This May 4, 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 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:

HB612  DELAY FIVE-YEAR PROJECTION PLANS (SOBECKI L, MILLER J) To delay the requirement for public schools to submit a new five-year projection of operational revenues and expenditures and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 5/4/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **Categories:** Education

HB606  CIVIL IMMUNITY - COVID-19 TRANSMISSION (GRENDELL D) To grant civil immunity to a person who provides services for essential businesses and operations for injury, death, or loss that was caused by the transmission of COVID-19 during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 4/10/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **Categories:** Health Care

SCR12  DENOUNCE DISCRIMINATION-COVID-19 (MAHARATH T) To denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and discrimination occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Current Status:** 4/8/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **Categories:** Civil and Human Rights, Health Care

HB603  INTEREST RATE WAIVER - STUDENT LOANS (INGRAM C, LIGHTBODY M) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to waive interest rates and suspend payments on state student loan programs for up to sixty days, to require the Chancellor to conduct a study to assist institutions of higher education and students during the COVID-19 outbreak, and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 4/6/2020 - Introduced

OESCA Legislative eUpdate - 1
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:**  
  - **Categories:** Economic & Workforce Development  
  - **ORC Sections:** 4143.01, 4143.02, 4143.03, 4143.04, 4143.05, 4143.06, 4143.07, 4143.08, 4143.09, 4143.99  

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:**  
  - **Categories:** Health Care  
  - **ORC Sections:** 4143.01, 4143.02, 4143.03, 4143.04, 4143.05, 4143.06, 4143.07, 4143.08, 4143.09, 4143.99  

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:**  

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:**  
  - **Categories:** Education  
  - **ORC Sections:** 3310.02, 3310.03, 3310.032, 3310.08, 3310.16  

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:**  
  - **Categories:** Education  
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:**
- **Categories:** Education

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:**
- **Categories:** Children and Family Issues
- **ORC Sections:** 5104.31

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:**
- **Categories:** Health Care
- **ORC Sections:** 4123.68

HB581  
**ADDRESS COVID-19 CONCERNS** (CALLENDER J) To address immediate concerns related to COVID-19.

- **Current Status:** 3/23/2020 - Introduced
- **Recent Status:**
- **Categories:** Health Care

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:**
- **Categories:** Budget and Appropriations

HB529  
**DISTRESS COMMISSIONS - ONE-TIME AUDITS** (MILLER J, LEPORE-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
- **Categories:** Education

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.
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
**Categories:** Financial Institutions
**ORC Sections:** 3333.0417

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
**Categories:** Arts, Sports & Entertainment, Education
**ORC Sections:** 3313.5317, 3345.561

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
**Categories:** Mental Health & Disabilities
**ORC Sections:** 3301.0718, 3313.60

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
**Categories:** Arts, Sports & Entertainment
**ORC Sections:** 3313.5317

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)
**ORC Sections:** 5122.04
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: 2/5/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
2/3/2020 - Introduced
Categories: Higher Education, Science & Technology
ORC Sections: 3333.27, 3333.271, 5725.98, 5726.98, 5729.98, 5747.98, 5751.98

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)
Categories: Budget and Appropriations, Education, Higher Education
ORC Sections: 3333.16, 3345.351, 3345.481

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
Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3301.0730, 3302.03, 3313.14, 3313.482, 3313.6113, 3313.618, 3313.903, 3317.023, 3317.037, 3319.2111, 3319.226, 3326.032, 3333.162, 3333.94, 3365.01, 3365.02, 5709.62, 5709.63, 5709.632, 5709.82, 5709.83

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

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3313.206, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.754, 3314.03, 3326.11, 5502.03

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

Categories: Education, Religion
ORC Sections: 3313.601, 3314.03, 3320.01, 3320.02, 3320.03, 3326.11, 3328.24

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

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3313.64

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

Categories: Education, Financial Institutions
ORC Sections: 3319.58

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

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3313.4812, 3314.03, 3326.11, 3328.24

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

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3303.08
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

1/22/2020 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Fourth Hearing)

