

BREAKING NEWS: DISPATCH

CAPITAL NOTES

Columbus lawmaker has new committee seat

Sen. Jim Hughes, a Columbus Republican, was appointed to the powerful Senate Finance Committee last week in a round of seat shuffling that also lightened the load for Sen. Mark Wagoner, R-Toledo.

Both Wagoner and outspoken Sen. Bill Seitz, R-Cincinnati, were removed from the Finance Committee by Senate President Bill M. Harris, R-Ashland. Hughes sat on the panel for the first time last week.

“With the many economic challenges facing our state, it is imperative that state government uses its resources wisely to best meet the needs of its citizens while encouraging job creation,” Hughes said.

He called the selection an honor and promised to do his best to “ensure Ohio’s continued fiscal stability and that tax dollars are spent appropriately.”

In all, Wagoner was removed from the three committees, including Civil Justice and State and Local Government. He also stepped down from a Senate leadership position in January after being named partner at his law firm.

An aide said Wagoner has no plans to step down from his seat at this time.

—Jim Siegel
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