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*This June 20, 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 135<sup>th</sup> 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: 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

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

**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:** 6/15/2023 - Consideration of House Amendments; Senate Does Concur, Vote 24-7

**Recent Status:** 6/14/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 68-27

6/14/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration

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

**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:** 6/15/2023 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 24-7

**Recent Status:** 6/15/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration

6/14/2023 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, Senate Finance, (Eleventh Hearing)

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-33>

- 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:* 6/14/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 85-9  
*Recent Status:* 6/14/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration  
6/13/2023 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Rules and Reference, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-47>
- 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:* 6/14/2023 - Informally Passed  
*Recent Status:* 6/14/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration  
6/13/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Sixth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-8>
- 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:* 6/14/2023 - House Higher Education, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/17/2023 - House Higher Education, (Second Hearing)  
5/10/2023 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-151>
- 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:* 6/13/2023 - Re-Referred to Committee  
*Recent Status:* 6/7/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Higher Education, (Second Hearing)  
5/24/2023 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-164>
- 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:* 6/13/2023 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/23/2023 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)  
4/18/2023 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-139>

- 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:* 6/20/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 6/13/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
4/18/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-137>
- HB214**      **SCHOOL POLICY ON STAFF EXPECTATIONS** (HOLMES A) To require each public school to adopt a policy regarding certain expectations related to the performance of staff member professional duties.
- Current Status:* 6/13/2023 - Introduced
- Recent Status:*
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-214>
- HB78**      **STRB ELECTIONS, MEMBERSHIP** (SEITZ B, MILLER J) Regarding State Teachers Retirement Board elections and membership requirements.
- Current Status:* 6/13/2023 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Pensions, (Third Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 4/18/2023 - House Pensions, (Second Hearing)  
3/28/2023 - House Pensions, (First Hearing)
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-78>
- HB71**      **COMMUNITY CONNECTORS WORKFORCE PROGRAM** (SANTUCCI N) To establish the Community Connectors Workforce Program and to make an appropriation.
- Current Status:* 6/20/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 6/13/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
5/23/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-71>
- 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:* 6/13/2023 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 5/16/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)  
5/9/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-103>
- 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:* 6/7/2023 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education

**Recent Status:** 5/23/2023 - Introduced  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-183>

**HB206**      **EXPULSIONS FOR ENDANGERING HEALTH, SAFETY OF OTHER STUDENTS**  
(CLICK G, ROBB BLASDEL M) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a public school for actions that endanger the health and safety of other students or school employees.

**Current Status:** 6/7/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

**Recent Status:** 6/6/2023 - Introduced

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-206>

**SB104**      **REGARDING COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS** (CIRINO J, BRENNER A) Regarding the College Credit Plus Program.

**Current Status:** 6/21/2023 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (Third Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 6/7/2023 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (Second Hearing)

5/31/2023 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (First Hearing)

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-104>

**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>

**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>

**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>

- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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:* 6/20/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/23/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
5/10/2023 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-171>
- 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>
- 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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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>

**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

### BALLOT ISSUES

In response to the Ohio Supreme Court's decision issued Monday, the Ohio Ballot Board voted 3-2 Tuesday to adopt a slightly adjusted ballot title and language for Issue 1 to reflect the Court's wishes. The board accepted new language that made minor changes to the previous language. Specifically, the second point in the language now reads that the amendment would "Require that any initiative petition filed on or after Jan. 1, 2024, with the secretary of state proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio be signed by at least 5 percent of the electors of each county based on the total vote in the county for governor in the last preceding election." LaRose also gave the issue the new title of "Elevating the standards to qualify for an initiated constitutional amendment and to pass a constitutional amendment."

Ohioans won't be "tricked into voting their rights away" this August, League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) Executive Director Jen Miller said Friday. Miller said LWVO and other advocates are planning to execute a multifaceted campaign to ensure Ohioans are aware of what is at stake in August when they vote on Issue 1 which proposes to increase the passage threshold for future constitutional amendments to 60 percent.