**Categories:** Transportation & Infrastructure

**ORC Sections:** 2743.51, 2903.06, 2903.08, 2929.14, 4510.17, 4511.181, 4511.75, 4511.751, 4511.76, 5.501


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

**Categories:** Budget and Appropriations, Education, Science & Technology, State Government

**ORC Sections:** 3301.0714, 3302.20, 3310.08, 3310.41, 3310.54, 3310.55, 3314.08, 3314.084, 3314.087, 3314.088, 3314.091, 3314.11, 3314.20, 3317.017, 3317.02, 3317.0212, 3317.0217, 3317.0218, 3317.0219, 3317.022, 3317.029, 3317.03, 3317.051, 3317.163, 3326.33, 3326.42


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

**Categories:** Children and Family Issues, Health Care

**ORC Sections:** 3301.079, 3314.03, 3319.077, 3319.078, 3323.11, 3323.25, 3323.251, 3326.11, 3328.24


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)

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

**ORC Sections:** 3301.221, 3301.23, 3313.536, 3313.60, 3313.6610, 3313.6611, 3313.6612, 3313.669, 3314.03, 3319.073, 3326.11, 3328.24


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)

OESCA Legislative eUpdate - 7
**Recent Status:** 1/28/2020 - Senate Education, (Eighth Hearing)
12/3/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 2953.25, 3314.03, 3314.101, 3319.0812, 3319.151, 3319.227, 3319.31, 3319.311, 3319.313, 3319.316, 3319.318, 3319.319, 3319.393, 3319.40, 3319.99, 3326.081, 3326.11, 3328.18, 3328.24, 5153.176


**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

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3310.02, 3310.03, 3310.031, 3310.032, 3310.035, 3310.036


**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

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3301.41


**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

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3313.5313


**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

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 4511.21


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

**Current Status:** 1/28/2020 - 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)

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3314.03, 3314.261

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

Categories: Education

ORC Sections: 3301.0730


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)

Categories: Education

ORC Sections: 3323.25


HB310  SCHOOL BULLYING AND HAZING (GREENSPAN D) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and colleges.

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

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

Categories: Education, Higher Education

ORC Sections: 2903.31, 2903.311, 3301.165, 3301.22, 3313.661, 3313.666, 3313.669, 3314.03, 3319.318, 3326.11, 3345.19


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 Suby Act" with regard to food allergy training for public schools and institutions of higher education.

Current Status: 1/25/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

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

Categories: Education, Health Care, Public Safety

ORC Sections: 3301.135, 3313.719


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


HB360  PUBLIC SCHOOLS-WATER STATIONS (CRAWLEY E, HILLYER B) To require water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains in certain public school buildings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Recent Status</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>ORC Sections</th>
<th>State Bill Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB147</td>
<td>OHIO SCHOOL MARSHAL PROGRAM (HOAGLAND F)</td>
<td>To create the Ohio School Marshal Program.</td>
<td>1/21/2020 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)</td>
<td>11/6/2019 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3313.536, 5502.01, 5502.70, 5502.701, 5502.702, 5502.703</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-147">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-147</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB225</td>
<td>CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (LEHNER P)</td>
<td>To require public schools to post signs with a child abuse reporting telephone number.</td>
<td>1/21/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)</td>
<td>10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform</td>
<td>Children and Family Issues, Education</td>
<td>3313.802, 3314.03, 3326.11</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-225">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-225</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB322</td>
<td>TEACHER RESIDENCY (JONES D, MANNING D)</td>
<td>To revise the Ohio Teacher Residency Program.</td>
<td>12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)

**Categories:** Education, Local Government, Occupations & Professions, Public Employees, State Government

**ORC Sections:** 3319.091


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)

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3301.0718, 3301.0727, 3313.6011

