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This June 5, 2023, Legislative e-Update is provided by OESCA to Ohio's ESCs, their client school districts, and other key education stakeholders.

The e-Update provides information on the pending education bills of interest to Ohio's public education community introduced during the 135th Ohio General Assembly. Bills are organized in order by last action date (includes last 3 status). There are also links to the state bill page for users to download any bills, analyses, or fiscal notes.

The document concludes with targeted news updates and the latest news from Capitol Square.

Legislative Tracking Report: 135th General Assembly

The following education bill of interest are monitored by OESCA on behalf of the membership and client districts.

- HB33** **FY24-25 OPERATING BUDGET (EDWARDS J)** To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.
- Current Status:* 6/9/2023 - Senate Finance, (Eleventh Hearing)
Recent Status: 6/8/2023 - Senate Finance, (Tenth Hearing)
6/7/2023 - Senate Finance, (Ninth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-33>
- SB104** **REGARDING COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CIRINO J, BRENNER A)** Regarding the College Credit Plus Program.
- Current Status:* 6/7/2023 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/31/2023 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (First Hearing)
4/19/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Workforce and Higher Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-104>
- HB164** **FOSTER-TO-COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (JARRELLS D, SEITZ B)** To establish the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program, to require the Department of Education to hire a full-time school foster care liaison, and to make an appropriation for the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program.
- Current Status:* 6/7/2023 - House Higher Education, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/24/2023 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)
5/2/2023 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-164>

- HB47 REQUIRE AEDS IN SCHOOLS** (BROWN R, BIRD A) To require the placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in each public and chartered nonpublic school and each public recreational facility and to require the Ohio Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs.
- Current Status:* 5/24/2023 - Informally Passed
Recent Status: 5/24/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration
4/25/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Health Provider Services, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-47>
- SCR4 LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS** (SCHURING K) To adopt the Legislative Code of Ethics for the members and employees of both chambers of the 135th General Assembly, employees of any legislative agency, and candidates for the 136th General Assembly.
- Current Status:* 5/24/2023 - **ADOPTED BY HOUSE**; Vote 88-0
Recent Status: 3/8/2023 - **ADOPTED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0
3/8/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SCR-4>
- SB83 HIGHER EDUCATION OPERATIONS ENHANCEMENT** (CIRINO J) To enact the Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act regarding the operation of state institutions of higher education and to revise the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.
- Current Status:* 5/24/2023 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/23/2023 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education
5/17/2023 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 21-10
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-83>
- HB71 COMMUNITY CONNECTORS WORKFORCE PROGRAM** (SANTUCCI N) To establish the Community Connectors Workforce Program and to make an appropriation.
- Current Status:* 5/23/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 2/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
2/27/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-71>
- SB21 APPEAL PROCESSES, LEGISLATIVE ACTION** (MCCOLLEY R, REYNOLDS M) To generally change the venue in which appeal from an agency order is proper to the local court of common pleas and provide special rules regarding consideration of such cases, to revise the law governing claim preclusion in zoning appeals, to revise the law governing the referral of cases to the Hamilton County Drug Court, to transfer Perry Township in Wood County and Washington Township in Hancock County from the territorial jurisdiction of the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court to the territorial jurisdiction of, respectively, the Bowling Green Municipal Court and the Findlay Municipal Court on January 2, 2024, to allow the General Assembly to intervene in certain actions, to allow the General Assembly and the Governor to retain special counsel, and to replace two part-time judgeships in the Sandusky County County Court with one full-time judge.
- Current Status:* 5/23/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Civil Justice, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/16/2023 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Civil Justice, (Fourth Hearing)

3/21/2023 - House Civil Justice, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-21>

HB171 **MIGRATION IN SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM** (LIGHTBODY M) To include instruction on the migration, experiences, and contributions of a range of communities in the social studies model curriculum.

Current Status: 5/23/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Recent Status: 5/10/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-171>

HB183 **SINGLE-SEX BATHROOMS** (LEAR B, BIRD A) Regarding single-sex bathroom access in primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.

Current Status: 5/23/2023 - Introduced

Recent Status:

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-183>

SB112 **OHIO CHILDHOOD SAFETY ACT** (RULLI M) To require school buildings to comply with national life safety standards and to name this act the Ohio Childhood Safety Act.

