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*This May 25, 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 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly **and** that have received action since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown in Ohio starting March 13, 2020.*

*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:*

### 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  
5/13/2020 - Bills for Third Consideration

**ORC Sections:** 5735.50

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-111>

### 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

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-126>

### 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)  
11/5/2019 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Health, (Third Hearing)  
**ORC Sections:** 3313.60, 3314.0310, 3319.073, 3326.091  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-321>

**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  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-322>

**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:** 5/27/2020 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 5/20/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)  
6/11/2019 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)  
**ORC Sections:** 3301.0712, 3301.0729  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-239>

**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)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-248>

**HB606**      **CIVIL IMMUNITY - COVID-19 TRANSMISSION** (GRENDALL 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:** 5/27/2020 - House Civil Justice, (Fifth Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 5/20/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Civil Justice, (Fourth Hearing)  
5/19/2020 - House Civil Justice, (Third Hearing)  
**ORC Sections:** 2305.2311, 2743.02, 2744.01, 3701.26, 9.87  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-606>

- 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:* 5/27/2020 - House Finance, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/20/2020 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-670>
- 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:* 5/27/2020 - Senate Judiciary, (Fourth Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/20/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Judiciary, (Third Hearing)  
5/13/2020 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Judiciary, (Second Hearing)  
*ORC Sections:* 2305.2311, 2305.2312  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-308>
- 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:* 5/27/2020 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/19/2020 - House Finance, (Second Hearing)  
5/13/2020 - House Finance, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-310>
- 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:* 5/19/2020 - House Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/13/2020 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)  
10/31/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)  
*ORC Sections:* 4503.03, 4510.036, 4511.75, 4511.751, 4511.76  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-83>
- HB635 COMMUNITY SCHOOL SPONSORS - APPROVAL (ROGERS J, PATTERSON J)** 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.  
*Current Status:* 5/19/2020 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  
*ORC Sections:* 3314.015, 3314.016, 3314.02, 3314.021, 3314.027  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-635>

- HB636**      **TRANSPORTATION EXEMPTION -- CHARTED NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS** (SOBECKI L) 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.  
*Current Status:* 5/19/2020 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  
*ORC Sections:* 3327.01  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-636>
- HB644**      **LOVING STATE INDEX** (HOWSE S) 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.  
*Current Status:* 5/19/2020 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  
*ORC Sections:* 182.01  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-644>
- 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:* 161.09, 3701.13, 3701.23, 3701.234, 3701.99, 3707.04, 3707.05, 3707.26, 3709.20, 3709.21  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-649>
- 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:*  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-651>
- HB653**      **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS** (HOOPS J, MILLER A) Regarding interscholastic athletics in schools.  
*Current Status:* 5/19/2020 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  
*ORC Sections:* 3313.5315, 3313.5316  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-653>
- HB657**      **STOPPED SCHOOL BUSES** (GALONSKI T) To increase, from ten to twenty feet, the distance a driver is required to stop from a stopped school bus.  
*Current Status:* 5/19/2020 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  
*ORC Sections:* 4511.75

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-657>

**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

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-658>

**HB662**      **THIRD GRADE ENGLISH ASSESSMENT** (MIRANDA J) 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.

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

*Recent Status:*

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-662>

**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:* 5/26/2020 - House Higher Education, (Second Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 5/19/2020 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)  
3/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education

*ORC Sections:* 3333.0417

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-521>

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

*Current Status:* 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

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-134>

**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

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-409>

**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  
4/29/2020 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-307>

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

*Current Status:* 5/26/2020 - House Higher Education, (Second Hearing)

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

*ORC Sections:* 3333.93

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-181>

**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  
3/23/2020 - Introduced

*ORC Sections:* 4123.68

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-573>

**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

*Recent Status:* 5/4/2020 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-612>

**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  
4/6/2020 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-603>

- 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:* 5/26/2020 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/12/2020 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety  
5/6/2020 - Introduced  
*ORC Sections:* 4511.773  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-615>
- 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>
- 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  
*Recent Status:* 5/6/2020 - Introduced  
*ORC Sections:* 107.22, 161.09, 3701.13, 3701.14, 3707.04, 3707.05, 3707.26, 3709.20, 3709.21  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-618>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-619>
- 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>

- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SCR-12>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-294>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-299>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-569>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-577>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-581>

- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-582>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-585>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-587>
- 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  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-593>

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## Capitol Square Week in Review

### BALLOT ISSUES

U.S. District Court Judge Edmund Sargus Tuesday ordered the state to accept signatures for ballot issues that were collected electronically and delayed the filing deadline for statewide issues from

Wednesday July 1 to Friday, July 31. Secretary of State Frank LaRose has indicated he will appeal. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit joined by Ohioans for Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE), which is circulating a proposed constitutional amendment that would make changes to Ohio election laws, and Ohioans for Raising the Wage, which is circulating an amendment that would raise Ohio's minimum wage to \$13 an hour by 2025.

## **FY21-22 CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova) introduced HB670 as the House version of the capital reappropriations bill with support from House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford), focused on projects related to "health, safety and jobs." This smaller package stands in contrast to plans announced by Senate Finance Committee Chair Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) to pursue the larger reappropriations bill agreed to by the Legislature and DeWine administration before the pandemic hit.

## **FY20-21 BUDGET**

The DeWine administration isn't yet ordering cuts to GRF budgets for FY21, as it did for the current fiscal year, but wants agencies to keep a share of their budgeted spending in reserve in anticipation of further revenue shortfalls. In recent guidance, the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) told agencies to identify money that can go into a holding account for 20 percent of projected GRF spending on purchased personal services, supplies and maintenance, equipment and subsidies. Some line items, such as those for debt service and property tax reimbursements, are exempt. "Agencies will have the flexibility to determine which of their non-exempted line items should contribute a disproportionately smaller or larger share to achieve the holding target," the memo states.

## **BUSINESS/CORPORATE**

Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, testifying on behalf of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, voiced support for HB606 (Grendell) in the House Civil Justice Committee Tuesday, saying the bill would offer greater immunity against lawsuits regarding COVID-19 transmission not only for businesses, but also for nonprofit organizations

## **CHILDREN/FAMILIES**

The DeWine administration convened a new workgroup Monday to devise recommendations on behavioral health care for children, per legislation creating the panel that was signed into law in December. The Children's Behavioral Health Prevention Network Stakeholder Group, created in HB12 (D. Manning-West), brings together state officials and representatives of health and education organizations to plan for "a comprehensive learning network to support young children and their families in facilitating social, emotional and behavioral development and to seek to reduce behavioral health disparities among young children." LeeAnne Cornyn, director of the Office of Children's Initiatives for Gov. Mike DeWine, leads the group.

The governor's Children Services Transformation Advisory Council restarted its efforts Wednesday after being sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic with a virtual meeting outlining a roadmap for completing discussion of the remaining four focus areas on the way to preparing final recommendations by September. The group was created by Gov. Mike DeWine last November to review the state's foster care system and recommend ways to improve it for the children and families.

## **CORONAVIRUS**

Coronavirus case statistics reported by the Ohio Department of Health over the week increased from 26,357 cases and 1,534 deaths on Thursday, May 14 to 30,167 cases and 1,836 deaths on Thursday, May 21.

Responding to reports and viral images of bar owners and patrons ignoring COVID-19 social distancing requirements over the weekend, Gov. Mike DeWine announced his administration will expand the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) and direct them to conduct safety compliance checks in crowded bars and restaurants. The law enforcement unit, part of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) under the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), has the authority to impose administrative sanctions and/or work with local prosecutors to bring criminal charges against non-compliant establishments if necessary, the governor said during Monday's coronavirus briefing.

Gov. Mike DeWine Tuesday outlined a new, updated order that eases many of the restrictions in his previous "stay at home" orders and matches them to restrictions that have been outlined in recent guidance for reopening different parts of the state's economy that had been shut down to stop the spread of COVID-19. Saying the new order is more of an "urgent health advisory" and dubbing it "Ohioans Protecting Ohioans," DeWine said it reflects that his orders have evolved since the first one was issued in March, adding, "It is time for our orders to reflect the reality of where we are today." The new order replaces the previous stay-at-home order issued on April 30 that was set to expire at the end of May. He said current facts show that through social distancing, Ohioans have avoided overwhelming hospitals with COVID-19 cases and flattened the curve; that the average infection rate is currently around one person infecting one other person rather than the 1:2 it had been most recently; and that Ohioans working together have come up with best practices for businesses to reopen.

