



The Ohio SHRM State Council *Monthly Legislative Report*



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UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES IN 2013

September 18-20, 2013: 2013 Ohio Human Resource Conference: HR – Making Connections that Count. Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. Details and registration information available at http://www.ohioshrm.org/hr_conf/

TOP HR NEWS IN OHIO

Kasich Signs FY14-15 Budget, Vetoes 22 Items

On Sunday, June 30, one day before the beginning of the new fiscal year, Governor John Kasich signed the FY14-15 budget, HB59. The following are among major provisions in the final version:

- » appropriates a total of \$59.5 billion in FY14 and \$61.6 billion in FY15 in All Funds -- up from the \$56.1 billion appropriated for FY13.
- » cuts the personal income tax 8.5 percent this year and up to 10 percent by 2015.
- » increases the sales tax to 5.75 percent, up from 5.5 percent.
- » cuts the small business tax 50 percent on the first \$250,000 of net income.
- » sets new, minimum Commercial Activity Tax payments as follows: \$800 for businesses with receipts between \$1 million to \$2 million; a \$2,100 minimum for businesses between \$2 million and \$4 million; and a \$2,600 minimum for businesses with more than \$4 million in receipts.
- » continues the income tax credit for those earning under \$10,000 and limits the \$20 personal exemption credit to those earning less than \$30,000.
- » creates a nonrefundable state Earned Income Tax Credit.
- » appropriates a 4 percent increase for higher education tied to graduation rates.
- » appropriates \$7.9 billion and \$8.4 billion for primary and secondary education -- an increase from the \$7.6 billion appropriated for FY13.
- » eliminates the state's 12.5 percent rollback on new property levies.
- » adds a means test of \$30,000 in income or less for the homestead exemption for individuals turning 65.
- » appropriates \$363.6 million in FY14 and \$376.4 million in FY15 for the Local Government Fund, up from the \$348.0 million provided in FY13 but down from the \$594.5 million in FY12.

While signing the bill, Kasich vetoed 22 provisions including the following:

Sales Tax Collection on Internet Sales with Nexus in Ohio – would mandatorily apply the collection of Ohio sales and use tax to transactions between out-of-state Internet retailers and Ohio residents.



TOP HR NEWS IN OHIO

Changes to Standards for New Markets Tax Credit – would eliminate the requirement that a taxpayer receive a federal New Markets tax credit in order to qualify for the state New Markets tax credit. The provision also would have allowed credit-eligible investments to be made in low-income community businesses that derive 15 percent of more of their annual revenue from the rental or sale of real property.

Gold Coin and Metal Bullion Sales Tax Exemption – would have codified a sales tax exemption for metal coins and bullion used for investment purposes.

Treasury Management System Capital Appropriation – would create a new \$10 million capital appropriation item within the Administrative Building Fund.

To see the Governor's entire veto message, go to <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/FY2014-15%20Budget%20Veto%20Messages.pdf>

HR Issues in the State Operating Budget

The state operating budget includes several provisions of interest to businesses and human resource professionals across the state:

1. **Religious exemption from Ohio's civil rights law** – HB 59 includes a religious exemption in O.R.C. 4112.02 for religious corporations, associations, educational institutions, and societies from the prohibitions relating to unlawful discriminatory practices in employment, with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by that religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society.
2. **Obtaining Information on Job Applicant's Military Status** – HB 59 includes a clarification in O.R.C. 4112.02 that it is not an unlawful discriminatory practice for a person or an appointing authority administering a civil service examination to obtain information about an applicant's military status for the purpose of determining if the applicant is eligible for the additional credit that is available to military veterans under civil service law.
3. **Conditions for Filing a New Hire Report** – HB 59 include provisions in O.R.C. 3121 that relieve an employer of the obligation to make a new hire report to ODJFS when an employee is rehired after a period of separation from employment of less than 60 days.
4. **Military Spouse Unemployment Compensation** – HB 59 includes a provision in O.R.C. 4143 that extends eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits under certain circumstances to individuals that voluntarily quit work to accompany a spouse on a military transfer in accordance with current unemployment compensation laws. The bill also requires those unemployment compensation benefits attributable to the separating employer to be paid from the mutualized account in the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, if the separating employer is a contributory employer. It also requires reimbursing employers (i.e. government employers and some nonprofit organizations) to pay the unemployment compensation benefits attributable to that employer by reimbursing the trust fund.



