

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
APRIL 15, 2013 – REPORT #9

**TAX PROVISIONS REMOVED FROM BUDGET BILL; FURTHER DISCUSSION
EXPECTED**

Tuesday, the Ohio House of Representatives made several major changes to Gov. Kasich's biennial budget bill. The substitute version of the bill removes both the proposed expansion of the state sales tax to virtually all services, and the proposed increase in oil and gas severance taxes. After hearings every day this week, the bill is projected to be voted out of Finance Committee and on the floor for the vote of the full House by Thursday, April 18th. The Senate is also expected to begin informal hearings this week until the bill has passed out of the House and referred to the Senate Finance committee.

Please feel free to contact OHBA with any questions.

PUCO COMMISSIONER NAMED DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE

Andre Porter, a member of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, stepped down from that post and was named the new director of the Ohio Department of Commerce, replacing David Goodman, who the Governor appointed to head the Ohio Development Services Agency.

Mr. Porter has been a member of the PUCO since 2011, when Gov. John Kasich appointed him to the seat. Before joining the commission, Mr. Porter was an attorney at Schottenstein Zox & Dunn, which is now known as Ice Miller. There, he focused on utility law, real estate taxation and as general counsel for public agencies.

OHBA will be meeting with Director Porter to ensure he is aware of OHBA's history and intimate relationship with the actions of the Department of Commerce.