



**GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.**

17 SOUTH HIGH STREET - SUITE 245

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3413

PHONE: 614-461-9335

FAX: 614-461-9336

**Ohio Speech and Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition  
Legislative Activities Report  
March 2018**

After wrapping up work on a comprehensive congressional redistricting reform proposal (SJR 5), lawmakers turned their focus to the \$2.63 billion capital appropriations measure for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020. Hearings have already begun on companion bills (HB 529 and SB 266), which were introduced in each chamber in order to expedite the process. As expected, the details of the capital budget proposal have already been hashed out between the caucuses and administration and the legislature should have no problem meeting the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to have the capital bill passed and signed into law.

Governor Kasich delivered his final State of the State address on March 6<sup>th</sup> in Westerville, Ohio. Most of the speech focused on the six principles that he said guided his administration's work. Although his remarks were mostly aspirational, Gov. Kasich did specifically reference funding in the capital budget for a new behavioral health facility on the Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare campus in Columbus. The facility will replace the 1977 center with high-quality care and improved safety for patients, staff, and the community. He also announced the creation of a new state park and wildlife area in Morgan and Muskingum counties, which will be named the Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area. The park is possible thanks to the purchase of former AEP owned land. The new state park will begin at 13,000 acres and could ultimately grow to as many as 60,00 acres, making it the largest in the state.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, Ohio Medicaid released its work requirement waiver application for public comment. You will recall that the biennial budget bill required Ohio Medicaid to seek a waiver that would allow them to require all expansion enrollees to work in order to maintain

eligibility. More specifically, the language stated that Medicaid consumers in the expansion population (100% – 138% FPL) would lose eligibility unless they were in one of the following categories:

- Over 55;
- Employed or in a job training program;
- In school;
- In treatment; or
- Diagnosed with serious physical or mental health illnesses.

Medicaid contends that the waiver will not have the effect of kicking many consumers off Medicaid. Rather, they contend that the great majority of consumers already meet one of the waiver requirements. Their number suggest that the waiver requirements would only impact the 36,036 enrollees (5% of the expansion population) that do not otherwise qualify under one of the other waiver requirements. It is this 5% that would be required to find work in order to remain eligible in the expansion population. The waiver proposal is open for public comment until March 18<sup>th</sup> and GAC may want to consider submitting written comments.

Also, on the Medicaid front, GAC continues to work with ODM on revisions to the SGD rule. Our current focus is on how to handle rental vs. trial periods in order to allow for appropriate trial times without delaying approval of a device. We are also asking ODM to remove the phrase “useful life” of the SGD relative to replacement and intend to include the 5-year standard that appears in the rule appendix. The rule has not yet been filed with JCARR, so there is still opportunity to impact the drafting at this early stage before the formal process begins.

In the education arena, ODE held its second related services personnel shortage workgroup on March 14<sup>th</sup>. A lot of data was provided and summarized by Barb Conrad at ODE’s request. There are, however, still some unanswered data points, particularly involving exactly how many students are receiving each kind of service.

The workgroup also discussed taking a survey of superintendents to understand what incentives they would offer to related service personnel to attract them to hard-to-fill positions. Finally, the group moved up their timeline for progress and outcomes. They set two additional meetings for August and one for September. The goal is to have something put together before October, so it can be presented to ODE and Ohio Legislators.

We have been tracking the following legislation during the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly:

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

*Current Status:* 8/22/2017 - Consideration of Governor's Veto

**HB51**      **DEPARTMENT REVIEW SCHEDULE** (FABER 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:* 5/16/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)

**HB75**      **PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE-ARMED FORCES** (GAVARONE T, MERRIN D) To establish an expedited process to grant a professional license to an individual who is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or is the spouse of such an individual, and holds a valid license in another state.

*Current Status:* 3/15/2017 - House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, (Second Hearing)

**HB85**      **ENTER HEALTH CARE COMPACT** (RETFERFORD W) To enter into the Health Care Compact.

*Current Status:* 3/7/2017 - House Federalism and Interstate Relations, (First Hearing)

**HB98**      **CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS** (DUFFEY M, BOGGS K) Regarding the presentation of career information to students.

*Current Status:* 3/7/2018 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

**HB115**      **DATABASE-PERSONS WITH COMMUNICATION DISABILITY** (GAVARONE T, WIGGAM S) To establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification.

