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This June 11, 2019 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 133rd General Assembly. Bills are organized by last action date and include the current status 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 on ESCs and from Capitol Square.

Budget News

The Ohio Senate has introduced its version of the substitute budget bill today (Am. Sub. H.B. 166). Additional review and analysis is forthcoming. However, a copy of the bill can be found online at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA133-HB-166>.

Last week, Senate President Larry Obhoff stated about the Senate budget, "I believe in the general principle that stability and consistency is important to have, overall," Obhof said. "I can tell you that the bill that passes the Senate will have a significant net tax cut in it. I believe the House bill, notwithstanding what happened on the [small business tax deduction], had a net tax cut as well."

Administrative Rules Update

Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-11 Preschool children eligible for special education was recently reviewed by the Ohio Department of Education and was approved by the State Board of Education in May 2019. View the proposed changes to the rule, along with a Business Impact Analysis on the [Department's website](#). You may provide comments about this rule by email to rulecomments@education.ohio.gov with a copy to CSIPublicComments@governor.ohio.gov no later than June 18, 2019.

OAC 3301-51-11 Preschool children eligible for special education is being amended as a result of House Bill 49, 132nd General Assembly, which requires the State Board of Education's rules to require the staffing ratios for programs with preschool children with disabilities to be in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §3323.022. This is the fourth opportunity for public comment, as revisions have been made since an April 2019 public comment period and stakeholder engagement during 2018 and 2019. The posted rule includes notations of changes.

Legislative Tracking Report

BILL MONITORING

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

HB166 OPERATING BUDGET (OELSLAGER S) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

Current Status: 6/17/2019 - Senate Finance, (Eleventh Hearing)

Recent Status: 6/14/2019 - Senate Finance, (Tenth Hearing)
6/13/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-166>

HB165 HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS (LISTON B, GALONSKI T) Regarding the adoption of health education standards.

Current Status: 6/4/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
4/2/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-165>

HB12 CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK (MANNING D, WEST T) To create the Ohio Children's Behavioral Health Prevention Network Stakeholder Group.

Current Status: 6/11/2019 - House Health, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 6/4/2019 - House Health, (Second Hearing)
5/28/2019 - House Health, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-12>

HB90 UNBORN CHILD EDUCATION (ANTANI N) To require the development of an instructional program and educational and informational materials and the dissemination of those materials to protect the humanity of the unborn child.

Current Status: 6/4/2019 - House Health, (Sixth Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/28/2019 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Health, (Fifth Hearing)
4/30/2019 - House Health, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-90>

SB147 OHIO SCHOOL MARSHAL PROGRAM (HOAGLAND F) To create the Ohio School Marshal Program.

Current Status: 6/4/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs

Recent Status: 5/9/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-147>

SB4 SCHOOL FACILITIES ASSISTANCE (RULLI M, KUNZE S) To make a capital appropriation for school facilities assistance.

Current Status: 5/29/2019 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Finance, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 5/23/2019 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
5/14/2019 - Re-Referred to Committee

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-4>

HB164 STUDENT RELIGIOUS RIGHTS (GINTER T) Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2019."

Current Status: 5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 4/30/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
4/2/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-164>

HB123 SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING (HOLMES G, MANNING G) With regard to school security and youth suicide awareness education and training.

Current Status: 6/11/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/28/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)
5/21/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-123>

HB231 FREE EPINEPHRINE PROGRAMS (GREENSPAN D) To require the Department of Education to notify public and private schools of free epinephrine autoinjector programs and to enact the "Allison Rose Suhy Act" with regard to food allergy training for public schools and institutions of higher education.

Current Status: 5/21/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/8/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
5/2/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-231>

HB154 DISSOLVE DISTRESS COMMISSIONS (MILLER J, JONES D) To dissolve academic distress commissions and to instead require the creation of community learning centers for buildings in low-performing school districts.

Current Status: 5/15/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
Recent Status: 5/1/2019 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 83-12
4/30/2019 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-154>

SB26 TAX DEDUCTION-TEACHER CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (KUNZE S) To authorize a state income tax deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses for professional development and classroom supplies.

Current Status: 5/14/2019 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
Recent Status: 5/8/2019 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 32-0
5/8/2019 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-26>

SB121 HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS (SYKES V, KUNZE S) To require the State Board of Education to adopt health education standards and to require that only statewide venereal disease education standards and curriculum be approved by the General Assembly.

Current Status: 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
3/26/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-121>

SB89

CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION (HUFFMAN M) With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in enterprise zones.