With military and overseas voting set to begin next week for the Tuesday, Aug. 8 special election, both sides of the Issue 1 campaign continued to roll out endorsements for and against the proposed increase to the constitutional amendment passage threshold. Leadership Now Project, a business group, released an open letter signed by more than 25 Ohio business leaders opposing the passage of Issue 1. Among the signatories were John Pepper, former chairman and CEO, the Procter & Gamble Company and former non-executive chairman, the Walt Disney Company; Jeni Britton Bauer, founder and chief creative officer, Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams; Charles (Chuck) Ratner, director, The Max Collaborative, former board chairman and CEO, Forest City Realty Trust, and CEO, Forest City Enterprises; former Rep. Charles (Rocky) Saxbe; former Rep. Mike Curtin; Sharen Davies, president and CEO of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation; and Ronald Richard, president and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation.

Meanwhile, proponents of Issue 1 continued to announce endorsements in favor, including the Ohio Pork Council and the Ohio Chapter of Republican National Lawyers Association.

### FY24-25 BUDGET

The Senate passed its version of budget bill HB33 (Edwards) by a vote of 24-7 on Thursday, with Republicans touting the measure's tax cuts and education policies and Democrats condemning the legislation as "out of touch" and harmful to Ohioans. The bill now heads to the House for a concurrence vote and will likely be sent to a conference committee. The Senate Finance Committee had made a final round of budget changes Wednesday in a 2,100-plus page omnibus amendment. The omnibus packaged dozens and dozens of individual amendments addressing everything from tax policy to preemption of local tobacco regulations to limiting how much time state employees can spend working from home.

Compared to the substitute bill version of HB33 unveiled the previous week, the version reported by committee Wednesday included about \$58 million more in state-only General Revenue Fund (GRF) money for FY24 and about \$43 million more for FY25. Funding totals remain below House-proposed levels by more than 2 percent in each fiscal year. Among major changes is the inclusion of SB83 (Cirino), a major rewrite of higher education laws sponsored by the finance committee vice chair, Sen. Jerry Cirino (R-Kirtland), as well as the inclusion of SB1

(Reineke) which removes most of the authority of the State Board of Education, giving it to a new state education department under the governor.

Human service groups who had earlier focused on issues ranging from children to housing said in a webinar Friday that the Senate's proposed version of budget bill HB33 (Edwards) will not only roll back promising provisions of the executive and House-passed budgets, but make the situation related to many of these issues worse for the state. Advocates for Ohio's Future Director Kelsey Bergfeld said during a webinar with stakeholders Friday that the proposed budget accepted by the Senate Finance Committee earlier in the week sees a lot of ground lost in investments across the human services sector. Still, she said it is not the end of the process, with a likely conference committee with the House.

## **CHILDREN/FAMILIES**

HB68 (Click) which would prohibit gender transition services for children and ban transgender women and girls from playing women's and girls' school sports was reported out of the House Public Health Policy Committee on Wednesday. Rep. Andrea White (R-Kettering) joined all Democrats in voting against the legislation. White said she supports parts of the bill, but believed it needed more work before being reported out of committee. Rep. Beth Liston (D-Dublin) said the bill "dehumanizes" transgender individuals and inappropriately puts the government in charge of medical decisions that are best made by families and their doctors. House Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill) told reporters after Wednesday's floor session that HB68 will "probably" be on the House floor the week of June 19.

Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted reinforced parental consent to child social media access reinserted by the Senate in budget bill HB33 (Edwards), saying Monday that online peer pressure and bullying can lead not only to juvenile mental health problems but even death. Executive language restored by the upper chamber not only would allow parents and legal guardians to block youth from social media but also to censor or moderate content if they do allow kids access. DeWine and Husted joined Director Lori Criss of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and Executive Director Tony Coder of the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) at a Riffe Center press conference on the revived Social Media Parental Notification Act.

