

BUDGET BRIEFING: 5 SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE HOUSE SUB-BILL

THE BASICS

The Ohio House Finance Committee proposed a major overhaul of Gov. Kasich's two-year budget that scraps many of his proposed tax increases, while preserving tax cuts primarily aimed at the wealthy. The plan also limits the bargaining rights of public sector workers, impacts human services, continues to strain communities and limits access to open government. Here's a brief overview of 5 significant policy areas that could be changed.

5 SIGNIFICANT POLICY CHANGES IN THE HOUSE SUB-BILL

1. TAXES: CHANGES STILL FAVOR THOSE AT THE TOP

Makes permanent an across the board income tax cut that will primarily benefit those at the top, eliminates an increase in the personal exemption for middle-income Ohioans and makes permanent a 75 percent reduction in the taxes paid on profits by business owners. The House bill additionally scraps plans to raise new revenue through increased taxes on cigarettes, oil and gas drilling, business activity and consumer purchases.

2. SB5 REDUX: LIMITS WORKER'S RIGHT TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN

The House inserted provisions that would effectively classify university faculty as "management" if they are involved in any decision-making around courses, curriculum or policy, ending their rights to belong to a union. The bill also prohibits charter-school teachers who unionize from participating in state retirement system and limits the right to collectively bargain for corrections workers.

3. HUMAN SERVICES: MAKES RESOURCES HARDER TO ACCESS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Opens the door to stiffer work requirements on welfare and food stamp recipients, regardless if work is available. Increases funding for food pantries, but not enough to meet the growing needs.

4. COMMUNITIES: IMPACTS ON RESOURCES AND SAFETY

Preserves the Governor's plan to phase out the replacement of revenue lost when state lawmakers eliminated taxes vital to funding local services. Cuts local funding to communities involved in a lawsuit over red light cameras and allows the management of county jails to be privatized.

5. MAKES GOVERNMENT LESS TRANSPARENT

Prohibits the State Auditor from monitoring compliance with the State's open records law. The move blocks an initiative that would have provided no-cost assistance to constituents fighting non-responsive government agencies.