

info@oesca.org • **February 16, 2018**

This February 16, 2018 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 breaking news as well as the education bills of interest to Ohio's public education community introduced during the 132nd General Assembly. Bills are organized by last action date and include the full status updates with most recent activity listed first in descending order. There are also links to the state bill page for users to download any bills, analyses or fiscal notes. The document concludes with the latest news from Capitol Square.

Breaking News

House Republicans announced legislation Tuesday that would consolidate the Ohio Department of Education, the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and many of the responsibilities of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and State Board of Education under a new, cabinet-level agency, the Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement. See additional detail below under HB 512 and in the "In the News" section following the Legislative Tracking Report.

Legislative Tracking Report

BILL MONITORING

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

HB487 **RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL-COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (INGRAM C)** To eliminate the right of first refusal for community schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics schools in the acquisition of school district real property.

Current Status: 2/14/2018 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

All Bill Status: 1/30/2018 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Land Use

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-487>

HB491 **SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS-SPECIFIED SERVICES (EDWARDS J)** To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel.

Current Status: 2/20/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

All Bill Status: 2/14/2018 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
1/31/2018 - Introduced

Categories: Education

Priority: Tier 1 - High

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-491>

HB512 CONSOLIDATE CAREER-EDUCATION GOVERNANCE (REINEKE W) To establish the Department of Learning and Achievement; to abolish the Department of Higher Education, the position of the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Ohio Board of Regents; to transfer, with exceptions, the duties regarding the administration of primary and secondary education programs and all duties regarding the administration of higher education programs to the Department of Learning and Achievement; and to prescribe certain duties regarding educator licensure, community school sponsorship, and other education programs for the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Department of Education.

Current Status: 2/14/2018 - Introduced

Categories: Education, State Government

Priority: Tier 1 - High

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-512>

HB355 SEXTING UNDER 21 (HILL B, REZABEK J) To generally prohibit sexting by a person under 21 years of age.

Current Status: 2/13/2018 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

All Bill Status: 10/10/2017 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
9/21/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Crime & Punishment

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-355>

HB438 ESC ANNEXATION (HAMBLEY S, KICK D) To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service center boards and to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions.

Current Status: 2/20/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 2/13/2018 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
1/30/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
1/23/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
1/16/2018 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
12/7/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

Priority: Tier 1 - High

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-438>

HB442 SCHOOL ATHLETICS-F1 VISA (ANTANI N) To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who attends an elementary or secondary school in Ohio and holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school on the same basis as Ohio residents.

Current Status: 2/13/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 1/23/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
 1/16/2018 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
 12/7/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Arts, Sports & Entertainment
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-442>

SB216	PUBLIC SCHOOL DEREGULATION ACT (HUFFMAN M) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs.
	Current Status: 2/7/2018 - BILL AMENDED , Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)
	All Bill Status: 1/31/2018 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED , Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing) 12/13/2017 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing) 12/6/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing) 11/8/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing) 10/18/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education 10/18/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing) 10/10/2017 - Introduced
	Categories: Education, State Government
	Priority: Tier 1 - High
	State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-216

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

Current Status: 2/21/2018 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
All Bill Status: 2/7/2018 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
 1/17/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
 12/13/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 94-0
 12/13/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
 11/28/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fifth Hearing)
 11/14/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)
 9/12/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
 6/20/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
 2/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
 2/8/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
 2/1/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-21>

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: 2/21/2018 - Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 2/7/2018 - Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)
1/31/2018 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Education,
(Fourth Hearing)
4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

HB378 OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (SMITH R, CERA J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 2/20/2018 - House Finance, (Fourth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 2/6/2018 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)
12/12/2017 - House Finance, (Second Hearing)
11/28/2017 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
10/17/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance
10/10/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Energy & Utilities, Local Government, State Government

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-378>

SB239 REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (DOLAN M) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments.

Current Status: 1/31/2018 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

All Bill Status: 1/17/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
12/5/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Local Government, State Government

Priority: Tier 1 - High

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-239>

HB58 CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION (BRENNER A, SLABY M) To address the teaching of cursive handwriting.

Current Status: 1/31/2018 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Seventh Hearing)

All Bill Status: 1/24/2018 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Sixth Hearing)
1/23/2018 - Re-Referred to Committee
6/21/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)
6/7/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)
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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

HB377 **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE EDUCATION** (HAGAN C, RAMOS D) With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention.