The new health orders and advisories that Gov. DeWine described at his Tuesday coronavirus briefing were officially signed by Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton on Wednesday. The official texts were not available when the governor discussed them Tuesday. They include the following:

- The updated "Stay Safe Ohio" order that largely lifts stay-at-home restrictions.
- The "Ohioans Protecting Ohioans" urgent health advisory that recommends people stay home when possible.
- The "Camp Safe Ohio" order on protocols for campgrounds.

Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted Thursday announced new plans for resuming athletic skills training and allowing catering and banquet centers to reopen under similar protocols as restaurants. The administration previously announced that gyms and fitness centers would be able to reopen on Tuesday, May 26, and that no- and limited-contact sports would be able to resume that day as well. Husted said bowling alleys, miniature golf facilities and batting cages also could reopen on May 26.

A Lake County Common Pleas Court judge issued a preliminary injunction Wednesday regarding Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Amy Acton's order concerning gyms, following a lawsuit by more than 30 facilities. The injunction said that Acton and the Lake County General Health District could not impose or enforce penalties "solely for non-compliance with the director's order" against "'gymnasiums,' 'health clubs,' 'fitness centers,' 'gyms' and 'workout facilities'" as long as they comply with all applicable safety regulations from local officials and in the state's order and supplemental guidelines for similar businesses.

A portion of the recent Quinnipiac Poll addressed the pandemic with three-quarters of those polled saying the country should reopen slowly, even if it makes the economy worse, while 21 percent said

the country should reopen quickly, even if it makes the spread of the virus worse. Seventy-four percent think it is unsafe to get on an airplane; 62 percent think it is unsafe to go to a restaurant; 50 percent think it is unsafe to go to a barbershop or hair salon; 49 percent think it is unsafe to go to a clothing store; and 55 percent think it is safe to go to a workplace outside of their home.

## **ECONOMY**

A new study released by Ohio State University suggests that actions by state governments to try to limit the spread of COVID-19 played only a secondary role in the historic spike in U.S. unemployment in March. While state actions to close schools were linked to an increase in unemployment, these effects were dwarfed by the larger national and international impact of the pandemic, according to the study by researchers at Ohio State and Indiana University.

## **EDUCATION**

The state of Ohio will soon face litigation challenging the constitutionality of the EdChoice voucher program, Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding Executive Director Bill Phillis told *Hannah News* on Friday. "This egregious EdChoice law has just been kind of put on hold for a year, or less than a year now, and it needs to be stopped. This whole voucher concept is antithetical to the constitutional concept of the requirement of the state of Ohio to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools," Phillis said in a phone interview discussing his group's forthcoming lawsuit.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) joined efforts to honor class of 2020 high school graduates including a commercial-free television special scheduled Saturday night. The "Graduate Together" telecast showed on more than 30 broadcast and cable networks and streaming services.

Sen. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) asked his Senate colleagues Monday to help him identify local school and health officials for a task force that would study how to convene high school commencement ceremonies amid the pandemic.

Arming a school employee does not make that person "security personnel" subject to statutory police training requirements, Attorney General Dave Yost argued in urging the Ohio Supreme Court to take up and overturn an appellate ruling that stymied a move to have staff carry firearms in a district that suffered a shooting in recent years. Madison Local Schools is asking the Supreme Court to accept its appeal of a 12th District decision earlier this year that sided with district resident Erin Gabbard and other parents who sued after the district board of education passed a resolution authorizing employees to carry on school grounds.

School management and union officials outlined their priorities and hopes Tuesday for how and when Ohio will bring students back into brick-and-mortar classrooms, testifying before the Senate Finance Committee on topics from scheduling to sanitation to staffing to health screenings to transportation to liability to accountability. Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls), chairman of the committee, led off by saying he viewed the witnesses at Tuesday's hearing as the experts, and urged a focus on the immediate concerns of returning to in-person education, notwithstanding numerous other educational issues highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will soon open applications for the final round of federal grants to launch and expand charter schools. Even after preemptively declining \$20-plus million of the

\$71 million grant award from 2015, the state appears poised to leave much of the money unspent when the grant period ends in the fall. So far, the program has distributed less than \$4 million.

