

info@oesca.org • **June 27, 2017**

*This June 27, 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 132<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

## In Memoriam

*Yesterday, former Ohio Associate Superintendent Mitch Chester passed away following a brief illness. Many of you had the opportunity to work with Mitch when he served as the Senior Associate Superintendent for Policy and Accountability at ODE. Please keep Mitch Chester and his family in your thoughts and prayers.*

**MITCHELL CHESTER, LONGTIME MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATION COMMISSIONER, DIED MONDAY**  
By Katie Lannan

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JUNE 27, 2017.....Longtime Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester died Monday evening after a short illness, the state's education board chairman announced at a Tuesday meeting.

"We were obviously stunned by his death and deeply saddened," Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Chair Paul Sagan said. The board observed a moment of silence in memory of Chester and planned to conduct an abbreviated meeting to hold necessary votes, while delaying matters that were not time-sensitive out of respect for him.

Earlier this month, a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education spokeswoman told the News Service that Chester had temporarily cut back on his schedule due to medical reasons, with Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson fulfilling the commissioner's duties with help from other senior staff.

Chester was selected by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to oversee the K-12 school system in 2008. He began his career as an elementary school teacher in Connecticut and then worked at the Connecticut State Education Department. He also worked for the School District of Philadelphia and immediately prior to joining DESE he was the Ohio Department of Education's senior associate superintendent for policy and accountability.

Education Secretary Jim Peyser said Chester leaves a "legacy that will stand for many, many years and generations."

"We've been blessed in Massachusetts having two long-serving commissioners, who have seen us through from the beginning of education reform to this day," Peyser said at the meeting. "In some ways, a lot of attention gets paid to the leadership when change is beginning to happen, but when all is said and done it's the leaders who take us through, over time, to sustain the changes and to bring them to the next level that make those changes permanent and that deliver the kind of impact on children, families and people's lives that have lasting and deeper effects. I think Mitchell was that leader for us, and we were very lucky and blessed to have him with us."

The board appointed Wulfson as acting commissioner Tuesday morning. He said he is "ready to do anything I can during this difficult time" and said the department would "dedicate ourselves to continuing the great work that [Chester] led us in."

# Breaking News

## MONDAY BUDGET CONFERENCE CANCELS; HOUSE CHANGES SESSIONS

The conference committee on the biennial budget, HB49 (R. Smith), cancelled a hearing set for 3 p.m. Monday, June 26 in Hearing Room 313. Additional hearings are scheduled for the same time and place Tuesday, June 27 and Wednesday, June 28. The House cancelled its if-needed Tuesday session and announced its Wednesday session will meet at the call of the speaker, rather than the usual 1:30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Legislative Tracking Report

### BILL MONITORING

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

- 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:* 6/27/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 6/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs  
5/24/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 95-2
- Categories:* Education
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-8>
- HB21 COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION** (HAMBLEY S) Regarding verification of community school enrollments.
- Current Status:* 6/20/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)  
2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
- Categories:* Education
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-21>
- 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)
- Recent Status:* 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)  
2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
- Categories:* Education
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-37>

- 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)  
*Recent Status:* 3/7/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)  
2/14/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness  
*Categories:* Education, Military Affairs  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-47>
- HB49**      **OPERATING BUDGET** (SMITH R) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.  
*Current Status:* 6/28/2017 - , (Fourth Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/27/2017 - , (Third Hearing)  
6/26/2017 - , (Second Hearing)  
*Categories:* Budget and Appropriations  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-49>
- HB58**      **CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION** (BRENNER A, SLABY M) To require instruction in cursive handwriting.  
*Current Status:* 6/21/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/7/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)  
5/3/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)  
*Categories:* Education  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-58>
- 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  
*Recent Status:* 3/15/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 90-4  
3/15/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration  
*Categories:* Education, Health Care  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-80>
- 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)  
*Recent Status:* 3/29/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)  
2/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight  
*Categories:* Education, State Government

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-87>

**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:* 6/20/2017 - House Finance, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance  
3/1/2017 - Introduced

*Categories:* Education, Taxation, Transportation & Infrastructure

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-102>

**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)

*Recent 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>

**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)

*Recent Status:* 5/9/2017 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)  
4/25/2017 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Education, Local Government

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

**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:* 6/21/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)

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

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

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

*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:* 6/21/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 83-12

*Recent Status:* 6/21/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration

6/6/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fifth Hearing)

*Categories:* Education, Science & Technology

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-170>

**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)

*Recent Status:* 5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

*Categories:* Education

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-176>

**HB181**

**ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS** (HOOD R, BRINKMAN T) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments.

