This March 2, 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 with the 3 most recent activities listed 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**

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:

**HB527**  
**SAVE WOMEN’S SPORTS ACT** (POWELL J, STOLTZFUS R) 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:* 2/26/2020 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  

**SB288**  
**STUDENT RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION** (GAVARONE T) Regarding student religious expression in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities.  
*Current Status:* 2/26/2020 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  

**SB268**  
**CAPITAL APPROPRIATION** (SYKES V) To modify the purpose of a capital appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 2/25/2020 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 2/5/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance 2/3/2020 - Introduced  

**HB523**  
**STEM DEGREE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM** (PATTERSON J, CARFAGNA R) to establish the STEM Degree Loan Repayment Program, to authorize a refundable tax credit for employers who make payments on student loans obtained by a graduate to earn a STEM degree, and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 2/21/2020 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*
HB9  COLLEGE CREDITS -- EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIPS (JONES D, SWEENEY B) With regard to student degree completion at state institutions of higher education, to modify eligibility criteria for the Educational Choice Scholarship program, to dissolve certain academic distress commissions, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 2/20/2020 - , (Tenth Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 2/19/2020 - , (Ninth Hearing)  
2/18/2020 - , (Eighth Hearing)  


HB521  LOAN FORGIVENESS INFORMATION AVAILABILITY (SWEENEY B) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education and public service organizations to disseminate information regarding the federal public service loan forgiveness programs.  
**Current Status:** 2/20/2020 - Introduced  
**Recent Status:**  


HB520  LOAN FORGIVENESS - PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (SWEENEY B) To establish a pilot program to assist public service employees in applying for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and to make an appropriation.  
**Current Status:** 2/20/2020 - Introduced  
**Recent Status:**  


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:** 3/4/2020 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Fourth Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 2/19/2020 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Third Hearing)  
1/22/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Second Hearing)  
**Position:** Undetermined  


SB89  CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION -- EDCHOICE (HUFFMAN M) With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in enterprise zones, to make changes regarding STEM school report cards, to prohibit the use of value-added data for evaluations of career-technical educators, to revise the law on community school fiscal officer liability, to make changes regarding school financing studies by the Department of Education, to revise the eligibility and operation of the Educational Choice Scholarship program, to dissolve existing academic distress commissions, to place a moratorium on the creation of academic distress commissions, to establish the School Transformation Board, to rename the income-based expansion of the Educational Choice Scholarship program as the Buckeye Opportunity Scholarship program, and to declare an emergency.

*OESCA Legislative eUpdate - 2*
Current Status: 2/12/2020 - Consideration of House Amendments; Emergency Clause 7-24, Senate Does Not Concur
Recent Status: 2/12/2020 - Consideration of House Amendments
2/5/2020 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 88-7, Emergency Clause 92-3
Position: Amend

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

Current Status: 2/11/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
10/15/2019 - Introduced
Position: Undetermined

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

Current Status: 2/11/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
10/15/2019 - Introduced
Position: Undetermined

**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: 2/11/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 2/4/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
12/17/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs

**HB493**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTINUATION** (WIGGAM S) To permit a child whose parents live in different school districts to continue to attend school in the school district in which the child attended school at the beginning of the school year even if the child moves to a different school district.

Current Status: 2/11/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status: 2/4/2020 - Introduced

**HB494**  
**LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM - TEACHERS** (LIGHTBODY M) To establish a loan repayment program for eligible teachers.

Current Status: 2/11/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status: 2/4/2020 - Introduced
<table>
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<th>Bill Number</th>
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| HB164      | **STUDENT RELIGIOUS RIGHTS** (GINTER T) Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2019." | *Current Status:* 2/11/2020 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 1/21/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
12/4/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
*Position:* Undetermined |
| SB262      | **DIRECT PAYMENTS TO SCHOOLS** (WILLIAMS S) To require the direct payment of state funding to community schools and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics schools; to require the direct payment of K-12 state scholarships; and to make an appropriation. | *Current Status:* 2/5/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee  
*Recent Status:* 1/27/2020 - Introduced  
| SB134      | **PASSING SCHOOL BUSES** (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:* 2/5/2020 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0  
*Recent Status:* 2/5/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration  
1/22/2020 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Fourth Hearing)  
*Position:* Undetermined  
| SB34       | **SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND EDUCATOR LICENSURE** (KUNZE S) Regarding school employee employment and educator licensure and conduct. | *Current Status:* 2/4/2020 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Education, (Eighth Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 1/28/2020 - Senate Education, (Eighth Hearing)  
12/3/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)  
*Position:* Undetermined  
*Recent Status:* 1/21/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education, (Third Hearing)  
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
*Position:* Amend  
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<thead>
<tr>
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| HB436 | **DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS FOR CHILDREN** (BALDRIDGE B) With regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia. | 2/4/2020 - House Health, (Second Hearing)  
1/14/2020 - House Health, (First Hearing)  
| 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. | 1/28/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing) | 12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing) |  |
| HB448 | **SCHOOL CREDIT APPROVAL** (BOYD J) To authorize school credit for approved programs offered at times outside the normal school day. | 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education | 12/12/2019 - Introduced | [https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-448](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-448) |
HB478  **EDUCATIONAL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY** (MILLER A, MIRANDA J) To make changes regarding the eligibility criteria for the Educational Choice scholarship program.

