

info@oesca.org • **June 12, 2017**

This June 12, 2017, Legislative e-Update is provided by OESCA to Ohio's ESCs, their client school districts, and other key education stakeholders.

The e-Update provides information on the education bills of interest to Ohio's public education community introduced during the 132nd General Assembly. Bills are organized in order of bill number.

For each bill listed, the long title of the bill is included as well as the current status. 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.

Breaking News

Senate Leaders Release Substitute Budget Bill

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina), Senate Finance Chair Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton) and other members of the Republican Caucus released the preliminary details of the Senate version of the FY18-19 budget bill, HB49 (R. Smith), at a news conference this morning, June 12, at 11 a.m. A Dispatch article below provides an initial, big picture overview of what will appear in the bill when adopted later today. The Senate Finance Committee will then at 2:30 p.m. today in the Senate Finance Hearing Room to accept the substitute bill. More details will be available at that time.

The committee will hear public testimony on the substitute bill on Tuesday through Thursday, June 13 through June 15. The vote on the bill by the full Senate continues to be expected Wednesday, June 21 after which the bill will go to a conference committee of the House and Senate to work out the differences. The budget itself must be finalized by Friday, June 30 in advance of the July 1 start to FY18.

The full committee's hearings for public testimony on the substitute bill are as follows:

- Tuesday, June 13 - 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 14 - 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, June 15 - 1 p.m. (or after session)

Witnesses are asked to submit their testimony and completed witness slips 24 hours in advance of the hearing. Oelslager's office said they will "try to accommodate morning/afternoon time requests" but they note, "we anticipate a great deal of public testimony and requests will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis." Oral testimony will be limited to three minutes. The witness slip is available by emailing Erica.vincent@ohiosenate.gov.

Legislative Tracking Report

BILL MONITORING

The following education bill of interest are monitored by OESCA on behalf of the membership and client districts:

HB262 **INDEPENDENT BUDGET PROCESS** (BUTLER, JR. J, ROMANCHUK M) To provide for the preparation of a state biennial budget independent of that submitted by the

Governor and to authorize the Legislative Service Commission, upon the request of the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President of the Senate, to arrange for an independent actuarial review of a proposed bill, specified analyses of economic policy initiatives and state benchmarking data, and a study of the state's long-range financial outlook.

Current Status: 6/8/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Budget and Appropriations, General Assembly

ORC Sections: 101.61, 103.31, 103.32, 103.33, 103.34, 103.35, 103.36, 103.37, 103.38, 126.02

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-262>

HB242

SCHOOL RETIREMENT-COST OF LIVING (CARFAGNA R) Regarding School Employees Retirement System annual cost-of-living adjustments.

Current Status: 6/14/2017 - House Aging and Long Term Care, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 6/7/2017 - House Aging and Long Term Care, (Second Hearing)

6/6/2017 - Referred to Committee House Aging and Long Term Care

5/24/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Pension & Retirement System

ORC Sections: 3309.374, 3309.661

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-242>

SB3

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

Current Status: 6/7/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 5/17/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

5/9/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development

4/26/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0

4/26/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration

4/5/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Third Hearing)

3/14/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Second Hearing)

2/8/2017 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)

2/1/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce

1/31/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Economic Development

ORC Sections: 107.35, 131.33, 2329.66, 2953.25, 307.984, 3121.03, 329.04, 329.06, 330.01, 330.02, 330.04, 330.05, 330.07, 3304.11, 3304.12, 3304.14, 3304.15, 3304.17, 3304.171, 3304.18, 3304.182, 3304.19, 3304.20, 3304.21, 3304.22, 3304.27, 3304.28, 3304.29, 3304.30, 3304.31, 3304.41, 3309.23, 3313.603, 3313.6110, 3313.6112, 3313.618,

3313.89, 3313.904, 3314.03, 3326.01, 3326.03, 3326.032, 3326.04, 3326.09, 3326.11, 3333.91, 3333.92, 4141.29, 4141.43, 4141.51, 5.281, 5101.09, 5101.20, 5101.201, 5101.214, 5101.23, 5101.241, 5108.01, 5123.60, 5166.40, 5166.408, 5709.64, 5903.11, 6301.01, 6301.02, 6301.03, 6301.04, 6301.05, 6301.06, 6301.061, 6301.07, 6301.08, 6301.09, 6301.11, 6301.12, 6301.18, 6301.20, 763.01, 763.02, 763.05, 763.07

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-3>

HB58 **CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION** (BRENNER A, SLABY M) To require instruction in cursive handwriting.

