

# Mid-Biennium Review

In June 2011 the Ohio General Assembly passed Gov. John R. Kasich's first budget and cut taxes, streamlined regulations and reformed government. Given the tough challenges that Ohio faced and the large number of Ohioans out of work, Gov. Kasich felt that Ohio couldn't wait another two years to tackle the many other important policy challenges facing the state, so in March 2012 he introduced his Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) package – a comprehensive set of reforms aimed at boosting education and workforce training programs, streamlining and improving management of government agencies and establishing a first-of-its-kind state energy policy. In addition to these key MBR reforms, the governor and his administration worked with the Legislature to pass several other bills that set into motion impactful policies that will make Ohio a better place for its citizens to live and a better place for job creators to grow their businesses.

## GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

**HB 487 – More Efficient Management of Taxpayer Dollars:** With a focus on rationalizing state government programs and improving the delivery of services to Ohioans, House Bill 487 implements reforms across state government to reduce costs and tear down barriers to efficient operations.

**HB 490 – Improving Services for Veterans:** The MBR process identified a number of areas where inefficiency and outdated rules hindered a veteran's access to benefits, so HB 490 implements important changes that will help link these veterans to the benefits they've earned.

**HB 508 – Modernizing Ohio's Tax System:** The modernizations in this legislation will improve the administration of Ohio's tax system, close loopholes and make several clarifications to this complex system.

**HB 509 – Local Government Cost Savings:** Over the past two decades, Ohio's population has remained relatively stagnant yet government spending has more than doubled, putting more pressure on taxpayers to fund government services. As an alternative to tax increases, local officials have worked with the Administration and the Legislature to provide input and identify tools that will help local governments and schools provide services in a more cost effective way.

## ENERGY

**SB 315 – Ohio's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Policy:** This comprehensive and unique energy policy examines generation, distribution and consumption from every angle with the goal of making Ohio more energy independent, providing more affordable energy solutions to families and job creators, while protecting the environment and the public in the process.

## EDUCATION / WORKFORCE

**SB 316 – Preparing Students for Their Future and Creating a Strong Workforce for Job Creators:** The policies housed in SB 316 are aimed at preparing Ohio's students for the next step in their education, and ultimately the workforce. Not only will these reforms give our children more opportunities in life, but by producing a well-prepared workforce, Ohio will be a more attractive home for job creators.

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT REFORMS**

**HB 525 – The Cleveland Plan:** A collaborative process with stakeholders on all sides of the issue – from Mayor Frank Jackson to the Cleveland teachers union to the business community and Cleveland-area legislators – has led to a new plan to improve Cleveland’s public school system that will attract quality educators, increase accountability and raise standards.

**HB 262 – Human Trafficking:** This immensely important legislation is the result of a bipartisan effort, led by Rep. Teresa Fedor, to end the modern-day slave trade in Ohio and will place harsh penalties on traffickers and help victims heal.

**HB 473 – Great Lakes Compact:** The passage of HB 473 moves Ohio into compliance with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, and provides necessary environmental protections while supporting job creators who rely on Lake Erie for economic growth.

**SB 310 – Dangerous Wild Animals:** The Ohio Dangerous Wild Animal Act strengthens Ohio law to protect the public and promote animal welfare by updating what had been some of the weakest laws governing dangerous wild animal ownership in the country.

**SB 337 – Collateral Sanctions:** These policies make commonsense changes to help reformed Ohioans with a felony on their record find meaningful employment and build a life outside of the criminal justice system.

**SB 305 – Hidden Compartments:** Ohio’s highway system has served as a key artery for drug traffickers, many of whom transport drugs or money in hidden compartments built into their vehicles. SB 305 makes it illegal for people traveling through Ohio to use a vehicle that has been altered with the intent of trafficking drugs.

**SB 314 – Development Services Agency (DSA):** Continuing Gov. Kasich’s vision to privatize and re-focus Ohio’s economic development efforts through the creation of JobsOhio, this legislation completes the transition of the Ohio Department of Development into its successor organization – the Ohio Development Services Agency.

**HB 386 – Gaming:** This bill implements rules and regulations impacting gaming in Ohio, including casinos, video lottery terminals, and racetracks.

**SB 294 – EPA Omnibus:** In effort to make Ohio a leader in environmental and business assistance initiatives, the Ohio EPA worked on reforms that will give job creators and environmental leaders more commonsense solutions to the issues they face.

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