This January 24, 2020, 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 education bills of interest to Ohio’s public education community introduced during the 133rd General Assembly. Bills are organized in order of last action date and include the full status updates with most recent activity listed first in descending order. There are also links to the state bill page for users to download any bills, analyses or fiscal notes. The document concludes with the latest news from Capitol Square.

Legislative Tracking Report

BILL MONITORING
The following education bill of interest are monitored by OESCA on behalf of the membership and client districts. Bills are organized according to last action date:

HB409  STUDENT ATTENDANCE - ONLINE SCHOOLS (KOEHLER K) Regarding student attendance at internet- or computer-based community schools that are not dropout prevention and recovery schools.

Current Status: 1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
11/18/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

Categories: Education
Position: Undetermined

HB231  FREE EPINEPHRINE PROGRAMS (GREENSPAN D) To require the Department of Education to notify public and private schools of free epinephrine autoinjector programs and to enact the "Allison Rose Suhy Act" with regard to food allergy training for public schools and institutions of higher education.

Current Status: 1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 1/21/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
5/21/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Categories: Education, Health Care, Public Safety
Position: Undetermined
HB310  **SCHOOL BULLYING AND HAZING** (GREENSPAN D) To enact the “Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act” with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and colleges.

**Current Status:** 1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
11/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)

**Categories:** Education, Higher Education

**Position:** Undetermined


HB478  **EDUCATIONAL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY** (MILLER A, MIRANDA J) To make changes regarding the eligibility criteria for the Educational Choice scholarship program.

**Current Status:** 1/23/2020 - Introduced

**Recent Status:**

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


SB89  **CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION** (HUFFMAN M) With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in enterprise zones.

**Current Status:** 1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 1/21/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Amend


HB360  **PUBLIC SCHOOLS-WATER STATIONS** (CRAWLEY E, HILLYER B) To require water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains in certain public school buildings.

**Current Status:** 1/22/2020 - House Commerce and Labor, (Second Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 11/6/2019 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
10/9/2019 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


SB134  **PASSING SCHOOL BUSSES** (GAVARONE T) To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus, to create a new offense for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault related to improperly passing a stopped school bus, to make an appropriation, and to designate this the School Bus Safety Act.

**Current Status:** 1/22/2020 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Fourth Hearing)
**SB248**  
**SCHOOL STORM SHELTERS** (SCHAFFER T) To extend until November 30, 2022, the moratorium on the building code requirement for storm shelters for school construction projects.

- **Current Status:** 1/22/2020 - Senate General Government and Agency Review, (First Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 12/11/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government and Agency Review
  12/2/2019 - Introduced

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**SB126**  
**CRISIS ASSESSMENTS-SUICIDAL YOUTH** (MANNING N) To authorize a mental health professional to provide a crisis assessment, without parental consent, to a minor who is or is believed to be suicidal and to make an appropriation to support the employment of social workers or mental or behavioral health professionals at educational service centers.

- **Current Status:** 1/22/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Second Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 9/18/2019 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (First Hearing)
  5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid
- **Position:** Undetermined

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**SB225**  
**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (LEHNER P) To require public schools to post signs with a child abuse reporting telephone number.

- **Current Status:** 1/21/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
  10/16/2019 - Introduced
- **Categories:** Children and Family Issues, Education
- **Position:** Undetermined

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**SB147**  
**OHIO SCHOOL MARSHAL PROGRAM** (HOAGLAND F) To create the Ohio School Marshal Program.

- **Current Status:** 1/21/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 11/6/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
  6/4/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>HB164</td>
<td>STUDENT RELIGIOUS RIGHTS (GINTER T) Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the &quot;Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2019.&quot;</td>
<td>Current Status: 1/21/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing) &lt;br&gt;Recent Status: 12/4/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education 11/13/2019 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 61-31</td>
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HB465  **SCHOOL ZONE LOCATIONS** (MANNING G) To authorize the creation of school zones around specified preschools.

- **Current Status:** 1/14/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
  - Categories: Education

HB436  **DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS FOR CHILDREN** (BALDRIDGE B) With regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

- **Current Status:** 1/14/2020 - House Health, (First Hearing)
- **Recent Status:**
  - Categories: Children and Family Issues, Health Care

HB459  **STUDENT PARTICIPATION - EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** (MILLER A, MILLER J) To prohibit a coach, director, or supervisor of an extracurricular activity from restricting student participation in other extracurricular activities.

