

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
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NEW GENERAL ASSEMBLY GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

The 131st is off and running. The Finance committee has begun hearings on the state two-year budget. While the language of the bill has not been introduced we do know the governor has requested a number of tax rate changes including:

Sales tax increase to 6.25% from 5.75%

CAT to 0.26 to 0.32

Exempt small business (under 2 million) taxes.

Decrease personal income taxes for certain income categories.

We expect more information to be available when the actual budget bill is introduced. Currently, hearings have been held and the Governor's staff has responded the tax increases will be evened out with reductions in the personal income tax.

Many more hearings are expected.

HOUSE HOUSING COMMITTEE ASKS FOR INPUT FROM OHBA

At the request of Rep. Lou Terhar committee chair, Vince Squillace presented testimony to the committee regarding the home construction industry. We reported how starts are recovering, but we are a long way from the decade of the 70's when starts were at all-time highs. Nonetheless, we expect continued increase in activity over the next two years.

The chair asked what our two greatest needs are at present. We responded a need to get banks back in the game financing projects and a reduction in environmental regulations.