*Current Status:* 6/20/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)

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

5/23/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Education

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-181>

**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:* 6/20/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fifth Hearing)

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

6/6/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)

*Categories:* Education

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

- 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)
- Recent Status:* 5/16/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development  
5/9/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:* Economic Development, Jobs
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-203>
- HB220 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS** (LELAND D) With regard to the use of funds by community schools and nonpublic schools.
- Current Status:* 6/20/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness  
5/16/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:* Education
- 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
- Recent Status:* 5/16/2017 - Introduced
- Categories:* Children and Family Issues, Education, Public Safety
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-224>
- 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:* 6/20/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 6/13/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)  
6/6/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
- Categories:* Education
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-235>
- HB242 SCHOOL RETIREMENT-COST OF LIVING** (CARFAGNA R) Regarding School Employees Retirement System annual cost-of-living adjustments.
- Current Status:* 6/20/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Aging and Long Term Care, (Third Hearing)
- Recent Status:* 6/14/2017 - House Aging and Long Term Care, (Second Hearing)  
6/7/2017 - House Aging and Long Term Care, (Second Hearing)
- Categories:* Education, Pension & Retirement System
- State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-242>

- 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  
*Recent Status:* 5/24/2017 - Introduced  
*Categories:* Education, Mental Health & Disabilities  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-246>
- 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:* 6/20/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight  
*Recent Status:* 6/8/2017 - Introduced  
*Categories:* Budget and Appropriations, General Assembly  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-262>
- 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  
*Recent Status:* 6/6/2017 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HCR-11>
- 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  
*Recent Status:* 3/1/2017 - Introduced  
*Categories:* Education, Taxation  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HJR-3>
- 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:* 6/21/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/7/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)  
5/17/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)  
*Categories:* Economic Development

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

- 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:* 6/20/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/13/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)  
6/6/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)  
*Categories:* Education  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-8>
- 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  
*Recent Status:* 1/31/2017 - Introduced  
*Categories:* Local Government, State Government, Taxation  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-17>
- 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)  
*Recent Status:* 3/8/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
2/15/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)  
*Categories:* Education  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-34>
- 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  
*Recent Status:* 5/10/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0  
5/10/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration  
*Categories:* Agriculture  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-36>
- 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)  
*Recent Status:* 2/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education  
2/8/2017 - Introduced  
*Categories:* Education



*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-39>

**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)

*Recent Status:* 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fourth Hearing)  
3/22/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing)

*Categories:* Children and Family Issues, Education

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-54>

**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:* 6/28/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)  
3/15/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* General Assembly, State Government

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

**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)

*Recent Status:* 3/29/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
3/22/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Children and Family Issues, Education, Municipal Services

*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)

*Recent Status:* 4/5/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)  
3/22/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

*Categories:* Education, Higher Education, State Government

*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

*Recent Status:* 3/21/2017 - Introduced  
*Categories:* Education  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-104>

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

*Current Status:* 6/21/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 5/17/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform  
5/11/2017 - Introduced

*Categories:* Campaigns & Elections

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-149>

**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:* 6/20/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (Second Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 6/13/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)  
5/24/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions

*Categories:* Education, Pension & Retirement System, Public Employees

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

**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

*Recent Status:* 5/17/2017 - Introduced

*Categories:* Budget and Appropriations, Coal Industry, Health Care, Mental Health & Disabilities

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Capitol Square in Review

### BALLOT ISSUES

- Backers of a proposed constitutional amendment that would give victims of crime more rights during the judicial process submitted 563,556 signatures to the secretary of state's office Thursday in order to get the issue on the November ballot. In order to qualify for the ballot, 305,591 of those signatures must be valid. Backers also said they collected signatures in all 88 counties, more than exceeding the requirement that signatures must be collected from at least 44 counties.

