

info@oesca.org • **May 24, 2017**

This May 24, 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.

Legislative Tracking Report

BILL MONITORING

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

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

Recent Status: 5/17/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0
5/17/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration

Categories: Education

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

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>

HB49

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

Current Status: 5/25/2017 - Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, (Ninth Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/25/2017 - Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, (Eighth Hearing)
5/24/2017 - Senate Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, (Eighth Hearing)

Categories: Budget and Appropriations

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

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: 5/23/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
5/9/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

Categories: Education, Science & Technology

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

HB181 **ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS** (HOOD R, BRINKMAN T) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments.

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

Recent Status: 5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
4/10/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

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

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

Recent Status: 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>

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: 5/17/2017 - Introduced

Recent Status:

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: 5/17/2017 - Introduced

Recent Status:

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>

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

Recent Status: 5/11/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

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

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

Recent Status: 5/9/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
4/26/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0

Categories: Economic Development

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

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

Recent Status: 5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
3/28/2017 - Introduced

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

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

- 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>
- 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>
- 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>
- 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:** 5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
- Recent Status:** 5/9/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
5/2/2017 - Introduced
- 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: 5/16/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
Recent Status: 5/9/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Economic Development, Jobs
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: 5/16/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
4/5/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-176>
- 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>
- HB58** **CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION** (BRENNER A, SLABY M) To require instruction in cursive handwriting.
Current Status: 5/3/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/29/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)
3/1/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
Categories: Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-58>
- 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: 4/26/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/29/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Third Hearing)
3/22/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)

Categories: Education

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

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>

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>

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>

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>

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: 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fourth Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/22/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing)
3/8/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second 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: 3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/15/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)
3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

Categories: General Assembly, State Government

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)

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>

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

Recent Status: 3/1/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Taxation, Transportation & Infrastructure

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

Recent 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)

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>

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)

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

Categories: Education

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

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>

Committee Updates

HOUSE EDUCATION AND CAREER READINESS

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.

SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED

The committee accepted a substitute bill that would establish the 1:1 School Facilities Option Program to help districts with additions or repairs to classroom facilities that meet the Ohio School Facilities Commission's (OSFC) design standards, rather than the more limited scope of security and technology projects in the introduced version of the bill. The substitute bill also makes explicit the eligibility of joint vocational school districts.

Instead of barring participating districts from all future participations in the standards Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP), the substitute bill would institute a ban lasting 20 years and specify that schools become eligible for the 1:1 program at the same time they become eligible for CFAP.

The substitute bill requires OSFC, at the request of an eligible district, to assess the basic project cost of facilities the district would receive under CFAP. Districts could then receive 1:1 program funding worth up to 10 percent of the CFAP cost, or \$1 million, whichever is greater, but would have to match all state funds on a one-to-one basis.

Chairman Brenner explained the substitute bill is identical to SB8 as recently passed by the Senate.

HB181 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS (Hood R) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments.

Reps. Hood and Brinkman said in sponsor testimony that their legislation, the Ohio Student and Teacher Liberty Act, would respond to concerns arising from Ohio's shift over the past two decades to heavy reliance on criterion-referenced assessments to gauge student success.

"While the system change may have been well intended to create stability between what is taught and what is tested, it has actually had the opposite effect in layers of unintended consequences since 1994. Our policies over the past 23 years have created a one-size-fits-all system of state assessments for students -- and students are cognitively not one-size-fits-all. In other words, when the bar for proficiency is set to the number of questions answered correctly on a given test, there is a tendency to manipulate the level of difficulty of the questions and the actual cut off scores to create a perception of improvement. This has led to a common practice today in the classroom and even district wide for educators to teach to the test. Consequently, classroom instruction has become more narrowly focused and prescriptive. HB181 will restore our state to a more stable norm-referenced assessment system. This form of summative assessment will not have score standards that frequently change and will provide more reliable diagnostic information for teachers to use to help guide their instruction," their testimony states.