- **Current Status:** 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
- **Recent Status:** 1/23/2020 - Introduced

SB102  **DYSLEXIA SCREENING PROGRAM** (BRENNER A, LEHNER P) To establish the Dyslexia Screening Program for school districts and other public schools.

- **Current Status:** 1/28/2020 - Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 1/21/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)
  10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
- **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)
- **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)
- **Position:** Undetermined

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
- **Position:** Undetermined
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


SB200 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT-DYSLEXIA (LEHNER P, BRENNER A) With regard to professional development for screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

Current Status: 1/21/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

Position: Amend


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

Position: Undetermined


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

Position: Undetermined


HB321 CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION (LIPPS S, KELLY B) With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention.

Current Status: 1/21/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 11/5/2019 - REPORTED OUT, House Health, (Third Hearing)
10/15/2019 - House Health, (Second Hearing)
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)

*Position:* Oppose


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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)

*Position:* Undetermined


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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)

*Position:* Undetermined


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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)

*Position:* Amend


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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)

**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

**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

**Position:** Monitor  

**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

**Position:** Undetermined  

**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
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

*Position:* Undetermined


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)

*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

*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

*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

*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)
  9/17/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
**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
**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
**Position:**  Undetermined


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

**Current Status:**  7/23/2019 - Re-Refereed to Committee
**Recent Status:**  7/18/2019 - Informally Passed
  7/17/2019 - Informally Passed
**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
**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)

**Position:** Monitor


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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)

**Position:** Undetermined


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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

**Position:** Undetermined


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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:** 6/4/2019 - House Health, (Sixth Hearing)

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

**Position:** Neutral


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

HB127  DISTRESS COMMISSION MORATORIUM (SMITH K, HAMBLEY S) To prohibit the creation of new academic distress commissions.

Recent Status: 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Position: Monitor

SB110  ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS (MANNING N) To modify the operation of academic distress commissions in certain school districts.

Recent Status: 4/2/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
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
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
Position: Undetermined
HB122 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (KOELER 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
3/5/2019 - Introduced
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
3/4/2019 - Introduced
Position: Monitor

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
3/5/2019 - Introduced
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
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
Position: Monitor
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

**Position:** Undetermined


**Capitol Square in Review**

**ARTS, SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Transgender girls and women would be banned from playing for high school and college women's sports teams under HB527 proposed by Reps. Jena Powell (R-Arcanum) and Reggie Stoltzfus (R-Minerva). Under the "Save Women's Sports Act," biological males who identify as females will not be allowed to participate in women's sports at public high schools, public institutions of higher education or private schools and colleges that are members of a state or national athletic association, the lawmakers said during a press conference at the Statehouse.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost told reporters Monday that he is "highly optimistic" a deal will be reached on the "One Ohio" proposal for a joint opioid settlement among the state, local governments and pharmaceutical companies. Given the number of individual jurisdictions, he said the respective elected officials are taking time to make sure their constituencies will benefit appropriately and his office is "communicating and listening" during that process.

**BALLOT ISSUES**

A new group, Ohioans for Legislative Term Limits, Wednesday submitted a proposed constitutional amendment to Attorney General Dave Yost that would place a lifetime term limit on Ohio lawmakers of 16 years. The issue would amend the existing Article II, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution, "to prohibit any person from taking or holding the office of state senator or state representative pursuant to election or appointment if as of the date that person takes office pursuant to that election or appointment the number of years in the term or unexpired term to which that person is elected or appointed, when added to the years that person has served in the General Assembly as either state senator or as state representative, or in any combination of these two offices, would exceed 16 years." Yost certified the petition language on Thursday, Feb. 27.
 Earlier, Yost had certified the resubmitted summary for a proposed amendment that would make changes to Ohio's election laws. Yost had rejected the first version of the "Secure and Fair Elections" amendment last month, citing issues such as that the summary of the proposed amendment was longer than the proposed amendment itself, and that the summary included a paragraph of text that is not included in the proposed amendment.