Current Status: 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 4/2/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
3/19/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-89>

SB102

DYSLEXIA SCREENING PROGRAM (BRENNER A, LEHNER P) To establish the Dyslexia Screening Program for school districts and other public schools.

Current Status: 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
3/21/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-102>

SB34

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND EDUCATOR LICENSURE (KUNZE S) Regarding school employee employment and educator licensure and conduct.

Current Status: 5/7/2019 - Senate Education, (Fifth Hearing)

Recent Status: 4/9/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-34>

SB128

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS (HUFFMAN M) To make changes to the Educational Choice Scholarship Program and the Cleveland Scholarship Program.

Current Status: 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

Recent Status: 4/9/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-128>

SB126

CRISIS ASSESSMENTS-SUICIDAL YOUTH (MANNING N) To authorize a mental health professional to provide a crisis assessment, without parental consent, to a minor who is or is believed to be suicidal and to make an appropriation to support the employment of social workers or mental or behavioral health professionals at educational service centers.

Current Status: 5/1/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid

Recent Status: 4/9/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-126>

HB23

F-1 VISA SCHOOL ATHLETICS (ANTANI N) To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Current Status: 4/30/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-23>

SB109 **WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** (SCHURING K) To establish the Workforce Scholarship Program, to terminate the provisions of the Scholarship Program on December 31, 2023, to authorize tax credits for graduates of the Scholarship Program and their employers, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 4/24/2019 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/21/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
3/13/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-109>

SB134 **PASSING SCHOOL BUSES** (GAVARONE T) To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus, to create a new offense for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault related to improperly passing a stopped school bus, to make an appropriation, and to designate this the School Bus Safety Act.

Current Status: 4/22/2019 - Introduced

Recent Status:

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-134>

SB110 **ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS** (MANNING N) To modify the operation of academic distress commissions in certain school districts.

Current Status: 4/9/2019 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

Recent Status: 4/2/2019 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)
3/26/2019 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-110>

HB127 **DISTRESS COMMISSION MORATORIUM** (SMITH K, HAMBLEY S) To prohibit the creation of new academic distress commissions.

Current Status: 4/9/2019 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-127>

HB62 **TRANSPORTATION BUDGET** (OELSLAGER S) To increase the rate of and modify the distribution of revenue from motor fuel excise taxes, to make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2021, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

Current Status: 4/3/2019 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days, Taxes eff. 7/1/19

Recent Status: 4/3/2019 - Sent to Governor for Signature
4/2/2019 - Consideration of Conference Committee Report; Senate Accepts Conference Committee Report, Vote 22-10

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-62>

- HB132 SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS (MANNING D)** Regarding notice of school child immunization requirements and exemptions.
Current Status: 4/2/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/19/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
3/12/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-132>
- SB104 INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT (HILL B)** Regarding funding for students enrolled in community schools, STEM schools, and other districts through interdistrict open enrollment.
Current Status: 3/27/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
Recent Status: 3/13/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-104>
- HB111 SCHOOL RECORD TRANSFER (INGRAM C)** To require that public and private schools transmit a transferred student's records within five school days.
Current Status: 6/11/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-111>
- HB121 TAX CREDIT-CLASSROOM MATERIALS (SCHAFFER T)** To allow a credit against the personal income tax for amounts spent by teachers for instructional materials.
Current Status: 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
3/5/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-121>
- HB118 SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (MANNING D)** Regarding student transportation to and from school.
Current Status: 3/19/2019 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Transportation and Public Safety
3/4/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-118>
- HB122 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (KOEHLER K)** To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.
Current Status: 3/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
3/5/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-122>

SB81 **PROHIBIT USE OF SECLUSION IN SCHOOLS** (MAHARATH T) To prohibit the use of seclusion in public schools.

Current Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Education
Recent Status: 3/6/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-81>

SB85 **SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS** (MAHARATH T) To establish signage requirements for indicating school zones for speed limit purposes, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 3/12/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
Recent Status: 3/6/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-85>

HB83 **SCHOOL BUS PHOTO EVIDENCE** (BROWN R, SCHAFFER T) To allow images captured by a camera installed on a school bus to be used as corroborating evidence for the offense of failing to stop for a school bus.

Current Status: 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
Recent Status: 2/19/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-83>

HB89 **FAILURE TO STOP-SCHOOL BUS** (ANTANI N) To enhance the penalties for failing to properly stop for a school bus, to establish requirements related to informing the public about that prohibition, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
Recent Status: 2/20/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-89>

HB105 **SCHOOL BUS STOP** (BROWN R, SCHERER G) To enhance the penalty for failing to stop for a school bus that is picking up or dropping off school children when the offender has a prior violation within a five-year period.

