

info@oesca.org • July 7, 2023

This July 7, 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.

- HB235** **SBOE ELECTIONS (FOWLER S)** With regard to membership and election of State Board of Education members and to make changes regarding the State Board's public meetings.
Current Status: 7/5/2023 - Introduced
Recent Status:
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-235>
- 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: 7/3/2023 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. immediately
Recent Status: 6/30/2023 - Consideration of Conference Committee Report; House Accepts Conference Committee Report, Vote 67-30
6/30/2023 - Consideration of Conference Committee Report; Senate Accepts Conference Committee Report, Vote 25-6
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-33>
- 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: 6/30/2023 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days
Recent Status: 6/15/2023 - Consideration of House Amendments; Senate Does Concur, Vote 24-7
6/14/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 68-27

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

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: 6/27/2023 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
2/21/2023 - Introduced

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

HB71 **COMMUNITY CONNECTORS WORKFORCE PROGRAM (SANTUCCI N)** To establish the Community Connectors Workforce Program and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 6/27/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 6/20/2023 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
6/13/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-71>

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: 6/27/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 6/7/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
6/6/2023 - Introduced

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

HB214 **SCHOOL POLICY ON STAFF SPEECH (HOLMES A)** To require each school district, charter school and STEM school to adopt a policy setting forth expectations and standards for all professional staff members related to specific beliefs, affiliations, ideals or principles concerning political movements, ideology or social action.

Current Status: 6/27/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 6/20/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
6/13/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-214>

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: 6/27/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 6/20/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
6/13/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-137>

HB216 **INVESTIGATION REQUEST OF SCHOOL COMPLIANCE (LIGHTBODY M, WILLIAMS J)** To require the Department of Education to develop a process for requesting an investigation of a school's compliance with its policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Current Status: 6/26/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Recent Status: 6/20/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-216>

- HB219** **COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS** (BIRD A, BRENNAN S) Regarding the College Credit Plus Program.
Current Status: 6/26/2023 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education
Recent Status: 6/21/2023 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-219>
- 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>
- 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: 6/21/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Health
Recent Status: 6/14/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 85-9
6/14/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-47>
- 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: 6/21/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 89-4
Recent Status: 6/21/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration
5/9/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-117>
- 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 sexuality content.
Current Status: 6/21/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 65-29
Recent Status: 6/21/2023 - Bills for Third Consideration
6/14/2023 - Informally Passed
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-8>
- 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: 6/20/2023 - Re-Referred to Committee
Recent Status: 6/13/2023 - Re-Referred to Committee
6/7/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Higher Education, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-164>
- 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>

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>

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>

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>

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>

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>

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>
- 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>

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>

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>

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>

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>

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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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

County boards of elections began sending out absentee ballots for military and overseas voters for the Tuesday, Aug. 8 special election on Friday, June 23. Voters are being asked to weigh in on Issue 1, a proposed constitutional amendment that would raise the passage threshold of future amendments to 60 percent. Friday was also the deadline for boards of elections to update and publish notices of the special election, and to provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request. Monday, July 10, is the deadline for voter registration for the special election. Early, in-person and absentee voting for all other voters begins on Tuesday, July 11.

The campaign to defeat State Issue 1 released its first TV advertisement on Tuesday. The 30-second ad will be broadcast on television and video devices across the state, according to the "One Person One Vote" campaign, also known as the "Vote No in August" campaign.

CENSUS

Recently released U.S. Census Bureau data measured Americans who moved across state lines in 2021, estimating 184,477 people moved to Ohio from other states and 189,534 moved out. The margin of error for this data was significant, at +/- 11,210 people who moved to Ohio and +/-10,924 people who left. The report also found 1.23 million Ohioans moved within the state in 2021, at a +/-27,914 margin. Ohio ranked 16th for people moving in, with the top five states being Florida, 674,740; Texas, 591,395; California, 433,402; North Carolina, 336,681; and Georgia, 302,512. Among neighboring states, Pennsylvania led at 261,831, followed by Indiana, 156,417; Michigan, 143,042; Kentucky, 107,693; and West Virginia, 43,801.

CHILDREN/FAMILIES

The Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus got an overview Monday of Ohio's standing in the latest KIDS COUNT Data Book from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, while also hearing advocates' hopes for improvements in anti-hunger efforts and child lead poisoning prevention programs in final budget negotiations. Kim Eckhart of the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio said the arrival of the 2023 KIDS COUNT report in mid-June was well-timed to highlight the choices before legislators on policies that could benefit Ohio children. Ohio's data profile on child wellbeing has the state ranked 29th overall, with sub-rankings of 26th in economic wellbeing; 20th in education; 28th in health; and 33rd in family and community.