Both issues now head to the Ohio Ballot Board, which must determine if the proposals contain one or more amendments.

CHILDREN/FAMILIES

Reps. Thomas West (D-Canton) and Terrence Upchurch (D-Cleveland) introduced a concurrent resolution Tuesday urging Gov. Mike DeWine to declare a "state of emergency on childhood trauma," modeled after Ohio's "state of emergency on opioids," which the lawmakers said helped spur legislative changes and has resulted in reductions in overdose rates. West emphasized that trauma disproportionately affects African American communities not just at home, but also in school, the criminal justice system and the state's broader "system of care."

Health, child care, policy and philanthropic groups launched a child wellness campaign Wednesday to back policies for expanding access to services they say are needed to help Ohio's infants and toddlers, particularly those living in poverty, gain strong footing for life. Spearheaded by Groundwork Ohio and supported by dozens of organizations across the state, "Ready, Set Soar Ohio" focuses on promoting policies to aid child development from gestation through age 3, when the bulk of brain development takes place -- and when the seeds of future learning and health disparities often are planted, especially for the quarter of young Ohio children who live in poverty.

EDUCATION

Gov. Mike DeWine pledged "just as much if not more" money for school health and wellness programs in his next budget as the $675 million available in the current biennium during remarks Tuesday to local education leaders at a social-emotional learning conference. "I will not sign a budget that does not have this money in it," the governor said at the Ohio School Boards Association's Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning Summit in Columbus.

Attorney General (AG) David Yost announced new threat assessment training tools for schools at a Wednesday press briefing. Yost, who was joined by State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria and Lina Alathari of the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, unveiled a series of videos -- three hours of material across 10 videos -- meant to train schools officials, law enforcement, students and the public about using a threat assessment model to prevent violence in schools.

Federal appellate judges Monday upheld a lower court ruling against an Avon Lake Schools teacher who sought to recoup past payments to the local union under the U.S. Supreme Court's holding in Janus v. AFSCME. Judge Richard Griffin, writing for a panel that included Judges Eric Clay and Martha Daughtrey, noted that two other appellate circuits and all district courts considering the "precise issue" in Lee's case all upheld a good-faith defense against claims for return of fees collected while Abood v. Detroit Board of Education was the law of the land.

A Board of Tax Appeals (BTA) decision that doubled the valuation of a New Albany apartment development was proper, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled recently, giving a victory to Columbus City Schools in its challenge of the original valuation. A 2015 sale of the Palmer House building for more
than $35 million was a closer marker of the value than the $16 million valuation assigned by the county auditor when Palmer House was constructed in 2013, the BTA determined.

The most recent panel charged with making recommendations regarding the state's dropout prevention and recovery (DOPR) schools sought to arrive at clearer definitions about what a DOPR school is and what sorts of students they serve at its Thursday meeting. Chairwoman Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said two of her biggest concerns for the panel include resolving whether students over age 14 can attend DOPR schools -- current law provides for students age 16 and up to attend -- and the creation of an advisory committee on DOPR schools. Members supported lowering the age of entry to DOPR schools to 14 as well as the creation of an advisory committee.

Meanwhile, the Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers (OACSA), a trade group for charter school sponsors, this week endorsed the recommendations of a prior DOPR study group that concluded its work a few months ago. That group had been led by State Board of Education member John Hagan, a former legislator.

**ELECTIONS**

Auditor of State Keith Faber Wednesday reminded public officials that most local governments and public school districts may not use tax dollars to support or oppose levy or bond issues on the ballot.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose appeared before the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Tuesday to advocate for a bill that would update Ohio's voter registration system, saying lawmakers should act rather than letting a proposed ballot initiative to put it in the constitution be passed. LaRose said SB186 (Manning-Sykes) will modernize Ohio's antiquated voter registration and increase security, accuracy and convenience. The system will result in more accurate voter lists, reduce the risk of voter fraud, institute better citizenship checks, improve efficiency at county boards of elections and do more to provide Ohio voters with confidence in the election system.

