This April 13, 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.

Committees
The Ohio House Economic Recovery Task Force will now meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, April 13. It will stream live on the Ohio Channel at http://ohiochannel.org/live/special-events. The panel will hear a presentation from medical professionals about how COVID-19 has affected their practice and patients.

Association Update and Resources
OESCA Website Provides Single Access Point for Latest Information
The Ohio ESC Association is working to identify and post the latest information and government resources related to the COVID-19 pandemic at www.oesca.org. The site will be updated daily. OESCA has also set up Google Hangout and Google Drive to provide a communication platform and resources for ESC personnel.

ESCs Share Service Delivery During School Closure
Ohio’s ESCs are playing a critical supporting role to school districts during the closure. Highlights of what ESCs are doing to support students, families and schools can be found at http://www.oesca.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/ESC%20Services%20-%20School%20Closure.
OESCA is compiling information from various sources into a single place for ESCs and ESC stakeholders. You can access this at http://www.oesca.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/COVID-19%20Updates

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:

HB593 REQUIRED PAID LEAVE - COVID-19 (BOYD J, BOGGS K) To require paid leave for an employee who is unable to work due to quarantine or mandatory isolation, to create a grant program to compensate contract workers who cannot perform services during public health emergencies, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/25/2020 - Introduced
Recent Status:
SB299  **REQUIRE PAID LEAVE** (CRAIG H) To require paid leave for an employee who is unable to work due to quarantine or mandatory isolation, to create a grant program to compensate contract workers who cannot perform services during public health emergencies, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 3/25/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-299

SB294  **ABSENTEE VOTING** (HUFFMAN M) To extend absent voting by mail for the March 17, 2020, primary election to April 28, 2020, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 3/24/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-294

HB587  **SUSPEND ED-CHOICE PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS** (ROBINSON P, PATTERSON J) To suspend all performance-based Educational Choice scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year, to make changes to the Educational Choice Scholarship Program and the expansion of that program for the 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter, and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 3/24/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-587

HB585  **EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS WAIVER - COVID-19** (PATTERSON J, ROBINSON P) To waive certain primary and secondary education requirements to account for school closings in compliance with the Director of Health's order due to the implications of COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 3/24/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-585

HB569  **EXTEND CHILDCARE RATING DEADLINE** (SMITH K) To extend the date by which publicly funded child care providers must be rated through the Step Up to Quality Program and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 3/23/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-569

HB573  **COVID-19 - OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE** (SOBECKI L, BOGGS K) To make COVID-19 an occupational disease under the Workers' Compensation Law under certain circumstances and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 3/23/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-573
HB581  ADDRESS COVID-19 CONCERNS  (CALLENDER J) To address immediate concerns related to COVID-19.
  Current Status: 3/23/2020 - Introduced
  Recent Status:

HB577  DISSOLVE ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS  (MILLER J, LIGHTBODY M) To dissolve existing academic distress commissions, to place a moratorium on the creation of academic distress commissions, to establish the School Transformation Board, and to declare an emergency.
  Current Status: 3/23/2020 - Introduced
  Recent Status:

HB582  MAKE APPROPRIATIONS, REAPPROPRIATIONS  (CALLENDER J) To make appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, and capital reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2022.
  Current Status: 3/23/2020 - Introduced
  Recent Status:

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: 3/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education
  Recent Status: 2/20/2020 - Introduced

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: 3/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Finance
  Recent Status: 2/20/2020 - Introduced

HB529  DISTRESS COMMISSIONS - ONE-TIME AUDITS  (MILLER J, LEPOROE-HAGAN M) To require one-time performance audits of school districts with a current academic distress commission.
  Current Status: 3/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
  Recent Status: 3/3/2020 - Introduced

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: 3/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status: 2/26/2020 - Introduced

HB532 MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION (BRINKMAN T, KELLY B) To require the State Board of Education to adopt standards for mental health education, to permit school districts to include mental health education in their curriculum, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 3/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status: 3/3/2020 - Introduced