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5. **Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation** – HB 59 makes several changes to O.R.C. 4123 and Ohio workers' compensation system. Such changes impact managed care organizations, self-insured employers, establish a prospective payment system for all public and private employers paying premium and provide increased funding for the safety and hygiene fund as well as the safety grant program.

Workers' Compensation Rebates

The first round of workers' compensation rebate checks, which will ultimately amount to more than \$1 billion, was sent out June 26, with Governor John Kasich personally handing out the first handful of checks to small business owners, school officials and mayors.

The governor and Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Administrator Steve Buehrer announced that checks are in the mail, and advised employers to be on the lookout for the rebates so they do not throw them away.

The rebate was first announced by Kasich and Buehrer in May. Since then, the BWC has been working on all the specifics, from determining refund amounts to what the envelopes will look like. The \$1 billion will be split among 210,000 employers. Buehrer said the checks will be delivered according to how long the employers have been in business; the longer an employer has been around, the sooner they will receive their check. Most of the public entities will be first on the list.

The governor said that these refunds coupled with the latest tax breaks proposed in the budget bill will help spark the state's economy and job growth, especially for small businesses. Buehrer added that these checks are part of a comprehensive reform plan at the bureau, which includes more safety grant money and switching to a prospective payment process.

Most of the refunds will be mailed out by July 12.

State & National Unemployment Numbers for May 2013

On June 21, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced that Ohio's unemployment rate was 7 percent in May, unchanged from April.

On June 7, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the national unemployment rate remained at 7.6 percent for May, though the nation did add 175,000 jobs over the month.

Collective Bargaining

Cuyahoga County Executive Ed Fitzgerald and eight of 11 county council members recently wrote an open letter to members of the General Assembly to express opposition to legislation and ballot initiatives meant to make Ohio a right-to-work state.



TOP HR NEWS IN OHIO

Poverty

A coalition calling on the Legislature to raise the minimum wage says it is becoming harder for Ohio families to stay self-sufficient in an economy where expenses are far outgrowing wages. In early June, the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA) explained that costs have increased by 23 percent while wages have increased by 2 percent in the last year. According to its 2013 Self-Sufficiency Standard report, the average Ohio family cannot support themselves on the current state minimum wage of \$7.85/hour.

Senate OKs Workforce Bill

On June 12, the Ohio Senate approved priority legislation to rebrand and simplify workforce efforts in Ohio counties. With a 32-1 vote, the chamber passed HB 1 (Derickson-Romanchuk), which is similar to SB 2 (Beagle-Lehner), approved by the same margin at a March Senate session. Both proposals would rebrand county one-stop centers under the OhioMeansJobs label and require local workforce officials to use www.OhioMeansJobs.com as their official job placement system.

As he'd done on SB 2, Skindell cast the lone dissenting vote on HB1. He didn't speak during discussion of the bill, but in the debate on SB 2 in March, he raised concerns that the legislation would create barriers to accessing services for people who lack computer access or have limited English skills.

The Senate Workforce and Economic Development Committee accepted a substitute version of HB1 Tuesday, so the House must accede to those changes or call for a conference committee before the legislation goes to Gov. John Kasich.

Unions

In early June, the House Manufacturing and Workforce Development Committee held sponsor testimony on two right-to-work measures, Reps. Kristina Roegner's (R-Hudson) and Ron Maag's (R-Lebanon) HJR 5 and Roegner's HB 151, before a packed hearing room. According to Roegner, the legislation seeks to enact a state policy where "each employee must be fully free to decide whether to associate, organize, designate a representative, or join or assist an employee organization."