EDUCATION

School districts should have more flexibility in determining whether a student is ready to safely return to the classroom following an expulsion for a dangerous act, Reps. Gary Click (R-Vickery) and Monica Blasdel (R-Columbiana) told the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee during sponsor testimony on HB206 on Tuesday. "I want you to imagine the fear and sudden anxiety that overwhelmed young teenage girls and boys in my district on Dec. 6, 2022, when a 14-year-old young man pulled a gun out of his backpack. The teachers in that school don't have to imagine it, they witnessed it," Click said.

The Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) announced the selection of 16 high school students Tuesday for the 2023-2024 Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council. They will be invited to the in-person Ohio School Safety Summit on Tuesday-Wednesday, July 25-26 at the Columbus Convention Center to network with peers and attend sessions on violence prevention. During the year, council members will advocate for students' overall well-being and will develop strategies to encourage peers to actively engage in maintaining a safe school environment.

For the upcoming school year, Ohio educators can access "Learning Blade," an online STEM and computer science career platform, to inspire students to pursue high-demand careers. Free access to the platform is provided through the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN), which is managed by Battelle. This public-private partnership with the state of Ohio is part of the company's commitment to preparing the next generation of innovators. Learning Blade is accessible to all Ohio educators at no cost and will remain available throughout the 2023-2024 school year. The platform offers lessons and teacher guides aligned with Ohio's academic standards, designed for students in grades 5-9. Using real-life situations and missions, Learning Blade introduces students to a wide range of STEM and computer science careers. Ohio educators can access Learning Blade by visiting <https://osln.org/learning-blade>.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Both the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein determined evidence did not support assault charges against Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) over an altercation at the Statehouse. According to media reports and a video shared online, Wiggam collided with Chris Conomy outside the Statehouse. On that day, the House Public Health Services Committee was considering legislation that would prohibit gender transition services for children and ban transgender women and girls from playing women's and girls' school sports.

At Tuesday's House session, members passed HB5 (Ray-Baker), to modernize adoption laws; HB49 (Barhorst-Ferguson), regarding hospital price transparency; HB158 (Roemer-M. Miller), regarding cosmetology and barber laws; HCR8 (Patton-Lampton), urging the federal government to pick Ohio for the U.S. Space Command headquarters; HB34 (Klopfenstein-King), allowing breastfeeding mothers to be excused from jury service; and HB167 (Miranda-Abrams), regarding police training.

On Wednesday, the Senate passed SB16 (Wilson), with the Senate supporting the House's amendments and the addition of an emergency clause to put the legislation into effect immediately upon the governor's signature. While originally dealing with waivers of liability for donated food, the bill in the House picked up amendments to 134-HB343 (White), the implementing statute for the Marsy's Law constitutional amendment on victims' rights. Sen. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said among the changes to HB343 included in SB16 was language addressing when and how law enforcement provides information on victims' rights to victims. Under current law, officers are having to present victims with a very long form at the crime scene.

The Senate also passed another licensure compact bill, SB90 (Roegner), this one dealing with social workers. Sen. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson), who has championed a slew of licensure compact measures in the past few years, said the National Association of Social Workers, its Ohio affiliate and the relevant licensing board in Ohio are all on board.

Also passing was SB91 (Schaffer), which will establish training requirements for public employees and officials on spotting and reporting fraud, as well as mandatory reporting requirements for certain public employees and officials who witness or suspect fraud. Sen. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) said he developed the bill in cooperation with Auditor Keith Faber's office.

A rendering of the "Ohioans in Space" painting was unveiled at the Statehouse Wednesday, with plans for the final version to be unveiled on Jan. 24, 2024 and installed days afterward. It shows four astronauts -- John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Jim Lovell and Judith Resnik -- as well as Gene Kranz, who worked in flight control during Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions. The names of other Ohio astronauts will be included, likely through engraving on the frame, and the final work will be a nine-foot by 12-foot oil painting. Capitol Square Foundation (CSF) Chair Charles Moses noted it has been 66 years since the commissioning of the last major painting for the Statehouse, the same time period between the Wright Brothers' first flight and the Moon landing. He said this painting honors "Ohio's profound impact on space travel" and will be perfectly placed across from the Wright Brothers painting in the Rotunda's East Stairway.