SB288 STUDENT RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION (GAVARONE T) Regarding student religious expression in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities.
Current Status: 3/4/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
Recent Status: 2/26/2020 - Introduced

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)

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)


**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.

**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


**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


**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


**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


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: 10/15/2019 - Introduced


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

Current Status: 2/11/2020 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 10/15/2019 - Introduced


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 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: 2/5/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0

Recent Status: 2/5/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration


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: 12/3/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)
HB436  **DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS FOR CHILDREN** (BALDRIDGE B) With regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

**Current Status:** 2/4/2020 - House Health, (Second Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 1/14/2020 - House Health, (First Hearing)
12/10/2019 - Referred to Committee House Health


HB123  **SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING** (HOLMES G, MANNING G) With regard to school security and youth suicide awareness education and training.

**Current Status:** 2/4/2020 - BILL AMENDED, Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

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


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


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

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

**Recent Status:** 12/12/2019 - Introduced


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:** 1/28/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

**Recent Status:** 12/23/2019 - Introduced


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

**Current Status:** 1/28/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
**Recent Status:** 1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second 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.

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

**Recent Status:** 12/12/2019 - Introduced


**HB465 SCHOOL ZONE LOCATIONS** (MANNING G) To authorize the creation of school zones around specified preschools.

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

**Recent Status:** 1/14/2020 - 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)


**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)


**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)

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


SB248  **SCHOOL STORM SHELTERS** (SCHAEFFER 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


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


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)


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)


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)
**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)  


**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)  


**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)  

**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)

**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)  


**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)
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)


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


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


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


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

OESCA Legislative eUpdate - 11
Recent Status: 10/16/2019 - Introduced  

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  

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  

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  

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  

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)  

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

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

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

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

5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

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.

5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
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

**State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-43

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)

**State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-90

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

**State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-128

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

**State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-23

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, (First Hearing)
3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

**State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-127

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)
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


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


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


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


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
3/5/2019 - Introduced


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
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

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

Capitol Square in Review

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Ohio Attorney General's Office has published a frequently-asked-questions document for government bodies navigating the logistics of open meetings during the public health emergency sparked by the COVID-19 outbreak. The office said it's fielded "many questions" since passage of HB197 (Powell-Merrin), emergency coronavirus legislation that included temporary changes to the open meeting law that are in effect until the end of the public health emergency declaration or until Tuesday, Dec. 1, including greater flexibility for meeting via teleconference or videoconference.

FY20-21 BUDGET

Ohio's tax revenues dropped more than 10 percent in March, but the lagging nature of collections and the timing of recent public health orders mean that drop doesn't represent the full scope of the economic damage wrought by the coronavirus and its disruption to the economy. Tax receipts of $1.35 billion were $159.4 million or 10.5 percent behind estimates, with sales taxes lagging by $68 million and income taxes by $22.8 million. Most of the sales tax shortfall was in non-auto sales tax, which missed estimates by $66.5 million or 9.7 percent. Auto sales taxes were off 1.1 percent or $1.4 million. For now, tax collections are still ahead of estimates for the fiscal year to date by half a percent, bringing in $89.5 million more than expected and reaching $16.99 billion.
Honda announced Monday that it would again extend its suspension of production at all automobile, engine and transmission plants in the U.S. and Canada due to the novel coronavirus, setting a new end date of May 1. Honda initially announced a stop in production from Monday, March 23 to Tuesday, March 31, then moved the date to resume work to Tuesday, April 7.

General Motors (GM) and Honda recently announced an agreement to jointly develop two new Honda electric vehicles (EV) using GM's global EV platform powered by proprietary batteries. GM previously announced it would work with South Korean company LG Chem Ltd. on production of EV battery cells in the Lordstown area. Production of the new cars "will combine the development expertise of both companies," and they will be manufactured at GM plants in North America. Sales are expected to begin in the 2024 model year.

