

Ohio Marine Trades Association
and Government Advantage Group

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MAY 2025



State Budget Update

The Senate's budget amendment deadline was May 16th. The Senate will take the next week to review the amendments and craft their version of the budget. We expect to see a substitute bill by June 4. The Senate will make another round of changes before their scheduled vote on June 11. The House will almost certainly not concur with the Senate's changes, sending the budget to a conference committee for final negotiations. Last week, the legislature teased a proposal to expand iGaming and iLottery. The projected revenue is \$500-\$700 million, which could be rolled into the budget. Speculation is this new revenue would be used for an income tax cut.

Last week, OMTA formally weighed in on two topics: support for an amendment to specifically fund a project promoting the marine trades; and support for restoring H2Ohio funding to the Governor's proposed levels. Other supporters of H2Ohio included our partners Matt Fisher (Lake Erie Foundation), Larry Fletcher (Shores & Islands) and Chris Winslow (Sea Grant and Stone Lab).

ODNR and OMTA Reminds Boaters on Safety Practices

On May 16th, ODNR sent out reminder on Safe Boating.

As Ohioans prepare to hit the water this summer, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks and Watercraft is joining the nationwide observance of National Safe Boating Week, Saturday, May 17 through Friday, May 23. This annual campaign launches the global Safe Boating Campaign, which encourages boaters everywhere to be prepared, stay alert, and make safety a top priority on the water.

"We want every boater in Ohio to enjoy their time on the water and make it back to shore safely," said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. "Wearing a life jacket, knowing the rules of the water, and staying alert are all simple steps that can save lives."

June is Ohio Goes Boating Month

Several years ago, Ohio championed legislation to designate June as [Ohio Goes Boating Month](#).

If you have special activities planned, please share those with OMTA.

Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan

The Lake Erie Commission is seeking comments from the public on the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan. You can find information on the plan [here](#). The public is encouraged to submit written comments regarding the draft LEPR Plan to lakeeriecommission@lakeerie.ohio.gov by May 26, 2025.