

KEEPING OUR MEMBERS INFORMED

July 4, 2009

HB 1 BIENNIAL STATE OPERATING BUDGET

The budget is being held up at the statehouse while the Governor and the Democratic controlled House and the Republican Senate try to figure out how to overcome taxing and spending differences. At the center of the political storm is disagreement over Gov. Strickland's proposal to raise money through racetrack slots to help fill a \$3.2 billion shortfall. He wants the legislature to authorize the "video lottery terminals" in state law to ensure they are legal and to give investors confidence to put up money for them. Senate President Bill M. Harris argues that the voters of Ohio have refused five times over the past 20 years to approve more gambling in Ohio. He is not convinced that the Governor's slots plan will add the "projected" \$ 933 Million over the next two years. Developments on the budget are changing by the minute. We will devote most of the next month's issue to trying to define what the new budget means to Investors.

Problematic Legislation:

When working with lawmakers success is not always measured by what bills that you can get passed. Most always with an opposition controlled legislature, the unfavorable language that we can get removed from a bill speaks volumes of the progress we have accomplished. Some of the positive changes we have been able get struck out or altered from pending bills are listed below.

HB 1 The Biennial Budget contained language about adding **Aggrieved Persons** as a protected class under Fair Housing laws. The Ohio Civil Rights Commission was pushing for stricter language than Federal law would require. We, with the help of the Apartment Association and the Home Builders Association, were able to get the Ohio bill to mirror the language in the Federal regulations.

SB 13 Tenant Notification in Foreclosure Actions We were able to have a lease in a foreclosure action to be terminated. The tenant notification requirements were changed from 30 days after the beginning of foreclosure to 60 days. This bill had 8 points of concern that we got reduced to 6 points

HB 167 Domestic Violence **This bill does not deal with the cause of the violence.** In its original form, Landlords would be pushed into the middle of a volatile domestic situation by having to change the rental property's locks and giving new keys only to the victim of the violence, even if the abuser is on the lease. We have 12 points of concern with this bill and have negotiated them down to 2 points

OREIA's Day at the Capitol

The OREIA Legislative Committee is hosting a Workshop at Capitol Square in Columbus on **September 29th**. The *Day at the Capitol* event will feature meetings with our State Lawmakers, tours of the Capitol building, along with presentations from the Lobbying firm that daily watches our lawmakers for us. The OREIA Legislative Committee will explain our association's legislative mission statement and how it benefits our industry and our individual businesses.

Reservations maybe made by contacting Michelle at OREIALegislative@embarqmail.com

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Your Contributions helps stop BAD BILLS from becoming BAD LAWS.**

Contact Michelle at: Email: OREIALegislative@embarqmail.com
Legislative Update staff: leadership@bright.net