The Ohio Restaurant Association (ORA) reported that more than 80 percent of respondents to its latest survey reported "significant" year-over-year sales declines, 41 percent said they had closed their restaurants temporarily and 1.5 percent said they had closed permanently. Then on Wednesday, ORA said it had sent a letter to President Donald Trump, top Congressional leaders and Ohio's delegation requesting federal relief similar to terrorism insurance-related legislation after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The coronavirus pandemic represents "an unprecedented situation" for global supply chains and is the largest disruption since World War II, panelists in a recent webinar facilitated by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine said. Anne Strauss-Wieder, director of freight planning at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, said it has affected the entire world while disruptive events generally affect supply chains in a limited area. The demand for various freight services has changed, too, creating a rapid and significant need for commodities that sustain communities such as health care products, food and household items. On the other hand, demand has dropped significantly for many retail products and passenger air travel.

CENSUS

About 64 million households across the nation are beginning to receive paper questionnaires, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Of the nation's households, 46.2 percent have already responded to the 2020 Census. The remaining households began receiving paper questionnaires Wednesday.

CHILDREN/FAMILIES

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) recently released data from the 14th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Census report showing the unmet need for domestic violence services in Ohio. The census, conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), counts the number of adults and children seeking domestic violence services in each state. This annual census documents the number of individuals who sought services in a single 24-hour period, as well as the types of services requested, the number of service requests that went unmet due to a lack of resources, and the issues and barriers that domestic violence programs face.

CORONAVIRUS

Gov. Mike DeWine told Ohioans Saturday that he'll be wearing a cloth mask while in public, following the latest advice from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for slowing spread of the coronavirus. The governor also signed an executive order meant to make behavioral health care services more accessible via telehealth.
DeWine said Monday that, in response to a formal request, he will be sending members of the Ohio National Guard to assist the Federal Correctional Institution at Elkton, OH, which is facing a COVID-19 outbreak that has killed three inmates with dozens more showing symptoms. DeWine stressed that the deployment of the guard will be only for a medical mission that will last seven to 10 days, or until more federal assistance arrives. He clarified that the guardsmen will not be armed, and all work in the medical field. They have N95 protective masks and will assist the prison medical staff with triaging inmates and transporting seriously ill patients to hospitals.

DeWine also announced those alternative sites selected so far to expand hospital capacity should the pandemic surge occur. The sites were selected by representatives from health care systems, local governments, county emergency management agencies, state agencies and the Ohio National Guard, among others. The buildings had to be large enough to accept a high number of patients. These sites include Seagate Convention Center in Lucas County; Case Western Reserve University's Health Education Campus in Cuyahoga County; Dayton Convention Center in Montgomery County; Covelli Convention Center in Mahoning County; Duke Energy Convention Center in Hamilton County; and Greater Columbus Convention Center in Franklin County. The governor said the facilities will likely be used for patients with milder cases during a potential surge, with the more serious cases remaining at hospitals.

Lt. Gov. Jon Husted said the state will be using the Dispute Resolution Commission to solve disagreements and mediate when two separate health agencies disagree about whether a type of business should or should not be deemed essential during the state of emergency. Husted said the deliberations will be public information, and they expect to have a 24-hour turnaround time on decisions.

COVID-19 infections in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) increased from two to 10 Monday as more prisoners tested positive at Marion and Pickaway correctional institutions; additional inmates have been placed in isolation at three facilities; and nearly 6,000 are now under quarantine. DRC reported one positive test each at Marion and Pickaway institutions on Sunday. Within 24 hours, the number jumped to 10 infected inmates split evenly between the two prisons.

On Tuesday, the governor buoyed hard-hit businesses with news of an emergency order allowing restaurants to sell alcoholic drinks while Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced the creation of a state Office of Small Business Relief.

The Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) is offering advice to its members and health care providers on how to decide who gets scarce medical equipment like ventilators in situations where the health care system is overwhelmed, as has been the case for some areas of the world during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance is not an official state plan, the association said. Some of the guidance in a document circulated this week was developed years ago by doctors, ethicists and emergency preparedness experts, drawing also from a 2009 report from the Institute of Medicine, "Guidance for establishing crisis standards of care for use in disaster situations: a letter report."

To help ramp up testing during the coronavirus pandemic, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy (OBP) issued guidance expanding the authority of pharmacists, pharmacy interns and certified pharmacy technicians to conduct COVID-19 testing under certain conditions.