*Current Status:* 2/21/2018 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fourth Hearing)

**HB131**      **PHYSICAL THERAPY LAWS** (GAVARONE T, REINEKE W) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.

*Current Status:* 1/31/2018 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Health, (Sixth Hearing)

- HB150**      **LICENSE PLATE CREATION (PATMON B)** To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals.  
*Current Status:* 6/7/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety,  
(Second Hearing)
- 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
- HB280**      **MOTORCYCLE EARPLUGS (GOODMAN W)** To permit a person to wear earplugs for hearing protection while operating a motorcycle.  
*Current Status:* 11/8/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety,  
(Second Hearing)
- HB289**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW (HOOD R, MCCOLLEY R)** To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, to require the Common Sense Initiative Office to review certain actions taken by occupational licensing boards, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.  
*Current Status:* 1/30/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)
- HB399**      **HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS INCENTIVES (HENNE M, BUTLER, JR. J)** To enact the Ohio Right to Shop Act to require health insurers to establish shared savings incentive programs for enrollees.  
*Current Status:* 11/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Health
- HB440**      **SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE (FEDOR T, KENT B)** To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

*Current Status:* 1/31/2018 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

**HB465**      **PRESCRIBED DRUGS BENEFIT-MEDICAID (LIPPS S)** To provide for the prescribed drugs benefit to be delivered under the Medicaid program through the fee-for-service system.

*Current Status:* 1/24/2018 - Referred to Committee House Health

**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:* 3/13/2018 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)

**HB529**      **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS (RYAN S)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30,2020.

*Current Status:* 3/13/2018 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)

**HCR5**      **SUPPORT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (SYKES E)** To urge the Congress of the United States, and in particular the Ohio Congressional delegation, to support the preservation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

*Current Status:* 2/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Insurance

**HCR6**      **REPEAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (GOODMAN W, FABER K)** To urge congress to continue its efforts to fully repeal the affordable care act and to recommend that future federal health care policies restore power to the states, fund the Medicaid program through block grants to individual states, and permit the sale of health insurance across state lines.

*Current Status:* 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight

**SB3**      **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T)** To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

*Current Status:* 11/6/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Eff. 90 days

- SB27**      **DEAF HISTORY MONTH DESIGNATION (BEAGLE B)** To designate the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15 as "Ohio Deaf History Month."  
*Current Status:* 10/19/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days
- SB48**      **HEARING IMPAIRED-DRIVING (WILLIAMS S)** To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals and to require the registrar to include an identifying symbol on a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or state-issued identification card of a hearing-impaired individual, if requested.  
*Current Status:* 3/7/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
- SB59**      **BICYCLE USE-HELMETS (SKINDELL M)** To require bicycle operators and passengers under 18 years of age to wear protective helmets when the bicycle is operated on a roadway and to establish the Bicycle Safety Fund to be used by the Department of Public Safety to assist low-income families in the purchase of bicycle helmets.  
*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
- 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
- SB91**      **OHIO HEALTH CARE PLAN (SKINDELL M, TAVARES C)** To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.  
*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)
- SB93**      **HEALTH INSURANCE-HEARING AIDS (BROWN E)** To require health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.  
*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)
- SB99**      **MEDICAID EXPANSION-NEW ENROLLMENT (COLEY W)** To prohibit the

Medicaid program from newly enrolling individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group.

*Current Status:* 3/21/2017 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid,  
(First Hearing)

**SB110**      **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS-IDENTIFICATION (TAVARES C)** To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient.

*Current Status:* 1/23/2018 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid,  
(First Hearing)

**SB168**      **MEDICAID EXPANSION (JORDAN K)** To prohibit the Medicaid program from covering the expansion eligibility group and to require aggregate General Revenue Fund appropriations for state agencies to be reduced by specified amounts for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2019.

*Current Status:* 6/28/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**SB174**      **WAGE PROTECTIONS-FAIR ACT (TAVARES C)** To enact the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required (FAIR) Act" and to revise the enforcement of the prohibitions against discrimination in the payment of wages.

*Current Status:* 9/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation,  
Commerce and Workforce

**SB177**      **VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE-IMMUNITY (LEHNER P)** To expand the circumstances in which qualified immunity from civil liability applies with respect to volunteer health care services provided to indigent and uninsured persons.

*Current Status:* 9/26/2017 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)

**SB255**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS REVIEW (MCCOLLEY R)** To require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.

*Current Status:* 3/7/2018 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform,  
(First Hearing)

**SB266**      **CAPITAL BUDGET (OELSLAGER S)** To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

***Current Status:*** 3/6/2018 - Senate Finance, (Third Hearing)