

## Ohio House Bill 318 (As Introduced) Ohio Income Tax Freeze

Sponsored by Representative Vern Sykes

### OEC's Summary:

**SUPPORT**



Postpone for two years the last five scheduled income tax rate reductions.

Reduce salaries of General Assembly members by five percent.

Make conforming amendments.

### OEC's Perspective

House Bill 318 offers one of the few plausible short-term revenue pickups to help balance the now unbalanced biennial state operating budgets.

Are other revenue pickups possible? Not in environmental conservation or public transit.

The Ohio EPA no longer receives Gross Revenue Funds (GRF). The currently enacted operating budget dealt a 100% cut in GRF to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) divisions of Natural Areas & Preserves and Geologic Survey in Fiscal Year 2011.

The Ohio Senate's refusal to raise fees on coal extraction has left the ODNR Division of Mineral Resource Management strapped for funding for Fiscal Year 2011 regulatory oversight.

Other ONDR divisions barely are keeping up with inflation. And the state subsidy for public transit has atrophied.

All taxpayers benefit from adequate natural resource conservation. Freezing the final year of the scheduled state income tax reduction is a reasonable and realistic source of funds to help balance the budget - in the short term.

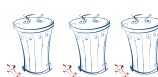
### Recommendation

**The Ohio Environmental Council supports this bill.**

### Bill Ratings



This legislation will help resolve a serious problem that threatens Ohio's environment and demonstrates significant leadership for Ohio's future.



This legislation will cause substantial harm to Ohio's environment and demonstrates serious disregard for Ohio's future.



This legislation will benefit Ohio's environment or shows foresight in setting future environmental policy.



This legislation will harm Ohio's environment or sets the state on the wrong path for future environmental policy.



This legislation will somewhat - or on balance - benefit Ohio's environment.



This legislation will somewhat - or on balance - harm Ohio's environment.