In other legislative action, House Primary and Secondary Education Committee reported out HB71 (Santucci), to establish the Community Connectors Workforce Program; and HB137 (Mathews-Plummer), to study bringing a program like the Kentucky Bluegrass Challenge Academy to Ohio; and the House State and Local Government reported out HB93 (Johnson-McClain), regarding liens for unpaid water and sewer charges; HB74 (Hall-Lightbody), regarding state IT systems; and SB42 (Johnson-S. Huffman), to adopt the 1905 Wright Flyer II as the state airplane.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Ohio State University (OSU) will face more than 100 former students and non-students' damage claims that it harbored the late OSU sports physician and sexual predator Dr. Richard Strauss after the U.S. Supreme Court Monday denied the university's appeal. The high court does not comment when it declines a case, leaving in place last year's original U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals decision against Ohio State and subsequent order denying *en banc* review by the entire appeals court. In both findings, Judges Karen Moore and Eric Clay outvoted Senior Judge Ralph Guy 2-1.

The Senate passed another of its higher education proposals Wednesday along party lines after expanding the measure to establish and fund new academic centers by including more universities. Under SB117 (Cirino-McColley), lawmakers would establish the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture and Society at Ohio State University and the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership at the University of Toledo. A floor amendment would create similar centers at Cleveland State University, Miami University and the University of Cincinnati. Sen. Jerry Cirino (R-Kirtland) said the bill is meant to promote "an ethic of civil and free inquiry" at institutions of higher education. The amendment was adopted 25-7 and the bill passed 25-6.

The U.S. Supreme Court Thursday struck down admissions programs that relied in part on race at Harvard College and the University of North Carolina (UNC) on the grounds that they violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Both cases (*Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*) were brought by the group Students for Fair Admissions. In the UNC case, the plaintiffs alleged university policies discriminated against White and Asian applicants by giving preference to Black, Hispanic and Native American ones. The case against Harvard accused the university of discriminating against Asian American students by employing subjective standards to limit the number of those students accepted. The vote was 6-3 in the North Carolina case and 6-2 in the Harvard case. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson sat out the Harvard case reportedly because she had been a member of an advisory governing board. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion joined by the Court's conservative members and liberal members dissented.

REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT

In a case that could have implications for an appeal of Ohio's congressional redistricting efforts, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that state courts can play a role in reviewing decisions made by state legislatures regarding federal elections. The Court ruled 6-3 in *Moore v. Harper*, a case involving the way North Carolina drew its congressional lines after the census in 2020. Groups and Democratic voters challenged the map in the North Carolina Supreme Court, which ruled that the map was an impermissible gerrymander. The North Carolina State Legislature ultimately appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, presenting the argument that the Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which requires "the Legislature" of each state to prescribe the rules governing federal elections, vests state legislatures with authority to set rules governing federal elections free from restrictions imposed under state law. The argument has been known as the "independent state legislature theory." In a national press call analyzing the decision organized by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, Vikram Amar, the dean of the University of Illinois College of Law, said he did not think Ohio's appeal would resurrect any independent state legislature theory arguments that weren't addressed by the Court in the *Moore* ruling. He said he expects the Court next week to either refuse to take up the appeal or send it back to the Ohio Supreme Court for further review in light of the *Moore* ruling.

Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) said Wednesday he is expecting the U.S. Supreme Court to deny Ohio's federal court challenge to the Ohio Supreme Court's congressional redistricting rulings, following this week's U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Moore v. Harper*. "What happens with the Ohio case? I think probably the smart money is the Supreme Court will not accept that certiorari petition -- in other words, won't accept that case," he said.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS/BROADBAND

Ohio will receive \$793.7 million in federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funds, according to a Biden administration announcement Monday that was touted by Gov. Mike DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted and Ohio Department of Development (DOD) Director Lydia Mihalik as well. President Joe Biden said he wants to connect "everyone in America" to high-speed, affordable Internet by 2030, saying 24 million people currently do not have access and millions more have limited or unreliable service. High-speed Internet "isn't a luxury anymore, it's become an absolute necessity," he continued.

actionTRACK - Hannah News Service, Inc.

This Legislative e-Update is a service of OESCA and is intended to provide updated information on the legislative issues of interest to Ohio's ESCs, OESCA members & interested parties and is made available by Hannah News Services.