

KEEPING OUR MEMBERS INFORMED

January 6, 2010

The Second Half of the 128th General Assembly

After a short Christmas recess, the General Assembly will soon be back in session. January marks the half way point in the 128th General Assembly's session, so let's look at their progress. After a year of budget battles and searches for quick fixes, the Governor has signed into law **NINE** bills. In looking at those nine pieces of legislation, six of them were budget related bills. The other three bills that the Governor signed include a bill that allows 16 year olds to donate blood, a coal mining compliance law and a law changing the term MRDD to a more politically correct term referring to the problem as developmentally disabled.



This is a state election year. Governor Strickland is up for re-election. In the legislature all 99 of the House seats and half of the Senate seats are up for election. One of Ohio's US Senate seats will see a new Senator with the retirement of Senator Voinovich. The General Assembly's legislative schedule will be intertwined around the lawmakers' needs to campaign for re-election. Considering this year between campaigning and the year ending with a "Lame Duck" session, the next five months will be the most intense time period for legislators to try to push through their agendas. The House during the first year of their two-year session introduced 401 bills passing 56 of them to the Senate for their consideration. Five of the bills the House passed on are of particular interest to us. The Senate has seen 220 bills introduced while they passed on 29 bills to the House with two of these bills being of interest to us. The seven are listed below.

HR 3 Mortgage Foreclosure Bill would grant a six month moratorium of the foreclosure judgment and would allow a three year loan restructuring.

HR 9 Foreclosure Notification Bill This bill will require landlord's who are in foreclosure to notify their tenants of the foreclosure action and converting any leases into a month to month rentals.

HR 64 Deployment Bill would allow service members out of their leases or rental agreements if they are deployed with no financial ramifications to the service member.

HR 167 The Domestic Violence bill would transfer the responsibility for care of the victims of domestic violence from the social agencies to the landlord and the victims employers. This is a feel good bill for the legislature that someone else has to pay for and would cost the State no money.

HR 313 Land Banking Bill would allow counties to acquire properties through an accelerated foreclosure process and about to redefine "blighted" properties

SB 103 Estate & Trust Laws bill to clean up some problems in trust and probate laws.

SB 124 Transfer upon Death more estate planning legislation aimed at making it harder to avoid probate by deeding real property Transfer upon Death.

The Five Month Push

Speaker Budish has made it quite clear that he has the majority in the House and he plans to push the democratic agenda onto the Senate by forcing them to act on the House bills.

**The OREIA Fall Conference was a huge Success.
The Legislative Staff was able to Inform many Attendees.**