Current Status: 5/23/2023 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 4/26/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
4/25/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-112>

HB139 **INCREASE PENALTIES FOR ASSAULT OF SPORTS OFFICIAL** (ROEMER B, MILLER J) To increase the penalties for assault if the victim is acting as a sports official or the assault is committed in retaliation for the victim's actions as a sports official.

Current Status: 5/23/2023 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 4/18/2023 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
3/28/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-139>

HB135 **EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR 4-H** (HALL T, CREECH R) To require school districts to grant students excused absences from school for participation in 4-H and FFA programs and activities.

Current Status: 6/6/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/23/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

5/16/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-135>

HB151 **STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION** (DEMETRIOU S, WILLIAMS J) To enact the Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act regarding the operation of state institutions of higher education and to revise the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.

Current Status: 5/17/2023 - House Higher Education, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/10/2023 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)
4/18/2023 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-151>

HB146 **SERS BENEFIT CAP (BIRD A)** To establish a contribution based benefit cap in calculating a School Employees Retirement System member's retirement benefit.
Current Status: 5/16/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Pensions, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/9/2023 - House Pensions, (Second Hearing)
4/25/2023 - House Pensions, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-146>

HB103 **SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS (JONES D, RICHARDSON T)** To establish the Ohio Social Studies Standards Task Force to develop new social studies academic standards for use beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.
Current Status: 5/16/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/9/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
5/2/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-103>

SJR2 **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE-60 PERCENT REQUIREMENT (MCCOLLEY R, GAVARONE T)** Proposing to amend Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require a vote of at least 60% of the electors to approve any constitutional amendment.
Current Status: 5/10/2023 - Consideration of House Amendments; Senate Does Concur, Vote 26-7
Recent Status: 5/10/2023 - **ADOPTED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Resolution Vote 62-37
5/10/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SJR-2>

HB6 **SINGLE-SEX TEAMS REQUIREMENT (POWELL J)** To enact the Save Women's Sports Act to require schools, state institutions of higher education, and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex.
Current Status: 5/10/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Higher Education, (Fifth Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/26/2023 - House Higher Education, (Fourth Hearing)
4/19/2023 - House Higher Education, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-6>

HB8 **PARENTAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (SWEARINGEN D, CARRUTHERS S)** To enact the "Parents' Bill of Rights" to require public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexually explicit content.
Current Status: 6/6/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/9/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
4/25/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-8>

SB1 REFORM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (REINEKE W) To rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce; to create the position of Director of Education and Workforce; and to reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Current Status: 5/9/2023 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/25/2023 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)
3/28/2023 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-1>

SB30 YOUTH WORKING HOURS (SCHAFFER T) To allow a person under sixteen years of age to be employed after 7 p.m. during the school year.

Current Status: 5/9/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Commerce and Labor, (Fourth Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/25/2023 - House Commerce and Labor, (Third Hearing)
4/18/2023 - House Commerce and Labor, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-30>

HB117 ELIMINATE THIRD GRADE READING RETENTION (MANNING G, ROBINSON P) To eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, to expand the grades for which intensive reading intervention is provided, and expand the inclusion of phonics in learning standards.

Current Status: 5/9/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/2/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
4/18/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-117>

SB92 AUGUST SPECIAL ELECTION, APPROPRIATION (MCCOLLEY R, GAVARONE T) To allow a special election to be held in August for certain purposes, to require a special election to be held on August 8, 2023, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 5/3/2023 - House Government Oversight, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/2/2023 - House Government Oversight, (Third Hearing)
4/27/2023 - House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-92>

SB49 K-12 RELIGIOUS ACCOMODATIONS POLICY (REYNOLDS M) To enact the Religious Expression Days "R.E.D." Act to require each kindergarten through 12 public school to adopt a policy providing students, teachers, and staff with religious accommodations.

Current Status: 6/6/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/2/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
4/26/2023 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-49>

HB144 **AUGUST SPECIAL ELECTION (MANCHESTER S)** To allow a special election to be held in August for certain purposes and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 4/27/2023 - House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/26/2023 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)
4/18/2023 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-144>

HB11 **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CHANGES (MCCLAIN R, JOHN M)** To establish the Backpack Scholarship Program to begin operating for the 2023-2024 school year, to repeal the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and the Pilot Project Scholarship Program on July 1, 2024, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 4/25/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/14/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
2/28/2023 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-11>

HB1 **PROPERTY, INCOME TAX CHANGES (MATHEWS A)** To modify the law regarding property taxation and income tax rates.

Current Status: 4/25/2023 - House Ways and Means, (Seventh Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/18/2023 - House Ways and Means, (Sixth Hearing)
3/28/2023 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-1>

HB38 **SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH DAYS (BLACKSHEAR W, MIRANDA J)** To allow school districts to permit students to take up to three mental health days away from school each school year.

Current Status: 4/25/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 2/16/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
2/15/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-38>

HB140 **PASSING SCHOOL BUS (BROWN R)** To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus.

Current Status: 4/18/2023 - Referred to Committee House Transportation
Recent Status: 3/28/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-140>

- HB78** **STRB ELECTIONS, MEMBERSHIP** (SEITZ B, MILLER J) Regarding State Teachers Retirement Board elections and membership requirements.
Current Status: 4/18/2023 - House Pensions, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/28/2023 - House Pensions, (First Hearing)
2/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Pensions
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-78>
- HB12** **REFORM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** (JONES D, DOBOS D) To rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce; to create the position of Director of Education and Workforce; and to reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
Current Status: 4/18/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/21/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
3/7/2023 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-12>
- HB147** **TEACHER LICENSURE REVOCATION** (FOWLER S, MILLER A) Regarding teacher licensure revocation, teacher hiring practices, and conduct unbecoming to the teaching profession.
Current Status: 6/6/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/18/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
4/4/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-147>
- HB137** **STUDY KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS CHALLENGE ACADEMY** (MATHEWS A, PLUMMER P) To require the Department of Education to study the feasibility of implementing a program similar to the Kentucky Bluegrass Challenge Academy.
Current Status: 4/18/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status: 3/28/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-137>
- HB16** **ETHICS, FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REFORM** (MERRIN D) To enact the Ethics and Financial Disclosure Reform Act to revise the law governing ethics and lobbying.
Current Status: 3/28/2023 - House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 2/21/2023 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)
2/16/2023 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-16>
- SB17** **FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION-CAPITALISM** (WILSON S) To incorporate free market capitalism content into the high school financial literacy and entrepreneurship standards and model curriculum.
Current Status: 3/28/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
3/8/2023 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 31-1
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-17>

HB127 HOME EDUCATION (FOWLER S) To revise the law regarding the home education of children.

Current Status: 3/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status: 3/21/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-127>

HB70 SCHOOL OVER COUNTER DRUG POLICY (FOWLER S, GROSS J) To require schools to adopt a policy regarding the administration of over-the-counter drugs.

Current Status: 3/28/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 2/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
2/27/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-70>

SB79 DROPOUT PREVENTION, RECOVERY SCHOOLS (REYNOLDS M) Regarding dropout prevention and recovery community schools

Current Status: 3/28/2023 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/8/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
3/7/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-79>

SB66 TRANSFER STUDENT RECORDS DEADLINE (INGRAM C) To require public and private schools to transmit a transferred student's records within five school days.

Current Status: 3/28/2023 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/7/2023 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
2/22/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-66>

HB113 DETRANS AWARENESS DAY (CLICK G) To designate March 12th as "Detrans Awareness Day."

Current Status: 3/22/2023 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
Recent Status: 3/14/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-113>

SB29 EDUCATION RECORDS, STUDENT PRIVACY (HUFFMAN S) Regarding education records and student data privacy.

Current Status: 3/14/2023 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/7/2023 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
2/14/2023 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-29>

SB11 **PARENT EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM ACT** (O'BRIEN S) To enact the Parent Educational Freedom Act to expand eligibility for Educational Choice scholarships, to cease the operation of the Pilot Project Scholarship Program on July 1, 2023, and to increase the income tax credit for homeschooling expenses.

Current Status: 3/7/2023 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/21/2023 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
2/7/2023 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-11>

SB14 **VETERANS' ELIGIBILITY AS TEACHERS** (HOAGLAND F) To expand eligibility for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces to be employed as teachers without licenses.

Current Status: 3/7/2023 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/7/2023 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
1/17/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-14>

HB82 **MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR COACHES** (LOYCHIK M, PAVLIGA G) To require school athletic coaches to complete mental health training and to revise the renewal requirements for pupil-activity program permits and to amend the version of section 3319.303 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on December 29, 2023, to continue the change on and after that date.