Current Status: 1/30/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)

All Bill Status: 12/12/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

11/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

10/17/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

10/10/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Crime & Punishment, Education

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-377>

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

Current Status: 1/30/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)

All Bill Status: 1/23/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

1/16/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

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

6/6/2017 - Introduced

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

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: 1/24/2018 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Sixth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 11/29/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Fifth Hearing)

11/15/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Fourth Hearing)

11/1/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Third Hearing)

5/17/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)

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
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-87>

HB449 **CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSOR RATINGS-UNIVERSITIES** (ROGERS J, PATTERSON J) To require the Department of Education to attribute any community school sponsor ratings an entity received during its relationship with a state university board of trustees to that entity even if it no longer has a relationship with the university.

Current Status: 1/24/2018 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

All Bill Status: 1/16/2018 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
12/12/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Higher Education

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-449>

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: 1/23/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 10/24/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
5/16/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Children and Family Issues, Education, Public Safety

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-224>

HB383 **CHILD CARE HEALTH & SAFETY RISKS** (CARFAGNA R) Regarding parental notice of serious risks to the health or safety of children receiving child care.

Current Status: 1/17/2018 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Community and Family Advancement, (Fourth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 12/13/2017 - House Community and Family Advancement, (Third Hearing)
12/6/2017 - House Community and Family Advancement, (Second Hearing)
11/1/2017 - House Community and Family Advancement, (First Hearing)
10/17/2017 - Referred to Committee House Community and Family Advancement
10/11/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Children and Family Issues, Public Safety

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-383>

SB241 **ACCREDITED NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CATEGORY** (TERHAR L, THOMAS C) To establish a category of nonpublic schools called "accredited nonpublic schools" and to prescribe requirements and exemptions for such schools.

Current Status: 1/17/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
All Bill Status: 12/12/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, State Government
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-241>

SB246 **STUDENT SAFETY ACT** (LEHNER P, MANNING G) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades prekindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 1/17/2018 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
All Bill Status: 12/21/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, Public Safety
Priority: Tier 2 - Medium
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-246>

HB418 **SCHOOL RECORDS TRANSFER** (INGRAM C) To require a public or chartered nonpublic school to transmit a student's records within five business days when the student transfers to another school.

Current Status: 1/16/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
All Bill Status: 11/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
11/21/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-418>

HB443 **MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION** (SWEENEY M) To require school district boards of education to incorporate mental health instruction into their health education curricula.

Current Status: 1/16/2018 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
All Bill Status: 12/12/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, Mental Health & Disabilities
Priority: Tier 2 - Medium
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-443>

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: 1/16/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
	All Bill Status: 12/12/2017 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED , House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing) 9/12/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing) 6/6/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness 5/24/2017 - Introduced
	Categories: Education, Mental Health & Disabilities
	Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

HB338 **BUS DRIVER MEDICAL EXAMS** (GINTER T) Regarding medical examinations for school bus drivers.

Current Status: 12/13/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 93-0

All Bill Status: 12/13/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
12/5/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)
11/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
10/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
10/10/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
9/19/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
9/11/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Health Care, Transportation & Infrastructure

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-338>

HB360 **ANTI-BULLYING AND HAZING** (GREENSPAN D) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges.

Current Status: 12/12/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)

All Bill Status: 10/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
10/24/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
10/10/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
9/26/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Higher Education

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-360>

SB240 **REGARDING TEACHER EVALUATIONS** (LEHNER P) With regard to teacher evaluations.

Current Status: 12/12/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Local Government, Public Employees, State Government

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-240>

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: 12/12/2017 - House Finance, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 6/20/2017 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance
3/1/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Taxation, Transportation & Infrastructure

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

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

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: 12/5/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 10/24/2017 - 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)
5/1/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
4/5/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

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

HB426 SCHOOL SEXUAL CONDUCT (HAGAN C) To prohibit an employee of a school or institution of higher education who is not in a position of authority from engaging in sexual conduct with certain students.

Current Status: 12/5/2017 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

All Bill Status: 11/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
11/21/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Crime & Punishment, Education

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-426>

SB221 RULE-MAKING AND REVIEW REFORM (UECKER J) To reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof.

Current Status: 11/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 11/1/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)
10/25/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
10/19/2017 - Introduced

Categories: General Assembly, State Government

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-221>

HB320

LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK COUNCIL (HAGAN C, ROEGNER K) To create the Long-range Financial Outlook Council for the purpose of informing the public and the General Assembly about the financial status of the state by studying financial and other conditions and issuing an annual long-range financial outlook report.