**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)

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3301.0714, 3302.20, 3310.08, 3310.41, 3310.51, 3310.54, 3310.55, 3310.56, 3313.64, 3313.98, 3313.981, 3314.08, 3314.084, 3314.085, 3314.087, 3314.088, 3314.091, 3314.11, 3314.20, 3314.53, 3315.18, 3317.01, 3317.012, 3317.013, 3317.014, 3317.016, 3317.017, 3317.018, 3317.019, 3317.02, 3317.021, 3317.0212, 3317.0213, 3317.0214, 3317.0215, 3317.0216, 3317.0217, 3317.0218, 3317.022, 3317.023, 3317.028, 3317.03, 3317.051, 3317.16, 3317.162, 3317.20, 3317.25, 3317.60, 3317.61, 3317.62, 3319.57, 3324.09, 3326.31, 3326.32, 3326.33, 3326.39, 3326.40, 3326.41, 3326.51, 3327.01, 3327.016, 3328.32, 3328.33, 3328.34, 3365.01


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)

**Categories:**

**ORC Sections:** 5735.50

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

Current Status: 11/6/2019 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 33-0
Recent Status: 11/6/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration
10/30/2019 - REPORTED OUT, Senate Higher Education, (Third Hearing)

Categories: Economic & Workforce Development, Higher Education
ORC Sections: 3333.93

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

Current Status: 11/5/2019 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
10/22/2019 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Taxation
ORC Sections: 5747.08, 5747.77, 5747.98

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

Current Status: 10/31/2019 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
2/19/2019 - Introduced

Categories: Crime & Punishment, Education
ORC Sections: 4503.03, 4510.036, 4511.75, 4511.751, 4511.76

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

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

Categories: Taxation
ORC Sections: 319.302, 323.1510, 4503.0612, 5705.211

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

ORC Sections: 3317.0212, 3327.01

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

Current Status: 10/8/2019 - Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/24/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
3/21/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3333.93, 3333.931, 3333.932, 5725.98, 5726.98, 5729.98, 5747.02, 5747.08, 5747.77, 5747.98, 5751.98, 6301.11


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

Current Status: 10/1/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 7/17/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
6/19/2019 - Introduced

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3313.818, 3314.03, 3326.11, 3328.24


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

Current Status: 10/1/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
3/6/2019 - Introduced

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3319.46


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

Current Status: 10/1/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 9/24/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
9/17/2019 - Introduced

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 103.44, 103.45, 103.46, 103.47, 103.48, 103.49, 103.50


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.

Categories: Transportation & Infrastructure
ORC Sections: 4511.21

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.

Categories: Budget and Appropriations, Children and Family Issues, Federal Issues
ORC Sections: 3313.666

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

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3301.0718

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

Categories: Education, Mental Health & Disabilities, Public Safety
ORC Sections: 3313.666

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

Categories: Education, Health Care
ORC Sections: 3301.0718
**HB239**

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

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

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

**Categories:** Education
**ORC Sections:** 3301.0712, 3301.0729

**HB43**

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

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

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

**Categories:** Education, Land Use

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

**Categories:** Children and Family Issues, Education
**ORC Sections:** 3301.0730, 3314.03, 3326.11, 3328.24, 3708.01, 3708.02, 3708.03, 3708.05, 3708.07, 3708.09, 3708.11, 3708.13, 3708.15, 3708.17, 3708.19

**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
4/9/2019 - Introduced

**ORC Sections:** 3310.01, 3310.02, 3310.03, 3310.032, 3310.035, 3310.08, 3310.09, 3310.16, 3313.978, 3317.02, 3317.03

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

**Categories:** Arts, Sports & Entertainment, Education, Immigration
**ORC Sections:** 3313.5315

**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)
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

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3302.103


HB132 SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS (MANNING D) Regarding notice of school child immunization requirements and exemptions.

**Current Status:** 4/2/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 3/19/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

3/12/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education, Health Care, Public Safety

**ORC Sections:** 3313.675, 3314.03, 3326.11


SB104 INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (HILL B) Regarding funding for students enrolled in community schools, STEM schools, and other districts through interdistrict open enrollment.