- **Current Status:** 12/23/2019 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
  - Categories: Education

SB253  **STUDENT THREAT OF VIOLENCE** (KUNZE S) Regarding expulsion of a student from a public school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds.

- **Current Status:** 12/17/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
- **Recent Status:** 12/11/2019 - Introduced
- **Categories:** Education

HB447  **SCHOOL SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (JORDAN K) To establish the School Safety Advisory Committee.

- **Current Status:** 12/12/2019 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
  - Categories: Education

HB448  **SCHOOL CREDIT APPROVAL** (BOYD J) To authorize school credit for approved programs offered at times outside the normal school day.

- **Current Status:** 12/12/2019 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
  - Categories: Education
HB322  TEACHER RESIDENCY  (JONES D, MANNING D) To revise the Ohio Teacher Residency Program.

- **Current Status:** 12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 11/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
  10/29/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
- **Categories:** Education, Occupations & Professions
- **Position:** Undetermined

HB367  SCHOOL COUNSELOR HIRING PRACTICES  (MIRANDA J, MANCHESTER S) To require the Department of Education to make recommendations for a job description for school counselors and to designate at least one staff member as a school counselor liaison.

- **Current Status:** 12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 11/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
  10/29/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
- **Categories:** Education, Local Government, Occupations & Professions, Public Employees, State Government
- **Position:** Oppose

SB34  SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND EDUCATOR LICENSURE  (KUNZE S) Regarding school employee employment and educator licensure and conduct.

- **Current Status:** 12/3/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)
  4/9/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
- **Categories:** Education
- **Position:** Undetermined

SB121  HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS  (SYKES V, KUNZE S) To require the State Board of Education to adopt health education standards and to require that only statewide venereal disease education standards and curriculum be approved by the General Assembly.

- **Current Status:** 12/3/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
  10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
- **Categories:** Education
- **Position:** Undetermined
- **State Bill Page:** [https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-121](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-121)

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HB305  **SCHOOL FINANCING** (CUPP B, PATTERSON J) To create a new school financing system, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 11/20/2019 - House Finance, (Sixth Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 11/13/2019 - House Finance, (Fifth Hearing)

**11/7/2019 - House Finance, (Fourth Hearing)**

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Amend


HB111  **SCHOOL RECORD TRANSFER** (INGRAM C) To require that public and private schools transmit a transferred student’s records within five school days.

**Current Status:** 11/19/2019 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 11/12/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

6/11/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

**Position:** Monitor


SB181  **WORKFORCE-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS** (COLEY W) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs.

**Current Status:** 11/6/2019 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0

**Recent Status:** 11/6/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration

10/30/2019 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Higher Education , (Third Hearing)

**Categories:** Economic & Workforce Development, Higher Education

**Position:** Undetermined


HB375  **EXTRACURRICULAR TAX CREDIT** (BROWN R) To authorize a refundable income tax credit for individuals who pay an extracurricular activity fee on behalf of a student from a low-income family.

**Current Status:** 11/5/2019 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

10/22/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education, Taxation

**Position:** Undetermined


HB83  **SCHOOL BUS PHOTO EVIDENCE** (BROWN R, SCHAFFER T) To allow images captured by a camera installed on a school bus to be used as corroborating evidence for the offense of failing to stop for a school bus.

**Current Status:** 10/31/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice

2/19/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Crime & Punishment, Education

**Position:** Monitor
**SB226 REQUIRE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION** (WILLIAMS S) To require school districts to provide transportation for students in grades 9-12, to have the pupil transportation formula operate for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee

**Recent Status:** 10/21/2019 - Introduced

**Position:** Undetermined


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**SB219 APPRENTICE PROGRAM** (WILLIAMS S) To establish a career pathways apprentice program.

**Current Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

**Recent Status:** 10/15/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


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**SB224 PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING** (THOMAS C) To provide an additional school funding payment for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for school districts that were subject to the cap that restricted increases in aggregate funding in fiscal year 2019 and satisfy other criteria.

**Current Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee

**Recent Status:** 10/16/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


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**SB218 SCHOOL START TIME** (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit public schools from beginning the school day earlier than eight-thirty a.m.

**Current Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

**Recent Status:** 10/15/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


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**SB216 SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES** (ROEGNER K) To allow school districts to exempt recipients of the existing homestead exemption from additional school district taxes.