"To be clear, this legislation will eliminate state-driven end-of-course exams and other criterion-referenced assessments, which effectively eliminate local control over what is taught. It replaces state-driven teacher and principal evaluation systems with locally developed and more meaningful plans for evaluation. And it stamps out the nationally-driven Common Core State Standards system. However, it's important to understand that HB181 also requires that Ohio's academic standards be aligned to the norm-referenced assessments selected by the state. It will be a more generalized list of standards that will be

drawn from the norm-referenced assessment blueprint, which will serve to protect Ohio's existing federal education funds," they said.

They also noted the bill requires legislative input and guidance on standards and assessments, and addresses student private concerns.

Rep. Ingram asked about teacher and principal evaluations changes in the bill. Hood said under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, Ohio is now able to turn the system back over to local districts. Brinkman said districts could include student achievement data to be up to 20 percent of an evaluation.

Rep. Ingram said some sort of standard would need to be in place for districts to be able to compare their teachers to those in other districts.

Rep. Cupp asked what the advantage of a norm-referenced test is over a criterion-reference test. Hood said there's a place for criterion-referenced tests for teachers to evaluate how students are progressing in the course of study. Hood said a norm-referenced test is better for comparing students across the state, and removes the phenomenon of teachers having to teach to the test.

Rep. Kent Smith asked whether local districts would be able to keep Common Core standards if they so desired. Hood said that, by changing the state standards and the tests aligned to those standards, the bill effectively removes the Common Core.

Chairman Brenner asked who would select the tests, noting ESSA requires use of tests that can be compared across district boundaries. Hood explained the "rigorous" approval process would include review by the Joint Education Oversight Committee, the General Assembly and the State Board of Education.

Brenner asked about the timeline for implementation included in the bill, saying he sits as an ex officio member on the State Board of Education and that it "takes months to do anything." Hood said he'd defer to Brenner's advice on the timeline considerations.

HB170 COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION (Carfagna R) 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.

SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED – See story below.

House Committee Revises Computer Science Education Bill

Proposed state standards for computer science would take effect later but be supplemented by model curriculum under a new version of legislation rolled out Tuesday in the House Education and Career Readiness Committee. The substitute version of HB170 also changes credentialing requirements for teachers of computer science courses and sets some limits on the bill's proposal to allow the courses to fulfill graduation requirements for math or science.

Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville), joint sponsor of the bill with Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington), explained substitute bill changes for the committee.

Under the substitute bill, the State Board of Education's deadline to develop computer science standards would move from July of 2018 to December, but the board would get the new task of also writing model curriculum.

For course substitution, the new bill says computer science cannot stand in place of life sciences or biology courses. In addition, in order to substitute computer science courses for more than one math or science requirement, the computer science courses would have to be sequential and progressively

more difficult, or cover different subject areas. Finally, schools would have to inform students who substitute computer science for Algebra II that Algebra II might be required for college admissions.

Rather than generally requiring training in computer science for any teachers to lead courses in the subject, the substitute bill would create a supplemental teaching license in computer science, with rules to be determined by the State Board of Education.

The substitute bill also jettisons a \$2.5 million grant program to help schools implement computer science instruction. But the new version allows schools to establish computer science and technology funds to support such programs; the funds could accept district, state or private money. Money in the funds could be used to leverage or match private donations toward computer science programs.

Carfagna said the sponsors wanted to enable schools to develop public-private partnerships with this new language. The loss of the grant program is a reflection of the tight budget situation, he said.

Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) said he was still concerned about course substitution for Algebra II, saying it's likely students would need to learn that course's content in order to be able to graduate from a college computer science program. Carfagna said he suspects students on that path likely would take Algebra II and are more likely to use computer science as a substitute for science courses. He said the sponsors are trying to expand the menu of options available to students.

The committee heard from more witnesses in favor of the proposal Tuesday.

