-320>

SB323 ABSENTEE VOTING, ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION (ANTONIO N, WILLIAMS S) To modify the law governing absent voting and online voter registration, to make other changes to the Election Law, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 6/10/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-323>

SJR3 REQUIRE SUPERMAJORITY-INCOME TAX INCREASE (BURKE D) Proposing to enact Section 7 of Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require that any increase

in income tax rates be approved by a supermajority of the membership of each house of the General Assembly.

Current Status: 6/9/2020 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Ways and Means, (Sixth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SJR-3>

SJR4

REPAY FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT ADVANCES (PETERSON B) Proposing to enact Section 18 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide for the issuance of obligations to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program of the state.

Current Status: 6/10/2020 - **ADOPTED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SJR-4>

In the News:

FY20-21 BUDGET

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) released its full monthly financial report for June and for FY20 on Friday, following preliminary data released earlier that showed Ohio ended FY20 with about \$1.1 billion less in tax revenue than originally projected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. OBM says economic forecasters generally project full economic recovery by the end of calendar year 2021, with expansion expected to begin in the third and fourth quarters of this year. OBM Director Kim Murnieks recently said she expects the negative effects of the pandemic to extend into the next biennial budget.

CHILDREN/FAMILIES

With the possibility of extended school closures during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, think tank Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) urged greater federal and state support for child care facilities, which have lost capacity due to social distancing requirements and faced layoffs due to widespread economic hardship.

PMO budget researcher Will Petrik emphasized during a news conference that child care workers are the "workforce behind the workforce" that allows parents to participate in the economy. He called on lawmakers to ensure parents have safe places for their kids to stay during the day.

CORONAVIRUS

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) coronavirus case statistics showed an increase from 62,856 cases on Friday, July 10 to 70,601 cases on Thursday, July 16. In addition, total COVID-19 deaths reached 3,103 as of Thursday, July 16.

In a Wednesday evening address to the state, Gov. Mike DeWine called on all Ohioans to wear masks but said further state orders were a topic for another time. Collective action would be more important than what could be compelled, he added. "If we do not change course, Florida and Arizona will be our future," DeWine said. He noted he'd read a book about the 1918 pandemic, "The Great Influenza" by John Barry, and said that Barry has called this current time the nation's "second chance" to stop COVID-19.

House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) emphasized the need to give Ohioans the information they need to make responsible decisions amid the pandemic in reaction to Gov. Mike DeWine's Wednesday night address, saying the speech drove that message home.

Gov. Mike DeWine indicated Thursday that a statewide mask mandate is on the table, though he is not taking that step yet. Ohio again saw COVID-19 cases increase by over a 1,000 overnight and eight new counties have been given a red alert level three public emergency designation for their surge in coronavirus cases. Athens, Allen, Delaware, Licking, Lucas, Richland, Scioto, and Union counties were upgraded. They join Butler, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, Montgomery, Pickaway, Summit, and Wood counties which remain at level three. This means 19 of Ohio's 88 counties are now considered to have a very high risk of exposure and spread of the virus. With the addition of the new counties, approximately 60 percent of the state's population is now under a requirement to wear masks. Only Trumbull County was downgraded to a level two orange alert level.

About 12 million Americans -- including nearly 400,000 in Ohio -- risk missing out on the federal stimulus payments provided through the recent CARES Act if they don't file a form to receive it, according to a report from the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). Ohioans could lose out on about \$358 million dollars, which -- if delivered and spent -- would help people who are struggling to make ends meet and give state and local economies a much-needed boost.

While long-term care facility (LTC) residents have made up approximately 65 percent of the state's COVID-19 deaths since April 15, industry leaders' comments to *Hannah News* and data from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) shows conditions are improving. Since April 15, there have been 1,732 resident deaths reported at LTCs across the state, though the data is limited to the county level. ODH has offered numbers for the prior seven days on each Wednesday through a dashboard at the www.coronavirus.ohio.gov site.

Ohio teacher union leaders Monday criticized the Trump administration's posture on reopening schools, following comments from the president and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos that they see as exerting pressure to return to classrooms without adequate health precautions. President Donald Trump has raised the possibility of withholding federal funding from schools

that don't reopen in the fall. In a television interview over the weekend, DeVos said data do not suggest having kids in schools is dangerous, and pointed to resumption of classes in other countries.

EDUCATION

The state is distributing an initial \$100 million to Ohio schools via the federal CARES Act to help defray pandemic-related expenses from March through year's end. This follows Controlling Board action on Monday, July 13. The Ohio Department of Education provided a spreadsheet with estimated distribution amounts to district schools, charter schools, private schools, STEM schools, county boards of developmental disabilities and joint vocational school districts. The funding is distributed in a base amount of \$54.5 million based on student counts; \$24.7 million based on the number of students who are in low-income households, have disabilities or are English learners; and \$20.8 million for transportation costs.

ELECTIONS 2020

After a presidential primary season plagued by long lines, confusion over mail-in voting and malfunctioning equipment across the nation, election experts are increasingly concerned about the resiliency of American democracy in the face of a global pandemic, according to Stateline.org. Here in Ohio, Secretary of State Frank LaRose has already convened the bipartisan "Ready for November Task Force" of elections officials to discuss issues related to getting Ohio ready for the Tuesday, Nov. 3 presidential election.

