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*This May 25, 2016, Legislative e-Update is provided for OESCA Members and Business Partners, their client school districts, and other key education stakeholders.*

*The e-Update provides information on the pending bills of interest to Ohio's public education community. Bills are organized in order of last action date. Only those bills that have been introduced or had hearings in the last 60 days are included. Of particular note, are the bills highlighted in the OESCA Member Alert section.*

*For each bill listed, the long title of the bill is included as well as the current status and previous actions. There are also links to the state bill page for users to download any bills, analyses or fiscal notes. The document concludes with House and Senate Education Committee Reports and the latest news from Capitol Square.*

## OESCA Member Alert

**ESC Funding.** OESCA has been working closely with members of the Ohio General Assembly since last fall to address ESC funding-related issues and the reductions that occurred in FY 2016 and FY 2017 as a result of an error in conference committee and the addition of more than 66,000 students from 2 urban districts.

House Bill 547, the Office of Budget and Management Mid Biennial Review bill (OBM MBR), is the legislative vehicle for an amendment offered by State Representative Bob Cupp (R-Lima) that would address these reductions. A modified version of this amendment was included in a substitute bill that was adopted in House Finance Committee yesterday (5/24). Under the amendment, ESC funding is increased from \$37.95 million in FY 2016 and \$41.4 million in FY 2017 to \$41.6 million in both years or \$26.82 per student. This is flat funding in 2016 and 2017 as compared to 2015. These increases would account for the 5% cut in conference committee and the addition of students from Cleveland and Akron. This is an increase from \$24.48 per student to \$26.82 per student or a total increase of \$3.65 million in FY 2016 and \$200,000 in FY 2017.

Additionally, there were changes to high performing ESCs and the distribution of ESC payments for FY 2017. Under temporary law Sec. 263.390. of the bill, in fiscal year 2016, the Department of Education shall pay the governing board of each primary educational service center state funds equal to twenty-seven dollars (\$27) times its student count. In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Education shall pay the governing board of each "high-performing educational service center" state funds equal to twenty-seven dollars (\$27) times its student count, and to the governing board of each other center, state funds equal to twenty-five dollars (\$25) times its student count. In other words, an ESC must apply for and be deemed high performing to keep the funding increase. If the ESC does not apply for or does not achieve "high performing" status, it will receive funding of \$25 per student (about 52-cents per student above the current funding level but a \$2 per student reduction from the new funding levels). These dollars amounts are reflective of what the appropriation will actually support. However, it changes the high performing approach to retaining funding rather than achieving new funding.

Today, that amendment and others will be adopted into HB 390 in Senate Ways and Means Committee (committee meets at 9:30 a.m.). The Senate will then go into session at 1:30 p.m. to pass the bill. It is expected the bill will then go to the House for concurrence. It is expected the General Assembly will adjourn this week for Summer Recess. Additional details will be provided as they become available. Additional information is available in the committee reports below.

Please thank your respective Ohio House and Senate members for their support of ESC and ESC funding restoration.

**ESC Performance Audits.** Yesterday, OESCA testified as an interested party on HB 459 relative to ESC performance audits. We have raised three primary concerns with the bill and asked that the committee delay a vote on the bill. Unfortunately, the committee chose to vote out the bill. The House will be adjourning this week for Summer recess. We do not expect a vote from the full House until Fall. In the meantime, the House chair and Auditor's office have agreed to work with us to draft amendments that address our concerns. We can then work with Senator Hite and other supporters in the upper chamber. Additional information is available in the committee reports below.

## Legislative Tracking Report

- HB5 PUBLIC OFFICE-STATE AGENCY EFFICIENCY STUDIES** (KUNZE S, KOEHLER K) To allow the Auditor of State to conduct business case studies regarding the efficiency of local public offices and state agencies, to authorize the Auditor of State to establish a shared equipment service agreement program among political subdivisions, and to specify that a political subdivision that uses the loaned equipment has potential liability for its use under the Political Subdivision Tort Liability Law.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 82-0
- Recent Status:** 5/24/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments  
5/18/2016 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 30-0
- Categories:** State Government
- ORC Sections:** 117.47, 117.473, 117.48, 2744.1
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-5>
- SB129 INSURER AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS** (GARDNER R, CAFARO C) To amend section 1739.05 and to enact sections 1751.72, 3901.90, 3923.041, 5160.33, and 5160.34 of the Revised Code to amend the law related to the prior authorization requirements of insurers.
- Current Status:** 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; Pending Report
- Recent Status:** 5/24/2016 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, House Insurance, (Fourth Hearing)  
5/17/2016 - House Insurance, (Third Hearing)
- Categories:** Health Care, Insurance
- ORC Sections:** 1739.05, 1751.72, 3901.90, 3923.041, 5160.33, 5160.34
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-129>
- HB148 CLASSROOM FACILITIES ASSISTANCE** (PATTERSON J, LATOURETTE S) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide classroom facilities assistance to a school district resulting from the consolidation of two or more school districts or from the voluntary transfer of the entire territory of a school district if specified conditions are satisfied.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, House Education, (Third Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 10/6/2015 - House Education, (Second Hearing)  
4/28/2015 - House Education, (First Hearing)
- Categories:** Education, State Government
- ORC Sections:** 3318.75
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-148>