Current Status: 6/7/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 5/3/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)

3/29/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)

3/1/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

2/21/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development

2/13/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

ORC Sections: 3313.60

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-58>

HB49 **OPERATING BUDGET** (SMITH R) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.

Current Status: 6/15/2017 - Senate Finance, (Ninth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 6/14/2017 - Senate Finance, (Eighth Hearing)

6/13/2017 - Senate Finance, (Seventh Hearing)

6/12/2017 - Senate Finance, (Sixth Hearing)

5/3/2017 - Senate Finance, (Fifth Hearing)

5/2/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 58-37

5/1/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Finance,

4/25/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Finance, (Tenth Hearing)

2/8/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Budget and Appropriations

ORC Sections: 101.27, 3304.30, 3304.31, 3304.41, 3309.23, 3310.03, 3310.14, 3310.16, 3310.52, 3310.522, 3311.06, 3311.27, 3311.751, 3311.771, 3313.372, 3313.6023, 3313.603, 3313.608, 3313.6110, 3313.6112, 3313.6113, 3313.612, 3313.618, 3313.717, 3313.821, 3313.89, 3313.902, 3313.904, 3313.976, 3314.016, 3314.03, 3314.08, 3314.104, 3316.20, 3317.01, 3317.013, 3317.014, 3317.017, 3317.018, 3317.019, 3317.02, 3317.021, 3317.0212, 3317.0218, 3317.022, 3317.025, 3317.026, 3317.027, 3317.06, 3317.16, 3318.01, 3318.011, 3318.02, 3318.021, 3318.022, 3318.024, 3318.03, 3318.031, 3318.032, 3318.033, 3318.034, 3318.035, 3318.036, 3318.037, 3318.04, 3318.041, 3318.042, 3318.05, 3318.051, 3318.052, 3318.054, 3318.06, 3318.061, 3318.07, 3318.08, 3318.081, 3318.082, 3318.083, 3318.084, 3318.086, 3318.091, 3318.10, 3318.11, 3318.112, 3318.12, 3318.121, 3318.13, 3318.15, 3318.16, 3318.18,

3318.19, 3318.22, 3318.25, 3318.26, 3318.30, 3318.31, 3318.311, 3318.351, 3318.36, 3318.362, 3318.363, 3318.364, 3318.37, 3318.371, 3318.38, 3318.40, 3318.41, 3318.42, 3318.43, 3318.46, 3318.48, 3318.49, 3318.50, 3318.60, 3318.61, 3318.62, 3318.70, 3318.71, 3319.0812, 3319.111, 3319.22, 3319.223, 3319.227, 3319.229, 3319.26, 3319.27, 3319.271, 3319.272, 3319.291, 3319.61, 3323.022, 3323.052, 3326.01, 3326.03, 3326.032, 3326.04, 3326.082, 3326.09, 3326.11, 3326.33, 3326.41, 3327.08, 3332.07, 3332.071, 3333.0414, 3333.0415, 3333.0416, 3333.048, 3333.051, 3333.121, 3333.122, 3333.13, 3333.166, 3333.31, 3333.39, 3333.45, 3333.91, 3333.92, 3333.94, 3333.951, 3333.98, 3335.02, 3337.01, 3339.01, 3341.02, 3343.02, 3344.01, 3345.061, 3345.062, 3345.14, 3345.35, 3345.45, 3345.451, 3345.48, 3345.58, 3345.59, 3347.091, 3350.10, 3351.07, 3352.01, 3354.01, 3354.09, 3356.01, 3357.01, 3357.09, 3357.19, 3358.01, 3358.08, 3359.01, 3361.01, 3362.01, 3364.01, 3365.01, 3365.03, 3365.04, 3365.05, 3365.06, 3365.07, 3365.072, 3365.091, 3365.12, 3365.15, 3375.03,.... 947.06

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-49>

HB166

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REVISIONS (REINEKE W, CUPP B) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

Current Status: 6/7/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 5/17/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development

3/28/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Economic Development, Education, Jobs, Mental Health & Disabilities