Current Status: 11/28/2017 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 9/19/2017 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (First Hearing)
9/12/2017 - Referred to Committee House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development
8/15/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Budget and Appropriations, Economy, General Assembly, State Government

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-320>

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: 11/28/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Eighth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 11/14/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Seventh Hearing)
10/10/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Sixth Hearing)
6/20/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fifth Hearing)
6/13/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)
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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

SB34

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

Current Status: 11/8/2017 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

All Bill Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)
3/8/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
2/15/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
2/6/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

- HB318** **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEFINITION** (PATTERSON J, LATOURETTE S) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers.
Current Status: 10/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)
All Bill Status: 10/10/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)
9/12/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
8/9/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education
Priority: Tier 2 - Medium
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-318>
- HB363** **CAMPUS FREE SPEECH** (GOODMAN W, BRENNER A) To enact the "Campus Free Speech Act" with respect to the freedom of speech and assembly at state institutions of higher education and the charging and allocation of student activity fees.
Current Status: 10/25/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)
All Bill Status: 10/10/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development
9/26/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Civil and Human Rights, Higher Education
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-363>
- SB191** **ESTABLISH SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS** (SCHIAVONI J) To establish the Breakfast After The Bell Program for public schools.
Current Status: 10/25/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
All Bill Status: 9/14/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Children and Family Issues, Education
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-191>
- SB197** **SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES** (WILLIAMS S, BROWN E) To require a tiered disciplinary procedure for harassment, intimidation, or bullying in school; to require annual student instruction about preventing such acts; and to create the offense of aggravated bullying as a third-degree misdemeanor.
Current Status: 10/11/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
All Bill Status: 9/27/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
9/19/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Children and Family Issues, Crime & Punishment, Education, Justice & the Courts
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-197>
- 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: 10/11/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Sixth Hearing)
All Bill Status: 9/20/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fifth Hearing)
9/13/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)
6/21/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Third Hearing)
6/7/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)
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 & Workforce Development, Education, Jobs, Mental Health & Disabilities
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-166>

HB369 **PER PUPIL FUNDING GUARANTEE (SWEENEY M)** To prescribe a per pupil funding guarantee for certain school districts and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 2/20/2018 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
All Bill Status: 10/10/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance
10/2/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-369>

SB196 **AGGRAVATED BULLYING-OFFENSE CREATION (WILLIAMS S, BROWN E)** To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor.

Current Status: 10/3/2017 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)
All Bill Status: 9/27/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
9/19/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Children and Family Issues, Crime & Punishment, Education, Justice & the Courts
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-196>

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: 9/27/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
All Bill Status: 9/20/2017 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 85-9
9/20/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
6/20/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
6/13/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

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: 9/27/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 3/1/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

2/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

2/8/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

SB199

OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (SCHIAVONI J, HITE C) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 9/26/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Budget and Appropriations, Science & Technology, State Government

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-199>

SB104

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

Current Status: 9/20/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

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

3/21/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

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

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: 9/20/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Second Hearing)

All Bill Status: 5/31/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

5/16/2017 - Referred to Committee House Higher Education and Workforce Development

5/9/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Economic & Workforce Development, Jobs

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-203>

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: 9/12/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight

All Bill Status: 6/28/2017 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 24-9
6/28/2017 - Bills for Third Consideration
6/28/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Third Hearing)
3/29/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)
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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

HB322

SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANS (MILLER A, KENT B) To revise the law regarding emergency management plans and school safety drills; to require each educational service center to employ an emergency response planner; to make an appropriation; and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 9/12/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance

All Bill Status: 8/15/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, Public Safety

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-322>

SB175

RECOVERED FUNDS-SCHOOL AUDIT (SCHIAVONI J) 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: 9/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

All Bill Status: 8/7/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Education, State Government

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-175>

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)

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

Categories: Campaigns & Elections

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

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)

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

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

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

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

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

All Bill Status: 6/8/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Budget and Appropriations, General Assembly

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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: 6/20/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Aging and Long Term Care, (Third Hearing)

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

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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

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)

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

5/24/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance and Financial

Institutions
5/17/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education, Pension & Retirement System, Public Employees
Priority: Tier 2 - Medium
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-151>

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)
All Bill Status: 5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness
5/16/2017 - Introduced
Categories: Education
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-220>