- HB373**      **SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS-PRACTICE** (LATOURETTE S, HUFFMAN S) To regulate the practice of surgical technologists.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - House Commerce and Labor, (Third Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 1/26/2016 - House Commerce and Labor, (Second Hearing)  
11/17/2015 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
- Categories:** Health Care
- ORC Sections:** 109.572, 4731.051, 4731.07, 4731.071, 4731.224, 4731.24, 4731.25, 4776.01, 4776.20, 4785.01, 4785.02, 4785.03, 4785.04, 4785.05, 4785.06, 4785.07, 4785.08, 4785.09, 4785.10, 4785.11, 4785.111, 4785.12, 4785.13, 4785.14, 4785.15, 4785.16, 4785.17, 4785.18, 4785.19, 4785.20, 4785.99
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-373>
- HB369**      **BALANCED BUDGET COMPACT** (KOEHLER K, HAMBLEY S) To adopt the Compact for a Balanced Budget and to declare an emergency.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Third Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 2/9/2016 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)  
12/1/2015 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)
- Categories:** Budget and Appropriations
- ORC Sections:** 2.01
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-369>
- HB383**      **INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT** (HAGAN C, MCCOLLEY R) To require one-half unit of economic and financial literacy in the high school social studies curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each state institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act."
- Current Status:** 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; Pending Report  
**Recent Status:** 5/24/2016 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, House Education, (Fourth Hearing)  
4/13/2016 - House Education, (Third Hearing)
- Categories:** Education, Higher Education
- ORC Sections:** 3301.079, 3313.603, 3333.89
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-383>
- HB384**      **HIGHER EDUCATION AUDITS** (SCHAFFER T, DUFFEY M) To specify that state institutions of higher education may be subject to performance audits conducted by the Auditor of State.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 2/10/2016 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
1/27/2016 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 97-0
- Categories:** Higher Education, State Government
- ORC Sections:** 117.46, 117.461, 117.462, 117.463
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-384>

- SB247 SCHOOL DISTRICT-SUMMER MEALS** (BROWN E, LEHNER P) To amend section 3313.813 of the Revised Code to require school districts to allow alternative summer meal sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, Senate Finance, (Fourth Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 5/17/2016 - Senate Finance, (Third Hearing)  
5/10/2016 - Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)
- Categories:** Education, Poverty
- ORC Sections:** 3313.813
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-247>
- HB410 TRUANCY** (REZABEK J, HAYES B) With regard to habitual and chronic truancy and compulsory school attendance.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 5/17/2016 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
5/11/2016 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
- Categories:** Education
- ORC Sections:** 2151.011, 2151.022, 2151.18, 2151.27, 2151.311, 2151.35, 2151.354, 2152.02, 2152.021, 2152.19, 2152.26, 2919.24, 3313.534, 3313.66, 3313.668, 3314.03, 3321.041, 3321.13, 3321.16, 3321.19, 3321.191, 3321.38, 3326.11, 3328.24, 4510.32
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-410>
- HB441 INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES** (MCCOLLEY R) To permit a student enrolled in a nonpublic school to participate in interscholastic activities at a school district that is not the student's resident district under certain circumstances and to prohibit a student who participates in the College Credit Plus program from being denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics solely due to participation in the program.
- Current Status:** 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; Pending Report
- Recent Status:** 5/24/2016 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, House Education, (Third Hearing)  
5/17/2016 - House Education, (Second Hearing)
- Categories:** Education
- ORC Sections:** 3313.5311, 3313.5314
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-441>
- HB459 EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER-AUDIT** (SCHURING K) To authorize the Auditor of State to conduct a performance audit of an educational service center and to require a comprehensive performance audit of all educational service centers.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Education, (Third Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 5/10/2016 - House Education, (Second Hearing)  
5/3/2016 - House Education, (First Hearing)
- Categories:** Education, State Government
- ORC Sections:** 3311.051
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-459>
- HB474 MBR-HIGHER EDUCATION** (BROWN T) With respect to the coordination and administration of higher education programs and the College Credit Plus program.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education,

(Seventh Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 5/19/2016 - House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education, (Sixth Hearing)  
5/17/2016 - House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education, (Fifth Hearing)

**Categories:** Budget and Appropriations, Higher Education

**ORC Sections:** 3301.0712, 3319.111, 3333.04, 3333.041, 3333.0411, 3333.048, 3333.051, 3333.172, 3333.45, 3333.731, 3345.061, 3345.19, 3345.35, 3345.692, 3354.01, 3354.09, 3357.01, 3357.09, 3357.19, 3358.01, 3358.08, 3365.01, 3365.06, 3365.07, 3365.091

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-474>

**HB483**      **MBR-DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** (AMSTUTZ R) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation.

**Current Status:** 5/25/2016 - Senate Finance, (Third Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 5/24/2016 - Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)  
5/17/2016 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**Categories:** Budget and Appropriations, Mental Health & Disabilities

**ORC Sections:** 3301.0714, 3701.07, 3701.61, 3701.611, 3701.62, 4723.071, 5123.02, 5123.024, 5123.0421, 5123.0422, 5123.0423, 5123.1610, 5123.377, 5123.41, 5123.42, 5123.421, 5123.422, 5123.43, 5123.441, 5123.45, 5123.452, 5123.46, 5123.47, 5124.10, 5124.101, 5124.39, 5124.45, 5126.36

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-483>

**HB498**      **EXPULSION-THREAT OF VIOLENCE** (KUNZE S) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds.

**Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - House Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 4/13/2016 - Referred to Committee House Education  
3/24/2016 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education, Public Safety

**ORC Sections:** 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.668

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-498>

**HB544**      **HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS ASSESSMENT** (KOEHLER K, LANDIS A) To permit high school students to take a civics assessment instead of the American government end of-course examination.

**Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - House Education, (First Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 5/3/2016 - Introduced

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3301.0712

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-544>

**HB547**      **MBR-OBM** (SMITH R) To provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs and to make appropriations.

**Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Finance, (Fourth Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 5/17/2016 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)

- 5/10/2016 - House Finance, (Second Hearing)  
**Categories:** Budget and Appropriations  
**ORC Sections:** 122.171, 124.152, 124.181, 124.382, 126.32, 127.19, 305.31, 305.42, 323.73, 324.01, 324.02, 324.021, 324.03, 324.04, 324.05, 324.06, 324.07, 324.08, 324.09, 324.10, 324.11, 324.12, 324.99, 3316.042, 4741.11, 5537.02, 5709.084, 5747.51  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-547>
- HB556**      **SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES** (DUFFEY M, BISHOFF H) To make boundaries of certain school districts that are parties to an annexation agreement permanent under state law.  
**Current Status:** 5/24/2016 - House Education, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 5/17/2016 - Referred to Committee House Education  
5/17/2016 - House Education, (First Hearing)  
**Categories:** Education, State Government  
**ORC Sections:** 3311.06  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-556>
- HB130**      **PUBLIC RECORDS-DATA BOARD** (HAGAN C, DUFFEY M) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation.  
**Current Status:** 5/18/2016 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 96-0  
**Recent Status:** 5/18/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration  
4/20/2016 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Finance, (Third Hearing)  
**Categories:** State Government  
**ORC Sections:** 117.432, 149.43, 149.60, 149.62, 149.65  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-130>
- HB89**      **MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM** (DEVITIS A) Regarding the Medicaid School Program.  
**Current Status:** 5/17/2016 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
**Recent Status:** 5/11/2016 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 89-7  
5/11/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration  
**Categories:** Education, Health Care  
**ORC Sections:** 5162.01, 5162.36, 5162.361, 5162.362, 5162.363, 5162.364, 5162.365, 5162.366, 5162.367, 5162.368, 5162.369, 5162.54, 5162.64  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-89>
- HB570**      **INTERDISTRICT-OPEN ENROLLMENT** (HILL B) Regarding funding for students enrolled in community schools, STEM schools, and other districts through interdistrict open enrollment.  
**Current Status:** 5/17/2016 - Introduced  
**Recent Status:**  
**Categories:** Education  
**ORC Sections:** 3313.64, 3313.98, 3313.981, 3314.08, 3326.31, 3326.33  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-570>
- HB571**      **CAREER INFORMATION-STUDENTS** (DUFFEY M, BOGGS K) Regarding the presentation of



career information to students.

**Current Status:** 5/17/2016 - Introduced

**Recent Status:**

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3313.471

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-571>

**HB524 STATE REPORT CARD MEASURE** (CUPP B, SMITH R) To review the value-added progress dimension measure used for purposes of state report card ratings for school districts and schools.

**Current Status:** 5/17/2016 - House Education, (Third Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 5/3/2016 - House Education, (Second Hearing)  
4/26/2016 - Referred to Committee House Education

**Categories:** Education

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-524>

**SB298 CHARTER SCHOOLS-CONTRACTS** (SCHIAVONI J) Regarding community school operator contracts and the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools.

**Current Status:** 5/17/2016 - Senate Finance, (Fourth Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 5/10/2016 - Senate Finance, (Third Hearing)  
5/3/2016 - Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)

**Categories:** Education

**ORC Sections:** 3302.01, 3302.03, 3302.038, 3314.02, 3314.03, 3314.032, 3314.08, 3314.086, 3314.088, 3314.192, 3314.23, 3314.241, 3314.242, 3314.27, 3314.271

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-298>

**HB564 STUDENT IMMUNIZATION** (RAMOS D) To make changes to the law governing immunizations for pupils.

**Current Status:** 5/12/2016 - Introduced

**Recent Status:**

**Categories:** Education, Health Care

**ORC Sections:** 3301.53, 3313.67, 3313.671, 3328.24, 3701.138

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-564>

**SB326 SCHOOL DISTRICTS-TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT** (GARDNER R) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.

**Current Status:** 5/11/2016 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**Recent Status:** 5/4/2016 - Introduced

**ORC Sections:** 3318.39

**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-326>

**SB297 STUDENT EXPULSION-VIOLENT THREAT** (HUGHES J) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds.

**Current Status:** 5/10/2016 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 4/26/2016 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
4/19/2016 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-297>

**HB550 SCHOOL FACILITIES-TECHNOLOGY PURCHASING** (ARNDT S) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.

**Current Status:** 5/4/2016 - Introduced  
**Recent Status:**  
**Categories:** Education, Science & Technology  
**ORC Sections:** 3318.39  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-550>

**SB165 LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT-DNR ORDERS** (LEHNER P) To establish procedures for the use of medical orders for life-sustaining treatment and to make changes to the laws governing DNR identification and orders.

