

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
FEBRUARY 26, 2015 – REPORT #5

HB 77 CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION

HB 77 would require registration of home improvement contractors. The bill is a pared down version of the home contractor licensing bill considered last session. The bill sponsor Bill Patmon of Cleveland presented sponsor testimony to the House Commerce and Labor Committee this week. In short, he told the committee there has been an increase in under qualified and fraudulent contracting experiences in his district and throughout the state. He feels it is a serious situation and the industry must be regulated.

The bill applies to home improvement and new home construction is exempt. Aside from an insurance requirement the bill does not do much more than require registration and presenting the registration information to prospective customers.

The bill will be heard over the next few weeks and the committee chair will gauge if there is support from his committee members. OHBA Remodelers Chair will be presenting interested party testimony at the next hearing.

BUDGET /TAX BILL HEARD

HB 64 the Biennial Budget bill received strong negative reactions from a stream of witnesses this week. Most of the concern centers on increases to the CAT and sales tax. Intensive hearings are expected over the next month.

Bills introduced:

SB 58- permits owners of household sewage systems to elect not to connect to a private sewage system under certain circumstances.

SB 109- Tavares (Columbus)-to authorize townships to levy impact fees on new development.