**Current Status:** 3/27/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

**Recent Status:** 3/13/2019 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3313.64, 3313.98, 3313.981, 3313.984, 3314.08, 3314.088, 3326.31, 3326.33, 3326.39, 3326.42


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

**Categories:** Education, Transportation & Infrastructure

**ORCSections:** 3327.015, 5705.2115


HB121 TAX CREDIT-CLASSROOM MATERIALS (SCHAFER 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

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

**ORC Sections:** 5747.08, 5747.72, 5747.98

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

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3301.0711, 3301.0714, 3301.163, 3302.036, 3310.01, 3310.02, 3310.03, 3310.031, 3310.032, 3310.035, 3310.04, 3310.05, 3310.06, 3310.07, 3310.08, 3310.09, 3310.10, 3310.11, 3310.12, 3310.13, 3310.14, 3310.15, 3310.16, 3310.17, 3310.51, 3313.974, 3313.975, 3313.976, 3313.977, 3313.978, 3313.979, 3317.03, 3365.07, 5727.84


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

Current Status: 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
Recent Status: 2/26/2019 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Public Safety, Transportation & Infrastructure
ORC Sections: 4510.036, 4511.75


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

Current Status: 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
Recent Status: 2/20/2019 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Public Safety, Transportation & Infrastructure
ORC Sections: 4503.03, 4511.75


HB22 OFCC ODE-SCHOOL BUILDING AMENITIES (ANTANI N) To require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and the Department of Education to conduct a study regarding certain school building amenities.

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

Categories: Construction, Education


******************************************************************************
AGRICULTURE

Roughly 65 percent of individuals involved in the state's food supply system have experienced "negative" or "very negative" effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new industry survey. The statewide Farm, Food and Agribusiness COVID-19 Impact Survey, distributed by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) and a number of other agriculture groups, found that a plurality of respondents' businesses are feeling "negative" effects (39.5 percent), followed by "neutral" (30 percent), "very negative" (25.6 percent), "positive" (4.2 percent) and "very positive" (0.7 percent).

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

The Ohio Restaurant Association (ORA) recently released new data on how restaurants in the state have been negatively affected by COVID-19, drawn from a nationwide survey. Ohio restaurants have now laid off or furloughed more than 300,000 employees, up from over 100,000 between March 1-22. Eighty-four percent of operators have laid off or furloughed employees, and another four percent anticipate doing so in the next 30 days. The previous ORA data at the end of March showed 67 percent of operators had laid off employees.

CENSUS

As of Monday, Ohio ranked 11th out of all 50 states for 2020 Census response rates. Ohio's self-response rate is 57.7 percent, up from 54.3 percent last week.

CORONAVIRUS

Gov. Mike DeWine’s daily coronavirus briefings for the week featured details for the first time on rules and deadlines for businesses previously deemed non-essential to begin reopening, though he quickly backtracked on one key element cloth masks or coverings. On Monday he rolled out a “no mask, no work, no service, no exception” protocol, but on Tuesday said it would only be required for employees, with several exceptions for health or other reasons, while customers would be recommended to wear them. The schedule of openings included health care procedures not requiring an overnight hospital stay on Friday, May 1; manufacturing, distribution, construction and general office work on Monday, May 4; and consumer, retail and service businesses on Tuesday, May 12. House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) blasted DeWine’s retail opening deadline, saying the administration was “assisting in the demise of many great small businesses” with rules that allowed big-box retailers to remain open while smaller shops closed. Cases of the virus over the week increased from 15,169 cases and 690 deaths on Friday, April 24 to 18,027 and 975, respectively on Thursday, April 30.

Other updates announced included the following:

- A partnership with ROE Dental Laboratory and Formlabs to provide up to a million testing swabs in the coming weeks.

- $16 million in grant funding from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services to support local law enforcement and other agencies in virus response, including with purchase of cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment.

- Workgroups on the reopening of restaurants and barbershops and salons.

- Shipment of 4.1 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to local emergency management agencies.