ORC Sections: 107.35, 131.33, 2329.66, 2953.25, 307.984, 3121.03, 329.04, 329.06, 330.01, 330.02, 330.04, 330.05, 330.07, 3304.11, 3304.12, 3304.14, 3304.15, 3304.17, 3304.171, 3304.18, 3304.182, 3304.19, 3304.20, 3304.21, 3304.22, 3304.27, 3304.28, 3304.29, 3304.30, 3304.31, 3304.41, 3309.23, 3313.603, 3313.6110, 3313.6112, 3313.618, 3313.89, 3313.904, 3314.03, 3326.01, 3326.03, 3326.032, 3326.04, 3326.09, 3326.11, 3333.91, 3333.92, 4141.29, 4141.43, 4141.51, 5.281, 5101.09, 5101.20, 5101.201, 5101.214, 5101.23, 5101.241, 5108.01, 5123.60, 5166.40, 5166.408, 5709.64, 5903.11, 6301.01, 6301.02, 6301.03, 6301.04, 6301.05, 6301.06, 6301.061, 6301.07, 6301.08, 6301.09, 6301.11, 6301.12, 6301.18, 6301.20, 763.01, 763.02, 763.05, 763.07

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-166>

HB170

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION (CARFAGNA R, DUFFEY M) With regard to academic content standards and curriculum requirements for computer science; to revise educator qualifications regarding computer science; to create a competitive

technology grant program for the 2018-2019 school year; and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 6/6/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fifth Hearing)
All Bill Status: 5/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)
5/23/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
5/9/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
3/29/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, Science & Technology
ORC Sections: 3301.012, 3301.079, 3313.603, 3319.074, 3319.236
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-170>

SB54

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS (BROWN E, LEHNER P) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.

Current Status: 6/6/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fifth Hearing)
All Bill Status: 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fourth Hearing)
3/22/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing)
3/8/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)
2/22/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)
2/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
2/14/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Children and Family Issues, Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-54>

SB8

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (GARDNER R, TERHAR L) 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: 6/13/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
All Bill Status: 6/6/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
5/17/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0
5/17/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
5/16/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT**, Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
3/1/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

2/15/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
1/31/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3318.39
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-8>

HB200 **OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION** (KOEHLER K) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Current Status: 6/13/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 6/6/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
5/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/9/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
5/2/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3301.0711, 3301.0714, 3301.163, 3302.036, 3302.10, 3310.01, 3310.02, 3310.03, 3310.031, 3310.032, 3310.035, 3310.04, 3310.05, 3310.06, 3310.07, 3310.08, 3310.09, 3310.10, 3310.11, 3310.12, 3310.13, 3310.14, 3310.15, 3310.16, 3310.17, 3310.51, 3313.974, 3313.975, 3313.976, 3313.977, 3313.978, 3313.979, 3317.03, 3365.07, 5727.84

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-200>

HCR11 **ESSA IMPLEMENTATION** (GAVARONE T) To approve Ohio's state education plan for implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

Current Status: 6/6/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

All Bill Status: 6/6/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HCR-11>

HB235 **EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT PROCEDURE** (GAVARONE T) Regarding procedures for approval or disapproval of the state education plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

Current Status: 6/13/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 6/6/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
6/6/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/23/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3302.09
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-235>

- HB246** **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CLASSROOMS** (BOCCIERI J, REZABEK J) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide funding to certain county boards of developmental disabilities to assist in the acquisition of classroom facilities.
- Current Status:** 6/6/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
- All Bill Status:** 5/24/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:** Education, Mental Health & Disabilities
- ORC Sections:** 3318.80
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-246>
- HB203** **YOUTH SUMMER JOBS INITIATIVE** (BARNES, JR. J) To require the Director of Development Services to establish a youth summer jobs pledging initiative to increase access to summer employment opportunities for high school and college youth.
- Current Status:** 5/31/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
- All Bill Status:** 5/16/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
5/9/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:** Economic Development, Jobs
- ORC Sections:** 122.043
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-203>
- HB176** **SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS** (THOMPSON A) With regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations.
- Current Status:** 5/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
- All Bill Status:** 5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
4/5/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:** Education
- ORC Sections:** 3301.07, 3301.0710, 3301.0711, 3301.0712, 3301.0714, 3301.0715, 3301.0718, 3301.0721, 3301.0722, 3301.078, 3301.079, 3302.03, 3302.036, 3302.04, 3302.05, 3302.15, 3310.03, 3311.80, 3311.84, 3313.532, 3313.60, 3313.6017, 3313.6020, 3313.603, 3313.608, 3313.61, 3313.611, 3313.612, 3313.614, 3313.618, 3313.619, 3313.902, 3313.903, 3314.03, 3314.36, 3317.141, 3319.02, 3319.11, 3319.111, 3319.112, 3319.114, 3319.223, 3319.23, 3319.58, 3325.08, 3326.111, 3328.01, 3328.25, 3333.0411
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-176>
- SB154** **OPIOID ADDICTION RESPONSE** (SCHIAVONI J, YUKO K) To provide for the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.
- Current Status:** 5/24/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
- All Bill Status:** 5/17/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:** Budget and Appropriations, Coal Industry, Health Care, Mental Health & Disabilities