Annalies Corbin, president and CEO of the PAST Foundation, praised the concept of allowing computer science to be substituted for other courses in high school, which she said would help sustain students' interest in STEM fields into higher education and careers. "This is vital, as currently one-third of all U.S. students who intend to pursue engineering change their major before graduating and the proportion of American STEM students is already lower than that of our international peers. In addition, of the one million high school freshman who declared an interest in STEM education, 57 percent lost that interest by the time they graduated and began looking toward college or full-time work. This is partially due to the traditional methods often used to teach STEM subjects throughout a student's education --blackboard and textbook-heavy methods that fail to actively engage students in creative problem solving," Corbin said.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce's Brandon Ogden, director of its Ohio Small Business Council and leader of the chamber's Education and Workforce Development Committee, also endorsed the measure. "The basis for the Ohio Chamber's support is simple: We feel that, in general, competency in computer science better prepares students for the workforce or their next step in education. It provides practical knowledge, or as one of our members stated, 'a more tangible application learning process,'" Ogden said.

Geo Money, director of branding and culture for technology and software development company OEConnection, said the bill would help address one reason behind the shortage of qualified workers to fill technology jobs: lack of adequate training as part of students' education. "Ohio, through private enterprise, is able to train current members of the workforce who wish to change careers and move to technology positions. This is being done through numerous coding camps that specialize in this endeavor. But for Ohio students still in middle and high school, and in many of our colleges and universities, the current technology offerings are not adequate to help them learn the basics of computer science so they can determine if they have the aptitude for and interest in pursuing technology-related fields of student in college or as a career," Money said.

Jennie Zamberlan, founder and president of information technology firm Avantia, voiced similar sentiments, noting she'd helped to found a coding boot camp in 2013 to address the shortage of software developers. She credited her interest in the field to a class she took in high school in 1975. "My teacher told me that I was good at programming and suggested that I consider it as a career option. After high school, I attended a yearlong vocational program for computer programming and started working as a programmer in 1976. How is that 41 years later we have public schools in Ohio that lack robust computer science curriculum? We have technology in every classroom, but we are not teaching computer science. The critical thinking and creative problem solving skills gained

through computer science curriculum are foundational to almost all other career paths," Zamberlan said.

Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) asked Zamberlan to address the link between aptitude for math and computer science, asking if those who can't grasp algebra or trigonometry can be proficient in programming and developing solutions. She said it's a difficult question to answer; that aptitude for computer science is about problem solving, but that programmers need to understand how math works. "Math skills are very important, but it's more the pattern of thinking that is important in software development," she said.

Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) asked Zamberlan to identify the reasons for Ohio's shortage of tech workers. She said it's a "chicken and egg problem" -- businesses are less likely to locate here without a pool of workers, and workers are less likely to move or stay here without available jobs. Zamberlan said the Midwest has an opportunity to attract more tech workers because of the high cost of living in coastal tech hubs.

Rep. Teresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) asked whether what students are learning in high school will be useful in the field, given the pace of technological change. Zamberlan said students need to "learn how to learn" in order to be successful, because the actual course content will become outdated quickly. She said it's like a skilled trade, where a carpenter learns the fundamentals of using his tools in training classes, then actually learns how to build a house working under an experienced carpenter.

Capitol Square in Review

ADDICTION/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The state would dedicate 10 percent of its Rainy Day Fund to strengthen local governments and provide treatment infrastructure for groups working against the statewide opioid epidemic under new legislation announced Wednesday by Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman).

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ohio Attorney General (AG) Mike DeWine Friday announced that Ohio and several other states have reached an agreement in principle to join the federal government in a settlement with CareCore National LLC, a benefits management company, to resolve allegations that it improperly authorized medical procedures paid for with Medicare and Medicaid funds. The settlement includes \$446,878.80 in restitution and other recoveries for Ohio's Medicaid program.

A recently-launched program helping Southern Ohio drug addicts and their children -- the Ohio Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma (START) program -- should be funded statewide if it proves to be effective, Attorney General Mike DeWine said Monday at the Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance. "We would hope the state Legislature will take a look at this program, see that it does in fact work, and in the future, fund a program like this in every county in the state of Ohio," DeWine said. While he has not officially announced his candidacy, DeWine is expected to seek the Republican nomination for governor in 2018.