HB179 (*Employers-Court-Ordered Parenting Time*)

State Representative Heather Bishoff introduced HB179 on May 28. The bill would require certain employers to allow a parent to exercise court-ordered parenting time without terminating the parent's employment, reducing the parent's pay, or taking other similar action against the parent.

SB128 (*Social Security Number Requirement*)

On May 15, Senator Charleta Tavares introduced SB128, legislation to restrict a person's ability to require, solicit, mail, and publicly display social security numbers.

SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

Employment Law

- HB82** OHIO'S CIVIL RIGHTS LAW EXEMPTION (HAYES B, BLAIR T) To exempt religious corporations, associations, educational institutions, or societies from the definition of "employer" for the purpose of Ohio's Civil Rights law.
Current Status: 3/6/2013 - House Judiciary, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_82
- HB120** GENDER PAY DISPARITY TASK FORCE (LUNDY M, DRIEHAUS D) Create Gender Pay Disparity Task Force.
Current Status: 5/8/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_120
- HB163** OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW EXPANSION (MCGREGOR R, ANTONIO N) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
Current Status: 5/22/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_163
- HB179** EMPLOYERS-COURT-ORDERED PARENTING TIME (BISHOFF H) To require certain employers to allow a parent to exercise court-ordered parenting time without terminating the parent's employment, reducing the parent's pay, or taking other similar action against the parent.
Current Status: 6/12/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_179
- SB45** PRIVATE ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTS ACCESS (TAVARES C) To prohibit employers, employment agencies, personnel placement services, and labor organizations from requiring an applicant or employee to provide access to private electronic accounts of the applicant or employee.
Current Status: 3/6/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_45



SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- SB70** OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW (TAVARES C) To specify that discrimination by an employer against any person because of the person's credit history is an unlawful discriminatory practice under the Ohio Civil Rights Law.
Current Status: 3/13/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Commerce and Labor
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_70
- SB92** WAGE DISCRIMINATION (TURNER N, TAVARES C) To enact the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required (FAIR) Act" and to revise the enforcement of the prohibitions against discrimination in the payment of wages.
Current Status: 6/18/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_92
- SB119** DOMESTIC WORKERS PROTECTION (TAVARES C) To require that domestic workers be paid the minimum wage, to require that domestic workers be paid overtime wages, to make certain conduct directed toward a domestic worker an unlawful discriminatory practice, and to require a weekly day of rest for domestic workers.
Current Status: 6/18/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_119
- SB125** OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW EXPANSION (LAROSE F, SKINDELL M) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
Current Status: 6/26/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Civil Justice
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_125
- SB128** SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIREMENT (TAVARES C) To restrict a person's ability to require, solicit, mail, and publicly display social security numbers.
Current Status: 6/26/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_128

Healthcare

- HB3** HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE (SEARS B, KUNZE S) To specify licensing and continuing education requirements for insurance agents involved in selling, soliciting, or negotiating sickness and accident insurance through a health benefit exchange.
Current Status: 4/30/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 7/30/2013
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_3
- HB91** HEALTH CARE FREEDOM ACT (YOUNG R, THOMPSON A) To enact the Health Care Freedom Act.
Current Status: 4/24/2013 - House Health and Aging, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_91



SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB117** CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES (HACKETT R, STINZIANO M) To provide for the operation of captive insurance companies in Ohio.
Current Status: 6/18/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_117
- HB121** OHIO HEALTH SECURITY ACT (HAGAN R, FOLEY M) To enact the Ohio Health Security Act to establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.
Current Status: 4/17/2013 - Referred to Committee House Insurance
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_121
- HB125** MEDICAID EXPANSION (CARNEY J, ANTONIO N) To permit the Medicaid program to cover the eligibility expansion group authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 4/17/2013 - Referred to Committee House Finance and Appropriations
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_125
- SB9** INSURANCE AGENTS EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (BACON K) To specify licensing and continuing education requirements for insurance agents involved in selling, soliciting, or negotiating sickness and accident insurance through a health benefit exchange
Current Status: 6/4/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_9
- SB88** OHIO HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SKINDELL M) To establish the Ohio Health Benefit Exchange Agency and to establish the Ohio Health Benefit Exchange Program consisting of an exchange for individual coverage and a Small Business Health Options Program.
Current Status: 4/10/2013 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_88
- SB104** OHIO HEALTH CARE PLAN (SKINDELL M) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.
Current Status: 4/16/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_104

Labor Relations

- HB151** RIGHT TO WORK-PRIVATE EMPLOYERS (ROEGNER K) To prohibit any requirement that employees of private employers join or pay dues to any employee organization and to establish civil and criminal penalties against employers who violate that prohibition.
Current Status: 6/4/2013 - House Manufacturing and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_151



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HB152 RIGHT TO WORK-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (MAAG R) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization.
Current Status: 5/7/2013 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_152

HJR5 RIGHT TO WORK (ROEGNER K, MAAG R) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit employees from being forced to participate in a labor organization as a condition of employment.
Current Status: 6/4/2013 - House Manufacturing and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/res.cfm?ID=130_HJR_5

Taxation

HB107 CAREER EXPLORATION INTERNSHIPS-TAX CREDIT (BAKER N) To authorize a tax credit for businesses that employ high school students in career exploration internships.
Current Status: 6/12/2013 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_107

SB89 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (SKINDELL M) To grant a state earned income tax credit equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit.
Current Status: 6/11/2013 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_89

Unemployment Compensation

HB2 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION CLAIMANT (DERICKSON T, BROWN T) To require an unemployment compensation claimant to register with OhioMeansJobs to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits and to require a claimant to contact a local one-stop office beginning with the eighth week of filing for unemployment.
Current Status: 6/25/2013 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; Concurred Vote 87-6
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_2

HB22 MILITARY SPOUSE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PILLICH C) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.
Current Status: 2/13/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_22

HB37 SHAREDWORK OHIO PROGRAM (DUFFEY M, SCHERER G) To create the SharedWork Ohio Program and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 6/26/2013 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_37



SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB55** UNEMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY-MILITARY SPOUSE (PILlich C, TERHAR L) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.
Current Status: 2/27/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_55
- SB8** UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS-MILITARY SPOUSE (LAROSE F) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.
Current Status: 6/26/2013 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_8
- SB14** UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW (KEARNEY E) To authorize programs and tax credits to encourage the hiring of unemployed individuals, to make changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law.
Current Status: 2/13/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_14
- SB25** SHARED WORK OHIO PROGRAM (PETERSON B, LAROSE F) To create the Shared Work Ohio Program and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 4/10/2013 - Referred to Committee House Commerce, Labor and Technology
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_25
- Workers' Compensation**
- HB33** INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION BUDGET (HACKETT R) To make appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Commission programs.
Current Status: 3/26/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_33
- HB34** WORKERS' COMPENSATION BUDGET (HACKETT R) To make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015; and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs.
Current Status: 3/26/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_34
- HB143** WORKERS' COMPENSATION (DEVITIS A, BUTLER, JR. J) To require the Administrator of Workers' Compensation to include in the notice of premium rate that is applicable to an employer for an upcoming policy year the mathematical equation used by the Administrator to determine the employer's premium rate.
Current Status: 5/14/2013 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_143



SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB1** OHIO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LAW (DERICKSON T, ROMANCHUK M) To require a local workforce investment area to use OhioMeansJobs as the local workforce investment area's job placement system, to rename county one-stop systems, and to make other changes to Ohio's Workforce Development Law.
Current Status: 6/18/2013 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; Concurred Vote 80-13
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_1
- HB63** TAX CREDIT- OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION (CERA J, O'BRIEN S) To establish a nonrefundable commercial activity tax credit for companies involved in horizontal well drilling or related oil and gas production services that hire Ohio residents or dislocated workers.
Current Status: 2/20/2013 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_63
- SB1** OHIOMEANSJOBS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To create the OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan Fund, to create the OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan Program, to allocate a portion of casino license fees to finance the loan program, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 6/26/2013 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_1
- SB2** OHIO'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LAW (LEHNER P, BEAGLE B) To require a local workforce investment area to use OhioMeansJobs as the local workforce investment area's job placement system, to rename county one-stop systems, and to make other changes to Ohio's Workforce Development Law.
Current Status: 4/10/2013 - Referred to Committee House Manufacturing and Workforce Development
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_2
- Misc.*
- HB59** BIENNIAL BUDGET (AMSTUTZ R) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015; to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.
Current Status: 6/30/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_59



OTHER NEWS IN STATE, LOCAL & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Federal

U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

During the last week of June, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a handful of notable opinions on highly debated issues. On Tuesday, June 25, the Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act as unconstitutional, saying it can no longer be used to subject jurisdictions to “pre-clearance” — a requirement on certain states to obtain permission from the federal government before changing laws on voting and elections. The ruling is unlikely to affect Ohio, as it has no jurisdictions requiring federal approval for new state or local voting laws, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. The current pre-clearance formula in Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act applies to nine states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia, as well as individual counties in California, Florida, New York, North Carolina and South Dakota. It also includes Buena Vista and Clyde townships in Michigan.

Two rulings on gay marriage issued by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26 were called landmarks by gay rights advocates. The first ruling came in the case of *United States v. Windsor*, which saw a 5-4 majority strike down the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as an unconstitutional “deprivation of the equal liberty of persons that is protected by the Fifth Amendment.” In the second case, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, a 5-4 majority led by Chief Justice John Roberts ruled that backers of California’s Proposition 8 lacked standing to appeal a case that the state of California had itself refused to appeal.

State

Governor

A recent Quinnipiac Poll has Gov. John Kasich in good shape for re-election in 2014. His approval rating hit its highest point ever, while three out of four Ohioans say they don’t know enough about likely challenger Ed FitzGerald. The poll found Kasich with a 54 percent job approval rating from Ohio voters, compared to 32 percent who disapprove.

Labor Trafficking

In early June, the Ohio Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Commission turned its attention to the lesser-known problem of labor trafficking. The state’s lead voice in the battle against modern-day slavery said the exploitation of human labor can get lost in the well-deserved focus on sex trafficking.

New Chief of DSA Minority Business Division

The Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) has selected Jacqueline Williams as chief of the Minority Business Division, which leads the state’s efforts to create, grow and develop minority-owned businesses. Williams began her term on Monday, June 17.

ODM, ODADAS Officially Merge July 1, 2013

The Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) officially consolidated into a single new agency on Monday, July 1. The newly created agency is now the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).



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Heading up the new department will be the current Department of Mental Health Director Tracy Plouck. Current Director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Orman Hall will become the director of the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team.

Secretary of State

Secretary of State Jon Husted reported that 8,229 new entities filed to do business in Ohio in May 2013. These numbers are up compared to May 2012, when 7,687 new entities filed with the secretary of state.

Tax Revenue Surplus Expected for FY13

Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director, Tim Keen, recently announced that by their estimates, overall tax revenues for FY13 will be \$709 million over OBM's original estimate. In addition, non-tax revenues should end the fiscal year \$539 million above the original estimate, with \$500 million of that overage coming from the payment to the state General Revenue Fund from Jobs Ohio for the lease of the state liquor enterprise.

Workforce

On June 11, Governor John Kasich signed an executive order instructing occupation licensing boards and state higher education officials to start giving more weight to veterans' military training. "We have to have a pretty good focus on veterans because they're here, they're trained, they're leaders and they're ready to work," Kasich said.