Hammering out operational details for the administration's goal of rapid response to coronavirus hotspots is the latest assignment for Maureen Corcoran. Already in charge of key health care policies as director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), her nursing background and other experience now have her at the center of planning for response to flareups once the state eases public health orders. "It helps that I understand Medicaid and all that, but as you've seen in a lot of the things that the governor has done, he's pulling on everyone for their expertise and their willingness to be helpful, not just relying on what our official job duties are," Corcoran said in an interview with Hannah News.
Those interested in keeping apprised of how the trillions of dollars of coronavirus-related federal funding is being distributed have a new tool to use, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) has announced. The COVID Money Tracker, available at http://www.COVIDMoneyTracker.org, aims to track all significant financial actions taken by Congress, the Federal Reserve and executive agencies and entities, CRFB Vice President and Senior Policy Director Marc Goldwein said during a webinar, during which he also discussed the latest legislation being considered by Congress to provide further aid to businesses and entities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A supermajority of Ohio voters give Gov. Mike DeWine high marks for the way he has handled the state's response to the coronavirus, a new Ohio poll released Monday by Baldwin Wallace's Community Research Institute (CRI), in partnership with Oakland University and Ohio Northern University, shows.

Fans of Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Dr. Amy Acton can now purchase bobblehead dolls resembling the leaders who have grown in national prominence since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There have been 273 coronavirus-related deaths among long-term care facility residents in Ohio since April 15, according to data released by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that was current through Tuesday. There was a total of around 475 coronavirus deaths in the state between April 15-28. In response to the release of these numbers, Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA) Executive Director Pete Van Runkle raised concerns about its accuracy as "it relies on data reported by 113 local health departments, which apparently do not consistently verify the numbers they are reporting."

CORRECTIONS

As of Friday, April 24, over two-thirds of all inmates in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) -- some 33,000 prisoners -- had been "exposed or potentially exposed" to the coronavirus or another contagious disease and are now in quarantine at 22 state penitentiaries. They include at least 15 confirmed and two probable deaths for an increase of nine COVID-19 fatalities since Sunday.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) called on U.S. Attorney General William Barr and Federal Bureau of Prisons Director Michael Carvajal to increase COVID-19 testing at Elkton Federal Correctional Institution (FCI Elkton) Monday, saying the lack of sufficient testing was "unacceptable."

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across America between March and April, the percentage of Ohioans who perceived they were at risk of catching the virus decreased, according to a new Ohio State University (OSU) survey. But when questioned in April, these same Ohioans were more likely than they had been in March to think that an infection, if they did get sick, would seriously affect their health.

Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Amy Acton were joined Thursday by Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) Director Annette Chambers-Smith to discuss the handling of the coronavirus in Ohio prisons at their daily briefing. Chambers-Smith discussed steps DRC has taken to limit the spread of the virus in prisons such as ending inmate visitations; allowing hand sanitizer and wipes containing alcohol in facilities; making PPE available for staff and, at times, the prisons' making their own PPE; moving from a breakfast, lunch, dinner schedule to a brunch/dinner schedule and allowing prisoners to take food out of dining areas; giving staff the option to either take a shower or sleep at hotels as to not endanger their families; and regularly checking prisoners and staff for symptoms.

The Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC) is moving forward on its statutory duty to audit and recommend changes in the state prison system after providing the DeWine administration emergency power for an immediate inmate release from the coronavirus-challenged Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC). The CIIC authority, comprising an administrative agency and bicameral committee, is near full staffing with former Householder aide Travis Ricketts as deputy director and Senior Corrections Analysts Rachel Helbing and Jeff Noble and Corrections Analyst Gabrielle Woodberry.

EDUCATION

After the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recommended to Ohio school district superintendents that graduation ceremonies and other end-of-year commemorative events be held virtually, Sen. Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City) pushed back against ODE and called for local control. Later, ODE and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) issued the following suggestions for local schools and health departments when considering graduation ceremonies:
- Virtual graduation ceremonies are the most highly recommended.

- Drive-in ceremonies where students drive to a designated location at a designated time to get their diplomas are the second-best option.

- Outdoor ceremonies with 10 people or fewer while engaging in physical distancing are the third-best option.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) published updates Friday on how to address Ohio's standing requirements on minimum annual instructional hours for schools. While lawmakers waived restrictions on how much brick-and-mortar schools can rely on distance learning to meet those rules via HB197 (Merrin-Powell), they did not waive the underlying mandate to provide between 455 and 1,001 hours of instruction, depending on the age of the students, the agency noted.