**ELECTIONS 2020**

*Hannah News* published a final list of candidates for the Tuesday, March 17, primary. Based on information provided by the Ohio Secretary of State's office, it includes races for the Ohio House, Ohio Senate, U.S. House and Ohio Supreme Court. That list, as well as an Excel spreadsheet list including campaign addresses, can be found online at [www.hannah.com](http://www.hannah.com), under "Breaking News" or Important New Documents and Notices>Library.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose Tuesday released his office's first update on early voting, saying that 149,736 absentee ballots have been requested by mail or in-person for the March primary. Absentee voting by mail or in-person for all Ohioans began on Wednesday, Feb. 19, while military and overseas absentee balloting began on Friday, Jan. 31.

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) announced Tuesday that Ohio is among six additional states that it will be spending money in as part of its "Battleground Build-Up 2020" program, aimed at laying the groundwork for the eventual Democratic presidential nominee and Democratic candidates at every level of the ballot in the general election. The DNC said the investments in Georgia, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Texas and Virginia follow its first round that targeted Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.
Ohio Senate Democrats, the campaign arm of the Senate Democratic Caucus, announced it has launched a new campaign website, www.ohiosenatedemocrats.com. The caucus said its new website connects Ohioans to Democratic Senate candidates throughout the state, and provides more information about incumbent senators. It will be regularly updated.

President Donald Trump's re-election campaign announced Columbus and Cleveland will be Ohio locations for its new Black Voices for Trump Community Centers that it will be establishing across the country to build support for Trump among black Americans.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

**GOVERNOR**

Gov. Mike DeWine told reporters Tuesday that he was "confident" there would be legislative progress on the ongoing EdChoice voucher dispute and other issues that were set to be discussed in his Wednesday meeting with Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) and House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford). DeWine spoke to reporters after signing HB18 (Vitale-Crawley), which provides an income tax exemption to disability severance payments for honorably discharged veterans.

Gov. Mike DeWine has contributed to historic preservation projects in the state since the 1970s, Bushnell Building owner Jim Lagos said during a speech before helping present the governor with the "Ohio History Leadership Award" during the Ohio History Connection's annual Statehood Day on Wednesday.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

All common areas, lobbies and hallways in state-owned buildings will be cleaned more frequently and will be stocked with hand sanitizer to help stop or slow the proliferation of coronavirus, Gov. Mike DeWine announced Thursday as part of his administration's plan to address the new virus that has been spreading across world and is beginning to arrive in the U.S.

The number of Ohio infants who died before their first birthdays dropped to 938 in 2018 from 982 in 2017, according to a report released by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) on Tuesday. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, fell to 6.9 in 2018 from 7.2 in 2017 for all races overall. The rate among black infants fell to 13.9 in 2018, compared to 15.6 in 2017. The Ohio and national goal is 6.0 or fewer infant deaths per 1,000 live births in every racial and ethnic group, ODH Medical Director Mark Hurst and U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator Tom Engels said during a press conference at Jubilee Market and Cafe in West Columbus.

A trial in the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) lawsuit against its pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) is delayed to next year, while another lawsuit between PBMs and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) could be headed for mediation. BWC and Optum, the bureau's PBM, won approval from Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Michael Holbrook for a new case schedule in the bureau's lawsuit alleging the company breached terms of its vendor contract requiring it to secure lower drug costs. Meanwhile, CVS Caremark is asking Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Jenifer French to send to mediation its lawsuit over an ODM consultants' report on PBM pricing. Optum is also a party to that lawsuit.
On Wednesday, Gov. Mike DeWine directed a team of technical assistance specialists from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to review, in partnership with Montgomery County Children Services, that county's alternative response cases from the previous six months after he received notice of an infant fatality there. The latest case contained numerous similarities to that of Takoda Collins, a 10-year-old boy from Dayton who died on Dec. 13, 2019. Collins passed away roughly 19 months after his alternative response case was closed by Montgomery County Children Services.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Drug Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) Wednesday announced $3 million in grants to OhioMHAS certified community behavioral health centers (CBHCs) to strengthen and enhance the state's behavioral health care. OhioMHAS said the funds will support CBHC-led recruitment and retention efforts and incentivize existing professionals to attain a higher level of professional certification. CBHCs will be eligible to apply for a one-time funding maximum of $100,000 for FY20-21. The funds, which were set aside in the latest biennial budget, will be awarded to CBHCs using a randomized selection process.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) recently released its Public Policy Platform for 2020-2021, "Building a Greater Ohio." The 2020-2021 Public Policy Agenda focuses on three priorities: investing in brownfields; innovating mobility and transportation; and empowering Ohio's legacy cities.