Current Status: 2/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Recent Status: 2/27/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-82>

HB63 **K-12 CONFLICT RESOLUTION EDUCATION** (HUMPHREY L) To require public and chartered nonpublic schools to provide conflict resolution instruction to students in grades kindergarten through twelve.

Current Status: 2/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Recent Status: 2/21/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-63>

HB10 **PHASE-IN SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM** (CALLENDER J, SWEENEY B) To express the intent of the General Assembly to continue phasing-in the school financing system established in H.B. 110 of the 134th General Assembly and, if practicable, fully phase it in.

Current Status: 2/16/2023 - Referred to Committee House Finance

Recent Status: 2/15/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-10>

HB9 **TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS** (MANNING G, LIGHTBODY M) To establish the Grow Your Own Teacher Program, to establish a loan repayment program for eligible teachers, to make changes to teacher licensing and professional development, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 2/16/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Recent Status: 2/15/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-9>

HB2 **LEGISLATIVE INTENT-STATE FUNDING** (CUTRONA A, UPCHURCH T) To declare the intent of the General Assembly to direct state funds to projects across the state for economic growth and community development.

Current Status: 2/16/2023 - Referred to Committee House Finance

Recent Status: 2/15/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-2>

SB27 **RATIFY TEACHER MOBILITY COMPACT** (ROEGNER K) To ratify the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.

Current Status: 2/8/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

Recent Status: 1/23/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-27>

SB5 **WORKFORCE VOUCHER PROGRAM** (SCHURING K, MANNING N) To establish the Workforce Voucher Program, to terminate the provisions of the Voucher Program two years after the bill's effective date by repealing sections 122.157, 122.158, and 3313.473 of the Revised Code on that date, to authorize tax credits for graduates of the Voucher Program, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 1/17/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Workforce and Higher Education

Recent Status: 1/11/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-5>

Latest News from Capital Square

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Operators of public accommodations can legally restrict the use of restrooms, changing rooms and locker rooms to a single sex, according to an official opinion from Attorney General Dave Yost. "[A] policy limiting bathrooms, changing rooms and locker rooms to a single sex does not 'deny' anyone access to public accommodations, and thus does not violate R.C. 4112.02(G)," Yost said, responding to an opinion request from Greene County Prosecutor David Hayes. "I do not wish to diminish the reality that some transgender individuals may feel uncomfortable or disrespected if made to abide by such policies. But in this context, as in so many other legal contexts, the law does not protect subjective preferences," Yost said. "Some may consider this equal access right insufficient to protect the interests of our transgender citizens. But only the Legislature can broaden the statutory right -- I cannot make the statute confer something more than the equal access the statutory text guarantees."

BALLOT ISSUES

A proposed reproductive and abortion rights amendment is a single constitutional amendment and the Ohio Ballot Board did not abuse its discretion in determining it as so, the Ohio Supreme Court unanimously ruled Thursday, rejecting a lawsuit that sought to have it divided into multiple issues.

FY24-25 BUDGET

The Senate version of biennial budget bill HB33 (Edwards) is expected to be introduced Tuesday, June 6 according to Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima), with a floor vote held by Thursday, June 15. Huffman told reporters passing the budget on that date should give lawmakers plenty of time to hammer out differences before sending the bill to the governor by the end of the month.

Meanwhile, Huffman maintains his skepticism about the sustainability of the Cupp-Patterson school funding formula and argues a forthcoming Senate version of the budget, HB33 (Edwards), will provide a predictable and more sustainable framework. In an interview with *Hannah News*, he also expressed doubt about enacting totally universal voucher eligibility, saying he wants the Senate budget to focus on helping more kids, particularly those who don't have other choices. "This formula isn't any more predictable than it was before. Because in four years, the formula will require that a large number of school districts go off the guarantee," Huffman said. "It's even more unsustainable than I thought it was two years ago."

Teachers and parents urged senators to follow the House's lead in using the budget bill to repeal the retention mandate from Ohio's third grade reading law, among many other requests the Senate Finance Committee heard during a lengthy meeting Wednesday.