ORC Sections: 109.90, 1739.05, 1751.01, 1751.692, 1751.76, 3301.97, 3707.60, 3715.89, 3901.80, 3901.801, 3923.046, 3923.852, 4729.54, 4729.69, 4729.99, 5119.368, 5119.49, 5164.092, 5164.7512, 5167.12

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-154>

SB151 **SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS** (HITE C) To permit, rather than require, the School Employees Retirement System to grant annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirement, disability, and survivor benefit recipients and to reduce the maximum amount of the adjustment.

Current Status: 6/13/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

All Bill Status: 5/24/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions
5/17/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Pension & Retirement System, Public Employees

ORC Sections: 3309.374

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-151>

HB8 **PUBLIC RECORDS-MINORS** (HAMBLEY S, REZABEK J) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident.

Current Status: 5/24/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 95-2

All Bill Status: 5/24/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
4/26/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Fourth Hearing)
3/29/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Third Hearing)
3/22/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)
3/15/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)
2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight
2/1/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

ORC Sections: 149.43, 149.436

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-8>

HB220 **NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS** (LELAND D) With regard to the use of funds by community schools and nonpublic schools.

Current Status: 5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

All Bill Status: 5/16/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

ORC Sections: 3301.97

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-220>

- HB224 RE-SERVING SCHOOL LUNCH ITEMS** (INGRAM C) To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging.
- Current Status:** 5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
- All Bill Status:** 5/16/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:** Children and Family Issues, Education, Public Safety
- ORC Sections:** 3313.818
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-224>
- HB181 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS** (HOOD R, BRINKMAN T) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments.
- Current Status:** 6/13/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
- All Bill Status:** 5/23/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
4/10/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:** Education
- ORC Sections:** 3301.0710, 3301.0711, 3301.0712, 3301.0714, 3301.0718, 3301.0721, 3301.0722, 3301.0728, 3301.078, 3301.079, 3301.65, 3302.01, 3302.02, 3302.03, 3302.036, 3302.05, 3310.03, 3310.14, 3310.522, 3311.80, 3311.84, 3313.60, 3313.6017, 3313.6020, 3313.603, 3313.608, 3313.61, 3313.612, 3313.618, 3314.016, 3314.02, 3314.05, 3314.08, 3314.26, 3317.03, 3319.02, 3319.111, 3319.112, 3319.114, 3319.23, 3319.324, 3326.37, 3328.01, 3333.0411, 3365.05
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-181>
- HB37 SCHOOL SAFETY-STRUCTURES** (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:** 5/23/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
- All Bill Status:** 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
2/7/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:** Education
- ORC Sections:** 3318.39
- State Bill Page:** <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-37>
- HB87 COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS** (ROEGNER K) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school.
- Current Status:** 5/17/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)
- All Bill Status:** 3/29/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)
2/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government

Accountability and Oversight
2/22/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, State Government
ORC Sections: 3314.52
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-87>

SB149 **ELECTION POLLING PLACES-SCHOOLS** (LAROSE F) Regarding the use of a school district building as a polling place for elections.

Current Status: 5/17/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
All Bill Status: 5/11/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Campaigns & Elections
ORC Sections: 3319.077, 3501.29
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-149>

SB36 **AGRICULTURAL COMPUTATION** (HITE C) To require that the computation of the capitalization rate for the purposes of determining CAUV of agricultural land be computed using a method that excludes appreciation and equity buildup and to stipulate that CAUV land used for a conservation practice or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program for at least three years must be valued at the lowest of the values assigned on the basis of soil type.

Current Status: 5/16/2017 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
All Bill Status: 5/10/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0
5/10/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
5/10/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, Senate Ways and Means, (Sixth Hearing)
5/3/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, Senate Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)
3/8/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
3/1/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
2/22/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
2/15/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
2/7/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Agriculture
ORC Sections: 5713.31, 5713.34, 5715.01
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-36>

HB134 **SCHOOL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS** (HAMBLEY S, KICK D) To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.

