

**Greater Ohio Showmen's Association**  
**Legislative Report**

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**Sears Appointed to Ohio House**

Sylvania City Council President Barbara Sears was named to Senator Mark Wagoner's former House seat. She will be the Republican candidate for that seat in November.

Representative Sears has been appointed to the following House Committees: Criminal Justice Committee; Finance and Appropriations Committee; Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities Committee; Health Committee; and Human Services Finance Subcommittee.

**Representative Slesnick Appointed**

Steve Slesnick, a Democrat from Canton, was the winner of the Democratic primary for the 52<sup>nd</sup> House District and was appointed to former State Representative William Healy seat. Healy resigned in December, 2007 since he was elected as the Mayor of the City of Canton.

Slesnick was appointed to the seat on March 11, 2008 by the House Democrat Caucus. Slesnick will be the Democratic candidate for the seat in November. Slesnick is a Vice President of Slesnick Iron and Metal, his family's scrap metal business, which is in Canton.

As yet, Slesnick's House Committees have not been announced.

**Department of Agriculture Rules**

As yet, no rules under Chapter 901:9 of the Ohio Administrative Code have been filed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR).

Individuals may check rule filings by going to [www.registerofohio.state.oh.us](http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us). Search for the "Department of Agriculture" rules and then find the "fairs and amusement ride" rules.

**House Announces Committee Chair Changes**

Representative Matt Dolan (R – Novelty) stepped down as the Chairman of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee in February to focus on winning seats for Republicans in the November elections. Replacing Dolan as Chairman is State Representative Jay Hottinger (R – Newark). Dolan hopes to be the new Speaker of the House in 2009, but the Democrats are within 4 seats of capturing the majority.

Representative Lynn Wachtmann (R – Napoleon) is the new Chairman of the House Health Committee, replacing John White (R – Kettering) and Shawn Webster (R – Hamilton) is the new Vice Chairman of the House Health Committee. Representative White is the new Chair of the House Criminal Justice Committee.

**Governor's Executive Order for Regulations**

On February 12, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed an Executive Order that provides guidelines to create a "more efficient and effective regulatory environment in Ohio".

Following a philosophy of "Common Sense Business Regulation," the executive order requires all cabinet agencies, boards and commissions to review existing rules and processes; to treat those affected by their rules and regulatory processes as customers and treat them consistently across regions, offices, and departments; and to consolidate regulatory rules and processes. The agencies are to get rid of any that "are unnecessary, ineffective, contradictory, redundant, inefficient, needlessly burdensome, that unnecessarily impede economic growth, or that have had unintended negative consequences."

The regulation review would be done in the normal five-year time frame now mandated by law for state rules. The executive order directs certain cabinet agencies to designate an existing staff member as an agency regulatory ombudsman who will act as a liaison between the agency and those affected by the regulatory rules and processes.

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The order also directs regulators to set a greater emphasis on outreach to those affected by state regulations and establishes expectations regarding agencies' approach to regulatory compliance, and to take a less punitive approach by waiving penalties for some first-time or procedural violations.

**Keno**

When Governor Ted Strickland announced his \$733 million in budget cuts, he proposed a new source of revenue, Keno. He suggested Keno be added to the games available through the State Lottery Commission. He projected the addition would bring in \$73 million.

The Keno games would be available through select state bars, restaurants and other venues and the Governor would not need legislative changes, Keno could be created through a rule.

Rule 3770:1-9-55 was filed on February 25, 2008 and is scheduled for a public hearing in Cleveland on March 28, 2008 at the Ohio Lottery Commission in the Frank J. Lausche Building, 615 W. Superior Avenue at 9:30 a.m.. The rule will probably be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) at its meeting on April 21, 2008.

The Keno game requires players try to match up to 10 numbers on drawings every four minutes, with wagers between \$1 and \$20. Keno could go into any establishment with a D-5 liquor permit, which allows for on-site consumption of alcohol at bars or restaurants. The Lottery Commission estimates the state has 12,000 such eligible locations and hopes to put Keno monitors in about 2,000 of them by year's end. Keno sellers also would need to put up a \$20,000 bond to guarantee the equipment and payments due the Commission. To offer Keno, an establishment would need an Altura terminal and printer, such as those currently used for other Ohio Lottery games, plus monitors to show the numbers drawn. The Commission is currently talking with vendors about equipment offerings.

Many are not thrilled with Keno. Senate President Bill Harris (R-Ashland) said in early February he was looking into whether Strickland even has the authority to expand the state lottery in this way. However, a spokesman for the Senate Majority Caucus said that their research so far hasn't turned up anything to dispute the Governor's ability to expand the lottery to include Keno. JCARR can only judge a rule on the basis of four legal criteria involving statutory authority, conflict with other rules, legislative intent, and accuracy of rule summaries and fiscal analyses.

**Paid Sick Days Proposal**

A group known as the Ohioans for Healthy Families, has brought forth a proposal that would require businesses with 25 or more employees to provide those employees with 7 paid sick days per year. If the worker is part time the paid sick leave would be allocated proportionately to hours per week worked.

The proposed language and 154,693 valid signatures have been certified by the Secretary of State and sent to the legislature for consideration. If the General Assembly does not act on the proposal, or passes the proposal in amended form, in 120 days, the group would need to collect an additional 120,683 valid signature to place the issue on the ballot for the November elections.

**How to Contact Your Lobbyists**

You may contact your lobbyists at the following address:

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