**Current Status:** 5/4/2016 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 30-3  
**Recent Status:** 5/4/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration  
5/4/2016 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, Senate Civil Justice, (Sixth Hearing)  
**Categories:** Health Care  
**ORC Sections:** 2133.02, 2133.21, 2133.211, 2133.22, 2133.23, 2133.24, 2133.25, 2133.26, 2133.28, 2133.29, 2133.30, 2133.31, 2133.32, 2133.33, 2133.34, 2133.35, 2133.36, 2133.37, 2133.38, 2133.39, 2133.40, 2133.41, 2133.42, 2133.43, 2133.44, 2133.45, 2133.46, 2133.47, 3795.03, 4730.09  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-165>

**HB299 CUSTODIAN-AUTISM SCHOLARSHIP** (BLESSING III L, REZABEK J) To permit the temporary, legal, or permanent custodian of a qualified child to apply for an Autism Scholarship.

**Current Status:** 5/4/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 96-0  
**Recent Status:** 5/4/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments  
4/27/2016 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0  
**Categories:** Education, Mental Health & Disabilities  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-299>

**SB220 OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEE-ROTH FEATURES** (HOTTINGER J) To authorize the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board and local governments to establish designated Roth account features and other tax-deferred or nontaxdeferred features permitted for government deferred compensation plans.

**Current Status:** 5/4/2016 - Referred to Committee House State Government  
**Recent Status:** 4/27/2016 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0  
4/27/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration  
**Categories:** Pension & Retirement System, State Government  
**ORC Sections:** 148.04, 148.06  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-220>



- HB481**      **STUDENT ENROLLMENT REPORTING** (THOMPSON A, KOEHLER K) To revise the requirements regarding student enrollment reporting for public schools, mandatory student withdrawal policies, and scholarship program eligibility relative to students who choose not to take state assessments during the 2015-2016 school year and to declare an emergency.  
**Current Status:** 5/3/2016 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Education, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 4/26/2016 - House Education, (First Hearing)  
4/13/2016 - Referred to Committee House Education  
**Categories:** Education  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-481>
- HB281**      **INCOME TAX DEDUCTION-HIGHER EDUCATION** (ROGERS J) To enact the "Blair Deduction" to allow recent college graduates to claim an income tax deduction for qualified higher education expenses.  
**Current Status:** 4/19/2016 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
**Recent Status:** 10/6/2015 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
9/30/2015 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
**Categories:** Higher Education, Taxation  
**ORC Sections:** 5747.01, 5747.82  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-281>
- HB501**      **YOUTH STEM PROGRAM** (DOVILLA M, ANIELSKI M) To support the Youth STEM Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Program and to make an appropriation.  
**Current Status:** 4/13/2016 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
**Recent Status:** 3/24/2016 - Introduced  
**Categories:** Education  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-501>
- HB496**      **STUDENTS-UNIFORMED SERVICES** (BOCCIERI J) To enact the "Student to Soldiers Support Act (S3A)" regarding the participation of students who are serving in the uniformed services in extracurricular activities at public and nonpublic schools and public and private colleges.  
**Current Status:** 4/13/2016 - Referred to Committee House Education  
**Recent Status:** 3/24/2016 - Introduced  
**Categories:** Education, Military Affairs  
**ORC Sections:** 3313.5315, 3314.03, 3326.11, 3328.24, 3345.425  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-496>
- HB492**      **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT-PILOT** (ROGERS J, DRIEHAUS D) To create the Supplemental State Capital Improvements Pilot Program funded by a temporary transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund and to make an appropriation.  
**Current Status:** 4/13/2016 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
**Recent Status:** 3/21/2016 - Introduced  
**Categories:** State Government  
**ORC Sections:** 131.43, 131.44, 164.01, 164.18  
**State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-492>
- SB241**      **EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS-EMPLOYMENT** (LAROSE F) With regard to the employment

of specified education professionals by city, exempted village, and local school districts.

**Current Status:** 4/12/2016 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

**Recent Status:** 12/8/2015 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
11/17/2015 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

**Categories:** Education

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# Committee Reports

May 24, 2016

## House Education Committee

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**HB148** CLASSROOM FACILITIES ASSISTANCE (PATTERSON J, LATOURETTE S) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide classroom facilities assistance to a school district resulting from the consolidation of two or more school districts or from the voluntary transfer of the entire territory of a school district if specified conditions are satisfied.

### **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**

The committee voted out the bill after accepting a substitute bill. According to Rep. Patterson, the substitute bill removes a population threshold in the bill and instead creates a window into 2018 for districts to pursue these funding opportunities; requires the Ohio School Facilities Commission to determine if a consolidated school will be an efficient use of facilities space; makes the school with the lowest local share the basis for the other schools; and gives the facilities commission power to enhance the cost share by up to 25 percent, as well as by 10 percent if one of the new buildings would be built at a state institution of higher education, so long as College Credit Plus is offered there.

**HB383** INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT (HAGAN C, MCCOLLEY R) To require one-half unit of economic and financial literacy in the high school social studies curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each state institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

### **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**

Dan Dodd of the Ohio Association of Independent Schools testified as an interested party. He said parents and students choose schools in his association because they believe in the schools' course of study and curriculum. "It is not adherence to government mandates that brings students to our schools."

He said a one-size-fits-all graduation requirement is not appropriate for the schools he represents. "We believe little consideration was given to whether or not this new requirement is appropriate to force upon all private, independent schools," Dodd said.

Chairman Brenner said he'd be supportive of granting those schools an exemption when the bill goes over to the Senate.

The Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Ohio Association of School Business Officials jointly provided written interested party testimony. They said they support the goals of the legislation and specifically the requirement for the State Board of Education to develop standards and model curriculum, but said there would be some unintended consequences. Specifically, they pointed out that the half-unit course requirement could interfere with students' choice of courses; that the bill could require schools to hire more staff if they don't already offer social studies electives; and that the bill could result in reduction of the available social studies electives.

The committee reported the bill on a split vote after accepting a substitute bill. According to the Legislative Service Commission, the substitute bill changes requirements for certain data to be reported, removes language regarding information that must be reported on student employment; revises the implementation date; addresses in which courses the school can place the half unit of instruction; and says that individuals licensed to teach social studies, family consumer sciences or business can teach financial literacy under the bill.

Reps. Hayes, Henne, Huffman and Schaffer voted against reporting the bill. Before the vote, Henne and Schaffer said the topic of the bill was laudable, but they are concerned about imposing more mandates on local schools.

Chairman Brenner said he believes everyone should have financial literacy education, referencing how many times he encountered first-time homebuyers who couldn't balance a checkbook during his years working in the mortgage industry.

**HB441** INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES (MCCOLLEY R) To permit a student enrolled in a nonpublic school to participate in interscholastic activities at a school district that is not the student's resident district under certain circumstances and to prohibit a student who participates in the College Credit Plus program from being denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics solely due to participation in the program.

**SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**

Dan Dodd of the Ohio Association of Independents Schools testified as a proponent. He lamented the situation described in testimony at the previous hearing about the difficulties for private school students to participate in sports because of requirements of the Ohio High School Athletics Association (OHSAA). "The adults who are proposing and creating these by-laws have forgotten what high school sports are all about ... It seems the main things OHSAA cares about these days is making it more difficult for students to participate rather than getting more students interested in sports. The decisions seem to be based on what is best for adults rather than what is best for students," he said.

The Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Ohio Association of School Business Officials jointly provided written testimony expressing opposition to parts of the bill.

They said the bill's option for private school students to play sports in their district of residence or the district where their school is located is not available to students at traditional public schools. "This differential treatment is unfair to traditional public school students. Further, it opens the door to potential recruiting violations."

"We recognize that from time to time there could be unusual circumstances that would warrant this opportunity. However, we believe that such circumstances would be infrequent. These options should be subject to approval by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and also require the written approval of the superintendents of the respective districts," the groups wrote.

The committee reported the bill after accepting a substitute bill, which Rep. McColley said would reflect a compromise among the interested parties. Under the substitute bill, students could only play sports in their district of residence, or the district where their private school is located. In addition, they would have to declare for one school or the other at the beginning of their participation. McColley said this would prevent a situation in which a student goes to one school to play football, then switches to the other school before spring to play baseball.

**HB487** STATE SEAL-BILITERACY (LATOURETTE S, ROEGNER K) To require the State Board of Education to establish the state Seal of Biliteracy to be attached or affixed to the high school transcripts of qualifying students.

**REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**

The committee approved the bill after it accepted an amendment that the Legislative Service Commission said would allow parents of home school students to assign the seal of biliteracy to their students' diplomas so long as they had followed all the other requirements of the bill, including passage of the required exam.

**HB459** **EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER-AUDIT (SCHURING K)** To authorize the Auditor of State to conduct a performance audit of an educational service center and to require a comprehensive performance audit of all educational service centers.

## **REPORTED OUT**

Craig Burford, executive director of the Ohio Educational Service Center Association, said in interested party testimony that his organization does not oppose the bill or performance audits but believes there are unanswered questions that should be addressed prior to passage. Specifically, he said it's unclear if every ESC will receive a comprehensive audit and its own set of recommendations. In addition, it's unclear to determine the costs and the fiscal effect on each ESC and the statewide system of ESCs. He said they also have concerns about the method of paying for the audits provided in the bill. Burford said ESCs also have ultimate accountability through the choice of their client districts to pick which ESC to join.

The committee reported the bill out. Chairman Brenner said Burford's suggestions could be taken up in the Senate.

**HB498** EXPULSION-THREAT OF VIOLENCE (KUNZE S) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds.

Rep. Kunze said in sponsor testimony the bill would help schools have additional tools to deal with threats of violence and their repercussions. She said the bill stemmed from situations in Hilliard, but is relevant to an issue plaguing schools and communities across Ohio.

She said the bill would allow a school superintendent to expel a student for up to 60 days for communicating a threat to kill or physically harm persons or property; allow a district to require a mental health assessment before a student can be reinstated; allow expulsions to be extended to up to a year if the student doesn't get the assessment; and allows schools and law enforcement agencies to file civil lawsuits to seek restitution for the cost of responding to threats.

Kunze told Reps. Hayes and K. Smith she'd follow up with them on questions they had about due process and ability for early return of students and input from public school organizations.

**HB544** HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS ASSESSMENT (KOEHLER K, LANDIS A) To permit high school students to take a civics assessment instead of the American government end-of-course examination.

Rep. Koehler said in sponsor testimony his bill would allow for the substitution of a civic exam for the end-of-course exam in American history. He discussed assessment results and studies showing many Americans are generally lacking in basic knowledge about the history and structure of American government.

Rep. Patterson asked if the civics exam could be incorporated into the end-of-course exam, saying a good American government course ought to include the type of information Koehler talked about. Koehler noted that if such knowledge can be required for immigrants seeking citizenship and voting rights, high school students should learn it too.