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
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-54>

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: Addiction & Narcotics, Budget and Appropriations, Health Care, Mental Health & Disabilities
Priority: Tier 2 - Medium
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-154>

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

Priority: Tier 2 - Medium

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-37>

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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-47>

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
Priority: Tier 2 - Medium
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-85>

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
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-80>

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
Priority: Tier 3 - Low
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-129>

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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

HB53

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES-MEMBER DUES (BECKER J) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit public employers from requiring public employees to join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit an employee organization from being required to represent public employees who are not members of the employee organization, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 2/14/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance

All Bill Status: 2/13/2017 - Introduced

Categories: Budget and Appropriations, Labor, Public Employees, State Government

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-53>

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

Priority: Tier 3 - Low

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

In the News

House Republicans Push Legislation to Consolidate State Education Departments

Aiming to streamline Ohio's education-to-workforce pipeline, House Republicans announced legislation Wednesday that would significantly alter the state's public education system and the departments that oversee it.

Under HB512, sponsored by Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and much of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and State Board of Education would be combined under a new, cabinet-level agency, the Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement.

The goal, Reineke said, would be to align Ohio's education and workforce development bodies so the state can more efficiently respond to a changing job market.

"Every student has a purpose and our educational system needs to provide for that. There are severe workforce needs that are not being met ... We are not properly preparing students for the workforce," Reineke said. "This legislation allows us to properly prepare for what we call the new 'knowledge economy.'"

The new department would be headed by a cabinet-level director appointed by the governor. Deputy directors could be appointed to oversee various aspects of the department, but Reineke said the end result would be to reduce the size of the state's education governance while centralizing education and workforce-focused policymaking. Reineke said speeding up response times and turn-around for local districts is a priority in the legislation.

Meanwhile, the State Board of Education would be retained, as it is constitutionally established. Its members and the process for selecting them would also not be adjusted. However, its role in shaping education policy would be significantly reduced. It would oversee disciplinary issues, teacher licensing, chapter 119 administrative proceedings and district territory transfers in a role similar to other professional oversight bodies. The state superintendent's responsibilities would also be reduced, leaving them at the discretion of the board.

At the news conference, House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) emphasized that this legislation would be a major priority for House Republicans throughout the remainder of the year, similar to the OhioCorps opioid prevention bill HB508, announced last week.

"This bill is an extension of that [bill]. It's a hint to you all that this is going to be the Ohio House's mission for the rest of the year. It's continued focus on opioid issues ... but also, how we continue to align Ohio's education system to prepare ourselves for the workforce of tomorrow," Rosenberger said.

Joining Reineke were individuals representing the education and economic development fields in Tiffin. David R. Zak, president of the Seneca Industrial & Economic Development Corporation, said that despite robust economic growth, 70 percent of employers in the Tiffin area cannot find the workers they need.

"To move the needle of workforce development, I believe we need bold, innovative new ideas. I believe this is one of those," Zak said.

Reineke also noted that he serves on Gov. John Kasich's Workforce Transformation Task Force and said the administration supports the proposal.

"We're encouraged by an effort like this to improve the management and accountability of how the state supports students and frontline educators," Kasich Press Secretary Jon Keeling said in an email.

Speaking after Wednesday's news conference, Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) underlined the urgent need for change, noting that the state lags in middle school competencies and has an excess of students taking remedial classes at colleges and universities. He noted gaps in the health care and educational service sectors.

"Half the state's workforce, 2.5 million people, work in jobs today that are in jeopardy of going over to automation or other technology in the future. How are we going to fill that gap?" Carfagna said. "I look at all that and say we have to come up with a better plan. ... We need better synchronization across these three agencies."

In a news release, the Fordham Institute expressed support for the proposal.

"While the most important part of education happens every day in classrooms across Ohio, state leaders bear the responsibility of providing support and clear guidance to assist school districts in implementing education law," said Chad Aldis, Fordham's Ohio vice president. "By creating an agency under the direct oversight of the governor, the legislature would ensure that governors are unambiguously responsible --and accountable to the people -- for executing Ohio education laws."

Statewide education organizations representing superintendents, school boards and school business officials generally sympathized with notion that there are flaws in the current system, but expressed doubt that consolidating the departments would address the problems at hand.

"Moving to a model where the unique needs of kindergarten through 12th grade students are lost within an expanded bureaucracy would cause us great concern," Buckeye Association of School Administrators Executive Director Kirk Hamilton said in a statement.