*At the first virtual meeting of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Graduation Requirements Task Force on Monday, members discussed how to "reframe" high school in a post-coronavirus environment with the help of educational service centers (ESC).*

## **ELECTIONS 2020**

A new national survey released Wednesday by Quinnipiac University shows presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden leading President Donald Trump 50 percent to 39 percent in a head-to-head matchup, up from a 49 percent to 41 percent lead Biden held in an April 8 Quinnipiac Poll. Democratic respondents go for Biden 88 percent to 5 percent, while Republicans pick Trump 87 percent to 8 percent, with independents going for Biden 47 percent to 36 percent.

Members of the House Democratic Caucus outlined their ideas Friday for reforming voting in Ohio before the November election, including mailing a ballot to all registered voters and greater access to voter registration. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Frank LaRose continued to speak with news outlets around Ohio about his four-point plan to make changes before November as the state continues to deal with an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) said this week that it is launching paid Facebook ads criticizing Republican members of the Ohio House who voted in favor of an amendment to SB1 (Roegner-McColley) that limits stay-at-home orders that can be issued by the director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). ODP said it will be running the advertisements against Reps. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati), Haraz Ghanbari (R-Bowling Green), Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander), Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) and D.J. Swearingen (R-Huron). All are up for re-election or running to retain their seats after an appointment this General Assembly.

Gov. Mike DeWine issued a statement over the weekend demanding Amy McGrath, a Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate in Kentucky, to stop using his likeness after McGrath launched an advertisement attacking U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY), whom she hopes to challenge in November.

County boards of elections this week completed their official canvas of the results from the presidential primary, which was completed on April 28 this year after coronavirus concerns closed the polls on the original March 17 date. According to the secretary of state's office, the data that was submitted by county boards is currently being reviewed and will be certified by Secretary of State Frank LaRose once that review is completed. The secretary of state's office hopes to complete that process by the end of next week. Among the results, Rep. Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) held on to defeat Thaddeus Claggett in the Republican primary for the 71<sup>st</sup> House District, getting 51.39 percent to Claggett's 48.61 percent. In addition, former U.S. Rep. Jean Schmidt was certified as the official winner of the 65th House District Republican primary, defeating Joe Dills and Dillon Blevins.

## **EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**

The contractor for Ohio's new unemployment compensation system for applicants usually ineligible for benefits disclosed a data breach involving about two dozen claimants, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) said Wednesday. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, authorized by Congress to cover previously ineligible claimants like self-employed people, part-time

workers and those paid by 1099s, launched a week ago. Deloitte Consulting discovered the breach Friday, and ODJFS said, once discovered, the problem was resolved within an hour. The agency said it contacted those who had "accidental access" to the data.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

The Senate Friday appointed its conferees for SB9 (Huffman), legislation addressing health claim information. Conferees are Sens. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrins Falls), Matt Huffman (R-Lima) and Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus). Dolan said in March the Senate had rejected House amendments as a process matter, as the House changes dealt with a matter the Senate was hearing in SB201 (Dolan). That legislation and the House amendment deal with tax filings by professional employer organizations (PEOs).

Members of the catering industry asked for guidance and a clear timeline in testimony before the House Economic Recovery Task Force meeting on Monday. The task force also heard from individuals working in youth sports and festival planning. Ben Elsass of Ben Elsass Photography and Mojave East Weddings and Events Venue said that without industry specific guidelines, some vendors were moving forward using safety guidelines for restaurants. He requested more information about how caterers and vendors can safely operate, and suggested that when the state does address large gatherings, they do so in terms of occupancy and not total number of people, noting that 50 people in a small boutique restaurant is not the same as 50 guests at a wedding venue that can accommodate 250.

The Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) met briefly Monday with no holds, questions or witnesses regarding the items on its agenda. While agency representatives normally attend, the committee's first meeting following coronavirus-related measures saw that changed to allow them to provide contact information should questions arise.