**HB556** SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES (DUFFEY M, BISHOFF H) To make boundaries of certain school districts that are parties to an annexation agreement permanent under state law.

Witnesses providing proponent testimony included Chris Valentine, a member of the Dublin Board of Education; Sherri Navarro, a parent of Dublin students; Dublin resident Emilie Eskridge; Donna O'Connor, a Dublin teacher; and Maria Davis, also a parent of Dublin students. Only Valentine testified in person.

The witnesses generally expressed a desire for Dublin to be able to have permanent district boundaries without the threat of annexation during negotiations of the Win-Win

agreements every six years.

Valentine said the Dublin board has reached an agreement in principal with Columbus schools to accomplish that goal and consequently will no longer be part of Win-Win.

The Dublin witnesses also said the district is not just home to wealthy families, but has many students who come from low-income families, receive free or reduced lunch and do not speak English as a native language.

Reps. Boyd and K. Smith told Valentine they were hesitant to address the legislation while negotiations on Win-Win are still open. Valentine said he'd been prepared to come and testify more strongly in favor of HB556, but the new agreement had come together very recently, and he believes the legislation likely will not be necessary any longer.

## **SENATE EDUCATION**

*May. 24, 2016*

Sen. Lehner: 614-466-4538

Governor's appointment: approved.

Chairwoman Lehner said she hopes to have a hearing sometime before the start of lame-duck session to continue work on bills.

**HB113** CPR-GRADUATION REQUIREMENT (GROSSMAN C, MANNING N) To require instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator.  
**REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**  
See separate story, this issue.

**HB410** TRUANCY (REZABEK J, HAYES B) With regard to habitual and chronic truancy and compulsory school attendance.

Witnesses providing proponent testimony in person or in writing included Erin Davies, executive director of the Juvenile Justice Coalition; Gabriella Celeste, policy director of the Case Western Reserve University Schubert Center for Child Studies; Kimberly Jordan, an Ohio State University law professor and director of the Justice for Children Project; Dustin McKee, policy director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio; Elizabeth Tull Laureano, senior attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio; Janet Hales, director of the Ohio Poverty Law Center; Brandi Slaughter, CEO of Voices for Ohio's Children; Robert Cole, managing attorney for Advocates for Basic Legal Equality; Angela Lee, director of public affairs for Easter Seals Ohio; and Victoria Roth, a Central Ohio woman who discussed the problems she faced with her son's school on discipline issues.

Many of the witnesses previously offered testimony in the House Education Committee. (See *The Hannah Report*, 2/16/16.)

The witnesses generally praised HB410's proactive approach and its recognition of the difficult home and family situations many truant children face, while also trying to keep students engaged in school by curtailing suspensions and expulsions for truancy.

"HB410 takes the important step of establishing a case-by-case approach to addressing truancy. Every child is unique and there is a wide-range of mental and physical health, personal, familial, economic and cultural factors that influence his/her absence from school. Identifying the root cause early and through a team approach with family involvement will help keep kids on track for graduation and a bright future," said Slaughter.

"I support HB410 because it assists children in attending school and involves their families in pro-active decision making. HB410 adopts nationally accepted best practices to support students and their families and keep students engaged in school and on a path to success,"



said Jordan.

"Research shows that keeping students engaged in school and out of formal juvenile court processing is critical not only to students themselves, but to other students in school and society generally.... A student who does not come to school or drops out of school can lead to the loss of thousands of dollars invested in that students' education and reduce overall school funding," said Davies.

Roth said her son has maintained good grades, but she's worried he'll become more depressed and disconnected if he's kept out of school. She described the abusive situations he faced from her ex-husband, and she said the school knew of his family situation and his need to find a new counselor because the prior one moved to a different position.

Chairwoman Lehner thanked Roth for providing a reminder that these discussions of rules and regulations have an effect on real families.

## **HOUSE FINANCE**

***May. 24, 2016***

Rep. Smith: 614-466-1366

**HB547** MBR-OBM (SMITH R) To provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs and to make appropriations.

### **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**

Chairman Smith introduced a sub bill. He said the sub bill is reflected in HB390, which is currently moving through the Senate. Reps. Driehaus, Boyce, Ramos and Cera had questions about the sub bill, and Driehaus asked for a recess so she and her party members could discuss the sub bill before voting.

The sub bill was accepted by a 20-to-7 vote. Boyce said he voted no because several amendments needed to be vetted and he felt there were amendments that could have been brought to the committee in a separate bill.

Seven amendments were introduced and each was tabled. Votes were mostly along party lines.

## **Capitol Square in Review**

***May 24, 2016***

### **ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Senate Criminal Justice Committee Chairman John Eklund (R-Chardon) took the case for opiate bill SB319 (Eklund) on the road Friday to alert constituents about the problem of health care providers and pharmacy technicians who handle large amounts of painkillers and other prescription drugs with no regulation. Eklund joined Deputy Director Andrea Boxill of the Governor's Opiate Action Team and President Kilee Yarosh of the Ohio State Pharmacy Board (OSBP) in Lake County in a joint press conference to expand on the ongoing prescription drug problem and the professional settings where "leakage" persists.

The Kasich administration launched a targeted campaign to raise awareness about the signs of a drug overdose and to urge family members and friends of people who use drugs to obtain the opiate overdose reversal drug naloxone to administer while waiting on first-responders to arrive. This campaign, a collaboration between the Ohio departments of health (ODH) and mental health and addiction services (OhioMHAS), focuses on the 15 counties that accounted for 80 percent of Ohio's fentanyl-related overdose deaths in 2014.

