

Businesses, others receive liability protections



Chris Kershner
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voice of business was loud and clear as this legislation was thoroughly debated and considered during the past five months.

Introduced April 10, House Bill 606 directly covers schools, for-profit and non-profit organizations, government and religious entities, and state higher-education institutions.

These protections exist as long as the entity was not reckless in their COVID-19 protections, meaning they disregarded a potential risk or didn't consider potential consequence of their actions.

One of the most critical pieces of COVID-19 related legislation for the Ohio and Dayton area business communities passed the Ohio General Assembly and was signed into law by Gov. Mike DeWine on Sept. 14. The legislation, known as Ohio House Bill 606, provides businesses, nonprofits, hospitals and schools much-needed civil immunity from liability resulting from exposure or transmission of COVID-19.

Passing this bill was a top priority for the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce lobbying team this summer, as it provides much-needed protections for our business community.

We submitted testimony – which you can read at DaytonChamber.org – and worked closely with the Ohio legislature to ensure the

As I meet and discuss this critical issue with the Dayton-area business community and members of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, I am proud to say that every single member I've talked to is going above and beyond to protect everyone they come in contact with on a daily basis. Safety is first priority for our business community and that has been evident.

Businesses are innovating, adjusting and taking significant precautionary measures to protect their employees, guests, customers and vendors from COVID-19. These measures take significant resources, time and

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Sales Tax Collections

County	Current Rate	June 2020	June 2019	12 Mos Change	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD Change
Butler	0.75	\$3,779,804	\$3,799,804	-0.53%	\$21,204,043	\$22,302,544	-4.93%
Clark	1.5	\$2,471,571	\$2,349,693	5.19%	\$13,065,046	\$12,806,749	2.02%
Darke	1.5	\$928,691	\$793,118	17.09%	\$4,712,984	\$4,405,992	6.97%
Greene	1	\$2,414,204	\$2,452,830	-1.57%	\$13,716,228	\$13,716,228	-1.58%
Miami	1.25	\$1,805,406	\$1,582,710	14.07%	\$9,997,178	\$9,266,729	7.88%
Montgomery	1.25	\$8,908,625	\$8,658,126	2.89%	\$48,767,508	\$48,758,479	0.02%
Preble	1.5	\$580,455	\$485,281	19.61%	\$2,998,435	\$2,917,074	2.79%
Warren	1.25	\$4,456,135	\$4,487,260	-0.69%	\$25,881,133	\$26,631,040	-2.82%
Region Total		\$25,344,890	\$24,608,821	2.99%	\$140,342,555	\$141,024,764	-0.48%

Source: http://www.tax.ohio.gov/tax_analysis/tax_data_series/sales_and_use/publications_tds_sales/S1M0620.aspx

Residential Home Sales

	June '20	June '19	%Change	YTD '20	YTD '19	%Change
Number of Homes Sold	1624	1529	6.21%	7378	7776	-5.12%
Total Home Sales	\$334,301,525	\$298,618,817	11.95%	\$1,379,708,002	\$1,348,494,690	2.31%
Average Sale Price (\$)	\$205,851	\$195,303	5.40%	\$187,003	\$173,418	7.83%

Source: Dayton Area Board of Realtors, Dayton Area Home Sales for June 2020

investments to put in place and ensure the safety of all is paramount.

The last thing business leaders need is to be worried about a potential harm resulting from a COVID-19 related issue when they followed all the health and safety recommendations.

Our business community

is working hard to re-open and get back to business as usual, and the quick passage of HB 606 gives them the peace of mind they need to focus on their employees and their business. This confidence will result in what our economy needs now: Jobs must be restored, and our businesses need to be

able to be back up and running.

Dayton-area businesses are our employers, our neighbors, our friends and our community investors. They have been impacted beyond belief by COVID-19, and now that the proper protections are in place, they can rest a little easier and

try to figure out what the new normal actually looks like for the future.

A personal thank-you to the Ohio legislature, the governor and the lieutenant governor, who made business a priority for all of Ohio. The country is watching, and we are proud Ohio has our backs.

BUSINESS

Winsupply

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“Because of the help we provide here in Moraine, the local companies have a lot more time to create sales and serve their customers,” he said.

The company has had a Moraine presence since 1989, Schwartz said. It broke ground on the project Wednesday. Construction is expected to start in the next 30 days and be completed by next summer, he said.

Constructing the new building is not about Winsupply adding more space, but rather about its commitment to innovation, McKenzie said.

“For the first time in our



Winsupply broke ground on its Center for Innovation on Wednesday at Kettering Boulevard and Big Hill Road in Moraine. Construction is expected to start in the next 30 days and be completed by next summer.

