

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
MARCH 13, 2014 – REPORT #6

DETAILS OF MID-BIENNIUM REVIEW RELEASED

HB 472 laying out details of the Governor's Mid-Biennium Review was introduced and heard by the House Ways and Means Committee this week. The bill, as expected, includes the governor's main goal in the area of taxation: lowering the state's top personal income tax bracket below 5%. He would pay for the cost of that reduction with a mix of tax hikes on businesses, smokers, and oil and gas companies. In sum, HB 472 includes an across-the-board 8.5 percent income tax cut over three years; an increase of 60 cents per pack of cigarettes over two years; a 2.75 percent severance tax on producers' gross receipts; and an increase in the Commercial Activity Tax from 0.26 percent to 0.30 percent. A detailed summary of the entire contents of HB 472 can be found at the following link. <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/fiscal/mbr130/comparedoc-in.pdf>

REMINDER: RCAC SOLICITING COMMENTS ON CODE REVIEW

Agreeing a 3 year code cycle is not appropriate for Ohio, the RCAC has also agreed it can change the RCO to update or address concerns on its own code update schedule. The Committee has initiated a process to collect, review, analyze and address, if necessary, any changes to the 2013 RCO. For its next meeting, March 26th, the Committee will be discussing Ch. 2-6 of the current RCO, while taking note of changes in the 2012 IRC. If anyone has any concerns, questions or requested changes to be made, plan on either attending the meeting, or contacting OHBA. However, OHBA is collecting comments, concerns, suggested changes, or interpretations for all sections of the code to prepare for the review process. Please feel free to send any feedback to OHBA for its presentation to the RCAC. If you have any specific questions, feel free to contact Ric Johnson, the Vice Chairman of the RCAC at ric@rightathometechnologies.us

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

HB 379 Civil Immunity (Blessing, L., Landis, A.) provides civil immunity for architects, engineers, and surveyors providing services during a declared emergency. After initial hearings, the committee approved an amendment that would extend the protections to tradespeople and contractors, as well. According to the sponsors, currently, there are no protections against civil suits for those working in an official capacity during an emergency, such as a tornado. The immunity would apply to the professional volunteering services during a declared emergency if working without a contract. The House Commerce, Labor and Technology Committee voted HB 379 out of Committee earlier this week.