

Ohio Marine Trades Association
and Government Advantage Group

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JUNE 2026



House Resolution 439

Representative Brian Lorenz introduced [House Resolution 439](#) to recognize May as Water Safety Month.

Senator Theresa Gavarone gave sponsor testimony before the Senate Agriculture Committee on SB 433 which looks to revise coastal management, Lake Erie submerged lands leasing, and permits for shore structures (including marinas, boat docks and boat houses) and coastal restoration.

Senator Tom Patton's SB 223 which seeks to lower ODNR fees for veterans has been sent to Governor DeWine for signature.

The Legislature unvield the Capital Appropriations Bill this week and plans to have it finalized by the week of June 8th. Projects of interest to OMTA receiving funding are:

- \$1,750,000 for a police boathouse at Portage Lakes State Park.
- \$525,000 fRocky Fork State Park East Shore Marina lighting and other improvements.
- \$300,000 Buckeye Lake State Park north shore bathroom project.
- \$200,000 Hargus Lake Kayak ramp at A.W. Marion State Park.
- \$1,000,000 Buckeye Lake North Shore Park
- \$750,000 Cleveland Metroparks Public Sailing Center
- \$750,000 Sharon Woods Harbor Revitalization Project
- \$450,000 Port Clinton Waterworks Park Improvements
- \$300,000 Kelleys Island Community Park Improvements
- \$250,000 Cleveland Rowing Foundation
- \$250,000 Conneaut Harbor Dredging and Marina Renovation
- \$250,000 Hinckley Lake Facilities Renovation
- \$200,000 Coshocton Canal Restoration Project
- \$200,000 Cuyahoga Riverfront Development Project
- \$150,000 Miller Road Boat Launch Improvements
- \$130,000 Grand River Trail Restoration
- \$100,000 Central Ohio Boating Education Center
- \$100,000 Clark Park - Shoreline Restoration and Preservation
- \$100,000 Mentor-on-the-Lake Overlook Beach Park Improvements
- \$30,000 Indian Lake Gateway Sign
- \$17,000 Indian Lake Chippewa Kayak Launch

SB 458

Senator Theresa Gavarone has introduced [SB 458](#) that creates warranty work protections for marine businesses. This is a priority bill for OMTA and we look forward to advacting in favor of this bill. SB 458 was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

Senate Bill 450 otherwise known as the Capital Appropriations Bill was passed by both chambers and is now heading to Governor DeWines desk for his signature. This bill includes many marine and waterway related improvement projects through ODNR.

The House and Senate have passed House Concurrant Resolution 40 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 19 respectively. These resolutions urge Congress create the Ohio River Restoration Program.

On June 8th Governor DeWine signed SB 223 into law. This bill requires ODNR to offer veterans a discount of at least 25% on services such as dock rentals and other fees.

The House and Senate have officially adjourned and will most likely not be returning to Columbus until after the November General Election.

Ohio's Annual Free Fishing Days

The House and Senate have officially announced their session schedules for the remainder of the year and they will have 5 sessions beginning in middle of November.

SB 458 which regards watercraft dealers and warranty service repair work that OMTA has been spearheading was referred to Senate Transportation Committee.

Governor DeWine has signed the state's \$3.7 Billion Capital Appropriations Budget which funds the state's infrastructure along with community projects throughout the state.

ODNR has announced that Ohio's annual free fishing days on Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21, give all residents a chance to fish at any public waterway without a license. This includes Lake Erie and Ohio's public lakes, reservoirs, streams, and rivers. June 20 and 21 is the only weekend of the year on which residents 16 years old and older can fish public waters without purchasing a fishing license. Anglers under 16 can fish for free year-round and are not required to hold a license. All other fishing regulations, size requirements, and bag limits apply during the special weekend.

Blueprint For Ohio's Economic Future

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce released their [Blueprint For Ohio's Economic Future](#). The report focuses on 6 strategic areas of opportunity to increase Ohio's competitiveness, including: Education & Workforce, Sense of Place, Taxes & Costs, Business Friendliness, Innovation & Collaboration, and Infrastructure.

In the report the Chamber makes tourism a key focal point within the Sense of Place strategic area stating that tourism is an economic driver and influences where people choose to live and to stay permanently.

News to Peruse

[Can endangered mussels make a comeback in the Cuyahoga River and across Ohio?](#)

[This Northeast Ohio river could soon lose its U.S. EPA badge of dishonor](#)

[Mathematical model determine Lake Erie species diversity](#)

[Geauga Park District Paddle Fest returns June 20](#)

[Kaptur announces 17.6 million federal funding for dredging of area harbors](#)

[Port authority engages consultant for new seaport master plan](#)

[Scientists urge more intensive study of algal blooms worldwide](#)

[Hendel: Mills race keeps focus on sailing, tradition](#)

[Mayfly swarms are back in Northeast Ohio: Why that's good news for Lake Erie](#)