**Current Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**Recent Status:** 10/10/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Taxation

**Position:** Undetermined


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**SB109 WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** (SCHURING K) To establish the Workforce Scholarship Program, to terminate the provisions of the Scholarship Program on
December 31, 2023, to authorize tax credits for graduates of the Scholarship Program and their employers, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 10/8/2019 - Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)

**Recent Status:**
- 4/24/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
- 3/21/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


**SB81**  
**PROHIBIT USE OF SECLUSION IN SCHOOLS** (MAHARATH T) To prohibit the use of seclusion in public schools.

**Current Status:** 10/1/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:**
- 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
- 3/6/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


**SB168**  
**SERVICES FOR STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE MEALS** (YUKO K, MAHARATH T) To enact the "Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act" to require schools to provide certain services to students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

**Current Status:** 10/1/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:**
- 7/17/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
- 6/19/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


**HB336**  
**REINSTATE JEOC** (SOBECKI L, ROBINSON P) To reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee, make an appropriation, and declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 10/1/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:**
- 9/24/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
- 9/17/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


**HB154**  
**DISSOLVE DISTRESS COMMISSIONS** (MILLER J, JONES D) To revise the law on interventions for low-performing school districts and schools, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

**Current Status:** 9/24/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

**Recent Status:**
- 9/18/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Amend

SB85  **SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS** (MAHARATH T) To establish signage requirements for indicating school zones for speed limit purposes, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 9/17/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
3/6/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Transportation & Infrastructure

**Position:** Undetermined


HB44  **SNAP FEDERAL FUNDING** (HOLMES G, MILLER A) To make an appropriation to continue to fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children contingent upon a lapse in federal funding.

**Current Status:** 9/10/2019 - House Health, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Health
2/12/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Budget and Appropriations, Children and Family Issues, Federal Issues

**Position:** Undetermined


SB4  **SCHOOL FACILITIES ASSISTANCE** (RULLI M) To make a capital appropriation for school facilities assistance.

**Current Status:** 7/23/2019 - Re-Referred to Committee

**Recent Status:** 7/18/2019 - Informally Passed
7/17/2019 - Informally Passed

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


HB294  **SCHOOL BULLYING** (DENSON S, MILLER A) To modify the definition of school harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

**Current Status:** 6/25/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

**Recent Status:** 6/19/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education, Mental Health & Disabilities, Public Safety

**Position:** Undetermined


HB165  **HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS** (LISTON B, GALONSKI T) Regarding the adoption of health education standards.

**Current Status:** 6/18/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 6/4/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Categories:** Education, Health Care

**Position:** Monitor
HB43  SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY ACQUISITION (INGRAM C) To eliminate the right of first refusal for certain schools in the acquisition of school district real property.

**Current Status:** 6/11/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 2/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

**Categories:** Education, Land Use

**Position:** Undetermined


HB239  REDUCE TESTING (MANNING G, CRAWLEY E) To reduce the number of end-of-course assessments required for high school graduation and to require each school district to form a work group to evaluate the amount of time students spend on testing.

**Current Status:** 6/11/2019 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 6/4/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


HB90  UNBORN CHILD EDUCATION (ANTANI N) To require the development of an instructional program and educational and informational materials and the dissemination of those materials to protect the humanity of the unborn child.

**Current Status:** 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**Recent Status:** 5/28/2019 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Health, (Fifth Hearing)
4/30/2019 - House Health, (Fourth Hearing)

**Categories:** Children and Family Issues, Education

**Position:** Neutral


SB128  SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS (HUFFMAN M) To make changes to the Educational Choice Scholarship Program and the Cleveland Scholarship Program.

**Current Status:** 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**Recent Status:** 4/9/2019 - Introduced

**Position:** Undetermined


HB23  F-1 VISA SCHOOL ATHLETICS (ANTANI N) To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics.

**Current Status:** 4/30/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
**HB127**  
**DISTRESS COMMISSION MORATORIUM** (SMITH K, HAMBLEY S) To prohibit the creation of new academic distress commissions.  
**Current Status:** 4/9/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
**Categories:** Education  
**Position:** Monitor  

**SB110**  
**ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS** (MANNING N) To modify the operation of academic distress commissions in certain school districts.  
**Current Status:** 4/9/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 4/2/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
**Categories:** Education  
**Position:** Monitor  

**HB132**  
**SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS** (MANNING D) Regarding notice of school child immunization requirements and exemptions.  
**Current Status:** 4/2/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 3/19/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
3/12/2019 - Introduced  
**Categories:** Education, Health Care, Public Safety  
**Position:** Undetermined  

**SB104**  
**INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT** (HILL B) Regarding funding for students enrolled in community schools, STEM schools, and other districts through interdistrict open enrollment.  
**Current Status:** 3/27/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
**Recent Status:** 3/13/2019 - Introduced  
**Categories:** Education  
**Position:** Undetermined  
HB121 **TAX CREDIT-CLASSROOM MATERIALS** (SCHAFFER T) To allow a credit against the personal income tax for amounts spent by teachers for instructional materials.