## **ECONOMY**

A recent study by personal finance site WalletHub ranked Ohio as having the 37th-best state economy, with subrankings of 30th in economic activity, 33rd in innovation potential and 46th in economic health. Overall, the Buckeye State trailed Michigan (20th), Indiana (27th) and Pennsylvania (28th), while leading Kentucky (45th) and West Virginia (51st, including the District of Columbia.) The report measured which "states are pulling the most weight even during this time of economic difficulty caused by inflation" and had 28 key indicators of economic performance and strength. The top five states were Washington, Utah, Massachusetts, Colorado and California.

## **EDUCATION**

The Senate version of the budget would allow private schools to continue withholding records from students who choose to transfer to public schools, State Board of Education (SBOE) member Teresa Fedor said Monday. The Senate should have retained the House provision in HB33 (Edwards) requiring schools to provide a transfer student's school records to the new school within five days of the request, Fedor said following a budget presentation from Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Budget and School Funding Chief Aaron Rausch and ODE Policy and Legislative Affairs Director Jennie Stump at the State Board of Education meeting.

An attempt by State Board of Education member Meryl Johnson to have the board ask lawmakers to prioritize public education funding failed in a committee vote Monday. As the General Assembly deliberates various budget drafts that all would substantially expand EdChoice scholarships, Johnson asked the board's Legislative and Budget Committee to take up her "Resolution in Support of Public Education as a Resource for Ohio." The resolution invokes the constitutional basis of Ohio's education system and states the board's desire to "advance equal access to high quality public education" and the need to "protect public resources." It goes on to ask "that the Ohio

Legislature prioritize the success of Ohio's system of public education, the education opportunity that is available to all, exists everywhere, unites communities in common purpose, and serves the common good, as it decides how to best allocate funds for educating Ohio's youth." The resolution failed with two votes in favor and four against. Board member Teresa Fedor, a former legislator and like Johnson a former teacher, joined Johnson in support, while members Walt Davis, Diana Fessler, John Hagan and Jim Mermis voted against it.

The General Assembly should pass legislation that would add information about a wide range of diverse communities to Ohio's social studies model curriculum, supporters of HB171 (Lightbody) said during a Statehouse rally on Tuesday. The legislation, which has been referred to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, would require the State Board of Education to update the social studies model curriculum to include "appropriate instruction in the migration journeys, experiences and societal contributions of a range of communities in Ohio and the United States." Communities included in the model curriculum would include the following:

- African American communities
- Asian American and Pacific Islander communities
- Arab, African and North African immigrant, refugee and asylee communities
- Appalachian communities
- Jewish communities
- Latin American communities
- Native American communities

The Ohio STEM Committee recently announced the approval of new or extended STEM designations for Ohio schools. Under state law, schools must have a partnership with public and private entities and offer a curriculum that meets specific criteria. Designate or redesignated schools include the following:

- Metro Early College High School received five additional years of STEM Designation starting in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Baldwin Road Junior High School received five additional years of STEM Designation starting in the 2022-2023 school year.
- The Dayton Regional STEM School received five additional years of STEM Designation starting in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Indian Hill Primary School received five years of STEM Designation starting in the 2023-2024 school year.
- Indian Hill Elementary School received five years of STEM Designation starting in the 2023-2024 school year.
- Hawkins STEMM Academy received five years of STEM Designation starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is offering an estimated \$400 million in competitive grant funding to replace older school buses with electric or low-emission models or install electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Applications will be taken through Tuesday, Aug. 22. USEPA is offering several webinars for those interested in more information throughout the summer. Registration information is at <https://tinyurl.com/bdhhjz8v>. More information about the funding is at <https://tinyurl.com/483zrdub>.

## **ELECTIONS 2023**

The following endorsement was made over the week:

- The SEIU District 1199 Executive Board endorsed the proposed Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety Amendment to the Ohio Constitution.