CORONAVIRUS/MONKEYPOX

New COVID-19 cases continued to decline Thursday, according to Ohio Department of Health (ODH) data, falling to 1,612 after previous totals of 1,926 and 2,770. The seven days ending June 1 are the lowest number of new cases since there were 1,480 over the week ending Thursday, July 8, 2021. New hospitalizations fell from 159 on May 18 to 80 Thursday, and ICU admissions dropped from 16 that day to four in the latest figures. The COVID-19 death totals are currently undergoing a revision of the cause-of-death codes by the National Center for Health Statistics, which is expected to continue through June. In total, ODH has reported 3.45 million cases, 140,961 hospitalizations, 15,264 ICU admissions and 42,292 deaths during the pandemic, with seven reported deaths removed Thursday due to the revisions.

Health Canal recently completed a national survey on previously-vaccinated adults age 65 and older on their views of the bivalent vaccine. The FDA has said that age group can receive an additional dose four months after the first one, and immunocompromised individuals can receive one after two months. Over 55 percent of the anonymous

respondents said they were likely (18.93 percent) or very likely (38.26 percent) to receive an updated bivalent booster. The "neutral" group made up 18.04 percent, while 7.33 percent said they were unlikely and 17.44 percent said very unlikely.

EDUCATION

Rather than spend time fulfilling the Senate's request to survey schools on how much they're spending on litigation challenging the constitutionality of vouchers, Auditor Keith Faber should look into charter schools' spending to fight union drives, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) said Thursday in a letter to the auditor. Faber recently sent a survey to Ohio school districts at the request of Senate Republicans to gather information on schools' spending in support of the Vouchers Hurt Ohio coalition's litigation on EdChoice. Melissa Cropper, president of OFT, wrote in the letter to Faber Thursday that OFT believes costs of funding litigation are warranted, but suggested spending on consultants and communications to prevent charter school employees from unionizing is more suspect.

Amid another legislative debate on whether to keep Ohio's decade-old third grade reading retention law, the business coalition Ohio Excels is touting new research from the Ohio Education Research Center on the positive effects of retention on students' later performance. Ohio Excels is a group of business leaders focused on education and workforce issues. The Ohio Education Research Center brings together researchers from Ohio universities and research organizations to study education-related topics. "Retention leads to, on average, retained students within a specific bandwidth around the cutoff scoring between eight to 44 scale score points higher in fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades reading and mathematics assessments than students who were not retained but were within the same bandwidth around the cutoff score. The positive impacts of retention on performance in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades in both subjects are stronger than in the seventh grade," the research report states.

Three Ohio high school seniors are among 161 students recognized as U.S. Presidential Scholars for 2023. The program is meant to identify the most distinguished high school seniors in the nation, and the designation recognizes achievement in academics, the arts or career-technical education. The three Ohioans are Pranav Sompalle of Mayfield High School; Sanjana M. Velu of William Mason High School; and Jay G. Patel of Butler Tech Bioscience Center.

ELECTIONS 2023

Ballots for the Tuesday, Aug. 8 special election will start to be sent out Friday, June 23 for military and overseas voters, according to a list of important dates released by the secretary of state's office. Ohio voters will be deciding Issue 1, which would raise the threshold for passage of future constitutional issues to 60 percent. The deadline for voter registration for the August election will be Monday, July 10, with early, in-person absentee voting beginning Tuesday, July 11. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by county boards of elections on Tuesday, Aug. 1. Boards will remain open until 8:30 p.m. that day. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Aug. 8.

The following endorsement was made over the week:

- The Ohio Farm Bureau endorsed a "Yes" vote on Issue 1.

ELECTIONS 2024

U.S. Rep. Warren Davidson (R-Troy) told supporters Tuesday he has decided to seek re-election rather than run for the U.S. Senate in 2024. Davidson said that he has built "an amazing political team and strong allies with the funding to win any race," adding he has been tempted to launch a campaign to take on incumbent U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH).