### FY18-19 BUDGET

- The FY18-19 biennial budget bill, HB49 (R. Smith), underwent one last round of major changes Tuesday before the Senate passed the bill Wednesday and the House voted to reject

Senate changes, setting up the conference committee to hammer out a final version. That committee met for the first time Thursday to hear new revenue projections that confirmed estimates of a \$1 billion shortfall.

- Ohio Medicaid would be prohibited from enrolling new individuals in the expansion group starting on July 1, 2018 under the Senate GOP's latest version of the budget. The policy was one of several changes accepted in the omnibus amendment to HB49 (R. Smith), which was reported out by the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday. Committee Chairman Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton) said the budget is balanced, cutting \$1.055 billion from the as introduced level. Oelslager told reporters that qualifying individuals will be able to gain coverage in Medicaid Group VIII during an open enrollment period from July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018. He also noted that people with serious mental illnesses will be exempted from work requirements under the amendment.
- At Wednesday's Senate session, HB49 was approved 24-8 on a mostly party-line vote, with Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Powell) voting against the budget and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) supporting the proposal. Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) was recused from voting.
- Republicans did not offer any last-minute amendments to the budget, with members of the GOP caucus mostly spending time praising various provisions in the bill while acknowledging that nobody received everything they desired. Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) told reporters after the session that he feels "pretty good" about where the budget ended up.
- "We had some pretty tough circumstances. We will find out for sure what the revenue projections are tomorrow and what the Medicaid caseloads are going to be, but we have anticipated a more than \$1 billion hole that needed to be closed. This bill does that," Obhof said. "I've had some very good conversations with the governor and with the House, and I think we're all focused on the same things -- making sure that we have a balanced budget, that we fund the necessary services for the people of Ohio, and that we run government as effectively and efficiently as possible. I think the final product next week, agreed upon by the two chambers and the governor, will accomplish all those things."
- Emmalee Kalmbach, spokesperson for Gov. John Kasich, issued the following statement: "Gov. Kasich is grateful to members of the Ohio Senate for their passage of a state budget that keeps Ohio's fiscal house in order and strengthens our jobs-friendly climate. Now that the Senate has concluded its work, the governor looks forward to working with the joint House/Senate conference committee to hammer out a final two-year budget that preserves Ohio's fiscal health, furthers our pro-growth policies and protects our most vulnerable citizens."
- During the Senate session, Republicans tabled nearly every proposed amendment from Democrats over a span of several hours, including two alternative budget plans based on repealing the small business "pass-through" tax deduction. Sen. Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood) argued the cuts were not creating jobs and were mostly benefitting wealthy individuals such as lawyers, accountants and lobbyists. Republicans pushed back on that claim, with Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) saying he knows middle-class business owners such as florists, dry cleaners and restaurant owners who are benefitting from the tax deduction.
- The House voted 93-1 against concurring with Senate amendments; Rep. Ron Hood cast the lone vote in favor of concurrence. Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) listed numerous reasons to object to the Senate's version of the budget, saying senators had undone House attempts to reassert legislative control over Medicaid and bypassed separate debates on utility concerns by seeking to address wind turbine setbacks in HB49, for example.
- As the conference committee on HB49 (R. Smith) began hammering out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the FY18-19 biennial budget, new projections from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) confirmed Thursday that lawmakers have \$1 billion less to work with than was originally

thought when the bill was introduced in February. OBM Director Tim Keen, however, told reporters that he believes the package passed by the Senate on Wednesday is "very close to where we need to be," and may only be off by \$20 million to \$25 million.

- Meanwhile Thursday, at a press conference called by House Democrats, House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) told reporters the version of HB49 (R. Smith) voted out of the Senate "remains unstable" and is an "abuse of taxpayer trust."
- "Not only do we believe that his budget does not serve the best interests of working Ohioans, we believe that it is a continuation of a series of proposed budgets that have not emphasized the right priorities for Ohio's economy to grow and for Ohio's people to prosper," Strahorn said, blaming previous Republican budgets for the roughly \$1 billion shortfall projected in the FY18-19 budget. Strahorn was joined at the Statehouse press conference by House Minority Whip Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and House Finance Committee Ranking Member Jack Cera (D-Bellaire), who is serving on the HB49 Conference Committee.
- "I didn't think it could get any worse than what we saw in the House, but you know, as usual, the Senate proved me wrong," Cera said.