## **ELECTIONS 2024**

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- The 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District campaign of Craig Riedel announced the endorsements of State Sens. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), George Lang (R-West Chester), and Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario); and Reps. Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland), Gary Click (R-Vickery), Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky), Rodney Creech (R-West Alexandria), Thomas Hall (R-Middletown), Reggie Stoltzfus (R-Minerva), Brian Lampton (R-Beavercreek), and Jon Cross (R-Kenton).

- The U.S. Senate campaign of Republican Bernie Moreno announced the endorsements of Kash Patel, former chief of staff to the U.S. Department of Defense; former U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin; and 100 state and local leaders including Reps. Brian Lampton (R-Beavercreek) and Rodney Creech (R-West Alexandria), State Board of Education member Brendan Shea, and former Sen. Joy Padgett.

- The U.S. Senate campaign of Republican Matt Dolan announced in recent weeks the endorsements of Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn, Logan County Sheriff Randall Dodds, Harding County Sheriff Keith Everhart, Butler County Prosecutor Michael Gmoser, Hancock County Sheriff Michael Heldma, Lake County Sheriff Frank Leonbruno, Belmont County Sheriff David Lucas, Knox County Prosecutor Chip McConville, Morgan County Sheriff Doug McGrath, Champaign County Sheriff Matt Melvin, Washington County Sheriff Larry Mincks, Ashtabula County Sheriff Bill Niemi, Union County Sheriff Jamie Patton, Knox County Sheriff David Shaffer, Fayette County Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, and Madison County Sheriff John Swaney.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

The governor, Senate and House would be granted the specific right to intervene in a court case any time there is a challenge to the Ohio Constitution or the laws of the state, under legislation passed by the House on Wednesday. The chamber voted 67-26 along party lines to pass SB21 (McColley-Reynolds), which would also allow appeals of orders by state agencies to be heard in the home county of the licensee or the licensee's business, as opposed to only Franklin County. The bill is similar to 134-HB286 (Seitz), which was vetoed by Gov. Mike DeWine.

In other action, the House voted 73-21 to pass HB17 (Schmidt-Swearingen), which would prohibit the use of TikTok, WeChat or other applications owned by an entity in China.

The House voted 65-27 to pass HB100 (K. Miller), which would prohibit homeowner associations from restricting the display of the "thin blue line" flag. Rep. Kevin Miller (R-Newark) said the flag, which signifies support for the police, would receive protections like those given to the American flag, Ohio flag and various military flags. Miller insisted that displaying the flag is "not political" and should not be controversial while Rep. Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland) said she supports law enforcement, but also understands that the thin blue line flag undoubtedly causes anger and division in certain communities.

The House also passed the following bills:

- **HB191** (Swearingen-Seitz), which makes changes to the state's bail laws. The bill passed unanimously, and an emergency clause was added by a vote of 90-1.

- **HB76** (Hall-White), which would update notice requirements for certain government functions. The bill passed 93-1.

- **HB114** (Humphrey-Seitz), which would allow a candidate to use campaign funds to pay for certain child care costs. The bill passed 64-28.
- **HB101** (Bird-Schmidt), which modifies the law regarding village dissolution. The bill passed 86-9.
- **HB121** (Blasdel-Mathews), which allows businesses with remote workers to use a modified municipal income tax apportionment formula. The bill passed 91-0.

At a press conference at the Statehouse Wednesday, the sponsors of legislation that would prevent discrimination against individuals based on hair texture and hair styles expressed hope that the bill would move this legislative session and have Ohio join 22 other states with a similar law. Rep. Juanita Brent (D-Cleveland), who has sponsored a version of HB178 (Brent-Callender), also known as the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act, in previous sessions, said having Rep. Jamie Callender (R-Callender) as a primary co-sponsor this session makes this different from previous efforts. She said discrimination over hair texture and styles is an "everybody problem."

The House Rules and Reference Committee took the rare step of hearing and amending a bill Tuesday, limiting the application of the proposal to require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at public places. Under an amendment moved by Speaker Pro Tem Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton), villages and townships with populations below 5,000 would be exempt from requirements to place AEDs in sports and recreation locations, to provide AED training for staff at those locations, and to adopt an emergency action plan for use of AEDs. The legislation generally requires placement of AEDs in schools and sports and recreation facilities. The bill, HB47 (Brown-Bird), later passed 84-6 on the House floor.