Preliminary results show voters across Ohio approved 63 of 99 local school funding issues on the ballot in Ohio's protracted 2020 spring primary election, according to the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA) levy results database. The 64 percent approval rate for school funding issues marked a substantial decline from last year's primary election, when 81 of 104 issues won approval, a 78 percent passage rate, according to OSBA. Renewal requests fared the best, with 93 percent passing. Only 38 percent of new funding requests were approved, with 20 of 53 passing, down from a 60 percent passage rate in the 2019 primary.

ELECTIONS 2020

Despite efforts by the secretary of state's office and the General Assembly to conduct a strictly vote by mail presidential primary because of coronavirus concerns, voting rights advocates Monday expressed concern that long lines could still occur at county boards of elections on Tuesday -- the deadline to return absentee ballots -- because of issues with the delivery and return of absentee ballots.

Ohio's presidential primary finally came to a close on Tuesday as voters who received last-minute absentee ballots dropped them off at their county boards of elections, and some who never received their ballots showed up to cast in-person provisional ballots. Counting went slowly into Tuesday evening in the larger counties, as reports said that thousands of ballots came into boards on the last day, and elections workers had to match the signatures on the ballots with those on record. In the races themselves most incumbents survived their primaries. Some races were very close in preliminary results, including the contests between appointed Rep. Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) and Thaddeus Claggett; former U.S. Rep. Jean Schmittobra's race versus Joe Dills in the 65th House District; and a three-way race between Adam Bird, Nick Owens and Allen Freeman in the 66th House District. In the Senate races, Reps. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), George Lang (R-West Chester) and Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) won primaries in their quests to move to the other chamber.

The Ohio Voter Rights Coalition reported Tuesday afternoon that they were receiving reports of confusion over casting provisional ballots, but there did not yet seem to be long lines at county boards of elections.

The Tuesday election saw success for most legislators looking to join their local county commissions, with the exception being Rep. John Becker (R-Cincinnati), who lost a bid for the GOP nomination for Clermont County commissioner.

Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) Chairman David Pepper said Wednesday that he hopes lawmakers on both sides of the aisle will come together in the wake of Tuesday's vote-by-mail only presidential primary to come up with a way to do it better in the fall should the need arise because of a continued COVID-19 pandemic.

Candidates for 210 Ohio judicial races are now set for the general election after this week's primary election. Nearly 300 judicial candidates were on the ballot during the primary and 265 will move on as candidates in the Nov. 3 general election, the Ohio Supreme Court reports. All incumbent judges running in the primary won their party's nominations, according to unofficial results in a primary that had been originally scheduled for March 17 but was extended six weeks due to the coronavirus health emergency.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

Starting Friday, April 24, Ohioans who are unemployed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic but who don't qualify for regular unemployment benefits can begin pre-registering for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), a new federal program that covers many more categories of workers. In addition, more than 400,000 unemployment claimants in Ohio...
began receiving weekly $600 supplements last week in addition to their regular benefits as a part of the new federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) program.

For the week ending April 25, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 92,920 initial unemployment claims, taking the state's coronavirus-related six-week total to 1,057,486. "To put that in perspective, the total for the last six weeks of claims is 341,974 more than the combined total of 715,512 for the last two years," ODJFS said in a news release.

**FEDERAL**

U.S. Sen Rob Portman (R-OH) said Tuesday any plan to reopen Ohio's economy will necessitate an expansion of testing capacity, as well as an increased use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and contact tracing studies, in order to prevent a second round of closures.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) joined Ohio corrections officers on a conference call hosted by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) where they called for the inclusion of federal assistance for states and local governments in the fourth federal stimulus responding to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

At the end of the Friday, April 24 Ohio House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force meeting, Chair Rep. Paul Zeltwanger (R-Mason) asked members to take the weekend to compile a one- to two-page list of recommendations and potential solutions which they think are key to restarting the economy.

He asked members to send their lists to his office for compilation and said the task force would be discussing their next steps in the upcoming week.