## EDUCATION

- About half of those implicated in Columbus schools' data manipulation scandal haven't faced discipline yet, according to Auditor Dave Yost, prompting him to order a special review of the Ohio Department of Education.
- The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) notes that this month brought the release of a new version of ACT WorkKeys, the job skills assessment used in one of the state's three pathways to earning a high school diploma. Because of the update, the new version of the test will have a different scoring scale. That means students will need to take all three sections of the test from the same version. The original version of WorkKeys will remain available through the state testing portal until Sept. 30, so all students seeking re-takes on the original version must complete them by that date.
- Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell) got a chance Tuesday to pitch colleagues on his plan for a major overhaul of school funding that would allow money to follow students and end the use of local property tax levies for K-12 education. The House Finance Committee heard sponsor testimony on Brenner's HB102, an updated version of the plan he introduced late in 2016 as 131-HB628. Brenner, chairman of the House Education Committee, said he believes he's laid out the framework for a fair system that answers the findings of the *DeRolph* rulings, while acknowledging repeatedly Tuesday that many details are still to be addressed.
- Not much more than a year after it launched, the Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) is on the chopping block, targeted for dissolution by October in the Senate's version of the biennial budget. Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said the General Assembly doesn't need a special joint committee to perform the panel's intended work. Lawmakers created the joint committee in the previous budget, 131-HB64 (R. Smith). It only started meeting in April of 2016 and hired its first director, Lauren Monowar-Jones, last June.

## ELECTIONS

- The U.S. Supreme Court Monday declined to hear an appeal that challenged Ohio laws that opponents said threw out provisional and absentee ballots for simple mistakes. The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), the Central Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (COCH), and the Ohio Democratic Party were among groups that challenged 130-SB205 (Coley) and 130-SB216 (Seitz), saying the laws suppressed voters by throwing out ballots for trivial and technical errors.
- Many counties will not be ready for the 2020 General Election if voting machines are not promptly addressed by the Legislature, Secretary of State Jon Husted said Wednesday.

- "It's something we are constantly speaking with the General Assembly about. I understand they have many problems and challenges that they have to face, but this is one that has to get done because there will be a day when our voting equipment -- somewhere, someday 11 will fail if we don't," Husted told local elections officials during the 2017 Ohio Secretary of State Summer Conference at the Ohio Union on Ohio State University campus.

## ELECTIONS 2018

- Former Democratic U.S. Rep. Zack Space filed a designation of treasurer form Friday for a campaign committee for a potential run for state auditor.
- Attorney General Mike DeWine issued a statement Monday saying that this Sunday, June 25, he expects "to make a major announcement about Ohio's future" at the annual DeWine Family Ice Cream Social at their home in Cedarville. DeWine has hinted broadly at plans to run for the Republican gubernatorial nomination but has not yet made it official.
- The Renacci for Ohio campaign Monday announced that U.S. Army veterans Kevin Bojarski and Brook Harless will co-chair the campaign's veterans coalition along with World War II veteran Rudy Sasko, who is U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci's uncle. Renacci's gubernatorial campaign also announced the hire of several veterans of President Donald Trump's successful Ohio campaign in 2016. The hires join Rob Scott, the campaign's senior advisor who served as the Ohio state director for Trump's primary campaign in Ohio and deputy state director for Trump in the general election.
- Endorsements released over the week include the following:
  - International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried Machine and Furniture Workers (IUE-CWA) endorsed Nan Whaley for governor.

## EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

- The state's unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in May, down from 5.0 percent in April, according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Ohio's nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased 6,300 over the month, from a revised 5,509,100 in April to 5,515,400 in May, the department said in a news release.

## FEDERAL

- Gov. John Kasich was one of seven governors to sign a letter Friday criticizing the U.S. House of Representatives' handling of the American Health Care Act (ACA) and urging the U.S. Senate to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure the bill provides coverage and care for vulnerable Americans. The letter, addressed to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York), urges both parties to work together to develop a bill that will "result in a system that is available and affordable for every American."