Ohioans will start to hear more details of the plan to emerge from coronavirus-induced isolation next week, both Gov. DeWine and ODH Director Acton said Thursday. The administration delivered that message with discontent on its doorstep as dozens of protestors circled the Statehouse and then
converged on the building's north side during the daily briefing, holding signs urging that life be re-opened and that the governor be removed, among other messages. The administration is working on "a fairly sophisticated plan" for easing the orders that have shuttered businesses, restaurants and schools and ended large gatherings, the governor said with Acton explaining that trends on virus cases, deaths, hospitalizations and intensive care admissions will help to drive the timing of starting to lift restrictions -- a process administration officials have repeatedly said will be gradual.

The governor is moving on multiple fronts against the coronavirus threat to crowded jails across Ohio's 88 counties. State administrative rules do provide local authorities basic standards for inmate screening and medical intervention, and the DeWine administrative has convened a public safety strike force with additional guidance to sheriffs' offices, as well as a Multi-Agency Coordinating (MAC) Group that operates under the Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention's (BAD) oversight of county jails.

Ohio policymakers should remove collaborative supervision requirements regarding advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Buckeye Institute said in a policy memo released Wednesday, as that prevents them from "offering the medical care they have been trained and licensed to provide."

Foodbanks have requested $25 million in assistance from the state in order to meet an "immediate and unprecedented" need for food, which has stemmed from the spread of the novel coronavirus and the subsequent economic downturn that put thousands of Ohioans out of work.

CORRECTIONS

On Friday, Gov. Mike DeWine asked local judges to consider the early release of 38 of the state's nearly 49,000 prison inmates due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor said 23 of the inmates are new mothers or are pregnant, while the other 15 are over the age of 60 and are within 120 days of their scheduled release. Then on Tuesday, he invoked an "overcrowding emergency" in Ohio prisons, asking the Legislature's Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC) Tuesday to grant the early release of more than 160 additional prisoners. Among the latest candidates is former Republican booster and coin dealer Tom Noe, who has been serving time for bilking $50 million of state money.

EDUCATION

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has been updating its list of guidance for schools and educators as they continue to navigate the closing of school buildings, the sudden shift to distance learning and the flexibility granted by state and federal governments in response to the pandemic. At http://education.ohio.gov/coronavirus, the department now provides resources on the following topics such as school building shutdowns; child nutrition; serving students with disabilities; and graduation, among others.

ELECTIONS 2020

For the first time in state history, Ohioans will only be able to vote in a primary election through the mail. In an interview with Hannah News, Ohio elections officials said they worry whether voters will have enough time to get their absentee ballot requests filled out, send them back, receive their ballot and get those sent back in time for the April 28 deadline set by the Ohio Legislature as a part of HB197 (Powell-Merrin). Officials said they have been receiving numerous inquiries from voters since the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) closed polling locations for the March 17 primary due to concerns.
over the spread of COVID-19, and said there has been some confusion on how to get an absentee request and get it returned.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson Friday refused to make changes to Ohio's primary election in response to a lawsuit challenging HB197's (Powell-Merrin) provisions extending absentee voting until April 28. The judge ruled the plaintiffs in the case, including the League of Women Voters of Ohio and the A. Philip Randolph Institute, were not likely to succeed on the merits of their lawsuit and that the public interest in the changes of HB197 outweigh the plaintiffs' requested relief. The Legislature passed HB197 to address issues surrounding the closing of polling locations on the presidential primary date of March 17 due to concerns over the coronavirus. The bill did not set a new in-person voting date.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), who has sat on the sidelines of the Democratic presidential primary, broke his neutrality Tuesday when he endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden over U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT). The endorsement was announced by Biden's campaign and comes as Ohioans are voting by absentee ballot for the presidential primary election.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