"One important service to school districts is the implementation of Ohio's complicated and under-funded school-funding system," said Ohio Association of School Business Officials Executive Director Jim Rowan. "It is difficult to imagine how merging these varying interests will improve that process."

Ohio School Boards Association Executive Director Richard Lewis said, "This new House proposal would undermine the role and authority of the elected members of the State Board of Education. By stripping it of all but its regulatory role, the board would no longer be acting in any significant way on behalf of the citizens the members represent. At the core of our existence is the notion that education in Ohio will be at its best when the interests of the people are served through publicly elected boards. The State Board of Education is no exception.

"We believe that the goals of this bill can be accomplished without the merger of these departments. We also believe that under Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria, the education department has shown a commitment to working through problems that schools face. In some cases, a lack of resources is the source of the problem."

Rosenberger told reporters following House session that he disagrees with these organizations.

"I think we have to get prepared for a more advanced workforce in the future, and part of that is making sure we do streamline and make sure that agencies are more efficient. I think that this combination will be able to give us that and help us react at a quicker pace to the demanding workforce, but also to teachers, students and administrators at our schools," Rosenberger said.

"On top of that, I think that this bill will also be able to give us better accountability into the future. That's what I think is most important about the bill," he continued, pointing to the proposed agency's leadership structure in the legislation. He added that lawmakers are willing to work with stakeholders throughout the process.

"This is a bill process. It's going to go through the hearing process. Rep. Reineke welcomes interested party meetings and continued efforts to have conversations," Rosenberger said.

Rosenberger said he'd like the House to pass the bill before summer recess.

House Democrats were also quick to criticize the notion of changing the current system and tying the education system closer to the governor's office.

"At a time when for-profit schools are on trial for cheating taxpayers out of millions of dollars and failing to provide students an equal opportunity to succeed, Republicans want to politicize education and take away local control of schools. A bigger, mega-department of education will mean a tangled web of unresponsive, unaccountable appointed officials can more easily put special interests ahead of our children's best interests," Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) said in a statement.

"Creating a slower, bigger department for education isn't the answer our children and taxpayers deserve from Columbus. After \$1 billion dollars in cuts to good public schools and constantly changing edicts from the Statehouse, families, educators and our children are looking to us to help provide a stable, reliable and effective learning environment. Educators should run education in Ohio -- not politicians," Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) added in a statement.

HB512 has not yet been referred to committee.

Capitol Square in Review

FY18-19 BUDGET

While Office of Budget and Management (OBM) spokesman John Charlton attributed the January spike in revenue for the state to the federal tax reform passed in December, he cautioned that that "overage now will be balanced by refunds that are greater than we expected or return payments in April and May that are less than we expected." He also noted that OBM believes "taxpayers may have filed quarterly estimated payments early," thus affecting January's totals. Specifically, the state saw a \$204.0 million increase in revenue for the month over and above estimates for January 2018. That was almost exclusively driven by a nearly \$222.6 million or 24.9 percent increase over estimates for the personal income tax.

BUSINESS/CORPORATE

A recent survey of Ohio businesses conducted by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce examining their views on the current state of the economy found that optimism was prevalent in the fourth quarter of 2017, with 86 percent of businesses surveyed rating the current economic climate "good to excellent," up from 70 percent in quarter three of 2017. The chamber attributed the business community's bolstered confidence to the recently passed federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which it said was finalized "right before" the survey was distributed.

CHILDREN/FAMILIES

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) threw his weight behind pending legislation Thursday that would create a General Revenue funded (GRF) pilot program at Ohio colleges and universities supporting student mentors to at-risk youth threatened by the opioid epidemic. Low-income primary and secondary school students facing drug use at home would be matched to college mentors and volunteer in their communities, earning scholarship money toward their own higher education.

EDUCATION

Ohio's general education school voucher program has started accepting applications and will do so through April. The Feb. 1-April 30 window allows families to apply for EdChoice and the Cleveland Scholarship vouchers to attend participating private schools. Ohio's Autism Scholarship and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship programs offer rolling admissions throughout the year.

Up to 50 school districts across the U.S. could get greater flexibility in spending federal education money under a pilot program announced by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). The pilot program, authorized by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, will relax rules on federal funding to enable blending of federal, state and local dollars to create "student-centered funding systems."