Republican members of the House Rules and Reference Committee Tuesday effectively killed a resolution, HR342 (Skindell), requiring legislators and staff to wear masks during committees and session. The resolution would have amended 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 a 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 (ODH) guidance.

The Senate Wednesday unanimously agreed to send SB1 (McColley) to a conference committee as the chamber debated whether the Legislature should be limiting the state health director's orders aimed at stemming the tide of the coronavirus outbreak. The bill originally addressed the number of regulatory restrictions in the state, but the House added a provision that would require orders issued by the director of the Ohio Department of Health to go to the Joint Committee on Agency Review (JCARR) after 14 days for review before the orders can be renewed.

The upper chamber also passed HB81 (Perales), regarding workers' compensation coverage for diagnostic testing following bodily fluid exposure; HB203 (Lipps), regarding mobile dental facilities, which was amended to include the text of SB303 (S. Huffman) on pharmacist consult agreements; HB285 (Greenspan-Brent), regarding fee reductions and amnesty for driver's license reinstatements; HB287 (Russo-Perales), regarding Medicaid services for active duty military members; SB248 (Schaffer), extending the moratorium on storm shelter requirements in new school construction; SB258 (Gavarone), entering Ohio into the Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact; SB25 (Sykes), a

property conveyance bill; and informally passed House amendments to SB55 (Gavarone), regarding drug trafficking penalties.

Legislation aiming to create a more effective structure for the criminal justice system to address domestic violence and better protect those at high risk of becoming victims passed the House by a vote of 94-0 on Wednesday. Aisha's Law, HB3 (Boyd-Carruthers), would also expand the offense of domestic violence and specifically address the problem of strangulation, which is a common method of abuse in these situations.

The House also passed HB388 (Holmes), a compromise approach to surprise medical billing; HB609 (West), regarding tax amnesty; HB481 (Fraizer), a land conveyance bill; and HB358 (Sobecki-Sheehy), designating Aug. 17 as Eugene "Gene" F. Kranz Day.

Passage of an amendment providing, as co-sponsor Sen. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) explained, that "not every little rule and regulation the state department [of health] would pass has to run through JCARR," led off the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee's consideration of SB311 on Wednesday. She noted that the legislative intent is for the procedures laid out in the bill to apply to statewide orders issued by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The amendment, which was accepted by the committee, came after an anti-abortion group expressed concerns last week with similar restrictions on the ODH director's orders that the House amended into SB1 (McColley-Roegner), explaining that could inadvertently hamper the health department's ability to enforce orders against abortion providers.

The Senate Judiciary Committee accepted a substitute version Wednesday of Sen. Matt Huffman's (R-Lima) legislation proposing civil immunity for health care providers and businesses amid declared disasters like the COVID-19 pandemic. Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon), chairman of the committee, said he intends to bring SB308 (M. Huffman) up for a vote next week. Huffman said he recognized the substitute bill's changes might not have support from all committee members but asked them to accept it as a working document, and they obliged without objection.

Members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee Monday voted along party lines to approve HB242 (Lang), a bill that would prohibit cities and localities from placing fees on plastic bags, in the same hearing that sponsor Rep. George Lang (R-West Chester) provided sponsor testimony.

In a hearing Wednesday on HB308 (Patton) in the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee, firefighters shared their personal stories of trauma they said contributed to their struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and they asked senators to "reach into their hearts" in passing the bill. HB308 would permit Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) coverage of PTSD without the need for the claimant to also have an accompanying physical injury.

The Senate Transportation and Workforce Committee began its biannual review process of a portion of the occupational licenses in Ohio. The House has completed its review and the Senate committee will now review the same boards and create its own report to be issued as a bill. Committee members heard from Aaron Johnston of the Ohio Department of Commerce, who testified on the Historical Boilers Licensing Board and the Ski Tramway Board.

Speaker of the Ohio House Larry Householder (R-Glenford) wasted little time after the Senate Wednesday refused to agree to his chamber's changes to SB1 (McColley-Roegner) to name his conferees to the upcoming conference committee. The Senate, however, has not named its members

nor officially responded to the House request for a conference committee. House members of that committee will be Reps. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster), Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati).