**Current Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

**Categories:** Education, Occupations & Professions, Taxation

**Position:** Undetermined


HB118 **SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION** (MANNING D) Regarding student transportation to and from school.

**Current Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety

**Categories:** Education, Transportation & Infrastructure

**Position:** Monitor


HB122 **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** (KOEHLER K) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

**Current Status:** 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

**Categories:** Education

**Position:** Undetermined


HB89 **FAILURE TO STOP-SCHOOL BUS** (ANTANI N) To enhance the penalties for failing to properly stop for a school bus, to establish requirements related to informing the public about that prohibition, and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice

**Recent Status:** 2/20/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education, Public Safety, Transportation & Infrastructure

**Position:** Monitor


HB105 **SCHOOL BUS STOP** (BROWN R, SCHERER G) To enhance the penalty for failing to stop for a school bus that is picking up or dropping off school children when the offender has a prior violation within a five-year period.

**Current Status:** 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice

**Recent Status:** 2/26/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education, Public Safety, Transportation & Infrastructure
HB22 OFCC ODE-SCHOOL BUILDING AMENITIES (ANTANI N) To require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and the Department of Education to conduct a study regarding certain school building amenities.

**Current Status:** 2/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
2/12/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Construction, Education

**Position:** Undetermined


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**Capitol Square in Review**

**Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Accepts Sub Bill to Support Social Workers at ESCs**

Senate Bill 126 provides for Crisis assessments for suicidal youth. Sponsored by Senator Nathan Manning the bill would authorize a mental health professional to provide a crisis assessment, without parental consent, to a minor who is or is believed to be suicidal and to make an appropriation to support the employment of social workers or mental or behavioral health professionals at educational service centers (ESCs).

Committee Chair Sen. Burke offered the sub bill which he said makes the following changes:
- The as-introduced version of SB126 based the funding on a per pupil amount of $3.25 per student per Education Service Center (ESC). "This created disparities between extremely populated ESCs versus small, rural ESCs which was not the intent." The sub bill includes a flat fee of $70,000 per ESC "to provide a full-time (or possibly two part-times) plus onboarding fees."
- The effective date was updated to FY21.
- The sub bill limits the funding to a professional with an LISW "in good standing."
- The sub bill adds the condition that the student "may pose a risk of physical harm to others."

Burke noted that he expects this bill to "find maturity at some point."

**Legislature Will Pass EdChoice Fix Next Week, Obhof Says**

The General Assembly will act next week to address local school officials’ concerns about a significant expansion of the EdChoice voucher program, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) told reporters after the chamber’s session on Wednesday.

“We’ll have something ready to go next week. We're working on it with the House now. Both chambers will be in next week, and we’ll knock that out,” Obhof said, predicting that the legislation will have enough support to pass with an emergency clause.

Obhof said HB9 (Jones-Sweeney), currently being considered by the Senate Higher Education Committee, is a “potential vehicle” for the EdChoice language, but “discussions are ongoing and we’ll see how things work out.”
Asked about Sen. Matt Huffman’s (R-Lima) proposal to change the voucher program to be based on income rather than on school performance, Obhof said lawmakers are “looking at a number of different options. We’ll have something that’s reasonable that can get a supermajority in both chambers. Other than that, I’m not going to speculate about what the final version may look like, one way or the other.”

Obhof said the bill won’t address all the issues with EdChoice, but will thoroughly address the immediate concerns of lawmakers and educators.

“There could be other issues that still need to be worked on over the long-term,” Obhof said. “I don’t think anybody’s interested in slapping like a 60-day Band-Aid on the problem. We actually want to solve whatever the perceived statutory problem is.”

During Wednesday’s session, senators voted 33-0 to send HB129 (McClain) to the governor. That bill would allow a person operating a motorcycle to wear hearing protection.

“In all reality, this is something that many of us would believe would be common sense,” Sen. Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) said.