Current Status: 5/16/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)
All Bill Status: 5/9/2017 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
4/25/2017 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
3/29/2017 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
3/21/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, Local Government
ORC Sections: 307.283, 5739.026

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-134>

HB47

STUDENTS IN MILITARY (BOCCIERI J) To enact the "Students 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: 5/9/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 3/7/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

2/14/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

2/8/2017 - 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=GA132-HB-47>

SB34

SCHOOL YEARS (MANNING G) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

All Bill Status: 3/8/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

2/15/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

2/6/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

ORC Sections: 3313.621, 3314.03, 3317.01, 3326.11, 3328.24

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-34>

SB82

SCHOOL ABSENCES-PARENTAL NOTIFICATION (WILLIAMS S, LEHNER P) To require a public school to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

All Bill Status: 3/29/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

3/22/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

3/2/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Children and Family Issues, Education, Municipal Services

ORC Sections: 3313.205, 3314.03, 3321.141, 3326.11, 3328.24

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-82>

SB85

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (HUFFMAN M) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 4/5/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

3/22/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

3/2/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Higher Education, State Government

ORC Sections: 3301.0711, 3301.0714, 3301.163, 3302.036, 3302.10, 3310.01, 3310.02, 3310.03, 3310.031, 3310.032, 3310.035, 3310.04, 3310.05, 3310.06, 3310.07, 3310.08, 3310.09,

3310.10, 3310.11, 3310.12, 3310.13, 3310.14, 3310.15,
3310.16, 3310.17, 3310.51, 3313.974, 3313.975, 3313.976,
3313.977, 3313.978, 3313.979, 3317.03, 3365.07, 5727.84

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-85>

SB104 **PROHIBIT SECLUSION USE-SCHOOLS** (TAVARES C) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools.

Current Status: 4/5/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

All Bill Status: 3/21/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

ORC Sections: 3319.46

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-104>

HB80 **SCHOOL FOOD-SUMMER INTERVENTION** (LATOURETTE S, SMITH K) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.

Current Status: 4/5/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

All Bill Status: 3/15/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 90-4

3/15/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration

3/14/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

3/7/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

2/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

2/22/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Health Care

ORC Sections: 3313.813

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-80>

SB79 **STATE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE** (JORDAN K) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

Current Status: 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 3/15/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

3/2/2017 - Introduced

Categories: General Assembly, State Government

ORC Sections: 101.88, 101.881, 101.882, 101.89, 117.46

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-79>

HB129 **SCHOOL EXTERNSHIPS-GOVERNOR** (SMITH K, KELLY B) To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

Current Status: 3/28/2017 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
All Bill Status: 3/21/2017 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
3/14/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Administration - Governor, Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-129>

HB102 SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM (BRENNER A) To replace locally levied school district property taxes with a statewide property tax and require recipients of certain tax exemptions to reimburse the state for such levy revenue lost due to those exemptions; to increase the state sales and use tax rates and allocate additional revenue to state education purposes; to repeal school district income taxes; to require the Treasurer of State to issue general obligation bonds to refund certain school district debt obligations; to create a new system of funding schools where the state pays a specified amount per student that each student may use to attend the public or chartered nonpublic school of the student's choice, without the requirement of a local contribution; to eliminate the School Facilities Commission; to eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program, Pilot Project Scholarship Program, Autism Scholarship Program, and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program; to eliminate interdistrict open enrollment; to require educational service centers to transport students on a countywide basis; and to permit school districts to enter into a memoranda of understanding for one district to manage another.

Current Status: 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance
All Bill Status: 3/1/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, Taxation, Transportation & Infrastructure
ORC Sections:
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-102>

HJR3 SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS REFUND (BRENNER A) To conditionally authorize the issuance of state obligations to refund pending school district obligations, to conditionally waive, beginning in 2020, the requirement that schools levy property taxes to pay debt charges on their obligations, and to conditionally authorize a treasury fund that is restricted exclusively to educational purposes.

Current Status: 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance
All Bill Status: 3/1/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, Taxation
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HJR-3>

SB39 COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATION (SCHIAVONI J) Regarding community school operator contracts, the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools, and performance metrics for blended learning schools.