Municipalities and utilities appeared in opposition Tuesday to legislation that would ensure rental property owners do not receive a property tax lien for unpaid water and sewer services they did not contract, warning that the bill could have unintended consequences including higher utility bills. Rod Davisson, administrator for the village of Obetz, testified in opposition to HB93 (Johnson) before the House State and Local Government Committee on behalf of the Ohio Municipal League, saying his village runs water and sewer services on a thin margin, and there isn't a lot of leeway to take big losses. He said they have never had to file a utility lien because often they just have to turn off the service to the property. They also send bills to both the property owner and the tenant, which he said has worked well. If the property owner knows that a tenant is behind on utilities, they can react faster to the situation.

Rep. Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) served as a Paulding County commissioner before running for the 82<sup>nd</sup> House District seat. He brings that and his experience as a life-long farmer to Columbus where he is vice chair of the House Agriculture Committee. He told *Hannah News* that it is important for the state to adequately support the Local Government Fund (LGF), "now, when state coffers are very robust."

In other action, the House Commerce and Labor Committee reported out HB129 (Patton) which requires licensure of commercial roofing contractors; the House Criminal Justice Committee reported out HB122 (Pavliga-A. Miller) which expands intimidation offenses; and SB122 (Manning-Hicks-Hudson) and HB191 (Swearingen-Seitz) both of which address bail; the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee reported out HB8 (Swearingen-Carruthers) which enacts the "Parents' Bill of Rights"; the House Transportation Committee reported out HB202, a highway naming bill; the House Ways and Means Committee reported out HB118 (Santucci-M. Miller) which exempts certain baby products from the sales tax; the House Higher Education Committee reported out HB98 (Blasdel) which prohibits colleges from reducing financial aid as a result of private scholarships; and the Senate Health Committee reported out SB28 (Roegner) which enters Ohio into the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact.

## **HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS**

Full-time workers need to earn at least \$19.09 an hour to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment in Ohio, according to a report released Wednesday by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO). The 2023 Ohio Out of Reach report shows a significant and growing gap between renters' income and the cost of rent. Of the 10 jobs with the most employees in Ohio, only three earn more than the \$19.09 an hour -- registered nurses, general operations managers, and truck drivers. In Ohio, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$993. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities -- without paying more than 30 percent of income on housing -- a household must earn \$3,308 monthly or \$39,702 annually, according to the report.

## **PENSIONS**

Investment expert and former county fiscal official Wade Steen has sued Gov. Mike DeWine and the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board of Trustees, asking a Franklin County judge to restore his board position. Steen disputes DeWine's assertion that he serves at the pleasure of the governor and can be replaced before his term ends. On the eve of election results for another board seat, DeWine announced he'd named investor G. Brent Bishop to Steen's seat. His office said they'd pick this timing intentionally, announcing the move after all votes in the board election were cast but before the results were announced, to avoid the appearance of trying to sway the election. Challenger Pat Davidson ousted incumbent Arthur Lard in that election.

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board of Trustees members turned back an attempt Thursday to open their meeting with an executive session discussion on litigation against the system for the ouster of former trustee Wade Steen. The board did later convene for a very long closed-door session that included discussion of lawsuits.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

The state of Ohio had the fifth most mail carrier dog bites in the country in 2022, according to the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). There were 311 dog bites in the Buckeye State in 2022, USPS said in a news release acknowledging National Dog Bite Awareness Week, which runs from Sunday, June 4 through Saturday, June 10. California led the nation in mailperson dog attacks, with 675 in 2022. The Golden State is followed by Texas (404 dog bites), New York (321), Pennsylvania (313), Ohio (311), Illinois (245), Florida (220), Michigan (206), Missouri (166) and North Carolina (146).

actionTRACK - Hannah News Service, Inc.

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