More than 226,000 initial unemployment claims were reported for the week that ended Saturday, April 4, marking the second straight week that jobless claims exceeded 200,000 as the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic continues. According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), total claims from the last three weeks reached more than 696,000, compared to 364,000-plus filed in the entirety of 2019. The week before, more than 272,000 claims were filed. As the COVID-19 pandemic shut down much of the nation in March, total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 701,000 jobs, according to new figures released Friday by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The national unemployment rate rose from 3.5 percent in February to 4.4 percent in March. It is the largest over-the-month increase in the unemployment rate since January 1975. The number of unemployed persons rose by 1.4 million nationally to 7.1 million in March. Unemployment rates rose among all major worker groups, BLS said.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to grow, Drew DeSilver, a senior writer at the Pew Research Center, analyzed disparities in telework benefits among U.S. workers based on industry and income as well as how the pandemic may come to effect the U.S.'s relationship with working from home. One of the key public health responses to the global coronavirus pandemic has been social distancing -- with a major tactic being encouraging -- or requiring -- people to work from home. In that respect, COVID-19 may yet do what years of advocacy have failed to: Make telework a benefit available to more than a relative handful of U.S. workers.

ENVIRONMENT

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) approved 22 requests for "regulatory flexibility" as local governments and businesses deal with fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio EPA spokesperson Heidi Griesmer told Hannah News on Monday. According to a spreadsheet provided by the agency, a total of 29 entities have asked the Ohio EPA to provide flexibility so far.

All public water systems in the state are prohibited from disconnecting customers due to non-payment of fees and charges during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an order from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Director Laurie Stevenson. Coronavirus omnibus legislation HB197
OESCA Legislative eUpdate - 21

(Powell-Merrin) authorized the Ohio EPA director to issue such an order for the duration of the coronavirus state of emergency declared by Gov. Mike DeWine, but not beyond Tuesday, Dec. 1.

FEDERAL

In a call with reporters Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) said the next round of federal legislation aimed at mitigating the economic toll of the coronavirus pandemic would fill gaps in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act -- the $2 trillion COVID-19 (CV-19) relief bill signed into law last month -- as well as act as a stimulus package for the economy. Among the gaps that need filling, Portman said local communities in Ohio that rely on income tax are losing revenue even as their costs increase due to the pandemic. Ohio's tax revenues dropped more than 10 percent in March. Additionally, Portman said while he was pleased with many portions of the CARES Act, including the expanded Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, he said other parts of the legislation are being rolled out too slowly.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) called for "pandemic pay" for workers at a high risk of being infected with COVID-19, such as health care workers. His proposal would include $25,000 bonuses for "essential workers," which he said would be "equivalent to a raise of $13 per hour from the start of the public health emergency until Dec. 31, 2020," as well as $15,000 recruitment bonuses designed to attract potential workers and "secure the workforce needed to fight the public health crisis."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

While the Ohio General Assembly passed a range of coronavirus response measures in HB197 (Powell-Merrin), two legislators are also working on the front lines, as it were, to treat patients directly. Sen. Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City) is an emergency room doctor at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, while Rep. Beth Liston (D-Dublin) works in hospital medicine at Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital. Meanwhile, Ohio's third physician-legislator, Sen. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott), continues to prepare for coronavirus contingencies regarding his work as director of medically assisted treatment and integrated health services at Valley View Health Centers in Waverly.

House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) Monday announced the membership of his OHIO 2020 Task Force to study ways to promote economic recovery from the coronavirus outbreak. Rep. Paul Zeltwanger (R-Mason) was appointed as chair; Rep. Terrence Upchurch (D-Cleveland) was named vice chair. The group met later that day in a closed session and again in a broadcast session on Wednesday where they heard from Mike Venable, CEO of Cincytech. Zeltwanger said at the second meeting he hopes to craft a framework for recommendations by the end of next week.

Calling it a "perfect storm" of circumstance that is increasing costs for the state at the same time as state revenue is plummeting, House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) said the state budget could be as much as $2 billion short of projections by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Householder made the comments on Tuesday during a 50-minute interview with WOSU's Ann Fisher on her radio show "All Sides."