### **EDUCATION**

As debate rages about states' legislative efforts to regulate restroom use by transgender people, the federal government is telling schools that students are protected by law from discrimination based on gender identity. The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) issued a joint guidance letter Friday telling schools about Title IX regulations prohibiting sex discrimination in education programs and activities by agencies receiving federal funding.

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) is offering a new \$65 million grant pool for charter school management organizations to replicate or expand high-quality schools serving low-income families. The federal education agency says it expects to award 10 to 20 grants in the Charter Schools Program Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools Competition.

The Ohio Education Association, the state's largest teachers union, announced its membership has re-elected Becky Higgins as president and Scott DiMauro as vice president, giving both a second three-year term.

The House Education Committee continued its evaluation Tuesday of the value-added measurement for gauging student progress by hearing testimony from representatives of SAS, the analytics company that performs Ohio's value-added calculations. In interested party testimony on HB524 (Cupp-R. Smith), SAS' John White and Nadja Young explained the mechanics of the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) that Ohio uses to measure academic progress at the classroom, building and district level.

Two suburban Central Ohio lawmakers presented their proposal Tuesday to challenge the basis of the "Win-Win" agreement that now governs boundaries between Columbus schools and several of its neighboring districts. Reps. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Heather Bishoff (D-Blacklick) told the House Education Committee the agreement is unfair to suburban districts who must pay Columbus in order to protect their territory, and creates uncertainty for families who face the prospect of having their school district change when Win-Win comes up for renegotiation every six years.

## **ELECTIONS**

A U.S. District Court found the state's blind voters lack the same rights as other Ohio voters when it comes to casting an absentee ballot by mail, but did not order the state to make changes ahead of the 2016 election. Three blind residents filed the lawsuit against Secretary of State Jon Husted in December, claiming that Ohio's current absentee ballot system violates the Americans with Disabilities Act and asking the court to force Husted to offer a private and independent method of absentee voting and a voter services website that affords blind voters the same information and transactions as other voters.

## **ELECTIONS 2016**

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's (R-OH) campaign said this week that it has reserved \$15 million in advertising to run through the November election. The campaign said it is the first Senate campaign in the nation to reserve time. The campaign said it will place more than \$14 million in statewide television airtime and \$1 million in YouTube ads through Google's advertising network.

Gov. John Kasich gave his first interview since suspending his presidential campaign to CNN's Anderson Cooper, saying he's not interested in being a vice presidential or third-party candidate. He said he is undecided about endorsing presumed GOP nominee Donald Trump, saying he'll wait to see if Trump can become more positive and unifying.

More than three times as many Democrats requested a Republican ballot in the March primary as Republicans requested Democratic ballots, according to the secretary of state's office.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio said Thursday that it has sent a letter to Cleveland officials threatening a lawsuit over the city's delay of approval of event permits for the Republican National Convention in July.

Endorsements made over the week include the following:

- The Ohio Chamber of Commerce PAC endorsed Pat DeWine and Pat Fischer for Ohio Supreme Court justice and Maureen O'Connor for Ohio Supreme Court chief justice.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

Tuesday's Senate session included passage of HB305 (Schuring), which moves new non-teaching employees at the University of Akron from the School Employees Retirement System to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System; HB317 (Maag), to allow parents to institute a freeze on their children's credit reports; HB431 (Sheehy-Patterson), to designate Feb. 17 as "Annie Glenn Communication Disorders Awareness Day"; SB231 (Lehner), to create the "Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies" license plate; SB257 (Seitz-Skindell), to create the presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments; SB311 (Patton), requiring the Ohio Department of Health to prepare a flu vaccine information sheet pertaining to older adults; and SB312 (Jones), designating May 1 as "Fanconi Anemia Awareness Day."

Wednesday's Senate session included passage of HB5 (Kunze-Koehler), to allow the auditor to conduct business case studies of state agencies and local governments; SR358 (LaRose), which recognizes and encourages the use of the National Association of Chemical Distributors' Responsible Distribution Program; HB166 (Green), a county auditor cleanup bill; HB187 (Ginter), which allows first responders to treat and stabilize animals; HB219 (Barnes), which designates January as "Thyroid Health Awareness Month"; HB240 (Huffman-T. Johnson), which updates laws on county coroners; HB303 (Dever-McColley), which creates the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed program as a mechanism to help those facing foreclosure to stay in their homes; HB352 (T. Johnson), which designates April as "Osteopathic Medicine Recognition Month"; and SB273 (Bacon), which addresses corporate governance disclosure requirements.

Wednesday's House session included passage of HB447 (Schuring-Slesnick), regarding penalties for killing a police dog; HB130 (Hagan-Duffey), regarding local government data; SB213 (Jordan-Tavares), regarding cosmetology; HCR29 (Hills), which expresses opposition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan; HB63 (Pelanda-Grossman), regarding child abuse and neglect reporting; HB172 (Barnes), regarding criminal records; HB334 (Buchy), to exempt nonprofit gym membership sales from sales tax; HB341 (Young-Sweeney), regarding towing; HB388 (Scherer), regarding OVI offenses and ignition interlocks; HB421 (LaTourette), to allow pharmacists to administer certain injection drugs; HB423 (Perales), regarding military service records; HB432 (Cupp-Rezabek), to revise laws on decedent's estates; HB435 (McClain), regarding revenue obligations; HB438 (Patterson), to designate the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving as "Ohio Public Education Appreciation Week"; HB449 (Romanchuk-Amstutz), to designate Feb. 3 as "Charles Follis Day"; HB455 (Patterson-Roegner), to allow establishment of boarding school zones; HB490 (Terhar-Johnson), to designate Jan. 31 as "Omphalocele Awareness Day"; SB188 (Seitz-Tavares), to designate April as "Genocide Awareness Month"; and SB215 (Hughes-LaRose), granting civil immunity for forcing entry to car to remove a child or animal; and concurred with Senate amendments to HB37 (Duffey-Stinziano), regarding alcohol permits and beer alcohol by volume.