Current Status: 3/5/2019 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
Recent Status: 2/26/2019 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-105>

HB43 **SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY ACQUISITION** (INGRAM C) To eliminate the right of first refusal for certain schools in the acquisition of school district real property.

Current Status: 6/11/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)
Recent Status: 2/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)
2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-43>

HB22 OFCC ODE-SCHOOL BUILDING AMENITIES (ANTANI N) To require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and the Department of Education to conduct a study regarding certain school building amenities.

Current Status: 2/19/2019 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

Recent Status: 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
2/12/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-22>

HB44 SNAP FEDERAL FUNDING (HOLMES G, MILLER A) To make an appropriation to continue to fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children contingent upon a lapse in federal funding

Current Status: 2/12/2019 - Referred to Committee House Health

Recent Status: 2/12/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-44>

HR11 HOUSE RULES ADOPTION (HOUSEHOLDER L) Relative to the adoption of the House Rules for the 133rd General Assembly.

Current Status: 2/6/2019 - **ADOPTED BY HOUSE**; Vote 97-0

Recent Status: 2/6/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HR-11>

SR24 SENATE RULES (HUFFMAN M) Adopts the rules of the Senate for the 133rd General Assembly.

Current Status: 2/6/2019 - **ADOPTED BY SENATE**; Vote 29-0

Recent Status: 2/6/2019 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SR-24>

Capitol Square in Review

EDUCATION

The attorney general's office asked the judge overseeing a collections case against Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) founder William Lager to put a lien on two of his Ohio properties to help settle any final judgement for recovery in the case. Attorney General Dave Yost's office filed a motion for pre-judgement attachment for properties in Columbus and Senecaville. Success for the state on the motion and the case would mean Lager could not sell the properties free and clear without first paying the judgement the court enters against him.

Many of the existing testing requirements and measures in the report card for dropout recovery and prevention (DRP) schools often don't align with their unique model and challenges, representatives from multiple schools said Monday. The group joined State Board of Education members John Hagan

and Lisa Woods in Columbus for the first meeting of a work group examining issues faced by DRP schools.

The Ohio Board of Building Standards asked Attorney General Dave Yost recently for a formal opinion on which schools qualify for a moratorium now in effect on building code provisions that require new schools to be built with storm shelters.

Teachers, students, administrators and union officials cheered a legislative proposal Tuesday to scale back Ohio's state testing regimen, saying it will free up instructional time, lessen students' anxiety and prompt schools to re-examine their own local assessment requirements. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee convened a hearing for proponent testimony on HB239, legislation from Reps. Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville) and Erica Crawley (D-Columbus) to eliminate four high school end-of-course exams: English language arts I, geometry, American history and American government. It also makes student participation voluntary for 11th grade administration of the ACT or SAT, and requires school districts to gather local work groups to review their own testing mandates.

The Education Management Information System (EMIS) Advisory Council voted Wednesday to approve a report recommending 13 priority improvements to EMIS, which collects information on students and schools for purposes of state funding, report cards and various other uses.

ELECTIONS 2020

A community activist Tuesday announced she will be running for the Democratic nomination for Ohio Senate District 16. The seat is currently held by Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hillard), who is expected to run for re-election. Crystal Lett said her campaign will highlight her advocacy for affordable health care after her family's personal struggle with medical costs related to her son's rare genetic disorder.

ENERGY

FirstEnergy Solutions (FES), which supports state-mandated subsidies for its two Ohio nuclear plants in HB6 (Callender-Wilkin), and American Petroleum Institute (API), which opposes the bill's incentives as hostile to natural gas generation, sent the General Assembly dueling, out-of-state lobbyists Tuesday to argue for and against the future profitability of nuclear energy and the workability of PJM Interconnection's wholesale market.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) current and former chairman agreed Wednesday that Ohio's status as a net importer of electricity is irrelevant to PJM Interconnection's ability to meet the state's power needs reliably and at the lowest possible cost. PUCO Chairman Sam Randazzo and Executive Director Asim Haque of PJM's office of strategic policy and external affairs addressed the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee on the 13-state regional wholesale market and HB6's (Callender-Wilkin) larger focus on nuclear energy subsidies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

House Democrats seated Gil Blair, a Weathersfield Township trustee and municipal court prosecutor, to fill the vacant 63rd District House seat, left vacant by former Rep. Glenn Holmes' (D-McDonald) appointment to the Ohio Parole Board.