In other legislative action, House Transportation and Public Safety Committee reported out HB446 (Powell), to create a "Stop Elder Abuse" license plate; and HB474 (Hoops) and HB424 (Green), both road naming bills; Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee reported out SB126 (Manning), regarding crisis assessments for suicidal youth; and Senate Judiciary Committee reported out HB272 (Oelslager-Hillyer), regarding court jurisdiction.

## **GOVERNOR**

While he said racial health disparities have been present for decades, Gov. Mike DeWine told reporters at his Thursday briefing on coronavirus that the pandemic "has pulled the curtain back" on some aspects of that in light of new findings by the Minority Health Strike Force on disproportionate effects of the crisis. He noted general disparities, particularly regarding at least 2.5 times higher rates of maternal and infant mortality in Ohio's African-American community compared to whites, and said it shouldn't be a surprise that communities of color have been affected more by the pandemic as well. Recommendations from the strike force's subcommittees include "establishing culturally appropriate and accessible COVID-19 exposure notification services for communities of color; expanding testing capacity and access for minorities and high-risk populations; using data to prioritize resources in the communities that have the highest need; and developing and launching a statewide, culturally-sensitive outreach campaign that educates African-Americans and communities of color on COVID-19, health disparities and social determinants of health. However, strike force member and House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) called DeWine's plan "too little, too late."

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

The substitute version of HB388 (Holmes), which was reported out of the House Finance Committee by a unanimous vote of members present on Tuesday, represents "perhaps the first time in the country where there has been agreement" among major stakeholders on the issue of surprise medical bills, House Speaker Pro Tempore Jim Butler (R-Dayton) said before the committee vote. Butler thanked Ohio health care providers, the insurance industry and the business community for negotiating in good faith and coming to a reasonable compromise.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Gov. Mike DeWine gave a virtual commencement address for Miami University's online graduation ceremonies over the weekend. DeWine was originally scheduled to be the speaker for the in-person ceremony in Oxford, which was canceled due to the pandemic. DeWine and his wife, First Lady of Ohio Fran DeWine, are both graduates of Miami and this year three of their grandsons, David, Mathew, and Jacob, are members of the Miami class of 2020.

## **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

According to a recent survey from the Center for Community Solutions (CCS), groups including direct service provider agencies, nonprofits, think tanks, local government agencies, faith-based groups and philanthropic funders have shifted the way they deliver services in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Most agencies have shifted to providing services via telephone or video chat service because their brick-and-mortar offices are closed to clients. Among agencies surveyed, 69 percent said

they are delivering services by phone and 65 percent said they are using video chat services, such as Zoom. Another 32 percent said they are delivering services outside of clients' homes, while another 11 percent said they continue to deliver services in homes.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a heightened sense of urgency to address what was already a pressing issue -- increasing access to broadband Internet statewide, Reps. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) and Michael O'Brien (D-Warren) said Tuesday. Explaining the substitute version of HB13, Carfagna said Gov. Mike DeWine and House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) encouraged them to build on their original proposal, which was much more modest. The original version would've provided \$2 million, while the new version would provide \$20 million from the Facilities Establishment Fund in the Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) to the newly-created Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Fund in the Ohio Department of Commerce (DOC).

## **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**

For the week ending May 16, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 46,062 initial unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). "The number of initial jobless claims filed in Ohio over the last nine weeks (1,215,756) is more than the combined total of those filed during the last three years," ODJFS said. Over the last nine weeks, the state has distributed more than \$2.8 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 619,000 claimants. Of the more than 1 million applications the agency has received, more than 92 percent have been processed, with less than 8 percent pending, ODJFS said. "In addition, more than 161,000 Ohioans have applied for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and ODJFS has issued more than \$21 million in PUA payments," ODJFS said. The PUA program was created under the federal CARES Act, and is open to 1099 filers, self-employed workers and other individuals otherwise ineligible for state unemployment benefits. ODJFS started accepting PUA applications last week.

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*This report is intended to provide updated information on the legislative issues of interest to Ohio's Educational Service Centers, their client OESCA members & interested parties.*