As part of National Disability Voter Registration Week, Secretary of State Frank LaRose's Ready for November Task Force Tuesday discussed making sure voting is accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. The task force heard from Jeff Davis, director of the Ohio Department of Disabilities; Kevin Miller, director of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities; Brian Harbage, the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) coordinator for LaRose's office; and Nate Fernades, the digital accessibility coordinator for LaRose.

FEDERAL

More than 140,000 Ohio businesses received forgivable loans through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), according to data released by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The loans helped retain 1.88 million jobs, according to the SBA data, though 6.75 percent of businesses -- or 9,186 -- did not have job retention data listed. The business data was divided into two spreadsheets, one for loans in five ranges at or above \$150,000 and another for those below \$150,000. Businesses in the first group were identified by name and received loans in groups of A, \$5-10 million; B, \$2-5 million; C, \$1-2 million; D, \$350,000 to \$1 million; and E, \$150,000 to \$350,000. The data on loans under \$150,000 identified exact loan amounts, but businesses were listed only by city rather than name.

GAMING/GAMBLING

Despite a "rocky" beginning to the fiscal year and the financial harms caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Lottery Executive Director Pat McDonald said the agency was able to meet its budget commitment to the Lottery Profits Education Fund (LPEF) for FY20.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Proposals to remove monuments from the Statehouse grounds -- including the recently sought-after removal of the statue of Christopher Columbus from the Statehouse grounds -- would face the same five-year waiting period as bids to install them under a draft policy in the works at the Capital Square Review and Advisory Board. The board voted Thursday to start that five-year waiting period for a proposed monument to honor the role of women in Ohio history. In addition, the board is seeking a new operator for the Statehouse cafe after Milo's decided not to extend its contract.

GOVERNOR

Gov. Mike DeWine signed an order Thursday "to extend and improve emergency rules" regarding telehealth services due to the pandemic, according to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). The rules permit use of audio, video and text messages to provide access to critical health care services, including for mental health and addiction services, while maintaining social distancing.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) raised renewed concerns Tuesday about the pay level for the state's 10 most common occupations in light of pandemic-related job losses. COHHIO and the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) said that only three of the 10 top jobs -- registered nurses, office clerks and customer service representatives -- make more than the \$15.99 hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the fair market rent of \$832, without spending more than 30 percent of their income.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Think tank Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) asked U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) Thursday to send more funding to local governments in the next federal stimulus package responding to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, saying that local governments may be forced to cut essential services including utilities if additional dollars are not delivered. PMO Senior Project Director Wendy Patton said the federal government has served as a "backstop" to local governments in times of economic hardship since the Great Depression, and with the U.S. House-passed Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act set for debate in the U.S. Senate at the end of July, she said local government funding should come from that bill, rather than state government, which could be facing an approximate \$2 billion budget shortfall over the next 12 months.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) has been awarded \$309,580 to fund an economic empowerment program called the Financial Freedom Corps. ODVN was one of 26 organizations awarded a grant through ServeOhio, an affiliate of AmeriCorps and Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. Additional funding for the program will also include a 25 percent site match from ODVN's donor sites.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Controlling Board Monday approved a number of COVID-19 response-related requests that would send federal money to local entities, though the original requests were narrowed and split in what the agencies said was a more transparent way to show where money was going. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) originally had one request to send \$100 million to local districts, but split that amount over three requests to break it down by rural, urban, and suburban school districts. The Ohio Department of Higher Education's (ODHE) request for \$200 million was also split out for public and private schools as well as schools with a higher population of students living on campus.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

For the week ending July 11, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 35,422 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). That number is slightly higher than last week's total of 33,483. The latest initial claims number is more than 230,000 claims below the peak earlier this year, and ODJFS said the latest number of continued jobless claims -- at 429,638 -- was nearly 350,000 claims below the peak amount.

WORKFORCE

Google announced Monday that it will create three new career certificates to provide a path into "high-growth, high-paying fields" and offer 100,000 need-based scholarships to help with training. The certificates focus on data analytics, project management and user experience (UX) design, and are in addition to two current certificates offered through the "Grow with Google" initiative. Training for the certificates is available on the online learning platform Coursera, Google said, and all five certificates will be treated as equivalent to a four-year degree in related roles at Google. Certificates are also available at career and technical education high schools and over 100 community colleges across the country, including eight in Ohio. Completion can take between three to six months.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced Tuesday that the state has been awarded a three-year, \$9.4 million federal grant to improve the Registered Apprenticeship system and expand the number of opportunities available. The Buckeye State is already second in the nation, with more than 19,000 enrolled in registered apprenticeship programs. The U.S. Department of Labor gave higher amounts to states with "excellent performance in key policy objectives," ODJFS said, and Ohio was awarded the maximum amount available in the "Building State Capacity to Expand Apprenticeship through Innovation" grant.

Workforce training leaders in the aerospace industry said they can provide a path to high-paying careers but need to do more to make parents and prospective students aware of the opportunities available. Their comments came during Thursday's meeting of the Ohio Aviation and Aerospace Technology Committee (OAATC) which met over Zoom due to the pandemic. Rep. Adam Holmes (R-Nashport), who took over as chair at the start of the year, said he'd heard from Lt. Gov. Jon Husted about the workforce needs of the industry and said there are opportunities for reshoring efforts.

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