64-year history, we will finally have a dedicated facility that gives people from our support services team the chance to work side-by-side with one of the local companies, Win-

supply of Dayton,” he said. Once the new building, plumbing supply house Winsupply of Dayton, which is owned by Jeff Williams, will move its entire operation from its location four



Winsupply has 6,800 employees nationwide, including more than 400 throughout the Dayton area, 275 of them at its Moraine campus. Winsupply broke ground on its Center for innovation Wednesday.

miles away near downtown Dayton to the Moraine site, McKenzie said.

That will allow Williams and his company to continue to serve their residential and commercial plumb-

ing customers, but with a full-service counter, much larger offices, more warehouse space and outdoor storage, he said.

“In addition to that, Jeff’s company will also become

Winsupply’s primary location for training new employees and testing new innovations that help all local companies,” McKenzie said. “For the first time, our Support Services team will get to do daily research and development inside a local company and then get feedback on the fly from Jeff and his employees as they serve customers every day.”

That means Winsupply’s Support Services team will be able to experiment, test, to fail and experiment again before rolling out its new processes, new software and new services that benefit all its local companies nationwide, McKenzie said.

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Testing

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“Epi Lab” comes in.

What follows is a new Dayton Daily News interview with Lambert, edited for space.

Dayton Daily News: What is your mission?

Lambert: “Our job is to take samples from all over the DoD and run them because other labs cannot run them. That’s what ‘Epi’ is; that’s what ‘Epi’ has always been. We had the model and the construct in place from day one. I mean, we’ve been doing this many, many years. And so we have the capability. We have the personnel to take this project on. And the DoD knows that.

“We’ve always been the go-to when it comes to large testing and bulk testing, search testing. We took on H1N1 in 2009 and some of the other diseases that have come out since then. This is a lot bigger, of course, a lot more ‘eye on the public’ if you will than those (other diseases) have been. Short story: We’ve always been postured to take on more samples.”

DDN: How many people



Staff Sgt. Alexis Shodeke (left) and Renee Mayhon, both medical laboratory technicians in the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine’s Epidemiology Laboratory, prepare to load new samples onto the Roche 8800 for COVID polymerase chain reaction testing. U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY RICHARD ELDREDGE

did you have pre-COVID? And how many today?

Lambert: “We started testing in March. And my lab at that time was just shy of 100 personnel. Currently, I have 125 personnel working here. Now, granted, not everyone is doing direct COVID testing. But it’s a machine. One part depends on the next part, depends on the next part. And so, without one of those cogs or each of those pieces, the process wouldn’t get it done.

DDN: This has become a seven-day-a-week operation?

Lambert: “We are. It varies based on the department, but I have anywhere from two to three shifts per day.

DDN: (Air Force Research Lab Commander) Brig. Gen. Heather Pringle last week said you have tested 120,648 samples. What does a typical day look like for you, if you have a typical day?

Lambert: “If you do an average, we’re going to get between 1,000 and 1,200 (samples) a day. Some days it’s more, some days it’s less.

DDN: I’ve been told the

current turnaround time is just over 19 hours.

Lambert: “That is from the time the sample arrives here at Epi Lab. Being that people are sending it from all over the U.S. and all over the world, that 19 hours is from the time we actually receive the specimen.

“We put in multiple test systems and redundancies to make sure that there are no work stoppages. We have plans and contingency plans for what happens if we run out of supplies. Or what happens if this test system goes down. Our big thing is to never be at a work stoppage,

that we have multiple plans to move forward, to push through those samples.

“Moving a seven-day, 24-hour schedule has basically allowed us to go forth and resolve those samples in that short amount of time.”

DDN: Based on what you’re seeing from those samples, can you say whether some bases or parts of the DoD are suffering COVID worse than others?

Lambert: “I actually am not going to answer that based on the bases and potentially operational security on that one.”

DDN: “But the data you see helps the Department

of Defense answer questions like that?

Lambert: “It does ... We see increases in testing when the nation sees increases in testing. Our numbers are directly proportional to the national numbers.”

DDN: What’s ahead for you? Can you handle even further ramped-up testing?

Lambert: “My lab, we are the head of global DoD flu program. Also with COVID, we will start seeing an increase in influenza cases. And that’s one thing we’ve always done, the flu program.”

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Schedule

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erations of consumers out there. Some like to make the telephone call and talk to a person and some pre-

fer to do everything electronically and others like a mix. We just make sure we have available whatever our patients and consumers are asking for,” Pleiman said.

Having the option of online scheduling can attract

patients looking for convenience and reduce administrative burdens by having patients schedule themselves.

Small studies indicate direct scheduling is linked with lower patient no-show

rates.

A study published in August of the Journal of the American Medical Association looked at the characteristics associated with the online medical visit scheduling and found patients

that were early adopters of direct scheduling were more often young, white, and commercially insured, had more co-morbidities, and higher prior utilization, compared with non-adopters in the same practices. The study

looked at an academic medical center with 17 primary care sites covering more than 65,000 patients.

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