“Current law does not allow somebody who is operating a motorcycle to be able to wear hearing protection. The justification, probably, is so you can hear oncoming emergency vehicles or other hazards that may be coming that you should be aware of. However, what we found out in the committee hearings is that the decibels at which a motorcycle operates and the wind blowing past your ears, those oftentimes cause severe hearing damage to people after a very short amount of exposure,” McColley said. “This bill would simply allow individuals to wear hearing protection while they are operating a motorcycle. However, it would not allow them to wear headphones or earbuds that are playing some sort of music or other entertainment.”

Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) said in a news release that he’s been working on this legislation for several years.

“HB129 gives motorcyclists another option for the hearing protection they need in order to safely protect themselves,” McClain said. “I am thankful to all of my colleagues in the House and Senate for passing this practical legislation to help motorcyclists across the state.”

The Senate also unanimously passed HCR8 (Schaffer), urging Congress to encourage the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to change crash indicator standards to consider only crashes in which the driver was at fault for the crash.

The Senate added a voting session on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 1:30 p.m. The chamber is still scheduled to meet on Wednesday, Jan. 29 as well.

**Lang Campaign, Ohio GOP Claim Keller Publishing Fake Endorsements**

The Ohio (Ohio GOP) and Butler County Republican parties along with the Senate campaign of Rep. George Lang (R-West Chester) Tuesday charged that Lang’s opponent for the 4th Senate District, Rep. Candice Keller (R-Middletown), has been publishing endorsements that seem like they come from the official county and state party groups, even though both groups endorsed Lang. The parties said Keller is touting the endorsement of the Butler County Republican PAC and the Ohio Republican PAC, which they said are not affiliated with either the state or local Republican Party organizations.

“It’s discouraging that Candice Keller would tout phony endorsements aimed at appearing that they are from the Ohio Republican Party or Butler County Republican Party. We in no way support Candice Keller, and I still uphold the view that she should immediately resign and suspend her campaign for the state Senate. Her willingness to lie to voters about her support is another example of why she is not fit to serve,” said Ohio GOP Chairman Jane Timken in a statement.

Added Butler County Republican Party Chairman Todd Hall, “We take our party endorsement process very seriously, and the fact that Rep. Keller is attempting to spin a shadow group created in
another county as a legitimate entity is fraudulent and deceitful. This should serve as a warning to voters that the Butler County Republican Party is the only legitimate group made up of Butler County conservatives that has endorsed in the race for Ohio Senate, and its members overwhelmingly endorsed George Lang.”

**ODP Teams with Abrams PAC on Voter Protection Efforts**
The Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) announced Tuesday that it is working with former Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams’ Fair Fight PAC as part of its voter protection efforts. The “Fair Fight 2020” initiative is targeting 20 battleground states across the country as part of its effort.

“This is great news for Ohio voters,” said Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper in a statement. “Every year, our Protect the Vote operation has worked hard to fight back against the Ohio GOP’s relentless attacks on voting rights, but we have found that the real damage often happens months before Election Day, when Ohio Republicans purge hundreds of thousands of voters from the rolls, enact laws that result in thousands of Ohioans losing their ability to cast an absentee ballot or try to restrict who has access to the ballot box. With this investment from Fair Fight PAC, the Ohio Democratic Party is staffing up now -- far earlier than usual -- so we can push back against the GOP’s war on voting, while doing all we can to register and empower voters impacted by the purge and other efforts.”

“What we learned in Georgia and what we've seen in Ohio is that we can’t wait until the fall to ensure we have robust, thoughtful voter protection efforts operating in key battleground states -- that work has to start now,” said Lauren Groh-Wargo, Fair Fight’s CEO and the former deputy executive director of the Ohio Democratic Party. “In addition, there are advantages to coordinating these efforts at the national level through an organization like Fair Fight. If Republicans like Brian Kemp, Jon Husted and Frank LaRose can learn from one another about how to disenfranchise voters, Democratic operatives also have to share their expertise across state lines about how to fight back.”

Gretchen Bennett will be the party’s voter protection director for 2020. The Massachusetts native has more than 15 years of experience as a voter protection attorney, and she has worked in the battleground states of Pennsylvania (2004, 2008, 2012), Michigan (2016) and Florida (2018), where she was the deputy director for the statewide recount.

Vashitta Johnson will be the party’s voter protection outreach coordinator for 2020. Johnson’s organizing experience goes back to the 2011 campaign to repeal 129-SB5, and she has worked for the 2012 Obama campaign, Equality Ohio, the Ohio Senate and most recently NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio as their field and political director.

**Endorsements**
- The Ohio Senate campaign of Niraj Antani announced the endorsements of Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted.