This May 21, 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 pending 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:

**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:** 5/20/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 6/11/2019 - BILL AMENDED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
  - 6/4/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
- **ORC Sections:** 3301.0712, 3301.0729

**HB322** TEACHER RESIDENCY (JONES D, MANNING D) To revise the Ohio Teacher Residency Program.

- **Current Status:** 5/20/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 5/13/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
  - 12/10/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
- **ORC Sections:** 3302.151, 3319.111, 3319.22, 3319.223, 3319.227, 3319.229, 3319.26, 3319.61, 3333.048, 3333.39

**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.
HB670 REAPPROPRIATE CAPITAL FUNDS (MERRIN D) To make capital reappropriations for certain agencies for the biennium ending June 30, 2022, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/20/2020 - Introduced
Recent Status: 5/19/2020 - House Civil Justice, (Third 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: 5/20/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 1/21/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First 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: 5/20/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
Recent Status: 5/13/2020 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 80-14

SB308 CIVIL LIABILITY-EMERGENCY SERVICES (HUFFMAN M) To revise the law governing immunity from civil liability and professional discipline for health care providers during disasters or emergencies, to provide qualified civil immunity to service providers providing services during and after a government-declared disaster, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/20/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Judiciary, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/13/2020 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, Senate Judiciary, (Second Hearing)

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: 5/20/2020 - REPORTED OUT, Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Fifth Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/4/2020 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Fourth Hearing)
2/19/2020 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Third Hearing)

ORC Sections: 5122.04


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: 5/20/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0

Recent Status: 5/20/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration
5/20/2020 - REPORTED OUT, Senate General Government and Agency Review, (Third Hearing)


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: 5/19/2020 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
2/5/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0

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


SB310 FEDERAL COVID FUNDING (DOLAN M) To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/19/2020 - House Finance, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/13/2020 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Finance


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: 5/19/2020 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)

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

ORC Sections: 3333.0417


OESCA Legislative eUpdate - 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Recent Status</th>
<th>ORC Sections</th>
<th>State Bill Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB83</td>
<td>SCHOOL BUS PHOTO EVIDENCE (BROWN R, SCHAFFER T)</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>5/19/2020 - House Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)</td>
<td>5/13/2020 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)</td>
<td>4503.03, 4510.036, 4511.75, 4511.751, 4511.76</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-83">Website</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>HB644</td>
<td>LOVING STATE INDEX (HOWSE S)</td>
<td>To create the Loving State Index and the Loving State Index Commission to evaluate and rank municipal corporations in Ohio regarding critical supports that are vital to student academic success in order to identify gaps in opportunity for low-income individuals and minority individuals.</td>
<td>5/19/2020 - Introduced</td>
<td></td>
<td>182.01</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-644">Website</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>HB636</td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION EXEMPTION -- CHARTED NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS (SOBECKI L)</td>
<td>To exempt a school district from transporting students to a chartered nonpublic school or a community school under certain circumstances and to declare an emergency.</td>
<td>5/19/2020 - Introduced</td>
<td></td>
<td>3327.01</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-636">Website</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>HB635</td>
<td>COMMUNITY SCHOOL SPONSORS - APPROVAL (ROGERS J, PATTERSON J)</td>
<td>To require all community school sponsors to receive approval from and enter into an agreement with the Department of Education and to make changes regarding eligibility for the Quality Community School Support Program.</td>
<td>5/19/2020 - Introduced</td>
<td></td>
<td>3314.015, 3314.016, 3314.02, 3314.021, 3314.027</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-635">Website</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>HB662</td>
<td>THIRD GRADE ENGLISH ASSESSMENT (MIRANDA J)</td>
<td>To require school districts and schools to conduct the fall administration of the third grade English language arts assessment in November for the 2020-2021 school year and to declare an emergency.</td>
<td>5/19/2020 - Introduced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-662">Website</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>HB657</td>
<td>STOPPED SCHOOL BUSES (GALONSKI T)</td>
<td>To increase, from ten to twenty feet, the distance a driver is required to stop from a stopped school bus.</td>
<td>5/19/2020 - Introduced</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HB653  INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS (HOOPS J, MILLER A) Regarding interscholastic athletics in schools.

Current Status: 5/19/2020 - Introduced
Recent Status:
ORC Sections: 4511.75

HB649  ODH - TESTING (STOLTZFUS R, HOOD R) Regarding the authority of the Department of Health and local boards of health to make certain orders and regarding the testing of individuals for certain communicable diseases.

Current Status: 5/19/2020 - Introduced
Recent Status:
ORC Sections: 3313.5315, 3313.5316

HB651  PAYMENT - CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS (BALDRIDGE B) To make an additional payment in fiscal year 2020 or 2021 to certain school districts that experience a decrease in the taxable value of the district's utility tangible personal property.

Current Status: 5/19/2020 - Introduced
Recent Status:

HB658  TRAIN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES - FIREARMS (GALONSKI T) To require firearms training for school employees approved to convey firearms into a school safety zone.

Current Status: 5/19/2020 - Introduced
Recent Status:
ORC Sections: 109.78, 2923.11, 2923.122

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: 5/13/2020 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
Recent Status: 1/28/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
1/23/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
ORC Sections: 3314.03, 3314.261
SB307  **SALES TAX EXEMPTION-PPE** (GAVARONE T) To authorize a temporary sales and use tax exemption for personal protective equipment and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 5/13/2020 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means

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

- **Current Status:** 5/12/2020 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education
- **ORC Sections:** 3333.93

HB619  **ODH PUBLISH INFECTIOUS DISEASE INFORMATION** (JORDAN K, HILLYER B) To require the Department of Health to compile and publish certain information on its web site during a state of emergency relating to infectious disease.

- **Current Status:** 5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health
- **Recent Status:** 5/7/2020 - Introduced
- **ORC Sections:** 3701.147

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:** 5/12/2020 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)
- **Recent Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education

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:** 5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

HB618  **NOW ACT** (BECKER J) To limit the authority of the Governor and the Department of Health to issue orders regarding contagious or infectious diseases, to prohibit any order from affecting the conduct of an election, to designate its provisions as the "Need Ohio Working (NOW) Act," and to declare an emergency.

- **Current Status:** 5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

**OESCA Legislative eUpdate** - 6
HB617  LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL PROCEDURES - SHUTDOWN ORDERS (JORDAN K) To establish certain time frames and legislative approval procedures as conditions governing the authority of the Department of Health to issue statewide shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases, to invalidate existing statewide shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders issued by the Department, and to declare an emergency.
   **Current Status:** 5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
   **Recent Status:** 5/6/2020 - Introduced
   **ORC Sections:** 3701.13
   **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-617

HB615  PROTECTIVE BARRIERS - SCHOOL BUSES (SOBECKI L, MILLER J) To authorize the installation of protective barriers in school buses, to require the Director of Public Safety to adopt rules related to the barriers, and to declare an emergency.
   **Current Status:** 5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
   **Recent Status:** 5/6/2020 - Introduced
   **ORC Sections:** 4511.773
   **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-615

HB620  HEALTH IMPACT STATEMENTS, INTERAGENCY TEAM (CRAWLEY E) To require the Legislative Service Commission to create health impact statements for introduced bills and to create the Health and Equity Interagency Team.
   **Current Status:** 5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health
   **Recent Status:** 5/7/2020 - Introduced
   **ORC Sections:** 103.13, 103.132, 3701.35
   **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-620

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:** 5/12/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)
   **Recent Status:** 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Insurance
   **ORC Sections:** 4123.68
   **State Bill Page:** https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-573

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:** 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
   **Recent Status:** 4/8/2020 - Introduced
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: 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
Recent Status: 3/25/2020 - Introduced
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: 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
Recent Status: 3/24/2020 - Introduced

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: 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health
Recent Status: 3/23/2020 - Introduced
ORC Sections: 5104.31

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: 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status: 3/24/2020 - Introduced
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: 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status: 3/24/2020 - Introduced
HB581  ADDRESS COVID-19 CONCERNS (CALLENDER J) To address immediate concerns related to COVID-19.

Current Status:  5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health
Recent Status:  3/23/2020 - Introduced

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:  5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
Recent Status:  3/23/2020 - Introduced

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:  5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Finance
Recent Status:  3/23/2020 - Introduced

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:  5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor
Recent Status:  3/25/2020 - Introduced
ORC Sections:  4143.01, 4143.02, 4143.03, 4143.04, 4143.05, 4143.06, 4143.07, 4143.08, 4143.09, 4143.99

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

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
ORC Sections:  3313.5317, 3345.561
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Bill Title</th>
<th>Sponsor(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Recent Status</th>
<th>ORC Sections</th>
<th>State Bill Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB532</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education</td>
<td>3/3/2020 - Introduced</td>
<td>3301.0718, 3313.60</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-532">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-532</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>SB268</td>
<td>CAPITAL APPROPRIATION (SYKES V) To modify the purpose of a capital appropriation.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2/25/2020 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)</td>
<td>2/5/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-268">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-268</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>HB523</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>2/21/2020 - Introduced</td>
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<td>3333.27, 3333.271, 5725.98, 5726.98, 5729.98, 5747.98, 5751.98</td>
<td><a href="https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-523">https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-523</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>HB9</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>
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
ORC Sections: 3301.0730, 3302.03, 3313.14, 3313.482, 3313.6113, 3313.618, 3313.903, 3317.023, 3317.037, 3319.2211, 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
ORC Sections: 3313.206, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.754, 3314.03, 3326.11, 5502.03

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
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)
**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  
**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  
**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  
**ORC Sections:** 3319.58  

**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  
**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, 3326.31, 3326.33, 3326.42  

**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)
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)

**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


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)

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


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

**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

**ORC Sections:** 3313.5313


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

ORC Sections: 4511.21


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

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


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)

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)

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

**ORC Sections:** 3318.038


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

**Current Status:** 1/21/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:**
- 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
- 10/16/2019 - Introduced

**ORC Sections:** 3313.802, 3314.03, 3326.11


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)

**ORC Sections:** 3314.03, 3319.077, 3319.078, 3323.11, 3326.11, 3328.24


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

**ORC Sections:** 3313.536, 5502.01, 5502.70, 5502.701, 5502.702, 5502.703

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)

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)
10/29/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

ORC Sections:  3301.0718, 3301.0727, 3313.6011

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)

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, 3317.011, 3317.012, 3317.013, 3317.014, 3317.016, 3317.017, 3317.018, 3317.019, 3317.02, 3317.021, 3317.022, 3317.023, 3317.024, 3317.025, 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


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

ORC Sections:  5747.08, 5747.77, 5747.98

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

- **Current Status:** 10/23/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee
- **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
- **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
- **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
**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  
*ORC Sections:*  
3319.46  

**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)  
*ORC Sections:*  
103.44, 103.45, 103.46, 103.47, 103.48, 103.49, 103.50  

**SB85**  
**SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS** (MAHARATH T) To establish signage requirements for indicating school zones for speed limit purposes, and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:*  
9/17/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:*  
3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
3/6/2019 - Introduced  
*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  
*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

**ORC Sections:** 3313.666


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

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

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

**ORC Sections:** 3301.0718


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


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)

**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

**Recent Status:** 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)

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

**ORC Sections:** 3313.5315


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

**ORC Sections:** 3302.103


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)

**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

**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

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

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**

  **ORC Sections:** 3301.0711, 3301.0714, 3301.163, 3302.036, 3302.10, 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


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**

  **ORC Sections:** 3327.015, 5705.2115


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**

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


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

  **ORC Sections:** 4503.03, 4511.75


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

  **ORC Sections:** 4510.036, 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


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Capitol Square in Review

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Ohio Attorney General's Office will cut more than $4.6 million from its FY20 budget to mitigate COVID-19 revenue shortfalls. "The financial strain of COVID-19 demands a hard look at government spending," Attorney General Dave Yost said. "My office will continue to do its part to relieve the pressure weighing on the state's budget."

BALLOT ISSUES

With efforts to collect signatures impossible due to the shutdown of Ohio's economy and concerns over the coronavirus, backers of a proposed constitutional amendment to make changes to Ohio election law have turned to a federal court for relief from Ohio's signature gathering requirements. Ohioans for Secure and Fair Elections filed to intervene in a case that was already filed in federal court seeking relief from petition requirements and is asking a federal judge to put the issue before voters in November.

FY20-21 BUDGET

Unfilled positions, cancelled purchases and delayed projects were common approaches identified by state agency leaders as they considered how to meet the budget cut targets laid out by Gov. Mike DeWine in response to the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout. DeWine and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) directed all agencies to report how they would cut 20 percent from their budgets for the remainder of FY20. However, not all are being held to that standard, given the variability of budget size, mission and responsibilities in responding to COVID-19. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), which is grappling with significant outbreaks in its facilities, is not being asked to make such substantial cuts, for example. DeWine and OBM announced details of $776 million in cuts for FY20 the week of May 4.

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce's quarterly "Prosperity Pulse" index fell to a historic low of 51 during 2020's first quarter, the first time "below-average" economic conditions were reported. The index has been at or above 100 since the chamber began measuring it in 2017's first quarter, and it peaked in 2018's third quarter at 139.9. Only eight percent of the 414 respondents said they expect their businesses to turn a profit over the next three months,
and optimism about their company's future economic health fell to 31 percent. Health care costs had traditionally been the primary issue of concern but were replaced statewide by economic uncertainty.

After an extended staff furlough and repeated reopening delays, Honda began "gradually" resuming automobile, engine and transmission production at its plants in the U.S. and Canada on Monday. Plants were closed due to the novel coronavirus on March 23, while the most recent extension of the shutdown was announced April 23. Honda said it would "stagger the start-up at each plant, with most plants using the first day to ensure that front-line leaders are trained on new procedures and activities related to COVID-19 prevention. Prior to resuming production, associates will learn about the new safety measures and retrain on work processes after the period of suspended production."

CENSUS

Development Services Agency (DSA) Director Lydia Mihalik said Ohio is currently seventh in the nation for its percentage of residents who have responded to the 2020 Census, but she encouraged local government leaders to continue to ask people to participate and to emphasize its importance through awareness campaigns. Mihalik told participants in Monday online meeting of the Census 2020 Complete Count Commission that recent data shows that 62.5 percent of Ohioans have participated in the census so far, compared to 57.3 percent of U.S. residents nationally.

CORONAVIRUS

Over the week, coronavirus case statistics increased from 22,131 cases and 1,271 deaths reported Thursday, May 7 to 26,357 total cases and 1,534 deaths reported on Thursday, May 14.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) Thursday announced that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded $17.4 million in federal grants to 51 health centers throughout Ohio to expand COVID-19 testing capacity. This grant comes from funds appropriated in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act appropriated a total of $25 billion for testing, with $825 million specifically for health centers.

Saying he was increasingly concerned that the state's reopening plan may be "a very bad bet long term" given Gov. Mike DeWine's description of it as "a gamble" Thursday, Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper held a livestreamed forum with press and health care professionals Friday morning. Noting his early praise of DeWine's actions, Pepper said he was worried that working Ohioans weren't being heard enough and that business reopening plans were more focused on owners, particularly in light of the state's withdrawing its mask mandate.

On Monday, Gov. Mike DeWine announced that the Ohio Department of Commerce (DOC) and quasi-public development entity JobsOhio will implement a new program providing a $500 rebate on high proof spiritous liquors for qualifying businesses.

On Tuesday, the administration announced that tattoo shops and massage services would be allowed to reopen on Friday, May 15, along with salons and barber shops. Lt. Gov. Jon Husted said that massage therapy, tattoo, and piercing shops had been unaddressed earlier because those businesses are regulated differently and had other issues that needed to be resolved before they could reopen. He said those issues have now been resolved, including an agreement on what protocols the establishments will need to take to protect employees and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they will be allowed to reopen on Friday.

The governor also announced Tuesday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had notified the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) that Ohio's electronic benefit transfer (EBT) plan has been approved. The plan will allow ODJFS to distribute Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits directly to 850,000 Ohio students who rely on free and reduced lunches at school. He said the benefits will be mailed directly and families do not need to apply to be eligible. The program will give families $300 to purchase healthy foods, and DeWine said it will result in $250 million more going to grocery stores and other retailers.
Much of Tuesday's press conference focused on nursing homes and taking care of older adults. Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton said that the administration is asking nursing homes to talk to families about an outbreak, and that just because there is a case, it doesn't mean the nursing home did something wrong. COVID-19 is a very contagious disease, and she said there can be cases in nursing homes even with best practices. DeWine also had Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) Director Maureen Cordcoran and Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) Director Ursel McElroy speak on efforts their agencies are taking to help older adults during the pandemic.

The health care industry, businesses and individuals would receive further protection from civil liability for COVID-19 transmission under the substitute version of HB606 (Grendell) accepted by the House Civil Justice Committee on Tuesday. During sponsor testimony, Rep. Diane Grendell (R-Chesterland) said the bill would ensure the health care industry is protected from coronavirus-related liability "barring willful or wanton misconduct." That's a higher level of protection than would be provided generally, as businesses and individuals would be liable if an infection is transmitted by "reckless or intentional conduct."

Asked about the lawsuit filed Tuesday seeking to reopen gyms in the state at his daily briefing, Gov. Mike DeWine noted that there is a working group developing guidelines for gyms to open safely. He said the group includes a representative sample of gym owners and he expects the group's recommendations to come "very, very shortly." As he has reiterated often regarding any number of sectors looking to reopen, DeWine stressed that the state must "do it right."

Announcing the state has received a shipment of remdesivir from the federal government, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) said Wednesday they'll work together to distribute the antiviral medication across the state. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an Emergency Use Authorization for remdesivir, allowing it to be administered to COVID-19 patients. It is currently being studied in clinical trials and has been found to shorten the duration of COVID-19 from 15 to 11 days in patients treated in hospital settings.

Day care providers can reopen as of Sunday, May 31 but with fewer children than usual under their supervision and more stringent cleaning and sanitization requirements in place, Gov. Mike DeWine said Thursday at his coronavirus press briefing.

DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted articulated the dates and protocols for additional business and recreation sectors to reopen this month as well, as follows:

**Thursday, May 21** - Campgrounds

**Friday, May 22** - Horse racing, but without spectators

**Tuesday, May 26** - Bureau of Motor Vehicles deputy registrars; Gyms and fitness centers; Non-contact and limited contact sports, such as golf and tennis; Pools, but not those at water and amusement parks, which are to be addressed soon by a working group on travel and tourism

**Sunday, May 31** - Day camps as well as child care

Health protocols for all sector reopenings announced Thursday had been posted or are expected to be by the end of Friday at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov >Responsible RestartOhio>Sector Specific Operating Requirements.

The parent agency for Ohio Government Television (OGT) recapped Thursday the state's experience with facilitating daily news conferences for Gov. Mike DeWine and his administration to share information on the COVID-19 pandemic. OGT Director Dan Shellenbarger presented to the virtual meeting of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission with a chronological lookback on the regular briefings that started March 9 and quickly drew a level of public interest that overwhelmed the technological infrastructure.

**CORRECTIONS**
Prisoners testing positive for COVID-19 continue to drop this week, with 42 percent of all screened inmates showing no sign of infection. Those deemed contagious also have fallen by more than 700.

Coronavirus deaths in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) increased to 58 Thursday, however. Thursday's updated numbers show 4,479 positive, 3,207 negative and only 44 pending tests.

**DISASTERS**

U.S. states have a variety of funding mechanisms to support natural disaster response, according to a Pew Charitable Trusts report released Tuesday that did not focus on the novel coronavirus but noted many of those funding sources have been adapted to cover pandemic-related costs. Colin Foard, associate manager of Pew's Fiscal Federalism Initiative, told reporters in a webinar explaining the study that they began looking into the topic before the pandemic and that natural disasters have been increasing in number and severity, as well as incurred costs. Federal policymakers have placed "increasing pressure" on states to invest more in emergency management capabilities, fiscal reserves, recovery programs and cost-saving mitigation activities as a result, Pew found. The report identified the budgeting tools to help policymakers better understand management of "these unpredictable and growing costs."

**ECONOMY**

Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich had an op-ed article, co-authored with former Democratic Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire, published in *USA Today* Wednesday where the former executives detailed what they saw as a safe approach toward reopening American economies. Referencing President Trump's three-step plan for reopening America issued on April 16, the former governors highlighted the plan's calling for states' meeting criteria such as a downward trajectory of confirmed cases and positive tests for COVID-19. Only a few states meet these criteria, according to the op-ed, but more than half have already partially reopened or are planning to reopen by mid-May.

**EDUCATION**

At the first meeting of the State Board of Education (SBOE) since the closing of school buildings because of COVID-19, members discussed in committees the rollout of expanded summer meal programs for students, as well as legislative changes that cancelled state testing previously scheduled for spring. Committees met remotely via videoconferencing. The Integrated Student Supports Committee reviewed changes to school meal programs Monday, including 22 federal waivers that have allowed the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to expand its meal programs. The committee also discussed the pending Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Card Program (P-EBT), which will provide additional funds to students receiving free or reduced price lunch once approved by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

The Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) recognized 84 of Ohio's top students from across the state during its 31st Annual Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Awards Program on Tuesday, May 12.

The State Board of Education discussed Tuesday an early draft of a "Reset and Restart" guide for school operations in the 2020-2021 academic year, when as-yet-undetermined public health precautions will likely continue to disrupt the normal operation of schools. The board also asked the General Assembly to waive the annual requirement to increase the promotion score on third grade English language arts tests used for the third grade reading guarantee, and to extend its cancellation of state testing for this year to include a subset of homeschool students not covered in earlier legislation. The business meeting Tuesday and committee meetings Monday were the first virtual gatherings of the board. The April meeting had been cancelled as state government adapted to working amid the pandemic.

As Ohio's K-12 education faces roughly $300 million in FY20 state budget cuts and potentially more reductions in FY21 due the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, schools will increasingly rely on money transferred to the Lottery Profits for Education Fund, according to Ohio Lottery Commission (OLC) Chair Matthew Blair. "With recent cuts to education here in Ohio, lottery sales are going to be more important than ever in supplementing the losses to the schools," Blair said during this week's OLC meeting.
OLC Finance Director Gregory Bowers said through the first 10 months of the fiscal year, the amount of money transferred to the Lottery Profits for Education Fund is down by $25.1 million against the agency's budget commitment. Additionally, he said the amount transferred so far in FY20 is $57.9 million less than last year at this time.

ELECTIONS

Given the prospect of another surge of coronavirus cases in the fall, House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) and other Democratic leaders called on Gov. Mike DeWine, Secretary of State Frank LaRose and the Legislature to expand voting access and registration opportunities ahead of the November general election.

ELECTIONS 2020

A new poll of Ohio voters released by Emerson College/Nexstar Media this week found 62 percent think President Donald Trump will be re-elected. The poll of 725 voters was conducted Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent. It found Trump with a net positive approval rating among Ohio voters, 48 percent approval to 45 percent disapproval. Gov. Mike DeWine has a 71 percent approval rating and a 15 percent disapproval rating. In a matchup with likely Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, Trump leads 46 percent to 43 percent. When undecided voters are included, Trump leads 51 percent to 49 percent.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

The novel coronavirus and associated containment measures sent the nation's unemployment rate skyrocketing to historic levels in April, according to new figures released Friday by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The unemployment rate increased from 4.4 percent in March to 14.7 percent and total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 20.5 million, following a previous loss of a revised 870,000 jobs in March that was also attributed to the pandemic. BLS said the April numbers represent the "highest rate and the largest over-the-month increase in the history of the series" dating back to January 1948. The number of unemployed persons increased from 7.1 million in March to 23.1 million in April, BLS said, and employment fell sharply in all major industry sectors, with particularly heavy job losses in leisure and hospitality.

For the week ending May 9, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 51,125 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). "The number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last eight weeks (1,169,694) is more than the combined total of those filed during the last three years. Over these last eight weeks, ODJFS has distributed more than $2.4 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 587,000 claimants," the department said in a news release. Of the more than one million applications the agency has received, 90 percent have been processed and 10 percent are pending, according to ODJFS.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced Wednesday the rollout of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), a federally-funded program stemming from the CARES Act that will expand unemployment benefits to individuals affected by COVID-19, including those who have been diagnosed with the disease and family caregivers. Others who can receive PUA but cannot receive traditional unemployment benefits include self-employed individuals, 1099 tax filers and part-time workers. In addition, parents of children who cannot go to school because of COVID-19 can receive PUA. There is no minimum income requirement.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) Tuesday announced the return of $1 million from the Ohio Senate's FY20 budget to the state's General Revenue Fund, as part of a plan to offset state revenue shortfalls and reduce government spending during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The House Wednesday rejected a motion along party lines to consider a resolution forcing all House members and staff to wear masks during committees and session. HR342 (Skindell) would amend House rules to require all persons over the age of 2, including any legislator, to cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering.
while attending a meeting of the House or meeting of any standing committee, subcommittee, or select committee of the House. Exceptions would be made for a person unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition or if the person is otherwise exempted by the Ohio Department of Health guidance. The resolution now goes to the House Rules and Reference Committee.

Wednesday's session was also the first since the state began shutting down to prevent the spread of COVID-19 where all House members were able to attend session in the chamber. Previous sessions had members spread out, with some in committee rooms who would then come to the floor to vote on bills. Householder said they have been working on a plan for a while where all members could be in the chamber.

The House overwhelmingly passed five bills, including legislation to offer low-interest loans for families who are adopting a child, HB405 (Cross). It passed by a vote of 94-0. Other bills passing included the following:

- HB111 (Ingram) which addresses school record transfers by a vote of 80-14.

- HB368 (Baldrige) which enacts the Ohio Computer Crimes Act by a vote of 93-1.

- HB404 (Manchester-Sweeney) which addresses allowing the board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to meet via electronic communication by a vote of 88-6.

- HB421 (J. Smith-Blair) which provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for hospital police officers by a vote of 94-0.

The Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday approved a substitute version of SB308 (M. Huffman), legislation changing the civil immunity for health care and service providers during a government-declared disaster. It also heard from business and health care groups in favor of the changes as well as opposition testimony from the Ohio Association for Justice. Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) said the sub bill would see further changes.

House members should move expeditiously to pass legislation, SB310 (Dolan), sending roughly $350 million in federal funding to local governments dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) told the House Finance Committee on Wednesday. The bill distributes part of the state’s allocation from the federal CARES Act.

The Senate Judiciary Committee heard opponent testimony Wednesday regarding the Ohio Supreme Court's proposed amendments to the Rules of Practice and Procedure, specifically Civil Rules 26 and 53(C)(2) and Criminal Rule 46.

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) gave sponsor testimony Wednesday on a bill that would statutorily implement Marsy's Law, a constitutional amendment adopted by voters in 2017 that addresses the rights of crime victims. Cupp introduced HB610 to the House Criminal Justice Committee, saying the bill will update, clarify and synchronize Ohio's crime victims' rights laws.

Interviews of the 15 applicants for the 59th Ohio House District seat of former Rep. Don Manning (R-New Middletown) began on Monday and continued on Tuesday, according to House spokeswoman Taylor Jach. Manning died in March. Applicants include his brother and former Democratic legislator and Kasich administration appointee Jason Wilson.

The Ohio Economic Recovery Task Force Friday heard from members of the swimming pool industry and other small business owners in Ohio, with some voicing sharp criticism of Gov. Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Amy Acton on their response to the coronavirus pandemic. Then on Tuesday, representatives of sports and fitness providers told the task force that the COVID-19 shutdown and selective business reopening is having a disproportionate impact on their industry versus others that have continued operating at one level or another and/or will resume operations on Tuesday, May 12.
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Executive Director Tim Storey announced this week the cancelling of the 2020 Legislative Summit that had been set for Aug. 10-13 in Indianapolis. The next NCSL Legislative Summit is scheduled to be held Aug. 3-5, 2021, in Chicago, IL, followed by the August 2022 summit in Denver, CO.

In other action, the House Civil Justice Committee reported out SB21 (Dolan) which addresses benefit corporations and HB352 (Cross-Lang) which deals with Ohio civil rights laws related to employment; the House Higher Education Committee reported out HB371 (Merrin) which expands the Forever Buckeye program; the House Criminal Justice Committee reported out HB208 (Roemer-J. Miller) which increases penalties for assaulting sports officials; the House Finance Committee reported out HB282 (A. Holmes-LaRe) which permits the use of electronic instant bingo devices; the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee reported out HB409 (Koehler) which deals with student attendance at some online schools; House Public Utilities Committee reported out HB163 (Brinkman) which addresses extraterritorial water and sewer services by local governments; the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee reported out HB203 (Lipps) which deals with mobile dental facilities; and the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee reported out HB285 (Greenspan-Brent) which establishes a permanent Driver’s License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Ohio State University Friday announced details of a $40.9 million settlement reached with 162 survivors in 12 lawsuits related to sexual abuse by Richard Strauss, a university-employed physician from 1978 to 1998 who committed suicide in 2005. An independent investigation launched by the university determined in 2019 that Strauss abused students during his time at Ohio State and the university administration failed to appropriately respond at the time.

Otterbein University announced recently that it intends to open campus for the fall 2020 semester, including in-person teaching and resuming residence life. Meanwhile, Case Western Reserve University has announced plans to move forward with "dual-delivery of courses," meaning some students will be physically present and others watching via Zoom.

The University of Cincinnati (UC) announced recently it will adopt a test-optional admissions policy for a two-year period as a result of disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The move means that students entering UC in fall 2021 will not be required to submit standardized test scores from the ACT or SAT to gain admission to the majority of programs. Though a few select programs will still require a standardized test, most applicants will be able to choose whether or not to submit scores to be considered as part of UC’s new admissions review model, according to the university.

INSURANCE

Molina Healthcare of Ohio has committed to providing over $1.5 million in grants and sponsorships to various partners launching programs designed to increase access to care, reinforce health and wellness, and support integrated care services. The funding also supports organizations helping to fill community needs around social determinants of health, which can have a lasting effect on the health outcomes of women, children and vulnerable seniors, Molina said.

JUDICIAL

In a major ruling that reopens the debate over the Ohio judiciary's duty under the Public Records Act, the Supreme Court of Ohio has rejected its own precedent for document requests affirmed as recently as 2019, at the same time reaffirming Court public records policies which Justices R. Patrick DeWine and Sharon Kennedy claim are "bereft of legal authority" and compel clerks of court to "disobey" state law. Led by Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, a divided Supreme Court announced this week that citizens requesting court documents have no duty to cite the Ohio Public Records Act, Rules 44-47 of the judicial Rules of Superintendence, or any other authority -- contradicting
State ex rel. Husband v. Shanahan (2019) and other Court precedents dating from its adoption of a separate public records policy in 2009.

The General Assembly did not violate constitutional strictures on legislative procedure with its rapid-fire enactment of a school takeover law, nor did it usurp constitutional authority of local school boards, a split Ohio Supreme Court ruled Wednesday. The decision puts the fate of the controversial law, 131-HB70 (Brenner-Driehaus), back in the Legislature, which debated changes for much of 2019 but reached no resolution. The ruling came in a jumble of opinions, with Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor writing a lead opinion joined by Justice Patrick Fischer, accompanied by two concurrences and separate dissents from both of the Democratic justices, Michael Donnelly and Melody Stewart.

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor announced that the Supreme Court is postponing the Ohio Bar examination from July 28-29 until Sept. 9-10.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Controlling Board Monday continued to sign off on the use of federal funds to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Ohio, including the approval of a late add-on to the agenda that will send $12.5 million from the Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund to local health agencies to support epidemiological capacity. The request came from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and will be distributed by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The Controlling Board was told that the money will go to build capacity at the local level for epidemiological support and will allow local health departments to follow up on coronavirus cases and make sure those who are exposed can get testing to limit the spread of COVID-19. The request received no questions from the board and was approved without objection.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

While saying they were not looking for "a scapegoat," Reps. Tracy Richardson (R-Marysville) and Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) told the House Ways and Means committee Tuesday that their HB614 "expresses the Legislature's intent to study and reform the application, processing and administration of Ohio's unemployment system." The bill, one page at the moment, was introduced May 5 and responds to the delays many Ohioans have faced as more than one million filed for unemployment due to the coronavirus pandemic in the past seven weeks.

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) Wednesday unveiled the Senate's proposed first step to address the state's looming unemployment compensation (UC) debt. SJR4, which he introduced, would place a ballot issue before voters in November providing for the issuance of bonds to repay any federal borrowing on behalf of the unemployment compensation program. He said this is based on the approach used by Texas and other states, with the bonds retired by fees paid by employers subject to Ohio's unemployment compensation laws.

UNIONS

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Thursday called on Congress to direct additional aid to states and localities in order to support public employees and maintain public sector staffing levels on a conference call with reporters. In addition, public employees who contracted COVID-19 shared their experiences. AFSCME President Lee Saunders said 20 million private sector and one million public sector jobs were lost in the month of April due to the spread of COVID-19 and the related economic downturn.