Ohio House Democrats hosted a listening forum for small and micro business representatives late Thursday, with the latter category defined as companies of fewer than 20 employees. Rep. Allison Russo (D-Columbus) acted as a moderator during the forum. Russo said the purpose of the roundtable was to highlight the unique issues facing Ohio's micro and small businesses, with a particular focus on women- and minority-owned businesses that may be "uniquely impacted." As the economy is reopened, they want to make sure they understand the issues specific to these businesses and identify the resources available to them, as well as what needs to be improved.

The majority of Republican members of the Ohio House signed on to a framework Monday for restarting commerce "responsibly," including the leading principle that "based on current data, scientific application and actual results, we believe a responsible opening of all businesses can, and should, begin on or before May 1, 2020."

Ohio House Democratic leaders discussed their views on how the state should lift coronavirus-related restrictions in a call with reporters Monday ahead of Gov. Mike DeWine's announcement, while acknowledging they did not know his plan yet. Participants in the call included Minority Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron), Assistant Minority Leader Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus), Minority Whip Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) and Assistant Minority Whip Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester).

Monday's meeting of the House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force included testimony from the Lake Erie Shores and Islands tourism center, two restaurants, a youth sports league and a number of other groups seeking to restart business with added safety protocols.

Speaker of the House Larry Householder (R-Glenford) Wednesday announced a screening panel to review candidates wishing to fill the vacant 59th House District seat, which includes most of Mahoning County.

The vacancy is due to the death of Rep. Don Manning (R-New Middletown) in March. Individuals interested in being considered for appointment to the unexpired term in the 59th House District should email a cover letter and resume to Rep72@OhioHouse.gov by noon on Friday, May 8. Interviews will be conducted the week of May 11.
Among organizations testifying at Wednesday's meeting of the House 2020 Economic Recovery Task Force were the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), construction company Ferguson Construction and a pet grooming company, as well as Kalahari Resorts.

HIGHER EDUCATION

A recent study out of Ohio State University (OSU) suggests that even organized efforts to clean surfaces can fall short, leaving people vulnerable to viruses left behind. For five and a half weeks, researchers tagged surfaces of a small-animal veterinary practice daily with a fluorescent dye visible only under black light. They checked tagged surfaces 24 hours later to see if the marks were showing. Surfaces were considered cleaned if the dye was completely removed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther said Tuesday that the state has answered the capital city's key concerns about easing public health restrictions on business operations, lending his support to the "Responsible Restart" plan Gov. Mike DeWine described Monday.

City of Columbus Police Chief Thomas Quinlan gave a briefing on the Columbus Police Department's (CPD) handling of the effects of the coronavirus outbreak during a Columbus Metropolitan Club (CMC) forum streamed live Wednesday. Asked about the need for Columbus police officers to break up gatherings of people who aren't physically distancing themselves, Quinlan said he doesn't want officers to be "social enforcers" or have to issue citations or make arrests; instead, he'd prefer police be educators who can inform people of the law if they don't know it. Officers have not been issuing citations for violating social distancing laws unless a separate law is also being violated, he said.

The Ohio Municipal League (OML) announced Wednesday that it had sent a memo to Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio House and Senate leaders regarding its policy recommendations for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The recommendations "cover the need for municipal funding to sustain public services, investment in infrastructure and the need for expanded furlough authority as well as concerns regarding federal financial relief and the Local Government Fund (LGF)," OML said in a release.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors got a sobering picture of the agency financial position Friday -- a $2.0 billion drop in assets over a single month -- reflecting stock downturns and delayed premium payments under COVID-19 that are partly offset by a 30 percent decrease in injury claims since January. Partial rebounds in the market and good overall investment strategy is allowing BWC to hand employers this month's $1.6 billion refund and to meet projected claims and administrative costs going into FY21 and beyond, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Giangola told the board in its second virtual meeting under the state of emergency.

A county judge granted the recent request of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) to file exhibits under seal in its lawsuit against pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) OptumRx, while the two sides try to work out a protective order to shield confidential information moving forward.