Six people applied to the House Republican caucus to fill an upcoming vacancy in the 89th District seat, from which Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) plans to retire this summer. The applicants are

Quinton Babcock, mayor of Oak Harbor; Nathan Daniels of Curtice, an attorney working as special counsel in the Oregon Municipal Court; Daniel Frederick, an architect and Milan Township trustee; Judge Frederick Hany II of Ottawa County Municipal Court; Jeffrey Krabill of Sandusky, Sandusky Board of Education president and business owner, who ran for the House in 2010; and Doug Swearingen Jr. of Huron, attorney with the firm Wickens, Herzer, Panza.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) on Monday welcomed Suzanna "Suzie" Dawson of Granville to the Ohio Senate, where she will serve as sergeant at arms. Dawson, a retired Granville Police Department lieutenant, is the first female officer to join the Senate's sergeant at arms team, which provides security for lawmakers, staff and the general public when they are visiting the Senate chamber, offices and committee rooms.

In addition to passing the workers' compensation budget, HB80 (Oelsalger), the House voted Wednesday to pass HB136 (Hillyer), prohibiting the death penalty for aggravated murder when the offender had a serious mental illness at the time of the offense; and HB189 (Blessing-Patterson), regarding amusement ride safety inspections.

Thursday's House session included passage of two bipartisan priority bills: HB4 (Richardson-Robinson), regarding workforce development; and HB8 (Manchester-Galonski), regarding foster care.

House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) this week handed down committee assignments for the three most recent additions to the House, Reps. Gil Blair (D-Mineral Ridge), Diane Grendell (R-Chesterland) and Jeff LaRe (R-Canal Winchester), in addition to making a variety of other changes.

In other legislative action, House Health Committee reported out HB8 (Manchester-Galonski), regarding foster care; HB10 (Brown-Stoltzfus), to establish the Governor's Office of Drug Policy; HB14 (Boyd-Baldrige), regarding kinship care; and HB63 (Lipps-West), regarding pharmacy benefit managers; House Transportation and Public Safety Committee reported out HB211 (Arndt), regarding titles for abandoned watercraft; House State and Local Government Committee reported out HB235 (Miranda-Kelley), to designate the sugar cookie as the official cookie of Ohio; and Senate Finance Committee reported out SB39 (Schuring), regarding development tax credits.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The University of Dayton (UD) Board of Trustees recently approved the creation of two new degree programs: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in sustainability. The two new degrees will be housed in UD's College of Arts and Sciences, which currently offers a minor in sustainability, as well as a 12 credit-hour graduate certificate program. UD's School of Engineering has a master's program in renewable and clean energy.

The Miami University Board of Trustees recently approved the creation of two new Bachelor of Arts programs in data analytics and organization leadership, as well as the creation of the interactive media studies (IMS) department within its College of Creative Arts.

Youngstown State University (YSU) will establish its 11th endowed faculty position in gerontology thanks to a recent \$1.6 million donation to its "We See Tomorrow" fundraising campaign. The gift comes from Jack and Nuggie DePizzo, developers who owned and operated more than 30 senior care facilities in the region.

Former Ohio State University students visited the Statehouse Tuesday to tell of their experiences with anxiety, trust issues, sleeplessness, depression and other symptoms from encounters with the late Dr. Richard Strauss, whom investigators have implicated in dozens upon dozens of sexual abuse cases from his time as a physician with university sports programs and the student health center. The men joined Rep. Brett Hillyer (R-Uhrichsville) for a press conference Tuesday to call for passage of his HB249, legislation to grant victims of Strauss an exception to the statute of limitations for bringing claims against OSU.

LIBRARIES

Public libraries do not prohibit speech at their facilities based on content, the Ohio Library Council (OLC) said Monday, responding to pressure from conservative activists and House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) to ban LGBTQ programs involving drag artists and entertainers. Two planned LGBTQ events in Central Ohio were recently moved to non-library locations following threats and misinformation, OLC said, noting the programs were requested by individuals in the communities to coincide with LGBTQ Pride Month. Householder recently sent a letter to OLC and Newark's Emerson R. Miller Library demanding the prohibition of drag-related programs at public libraries.

The Ohio Library Council (OLC) announced Wednesday that Michelle Francis, director of government and legal services, will become executive director following the retirement of current Executive Director Doug Evans on Friday, June 28.

actionTRACK - Hannah News Service, Inc.

This Legislative e-Update is a service of OESCA and is intended to provide updated information on the legislative issues of interest to Ohio's ESCs, OESCA members & interested parties and is made available by Hannah News Services.