Though participation is up 10 percent in the past few years, summer feeding programs still aren't reaching all the families in need, says the Ohio Department of Education, which is looking for more organizations willing to host free meals for students.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) opened the application period this week for Community Connectors, the mentorship program created by the Kasich administration. In this fourth round of grants, \$8 million is available to be distributed in grant amounts of up to \$150,000 per project. The state provides a \$3 match for every \$1 provided by local applicants.

ELECTIONS 2018

While the Republican race for governor had fallen to two names by the filing deadline -- Mike DeWine and Mary Taylor -- eight Democrats filed for the May primary by Wednesday's deadline, including 2014 candidate Larry Ealy. Other Democrats who filed included Richard Codray, Dennis Kucinich, Bill O'Neill, Connie Pillich and Joe Schiavoni. They were joined by Paul Ray and Jonathan Heavey, a Cleveland Clinic doctor who has put \$1.5 million of his own money into his campaign.

Meanwhile, legislative caucuses announced their candidate slates, expressing confidence that they will lead to pickups for their respective sides in November. The House Democratic Caucus (OHDC) said it had filed candidates in all 99 House races, though a few are running as write-in candidates. Senate Democrats also said they had filed candidates in all 17 seats on the ballot.

Some of the races see current and former Democratic legislators going up against each other for Senate seats. That includes the 9th District where former Rep. Dale Mallory is challenging Sen. Cecil Thomas; the 11th District, where Reps. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) are looking to succeed term-limited Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo); the 21st District, where Rep. Bill Patmon (D-Cleveland) is challenging Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland); the 23rd Senate District, where Reps. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Martin Sweeney (D-Cleveland) are looking to replace Sen. Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood), who is term-limited; and the 25th District, where Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland) is challenging Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights).

Two open congressional seats this year are already seeing a burst of fundraising, according to new reports filed this week with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC). U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi stepped down from his seat last month, and new candidates are coming forward weekly to fill the seat. Sen. Troy Balderson reported the most money raised in a short amount of time, and has \$122,805 on hand, followed by Republican John Halverstadt and Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien.

In the 16th Congressional District, where U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Wadsworth) is running for the U.S. Senate, former Ohio State football standout Anthony Gonzalez is leading the pack in fundraising.

Citing the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow saga, the use of for-profit management companies and the effect on local school budgets, former Democratic U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich said Friday that as governor he would put charter schools largely under the control of local boards of education, among other policy proposals.

Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor said he will run for the Democratic nomination for Ohio's 12th Congressional District, which has been vacant since former U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Columbus) stepped down last month.

Rachel Crooks announced she will be running for the Democratic nomination for the 88th House District. A Tiffin resident, she has worked in higher education administration at Heidelberg and Tiffin universities, focusing on international student recruitment and services. The *Columbus Dispatch* reported that Crooks is also a former Trump Tower receptionist who came forward along with other women to accuse President Donald Trump of sexual harassment. Trump has denied the accusations of the women.

Dublin School Board member Stu Harris announced he is running for the Republican nomination for the 21st House District seat currently held by the term-limited Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). Harris has served on the school board for 12 years. A lawyer, he works at Nationwide Insurance. Duffey has endorsed Harris for the seat.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni's (D-Austintown) gubernatorial campaign launched a new ad recently featuring a testimonial from one of his workers' compensation clients, Joamie. Schiavoni said Joamie's story depicts one of the many times throughout his career when he fought for what is right, despite the odds.

Another Democrat has filed to run for Ohio Supreme Court, joining fellow Democrat Michael P. Donnelly in seeking one of two seats on the ballot this year. Eighth Appellate District Judge Melody

Stewart is seeking to challenge newly appointed Justice Mary DeGenaro. Donnelly is seeking the seat currently held by Justice Terrence O'Donnell, who cannot run for re-election due to age limits. Fifth District Court of Appeals Judge Craig Baldwin is seeking the Republican nomination for O'Donnell's seat.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray's campaign committee announced Tuesday that Michael Halle will serve as Cordray's campaign manager.