Current Status: 3/1/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
All Bill Status: 2/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
2/8/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education
ORC Sections: 3302.01, 3302.03, 3302.038, 3302.41, 3314.03, 3314.032, 3314.08, 3314.088, 3314.23, 3314.241, 3314.242, 3314.27, 3314.271, 3314.52
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-39>

HB21 **COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION** (HAMBLEY S) Regarding verification of community school enrollments.

Current Status: 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

All Bill Status: 2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
2/1/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

ORC Sections: 3314.11

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-21>

SB17 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND ALLOCATION** (TAVARES C) To increase monthly allocations to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.68% of the total tax revenue credited to the General Revenue Fund each month.

Current Status: 2/1/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

All Bill Status: 1/31/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Local Government, State Government, Taxation

ORC Sections: 131.51

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-17>

Dispatch Article on the Budget

By [Jim Siegel](#)
The Columbus Dispatch

Posted at 11:01 AM Updated at 11:01 AM

Medicaid and other state agencies would see deeper funding cuts, but fewer schools would see reductions and a little more money would be directed at Ohio's opioid crisis under Senate Republican budget changes unveiled today.

Anticipating a larger revenue shortfall when new estimates are released in two weeks, Senate leaders say the revised budget is crafted to close a projected \$1 billion revenue shortfall — \$200 million more than the hole Gov. John Kasich's budget office suggested in April that lawmakers should try to close.

"We expect the current gap to increase, and the Senate has budgeted accordingly," said Senate President Larry Obhof, R-Medina. "I believe this bill reflects the right balance between funding our state's priorities and doing more with less."

The House-passed budget called for spending \$170.6 million more on the drug epidemic, including \$130 million for addiction treatment as well as additional support for child-protection services and for grandparents and other family members caring for children whose parents cannot.

Senate Republicans said they were able to increase that to \$176.4 million, though that includes reworking some of what the House proposed and transferring much of the House-allocated funding out of the general revenue fund, allowing it to likely be paid for with federal grants or state fees.

The Senate is proposing \$60 million for child protective services and programs to support children in drug-affected families, maintaining \$20 million for the expansion of treatment housing, \$6 million in new detox facilities, \$5 million to help counties establish drug abuse response teams and \$5 million to train teachers in identifying addicted students. It also provides funds to upgrade Ohio's

prescription-drug tracking system and provides a way for county jails to be reimbursed for mental health drugs.

In education, the Senate plan reportedly means no state funding cuts for 535 of Ohio's 610 school districts, a drop from the roughly 350 districts that were cut under the House-passed budget. And instead of the House-passed 5.5 percent cap on funding increases — a cap that impacts a number of Franklin County districts — the Senate cap would range from 3 to 6 percent, depending on student growth.

Districts destined for funding reductions under the Senate budget are those that have lost at least 5 percent of their student population in the last two years. The Senate also is proposing to reduce student testing by eliminating the requirement for state fourth- and sixth-grade social studies tests.

As for higher education, the Senate eliminated a House-passed proposal that would have allowed universities to impose unlimited tuition increases so long as they guaranteed that tuition rate for four years. The Senate also proposed increased funding for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, a needs-based financial aid program.

On taxes, the Senate budget would increase the tax deduction families can take for the state's college savings program, or the state's ABLE program, which allows savings for children with disabilities.

Senate leaders said they also restored funding cuts to food banks, breast and cervical cancer screening programs, and clean water and safety initiatives.

Overall, however, many state agencies would see cuts of 3 to 4 percent. In addition, the Senate wants to cut \$200 million from Medicaid, though specifics are still forthcoming, and \$20 million from the state prison system.

Senate leaders said they also eliminated tens of millions in earmarks and took about \$85 million from programs with unspent funds.

The revised budget bill will be formally introduced this afternoon. The Senate will continue budget hearings this week, before approving additional amendments next week along with a full chamber vote.

From there, the House and Senate will work out their differences in a joint conference committee, with the hope of passing the budget by June 30, the end of the fiscal year.

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Capitol Square in Review

ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Ohio Third Frontier, which recently awarded \$20 million to fund the Ohio Opioid Abuse, Prevention and Treatment Technology Initiative, is now accepting proposals to address the opioid addiction epidemic through technology. Regarding pharmaceuticals, projects that could qualify for a fast-track designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are preferred by the state. Regarding health technologies, the agency noted projects to develop databases or predictive analytics used to inform public policy decisions on the opioid epidemic are not eligible. The agency also issued an RFP seeking a program manager for the Ohio Opioid Technology Challenge program.