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

- The *Hannah News* interview series for freshman legislators featured Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron). Abruptly joining the Ohio General Assembly might seem like a daunting task to many, but just a little over one month into her new position representing the city of Akron in the House, Galonski is taking it in stride. "It's been like drinking water out of a fire hose," she said. "There's a huge learning curve, but I absolutely love it. I feel like my qualifications, my background and my experience uniquely qualify me for being able to excel at this job."
- Aside from passage of the biennial budget, HB49 (R. Smith), Wednesday's Senate session included passage of SB77 (Coley), to create "KylerStrong Foundation" license plates; SB78 (Hoagland), which designates a portion of State Route 7 in Jefferson County as the "U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Yvonne Marie Fair Memorial Highway"; HB124 (Brenner-Carfagna), which would fix a mistake from the Delaware County Board of Elections and allow approximately 2,000 people to vote on a levy for the Delaware Area Career Center; and SB117 (Hite), which designates May as "Drive Ohio Byways Month."

- Aside from voting to reject Senate amendments to the budget, the House voted Wednesday to pass HB170 (Carfagna-Duffey), to create state academic standards for computer science; HB41 (Pelanda), an elections bill; HB199 (Blessing), regarding mortgage lending; SB2 (Hite), regarding environmental laws; HB95 (Hughes-Seitz), to create enhanced penalties for distracted driving; HB125 (Craig-Seitz), which caps fees for traffic violations in response to small-town speed traps; HB213 (Dever), regarding real estate appraisal licensing; HB158 (Perales-Craig), to grant unemployment benefits to military spouses who must leave a job because of a redeployment; HB223 (Dever), regarding structured settlements; HB145 (Huffman-Sprague), regarding confidential treatment for medical providers with addiction problems; HB69 (Cupp), regarding reimbursements to township fire and emergency services for revenue foregone in a tax increment financing arrangement; HB60 (Hambley), to create enhanced drivers licenses good for use at international land border crossings into Canada and Mexico; HB10 (Arndt), to allow intra-state equity crowdfunding; SB7 (Bacon-Manning), regarding protection orders; and HB195 (Ingram-Seitz), regarding standards for transporting people in wheelchairs; and voted to concur with Senate amendments to HB124 (Brenner-Carfagna), which aims to fix an error with a Delaware career-tech education levy.
- In other legislation action, House Criminal Justice Committee reported out HB215 (Riedel), to create the Paulding County Municipal Court; House Education Committee reported out SB8 (Gardner-Terhar), regarding school facilities; and HB235 (Gavarone), regarding procedures for approval of the state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan; House Public Utilities Committee reported out HB133 (Ryan), providing tax exemptions for disaster relief work; House State and Local Government Committee reported out SB37 (Hite), regarding training for police chiefs; HB229 (Romanchuk-Wiggam), to designate Feb. 3 as "Charles Follis Day"; House Ways and Means Committee reported out HB24 (Ginter), regarding tax exemptions for veterans organizations' property; House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee reported out HB58 (Brenner-Slaby), to require instruction in cursive handwriting.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

- A Wisconsin-based education organization is awarding 11 Ohio colleges and universities with a grant aimed at helping students who are experiencing a temporary financial emergency pay their bills and stay enrolled in school. The Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation and Affiliates awarded the two-year Dash Emergency Grants, which will provide grants of up to \$1,000 to students who are going through a financial emergency, such as an unexpected car repair, medical or housing bill.
- Cleveland State University (CSU) President Ronald M. Berkman Tuesday announced his decision to retire from the presidency in June 2018. Berkman, 70, is CSU's sixth president and has served in that role since 2009. The university said it will mount a national search for his replacement beginning next month.
- Researchers from Kent State University and the Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute (MRRI) in Philadelphia will conduct a series of studies to develop a theory of learning needed to advance aphasia rehabilitation after receiving a five-year, \$2.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), according to Kent State.
- Saying he wanted to introduce legislation that would take a proactive approach to addressing sexual assault and other dating violence on college campuses, Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland) Wednesday presented his HB240 to the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee with a video. The video, produced by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, featured an Ohio woman who was sexually assaulted in a dorm at the University of Cincinnati (UC) after a freshman orientation. While the university ultimately expelled her attacker, charges against him were dropped by prosecutors, and she said she still felt unsafe on campus.

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.***