A national Democratic group that targets state races based on the office's ability to influence redistricting announced a number of Ohio statewide offices where it will be working to elect Democrats. Ohio is one of 12 states that the National Democratic Redistricting Group (NDRG) is targeting and one of nine gubernatorial races. The group is led by former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio announced the endorsement of 24 Democrats in state legislative and the secretary of state races, saying it was issuing the early endorsements because the candidates have shown they have stood with the organization.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich held a press conference Thursday with running mate Tara Samples to announce that he would make rebuilding the \$330 million Western Hills Viaduct in Cincinnati one of his first capital improvement priorities. Kucinich said the viaduct has been in steady deterioration and has raised concerns for drivers. He said start-up money would come from tapping into the state's Rainy Day Fund, with the rest coming from general obligation bonds.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

Nonfarm payroll employment went up by 200,000 jobs in January, according to new figures released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Friday, and the national unemployment rate remained at 4.1 percent for the fourth consecutive month. BLS said the number of unemployed persons was 6.7 million for January and changed little over the month. Among major groups, the unemployment rate for blacks increased to 7.7 percent and edged down for whites to 3.5 percent. The unemployment rates for adult men (3.9 percent), adult women (3.6 percent), teenagers (13.9 percent), Asians (3.0 percent) and Hispanics (5.0 percent) showed little change.

GAMING/GAMBLING

Ohio's casinos saw a drop in revenues in January, according to new figures released Wednesday, while the seven racinos saw an increase over the same period last year. The Ohio Casino Control Commission said the four casinos earned \$63 million in January, down from nearly \$64 million in January 2017 and down from \$70.1 million in December.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) will celebrate Black History Month throughout February with a special art exhibit and free historical performances each Tuesday at noon.

A \$50,000 grant from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation has been awarded to the Capitol Square Foundation (CSF) in support of "Enriching the Experience II," a campaign to raise \$1.5 million to upgrade exhibits and technology at the Ohio Statehouse Museum. Open since 2009, the interactive museum was the first hands-on civics educational experience in the U.S. located in a working Statehouse. The "Enriching the Experience II" campaign is expected to run through 2018.

The Senate Wednesday unanimously passed legislation that would make Ohio's sales tax holiday in August permanent, something the sponsor said is needed so lawmakers don't have to scramble to get it done every year. SB226 (Bacon) would keep the same guidelines as the previous years and make the first weekend in August the default schedule.

Also passing the Senate was SB105 (Tavares), designating the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month." Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus) said the bill honors the service of elementary, middle, and high school principals and recognizes the importance of their leadership. The bill passed 31-0.

In other legislative action, the House State and Local Government Committee reported out HB453 (Greenspan) regarding a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund; and the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee reported out HB410 (Seitz-Butler) which deals with civil actions concerning traffic violations.

GOVERNOR

Gov. John R. Kasich has invited Ohioans interested in attending the 2018 "State of the State" address at Fritsche Theatre at Otterbein University to submit their names online at www.Governor.Ohio.Gov to be eligible for a random ticket lottery. The speech will be in Westerville on Tuesday, March 6, beginning at 7 p.m.

Gov. John Kasich Thursday signed the following six bills into law. All become effective in 90 days except HB145 (Huffman-Sprague), which became effective Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018.

- **HB252** (Huffman) which designates the month of January as "Blood Donor Awareness Month."
- **HB165** (Gonzales- Conditt) which designates June as "Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month."
- **HB362** (Carfagna-Ramos) which revises the law governing the State Highway Patrol Retirement System.
- **HB52** (Rezabek) which regulates the solicitation of certain deeds.
- **HB145** (Huffman-Sprague) which provides for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of impaired practitioners regulated by the State Medical Board, modifies the laws governing the board's regulation of dietitians and respiratory care professionals, makes other changes in the laws administered by the board, provides that the General Assembly's authorization is needed before long-term care services are further included in the Medicaid managed care system.
- **SB70** (Coley) which amends the child support laws.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Former foster youth can get help with housing, employment and health care under a new program launched this week by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio (CFHCO). The new "Bridges" program is meant to help those between ages 18 and 21 who were in foster care to become independent in adulthood. It was enabled by enactment of 131-HB50 (Pelanda-Grossman), which extended foster care and adoption supports to age 21.

Advocates for increasing access to dental care in underserved parts of the state were at the Statehouse Tuesday to urge lawmakers to support a bill that would allow for the training of new mid-level care providers. Dentists and citizen advocates associated with the United Health Care Action Network's "Dental Access Now!" campaign in support of SB98 (Lehner-Thomas), which would allow the state to license and train dental therapists, a mid-level provider that focuses on preventive care and minor services like teeth cleaning and extractions.