AGRICULTURE

The Ohio Department of Taxation issued its Current Agricultural Use Values (CAUV) for the 2017 tax year at a public hearing Friday amid steady concerns from farmers and agriculture stakeholders about sky-rocketing property tax rates.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

At a meeting of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, Attorney General Mike DeWine Thursday laid out his perspective on the many effects of the ongoing opioid abuse epidemic in Ohio. The committee, chaired by U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Columbus), invited DeWine to be part of the panel on the economic impact of the opioid epidemic and to share his perspective as the head of state law enforcement and a former legislator.

FY16-17 BUDGET

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Tuesday released its preliminary figures for May, reporting that revenues continued to come in under estimates. Revenues fell \$67.0 million short for the month although officials said they continue to expect the state to finish the year in the black. This brings the year's shortfall to nearly \$840.8 million with one month left in FY17.

FY18-19 BUDGET

The Senate Finance Committee heard from over 100 witnesses this week on the proposed FY18-19 budget, prior to the Senate's releasing its version of the budget on Monday, June 12. As the budget process moves along, Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) and House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) addressed the concerns of Ohio business owners at a gathering of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) Ohio chapter on Wednesday. With regard to the Senate's budget deliberations, Obhof said that, given the growing size of the budget, almost \$68 billion in the current year, the state should be able to make it work given the revenue that it has, saying that it's a spending problem, not a revenue problem. He said the main issue with the budget is that "we haven't done enough."

EDUCATION

More than 1,000 ACT tests initially declared void by the testing provider will be scored after all, ACT and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) said Friday. The move comes a day after Superintendent Paolo DeMaria told the State Board of Education he was urging ACT to score the tests and had filed a formal complaint with the state procurement office over the testing contract. A report from the Buckeye Institute reviews the use of education savings accounts (ESAs) around the U.S. and urges Ohio policymakers to institute their use here. The accounts can hold state funding that families then use for educational expenses like private school tuition, tutoring, textbooks or saving for college.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is currently accepting applications for participants in the July 2017 Alignment Study process. The purpose of each alignment study is to verify the alignment of the assessment items to the Ohio Learning Standards for content and difficulty. Alignment studies are part of the peer review process that provide additional evidence for the validity of the state assessments to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), ODE explained. Applications are due Friday, June 16.

Consistent, year-to-year use of open enrollment is associated with modestly higher student performance, according to a research report commissioned by the Fordham Institute and released Tuesday.

Draft recommendations of a study panel to be submitted to State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria call for the state to substantially pare back its student assessment requirements, eliminating tests not required by federal law.

Appellate judges declined Wednesday to block State Board of Education action on the state's enrollment and funding dispute with Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT), Ohio's largest online charter school. The 10th District Court of Appeals decision clears the way for the board to take up next week a hearing officer's report that concluded ECOT can't substantiate the enrollment of thousands of students it reported to the state and owes \$60 million or more. The report is on the board's voting agenda for its monthly gathering Monday and Tuesday, June 12 and 13.

A large crowd of school employees marched Wednesday to the Statehouse and their pension system's office in protest as lawmakers started hearings on a proposal to cut inflationary increases from their retirement benefits. Some other groups affected by the change are backing the proposal, though their

letters of support cite a section of legislative language that's drawn scrutiny from staff of the Ohio Retirement Study Council.

The Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) Thursday heard from Erica Brownstein, chair of the State University Education Deans (SUED) group and assistant dean for the College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State University (OSU); and Dawn Shinew, dean of the Bowling Green State University (BGSU) College of Education, who discussed teacher preparedness at state institutions.

ELECTIONS 2018

Kyle Strickland, an attorney at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, announced Monday that he will run for the Democratic nomination for the 15th Ohio Senate District in 2018. The seat's current occupant, Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus), is term-limited.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

The national unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent in May, down from 4.4 percent in April, as total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 138,000 jobs over the month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) said Friday. The national unemployment rate is the lowest it has been since before the recession began.

A jobs report released by finance blog *WalletHub* ranked Ohio below the middle of the pack regarding the state's job-market strength, but gave higher marks to cities including Cincinnati and Columbus. Ohio was placed at 34th overall for the 50 states, with a "job market" ranking of 30th and an "economic environment" ranking of 37th. The report compared all states across "24 key indicators of job-market strength, opportunity and economic vitality."