HIGHER EDUCATION

Amid the growing coronavirus pandemic, Ohio State University (OSU) and Miami University have both announced refunds for students. OSU and the University of Cincinnati (UC) have also extended remote learning through the summer session, which begins mid-May and ends in early August for both
universities. Kent State University also announced changes to its admissions process for fall 2020 applicants including, among other steps, waiving ACT and SAT standardized test requirements.

HUMAN SERVICES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tuesday approved a request from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to use USDA food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for disaster household distribution. The approval runs from Tuesday, April 7 through April 30, and will enable ODJFS to serve 1.25 million Ohioans through its network of 13 foodbanks and more than 2,800 distribution sites, according to the USDA letter. The approval waives household verification and income eligibility requirements normally connected to TEFAP. This allows them to serve "the large number of first-time clients" without close person-to-person contact collecting information such as names, addresses, household demographics and income details.

MENTAL HEALTH

A new "toolkit" from the nonprofit Mental Health America was released in advance of May being Mental Health Month, but has since been supplemented with additional resources geared toward managing and dealing with stress in an era of social distancing due to coronavirus.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Ohio National Guard (ONG) issued more details on its work to increase medical care capacity through alternate locations. Joint Engineer Assessment Teams (JEATs), consisting of local officials and members of the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Emergency Management Agency and ONG, have already begun identifying potential locations that could be used in the event the current health care infrastructure is overwhelmed. These sites include unused state-owned facilities, convention centers, large commercial properties and academic sites.

Helping collect personal protective equipment (PPE) has also been added to the ONG and Ohio Military Reserve (OHMR) response to the novel coronavirus, along with providing assistance to foodbanks and increasing medical care capacity. Approximately 30 members of the ONG and OHMR, both entities within the Ohio Adjutant General's Department, are supporting the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) with PPE collection, processing and storage.

PENSIONS

Ohio's pension systems have been looking to shore up their long-term finances amid changing investment return expectations, health care inflation and other factors, and now will have to contend with the shock of a recession sparked by the coronavirus. But amid the crisis they're assuring retirees that benefits will continue. The pension systems are also adapting their own operations to the virus, implementing remote work plans and suspending in-person meetings and services. And their boards of trustees are permitted under the recently enacted emergency coronavirus legislation, HB197 (Powell-Merrin), to delay planned elections of new trustees.

POLLS/STUDIES

Coverage of COVID-19 (CV-19) has dominated the news and resulted in skyrocketing ratings for the nation's cable news networks, and according to a recent survey from Pew Research Center's Election
News Pathways project, responses to that coverage and the pandemic itself vary among Americans who identify Fox News, MSNBC or CNN (the three major cable news networks featured in the analysis) as their main source of political news. In particular, Pew said responses to CV-19 news from those whose main sources of political news are MSNBC or Fox News are strikingly different. The views of those who identify CNN as their main news source most often fit somewhere between the two.

A new national poll released by Quinnipiac University Wednesday finds respondents give their highest approval marks on response to the COVID-19 pandemic to Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "Your state's governor" had the second best approval rating with 74 percent approval and 24 percent disapproval. President Donald Trump had coronavirus approval rating close to his overall approval rating: 46 percent approved of his coronavirus response, while 51 percent disapprove. His overall approval is the highest in the poll since taking office at 45 percent approval and 51 percent disapproval, up from 41 percent approval and 54 percent disapproval a month ago. Voters give Trump a positive approval rating on his handling of the economy 51 percent to 44 percent.

POVERTY

Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) released a brief Tuesday outlining additional actions the state and federal government could take to ensure access to food during the disruption caused by the novel coronavirus. PMO detailed the actions taken nationally through three "major" bills and said the next one could temporarily increase the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit by 15 percent, providing around $25 per person per month to help afford food and help stabilize consumer spending in local economies.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors is being asked to send $1.6 billion in dividends to employers this spring "to ease the impact that COVID-19 has had on our economy and our business community," Gov. Mike DeWine announced Wednesday. "We know that this will help. This dividend equals approximately 100 percent of the premiums employers paid in policy year 2018," Gov. Mike DeWine said during his daily coronavirus briefing at the Statehouse. On Friday, April 10, the BWC board approved the action.