Attorney General Mike DeWine is co-leading an appeal to Congress signed by 50 attorneys general that seeks to return to the states certain Medicare fraud recoveries currently being kept by the federal government.

AUDITOR OF STATE

Auditor Dave Yost warned the public about the cashing of fraudulent checks that appear to be from an account controlled by the Ohio Auditor of State's Office. The three checks, written in the amounts

of \$562.09, \$542.93 and \$548.26, were cashed in the Dayton area and were edited to appear as though they came from Yost's office, but carried the account number of the Mahoning County Treasurer's office.

BALLOT ISSUES

The campaign team supporting the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act was announced Tuesday and will include a former Ohio Republican Party chairman and one of the top Republican media consultants in the country. Calling itself a "bipartisan political dream team," Ohio Taxpayers for Lower Drug Prices will support the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act, an initiated statute which would restrict what the state pays for pharmaceuticals to what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays for the same drugs.

FY18-19 BUDGET

Deans from various medical schools in Ohio asked the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee Thursday to reverse a cut in their budgets and restore separate line items that had been combined into one line item by the House. The provision added by the House to HB49 (R. Smith), the biennial budget, combines the various line items for medical schools and residency programs, including Ohio State's colleges of dentistry and veterinary medicine, into one item. The chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education would have the authority to determine how the funds would be distributed.

Approximately 70 witnesses queued up Wednesday in five-minute time slots to present their issues and concerns on a wide variety of human service provisions in the House-passed FY18-19 proposed budget to the Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee. Topics ran the gamut from programs addressing the opioid crisis, behavior health redesign, Medicaid and the House constraints on spending in the next biennium, the medically handicapped program, tobacco cessation, early childhood education and so forth.

Ohioans seeking to resolve tax disputes would have to deal with significantly worse service under the House-passed version of HB49 (R. Smith), Ohio Board of Tax Appeals (BTA) Executive Director Kathleen Crowley said Thursday. The House version cut the board's budget by approximately \$27,000 in FY18 and \$28,000 in FY19 from the as-introduced executive budget, which was already proposing reduced funding levels from FY17.

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce's Research Foundation released findings of its business leader survey, which found its statewide "prosperity pulse" denotes a steady business economic health in the first quarter and it is projected to strengthen in the second.

EDUCATION

A student's "diminished expectation of privacy" allows schools to search untended book bags without a warrant in order to ensure their contents do not endanger fellow students or staff, a unanimous Supreme Court of Ohio ruled.

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) introduced HB220 to subject charter school funding to full state audits even when transferred to private management companies. According Leland's office, the bill would specify state funding remains designated as public funds even when transferred to a third-party management company that runs daily operations. That would subject the money to legal restrictions for permissible use as well as auditing by the state auditor.

The Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council (OFCF) is looking for school districts interested in a two-year pilot program to address student truancy, created as part of last year's overhaul of truancy statutes in HB410 (Hayes-Rezabek). Per the new law, which took effect in April, the OFCF is to establish the pilot program of multi-disciplinary truancy teams for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school year. Participating in the pilot program will suffice for compliance with some of the new law's

requirements related to forming absence intervention teams, according to a letter to schools from OFCF Director Chad Hibbs.

Referrals to the state for potential educator misconduct continued a general upward trend, though the increase was lower than that seen in the previous two years, according to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The department's Office of Professional Conduct recently released its annual report for 2016, showing 11,537 referrals, an 8.5 percent increase. That compares to increases of 17 percent seen in 2015 and 10.4 percent in 2014. The upward trend has generally continued, excepting small drops in 2009 and 2012, for the past decade. The report characterizes the referral volume as "relatively small," given the approximately 318,000 licensed educators in Ohio.