HIGHER EDUCATION

A new report from the Council for Aid to Education (CAE) ranks Ohio State University at 19th nationally in charitable contributions to colleges and universities in the U.S. The numbers were part of the CAE's annual Voluntary Support of Education survey. CAE said charitable contributions to colleges and universities in the U.S. increased by 6.3 percent in 2017. At \$43.6 billion, CAE said the 2017 total is the highest level reported since the survey's inception in 1957.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), working in partnership with the Inter-University Council and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, has been selected to receive a \$2.1 million grant from Strong Start to Finish (SSTF) aimed at getting students on successful pathways to college completion while also addressing attainment gaps for historically underserved populations.

Ohio State University announced that Gail Marsh has been named the university's first chief strategy officer. Marsh brings more than three decades of experience to Ohio State. She has served as senior associate vice president in the Office of Health Sciences and chief strategy officer for the Wexner Medical Center since 2003.

PENSIONS

Public workers and retirees argued Tuesday that their state pension system is strong enough to avoid proposed cuts to inflationary benefit payments, but system leadership insisted the cuts are necessary for long-term stability. Several people, including Public Employee Retirees Inc. (PERI) President Geoff Hetrick, urged the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee to reject HB413 (Scherer), which proposes a reduction in annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). But Karen Carraher, CEO of OPERS, said system leadership is "unwavering" in its belief the changes are necessary.

PEOPLE

The funeral for former state legislator John R. Bender Jr., who died Friday, Feb. 2 at the age of 79, was held on Thursday, Feb. 8. Bender served in the Ohio House from 1993 to 2000 and on the State Board of Education from 2007 to 2010.

POVERTY

Echoing the goals of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign started by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, organizers at the Ohio Statehouse said they would begin "40 days of action" to address issues of poverty and voting rights beginning on Mother's Day, May 13. The movement, part of efforts in 31 other states and the District of Columbia, will include "nonviolent civil protest" and "direct action" according to organizers, though they did not specify their plans beyond saying they would "risk arrest" as part of a historic wave of civil disobedience.

REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT

After weeks of negotiations, state legislators and members of the Fair Districts=Fair Elections Coalition hammered out a compromise plan to reform the congressional redistricting process over the weekend. After the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee unanimously approved the substitute version of SJR5 (Huffman) Monday afternoon, the full Senate voted 31-0 Monday night to advance the measure to the House where on Tuesday, the resolution cleared the House Rules and Reference Committee and was passed by the full House 82-10. The issue will now appear on the May ballot. Those voting against the resolution in the House included Reps. John Bocchieri (D-Poland), Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) and Dan Ramos (D-Lorain), Adam Miller (D-Columbus), John Becker (R-Cincinnati), Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati), Bill Dean (R-Xenia), Candace Keller (R-Middletown), Nino Vitale (R-Urbana) and Paul Zeltwanger (R-Mason).

Redistricting sponsor Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) called the deal "historic," during the Senate session, noting the proposal requires "significant" bipartisan cooperation and is the first of its kind in the U.S. The plan specifies that 65 counties cannot be split at all, 18 can be split once and five can be split twice. The cities of Cleveland and Cincinnati would remain whole within their districts. Any map would be subject to a governor's veto or voter referendum.

Meanwhile, the Fair Districts=Fair Elections Coalition, which was circulating its own petitions to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot but was also part of discussions on SJR5, said it will continue to collect signatures in case the May ballot issue fails. Ohio State University Professor Emeritus and co-author of the Fair Districts proposal Richard Gunther told *Hannah News*, "We will maintain our active coalition. We will continue to collect signatures. We will continue to collect financial support for the campaign."

TOBACCO/SMOKING

The per-person total cost of smoking for an Ohioan who smokes a pack a day starting at age 18 is slightly more than \$28,000 a year, according to a recent report by personal finance site WalletHub. The report found that Ohio is 27th among the 50 states and District of Columbia in a ranking of the highest per-person costs. The total sum was calculated by adding out-of-pocket costs for tobacco, "financial opportunity" costs, health care costs, income loss and other costs, said WalletHub. They also calculated lifetime cost totals for a smoker who uses one pack each day from 18 until 69, saying that 69 is the average age a smoker lives.

UNIONS

Leaders and members of the country's four largest public sector unions gathered Wednesday to preview a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case and their plans to rally workers ahead of oral arguments on the lawsuit. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Monday, Feb. 26 in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, a case in which justices will consider whether to reverse the court's 1977 ruling in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which held it's constitutional to require workers to pay dues to unions they don't belong to but that represent employees at their public sector workplace.

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