Leadership on the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee signaled a willingness Wednesday to consider one or more rollbacks to anti-divestment legislation supporting Israel, but the head of Ohio Jewish Communities said several proposed amendments as written are a likely non-starter with coalition members supporting HB476 (Schuring).

Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) this week introduced HB569 to expand the scope of the ethnic intimidation law and include specified crimes committed based on a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity along with disability, ethnicity and gender. This legislation also renames the offense of "ethnic intimidation" to "bias-motivated crime."

In other legislative action, House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee reported out HB444 (Blessing), regarding D liquor permit holders providing samples; House Judiciary Committee reported out SB171 (Seitz), to enact the Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act; SB204 (Seitz), regarding license suspensions; HB347 (McColley-Brinkman), regarding civil asset forfeiture; SB97 (Hughes-LaRose), regarding prison terms for crimes with firearms specifications; HB362 (Stinziano-Kunze), regarding strangulation offenses; and SCR21 (Bacon), to urge the federal government to name Columbus the winner for the Smart City Challenge; House Local Government Committee reported out HB378 (Hambley-Rezabek), regarding traffic violations; Senate State and Local Government Committee reported out HB158 (Dever-Howse), to change references to "mentally retarded person" to "person with an intellectual disability"; and HCR26 (Sears-Dovilla), regarding the Military BratPin; House Health and Aging Committee reported out HB470 (Schuring), regarding palliative care; HB285 (Sprague), to allow partial prescription refills; SB225 (Bacon), to designate the first day in June as "Hypoparathyroidism Awareness Day"; and HB533 (Sprague), to designate May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month"; Senate Civil Justice Committee reported out HB387 (Terhar-Dever), regarding small claims court; and SB308 (Coley), regarding child support laws; Senate Criminal Justice Committee reported out HB300 (Baker-Manning), regarding driver's license suspensions; HB123 (Johnson-Cupp), regarding alibi defense notifications; and SB238 (LaRose), to restrict supplies of fentanyl; and Senate Health and Human Services Committee reported out SB287 (Hite), regarding diabetes prevention; HB291 (Yuko), to designate September as "Pain Awareness Month"; and HB434 (Baker), to designate March as "Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month."

## **MARIJUANA**

A Senate committee made several changes Wednesday to medical marijuana legalization proposal HB523 (Huffman), moving regulatory power to the Board of Pharmacy, narrowing the pain diagnoses that could qualify a patient for marijuana use, and ensuring that involvement with medical marijuana cannot be the sole grounds for denying a concealed-carry handgun license, among other provisions of a new substitute bill.

## **MID-BIENNIUM REVIEW**

Ryan Burgess, director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, gave an overview of the administration's proposed workforce development and education reforms to the higher education mid-biennium review bill Tuesday during a meeting of the House finance subcommittee. Burgess described an amendment to HB474 (Brown) that would expand education options in Ohio beyond the General Education Development (GED) certificate to include at least two other high school equivalency exams, while capping the state subsidy for first-time GED test takers at \$80 per student.

The Senate introduced SB333 (Hite) on Wednesday, a mid-biennium review proposal on water and environmental quality intended to supplement related proposals in HB512 (Ginter).

Career-tech and private schools brought concerns and recommendations about College Credit Plus (CCP) to a House subcommittee considering the higher education mid-biennium review proposal Thursday, while university faculty voiced skepticism about the administration's proposals to lower college costs with competency-based programs and more degree offerings through community colleges. Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington), chairman of the House Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, said it's possible the panel will have one more hearing next week on HB474 before the summer break. He urged members and interested parties to draft and circulate possible amendments during the summer months, rather than waiting until the fall, when he hopes to move the bill fairly quickly.

## **POLLS/STUDIES**

One year after they graduate, women with doctorates in science and engineering fields earn 31 percent less than do men, according to a new study using previously unavailable data. The pay gap dropped to 11 percent when researchers took into account that women tended to graduate with degrees in fields that generally pay less than fields in which men got their degrees. The rest of the

pay gap disappeared when the researchers controlled for whether women were married and had children.

## **POVERTY**

The newest Feeding America "Map the Meal Gap" report, released recently, illustrates the challenge that many Ohioans face in affording adequate, nutritious food the group says. Nationally, the report found that 15.4 percent of all individuals were food insecure in 2014, meaning they lacked access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life. In Ohio, that rate was higher at 16.8 percent and essentially unchanged from the 2013 rate when it was 16.9 percent.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) announced \$400,000 in grants Monday to 20 law enforcement agencies in an effort to strengthen community-police relations. Awards of up to \$30,000 support programs including community-policing initiatives, training, juvenile-mentoring programs, education and awareness tools, and evidence-based policing strategies.

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