Several witnesses representing schools, teachers and technology companies Tuesday urged the House Education Committee to act on a proposal to create statewide computer science standards in Ohio. The proposal in HB170, sponsored by Reps. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville), would direct the State Board of Education to write the standards and allow for computer science courses to be used to fulfill course requirements for science and math, among other provisions.

ELECTIONS 2018

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) became the first Democrat in the 2018 secretary of state's race Tuesday, saying Ohio can and must encourage participation in elections and strengthen democracy.

U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Columbus) said Tuesday that he won't run for U.S. Senate in 2018, giving Treasurer Josh Mandel a clearer path to have a rematch against U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), who defeated him in 2012.

Less than 24 hours after Kathleen Clyde joined the 2018 secretary of state's race, Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Copley) officially threw his hat into the ring, setting up a primary on the Republican side against Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (Marysville).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

Developing, maintaining and preserving Ohio's trails will be the primary goals of a new legislative caucus, the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus, formed recently with both Democratic and Republican members from both the House and Senate. Co-chaired by Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Cortland), the caucus plans to develop pro-trails legislation and promote better coordination with state agencies.

Ohio House Democratic Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) announced Tuesday the start of a process to fill the vacancy in the 20th House District seat. The position was recently vacated by Heather Bishoff of Blacklick who resigned in order to pursue her financial planning business full-time and focus on her family.

Other bills on the floor Wednesday easily passed by unanimous or near-unanimous votes, including HB38 (Greenspan), that would up penalties for those who cause the death of a first responder or military member when the offender knew the victim was a first responder or military member and targeted the victim because of it; HB115 (Gavarone-Williams) that will create a voluntary database for law enforcement of people who have been diagnosed with a communication disorder; HB124 (Brenner-Carfagna), which would give voters another chance to vote on a levy from November 2015 that they missed because it was placed on the ballot in only one county where the district has territory; and SB24 (Terhar), to create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act.

Ohio schools could forego large-scale construction and renovation projects through the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) in favor of state assistance with smaller upgrades to meet specific needs under SB8 (Gardner-Terhar), which the Senate passed unanimously Wednesday. In addition, senators approved SB4 (Kunze-Oelslager) so people who've been trafficked can have their records expunged.

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) and the Capitol Square Foundation (CSF) will unveil the portraits of seven former speakers of the Ohio House of Representatives on Tuesday, May 23 at 11 a.m. in the Rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse.

In committee action this week, House Criminal Justice Committee reported out SB7 (Bacon-Manning), which changes the law concerning protection orders; House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee reported out HR85, which urges the federal government to make changes to environmental laws; House State and Local Government Committee reported out HB51 (Faber), which requires the Legislature's standing committees to review state agencies periodically, HB134 (Hambley-Kick), which changes school community improvement grants, and HB135 (Patmon), which designates June 12 as Superman Day; Senate Education Committee reported out SB8 (Gardner-Terhar), which requires the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program on school technology and infrastructure; House Health Committee reported out HB196 which designates October as "Ohio Chiropractic Awareness Month"; and House Transportation and Public Safety Committee reported out HB60 (Hambley-Rogers), which authorizes the issuance of an enhanced driver's license, and HB95 (Hughes-Seitz), which creates an enhanced penalty for distracted driving.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Office of the Ohio Public Defender (OPD), the ACLU of Ohio and the Children's Law Center (CLC) sent a letter to the Supreme Court of Ohio on Monday urging it to increase protections for children in the juvenile justice system relating to the right to appointed counsel. In 2012, the three groups led a successful effort to require that children facing a felony charge at least consult with an attorney before being permitted to waive that right. Now OPD, ACLU and CLC are calling on the Court to expand it to all cases in which a child might risk being placed outside the home.

TREASURER OF STATE

Central State University, Bowling Green State University and Central Ohio Technical College have posted tens of thousands of financial transactions online as part of the first wave of state institutions of higher education to join Treasurer Josh Mandel's Ohiocheckbook.com initiative.

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.