ENVIRONMENT

Municipalities and scientists should consider more stringent methods of water quality monitoring following a finding that a virus was involved in Toledo's water crisis, according to a new study. In August 2014, toxins from harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie caused officials to shut down the city of Toledo's water supply, leaving more than 400,000 area residents without potable water for more than two days.

FEDERAL

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) said Friday that he believes President Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement will hurt Ohio workers and put the nation in a group that currently includes only Nicaragua and Syria. Brown spoke about the decision with reporters after speaking at an event hosted by Facebook at COSI in Columbus.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) Wednesday was named policy chair for the House Majority Caucus.

The Ohio Statehouse Museum and Education Center is sponsoring a Statehouse Boy Scout Merit Badge Day on Friday, June 23. Participants will be able to learn about Ohio government and history and earn the Citizenship in the Nation merit badge.

HIGHER EDUCATION

A tool allowing online access to tax information for federal student aid purposes is now partially back online after federal officials disabled it earlier this year in reaction to identity theft concerns. The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) said the data retrieval tool (DRT) is now available for borrowers applying to use one of four income-based repayment plans for federal loans, following the implementation of new encryption protections.

Cedarville University's School of Pharmacy will offer students the option of finishing a doctor of pharmacy degree program in six years instead of seven, the university said.

The Wright State University Board of Trustees approved a FY18 budget plan Thursday that calls for more than \$30 million in cuts. The proposed \$284 million budget represents about a 15 percent reduction from expected FY17 spending and would result in a \$6 million surplus the university wants to help it rebuild reserves, according to a budget briefing presented to trustees.

Owens Community College announced this week the selection of Provost Steve Robinson as interim president. Robinson will take the interim position July 1, following the retirement of President Mike Bower at the end of June. Bower has been president since 2012. A search is underway for a permanent president.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Ohio's "Housing Wage" increased again this year, now reaching \$15 an hour. This is the hourly amount renters need to earn to afford rent for a basic, two-bedroom apartment. This is according to a report jointly released Thursday by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO). The typical renter in Ohio earns \$12.87, which is \$2.13 less than the statewide hourly housing wage. The Columbus metropolitan area has Ohio's highest Housing Wage at \$17.04, followed by Cincinnati at \$15.50, Akron at \$15.19 and Cleveland at \$15.02.

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION (OCMC)

In what may be the final meeting of the full Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission (OCMC), members tabled a recommendation to change the way initiated statutes and constitutional amendments reach the ballot after a number of witnesses testified against the proposal. Two other unrelated recommendations were adopted. While the commission isn't scheduled to end its work until the end of the year, the House-passed version of HB49 (R. Smith) eliminates it at the end of the fiscal year on June 30. While OCMC Co-Chair Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus) said the budget is still being debated, members of the commission spoke with an expectation that Thursday was the final meeting. The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission (OCMC) Constitutional Revision and Updating Committee used its last meeting to mull over its final report and recommendation on the constitutional amendment process to the full OCMC, weighing a significant and last-minute amendment against the possibility of derailing the proposal.

PENSIONS

The Ohio Retirement Study Council reaffirmed its support Thursday for granting the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) authority to freeze cost-of-living adjustments and tie future inflationary payments to inflation, and also endorsed various proposed changes to the Highway Patrol Retirement System (HPRS).

STATE GOVERNMENT

The Office of Employee and Business Services Electronic Publications Unit recently released a new website that will house all of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) online manuals. It can be found at <http://emanuals.jfs.ohio.gov/index.stm>.

TAXATION

A tax break on business income first enacted in 2013 is now costing Ohio about \$1 billion a year, Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) recently reported, "far more than previous public estimates." Though the tax break is often referred to as 'the small business deduction,' it is not just available to owners of small businesses. Partners in large law firms, owners of private equity firms, and investors in big companies that are organized as pass-through entities are equally able to qualify. PMO also notes that 9.4 percent of the claimants accounted for 55 percent of the total claimed.

Ohio's business tax climate is one of the worst in the country and ranks far behind its "peers," according to a new book from the right-leaning Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation. "Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy" says the Buckeye State's "harmful gross receipts tax and complex municipal tax system" led to its ranking of 45th. In this measure, Ohio trails Indiana (ranked 8th), Michigan (12th), Texas (14th), Illinois (23rd) and Pennsylvania (24th).

actionTRACK - Hannah News Service, Inc.

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.