Republican J.R. Majewski announced this week that he was withdrawing from the race for the 9th Congressional District "due to my mother's health. â€ Last cycle, I lost my father before the primary election and I can't risk not

giving my full attention to my family," he wrote on social media. Majewski won a crowded primary for the Republican nomination for the seat in 2022, but lost in the General Election to U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo). He announced earlier this year that he was running for the seat again.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

Ohio is the 20th-best state or district for remote work and second-best among its neighbors, according to a report from personal finance site WalletHub released recently. The report relied on 12 key metrics and ranked Ohio 21st in the "work environment" subranking and 29th in "living environment." It also noted that 12.7 percent of full-time employees work entirely from home and 28.2 percent have a hybrid model. The top five states overall were Delaware, Utah, Maryland, Connecticut and New Jersey, with the District of Columbia ranked sixth. Among neighbors, Pennsylvania was 18th, followed by Kentucky, 23rd; Indiana, 32nd; Michigan, 34th; and West Virginia, 42nd.

FEDERAL

All of Ohio's members of the U.S. House voted to pass the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the compromise budget deal between U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and President Joe Biden that would raise the debt ceiling and avoid default. The bill cleared the U.S. House on Wednesday on a vote of 314 to 117, with 149 Republicans and 165 Democrats voting for it, and 71 Republicans and 46 Democrats voting against it.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The Senate unanimously passed three bills during its Wednesday session, including SB39 (Schaffer) that exempts a number of baby products from the sales and use tax. Sponsor Sen. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) said removing the tax will ease the burden on raising children and encourage more families to relocate to Ohio. He noted 16 states permanently exempt tax for some baby products, including Florida, which recently enacted a similar law. He said the bill would likely cost the state about \$18-30 million in revenue each year and said it would have a minor impact on the total state budget.

The Senate also unanimously adopted SB74 (Gavarone), which sponsor Sen. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) said "is a true modernization" and cleanup bill for the treasurer's office. She said it is not expanding any authority or creating new programs, and instead makes changes to the Ohio Revised Code that are decades overdue.

The third bill on the agenda passed along with its emergency clause unanimously. Sen. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) said SB122 (Manning-Hicks-Hudson) at first looks complicated but is simple and codifies Criminal Rule 46, which provides all state courts with instructions on bail-setting procedures. The Ohio Supreme Court has proposed repealing the rule after passage of State Issue 1 in 2022, which among other provisions, gives the General Assembly authority to prescribe factors for courts when they set bail. Manning said that if the bill and emergency clause is not passed by July 1, there will be no law, leaving the courts in disarray.

Sen. Bill Reineke's (R-Tiffin) legislation to update Ohio's waste disposal laws and ensure that "Ohio does not continue to become a trash can for the East Coast" was the subject of passionate debate during the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee meeting on Tuesday. The committee heard a range of testimony from opponents, proponents and interested parties during SB119's third hearing. Before testimony started, the committee accepted a substitute version of the bill that included the following changes:

- Removes the provisions on permitting/licensing new facilities and expanding existing facilities that require the application to show a benefit to the public and serve the public convenience and necessity.
- Clarifies that the \$1 per ton local oversight fund is part of the \$7.50 per ton fee for solid waste disposal.
- Reduces the previous bill's district disposal fees to \$4 per ton across the board, instead of \$7.50 per ton for all trash.

- Clarifies that construction and demolition debris (C&DD) fees are required to be charged on C&DD.

In other action, the Senate Community Revitalization Committee reported out SB90 (Roegner) which authorizes Ohio to join the Social Work Licensure Compact; the Senate Government Oversight Committee reported out SB44 (Brenner) which mandates use of electronic occupational license applications; and the Senate Health Committee reported out SB40 (Roegner) which authorizes the state to enter the Dentist and Dentist Hygienist Compact.

JUDICIAL

The group challenging the validity of the Tuesday, Aug. 8 special election argued to the Ohio Supreme Court that the election is unlawful because it violates unambiguous provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, which only allow elections on constitutional amendments in November, May, or March. One Person One Vote, the Issue 1 opposition group that filed the lawsuit along with three Ohio voters challenging the election, filed a brief Thursday in response to the defendants' arguments that election statutes cannot override powers conferred to lawmakers in the Ohio Constitution. The brief urges the Ohio Supreme Court to declare the election illegal, mandate that Secretary of State Frank LaRose remove it from the August ballot, rescind the directive authorizing county boards to proceed with the election, and instruct the boards that the election should not go forward. The response brief argues that the relevant sections of the Ohio Revised Code that only authorize constitutional amendments in November, May, or March, are not unconstitutional, but are the means by which the General Assembly has prescribed when elections on constitutional amendments may be held, and cannot be superseded by a mere joint resolution like SJR2 (McColley-Gavarone).

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