



Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Eviction Language Removed From Senate Insurance Measure

House leaders struck language on eviction timelines from an unrelated bill Tuesday following staunch opposition from housing advocates.

The change was made via an amendment adopted during a special meeting of the House Rules & Reference Committee, which also slated the amended bill (**SB 273**) for a floor vote Wednesday.

The committee's change essentially walks back an amendment added by the House Insurance Committee last week that encompassed language from a standalone eviction bill (**HB 390**) from **Rep. Derek Merrin** (R-Monclova).

The language would have required Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays to be counted when calculating the three-day notice period required before filing an eviction action and the 10-day period in which law enforcement may carry out an eviction after receiving a writ of execution.

Housing advocates argued the proposal would speed up evictions and that the language had no place in the legislation from **Sen. Bob Hackett** (R-London) that originally centered on insurance matters. Sen. Hackett this week voiced his own opposition to the inclusion. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, December 10, 2018**)

The amendment from **Rep. Sarah LaTourette** (R-Chagrin Falls) also removes language related to single interest insurance, which would have clarified that a seller may charge a buyer for any type of insurance, including single interest insurance, in a retail installment contract.

Rep. LaTourette credited the need for the changes to a lack of support for those provisions among the caucus.

"It is my understanding these two provisions would keep the bill from moving so we wanted to go ahead and pull them out," Rep. LaTourette said.

The move is a victory for housing advocates, such as the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, which rallied against the eviction language. In response to the committee's decision, COHHIO

spokesman Marcus Roth said, "We're pleased they removed the offending language."

The committee also rereferred a Senate bill centered on employment licensure for further discussion to the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee.

That measure (**SB 255**), authored by **Sen. Rob McColley** (R-Napoleon), would in part enable legislative committees to periodically review occupational licensing boards to determine whether they should sunset. The measure was reported along party lines last week by the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, December 5, 2018**)

"We just want to have more discussions on it," House **Speaker Ryan Smith** (R-Bidwell) said of the legislation, adding that the chamber still intends to act on the proposal before the lame duck session ends.

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