Ohio Speech and Hearing GAC
Legislative Activities Report
January 2021

The members of the 134th Ohio General Assembly were sworn into office earlier this month, officially starting the new legislative session. Many were glad to see the start of the new session, as the 133rd General Assembly was marred by a corruption scandal involving former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder. Householder was indicted in July 2020 on racketeering charges in an alleged $61 million bribery scheme to pass a $1.3 billion bailout of two nuclear power plants operating in northern Ohio. Shortly after news of the scandal broke, the House of Representatives ousted the former Speaker and replaced him with Rep. Bob Cupp to serve the remainder of the session. Speaker Cupp was reelected to lead the Chamber for the 134th General Assembly. Despite the scandal, House Republicans actually picked up seats on election day and now control a 64 to 35 seat majority in the House. There was much less turmoil in the Ohio Senate. Former Senate President Larry Obhof was required to leave office due to term limits and will be replaced by Senator Matt Huffman in the 134th Ohio General Assembly. Republicans in the Ohio Senate enjoy a 25 to 8 seat majority.

Before adjourning the 133rd General Assembly in December, lawmakers scrambled to pass dozens of bills in just a few weeks during the always hectic lame duck session. Included in the bills that were passed before the end of session was HB 442, which made some substantial revisions to occupational licenses. HB 442, which was originally introduced to modify requirements for certified public accountants, was amended in the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee to include adjustments to the pupil services licenses issued by the Ohio Department of Education. The changes made in the Senate requires pupil services license holders to receive a registration from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) instead of a license. The registration is valid for five years and would cost $150 (the current fee for the pupil services personnel license is $200.) As a condition of registration, an individual must undergo a criminal records check and be enrolled in the “rapback” program. Shortly after the bill was amended in committee it was passed by both chambers. Governor DeWine signed the bill on
January 7th and it will take effect 90 days from that date. ODE is working on providing current license holders with guidance on the impacts of this legislation.

Another bill that was passed before the end of session was HB 436, which would require dyslexia screenings and intervention for students. After months of heated debate, the Senate Education Committee made changes to the proposal, which served as a compromise from all parties involved. The bill grants much authority to the "Ohio Dyslexia Committee," which is created by the legislation. This committee would be instrumental in creating a guidebook for schools to use in developing dyslexia screening programs. OSHGAC worked with stakeholders on the development of the changes that were made to the bill and was happy to see the substitute bill include a speech-language pathologist represented on the committee. Senator Lehner described the final product as a compromise between interested parties. HB 436 was amended and reported by the Senate Education Committee on December 16th. The Senate then passed the bill the very next day and the House concurred with the changes. Governor DeWine signed the bill on January 9th and it will take effect in 90 days.

A handful of high-profile bills failed to move during lame duck and will likely need to be addressed in the 134th Ohio General Assembly. One of note is HB 679, a telemedicine bill that was introduced in an effort to try to codify administrative rules surrounding the practice of telemedicine that saw a rapid uptick in utilization during the pandemic. Despite passing the House, members of the Ohio Senate preferred to defer to the administrative rules that were developed earlier in the year instead of passing legislation. The sponsor, Representative Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) made a last ditch effort to pass the legislation during lame duck, by amending the telemedicine provisions into SB 236, a bill dealing with the state’s radiation control program. The amendment was accepted and SB 236 was passed by the House; however, the Senate never concurred with the changes, effectively killing the measure. Rep. Fraizer has indicated that he will be willing to sponsor another bill in the 134th General Assembly, so we can expect additional debate on the matter.

Governor DeWine has announced the state’s plan to begin vaccinating the general public against COVID-19. Doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be provided to Ohioans age 80 and older on January 19th. Roughly 450,000 Ohioans are over 80, and the state expects to receive about 100,000 doses of the vaccine per week, so it will take a number of weeks before everyone in the population receives it. The state will then begin to lower the age threshold by five years each week, with those 75 and over eligible for vaccination beginning Jan. 25, those 70 and older on Feb. 1 and those 65 and older on Feb. 8. According to the plan, those with severe congenital, development or early-onset medical disorders will also be eligible for the vaccine beginning on January 25th. The state also hopes to begin vaccinating school personnel the week of Feb. 1st, although it will require them to agree to resume in-person schooling by March 1st. The governor said the administration would issue paperwork to school superintendents asking whether they will agree to conduct in-person classes beginning March 1st as a prerequisite for vaccine
distribution. "The justification, the reason for doing this, is very simple and singular," Governor DeWine said. "It is to get kids back in school."

Below is a list of legislation being tracked during the 133rd Ohio General Assembly, any bill not passed by both chambers will need to be reintroduced during the 134th Ohio General Assembly:

**HB115 REGULATOR RESTRICTION REDUCTION** (RIEDEL C, ROEMER B) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulator restrictions and to amend the versions of sections 106.021 and 106.03 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect August 18, 2019, to continue the provision of this act on and after that effective date.

*Current Status:* 4/10/2019 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)

**HB129 MOTORCYCLE-HEARING PROTECTION** (MCCLAIN R) To permit a person to wear earphones or earplugs for hearing protection while operating a motorcycle.

*Current Status:* 2/21/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 5/22/20

**HB133 MILITARY-TEMPORARY LICENSURE** (PERALES R, WEINSTEIN C) To require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military and spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for military duty.

*Current Status:* 10/2/2019 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)

**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:* 7/18/2019 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Operating appropriations and tax levy generally effective 7/18/19. Some provisions subject to special effective dates.

**HB197 OMNIBUS MEASURES ON CORONAVIRUS** (POWELL J, MERRIN D) To continue essential operations of state government and maintain the continuity of the state tax code in response to the declared pandemic and global health emergency related to COVID-19, to make appropriations, and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 3/27/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Emergency: effective 3/27/20

**HB243 HEARING AIDS COVERAGE** (WEINSTEIN C, RUSSO A) To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons under twenty-two years of age.

*Current Status:* 2/4/2020 - House Health, (Second Hearing)
HB263 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING-CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS (KOEHLER K) To revise the initial occupational licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.

Current Status: 12/22/2020 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 86-0

HB290 SEXUAL MISCONDUCT-HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS (BOGGS K, CRAWLEY E) To prohibit unlawful sexual contact between health care professionals and patients and to revoke professional licenses for criminal misconduct.

Current Status: 12/8/2020 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

HB292 UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE (SKINDELL M, KENT B) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

Current Status: 9/10/2019 - House Health, (First Hearing)

HB305 SCHOOL FINANCING (CUPP B, PATTERSON J) To create a new school financing system for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 12/9/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

HB404 ALLOW UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES TO MEET ELECTRONICALLY/EXTEND COVID-19 GOVERNMENT RESPONSES (MANCHESTER S, SWEENEY B) To continue essential operations of state and local government in response to the declared pandemic and global health emergency related to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 11/23/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. Immediately

HB432 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE RECIPROCITY (POWELL J, LANG G) To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances.

Current Status: 1/29/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)

HB436 DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS FOR CHILDREN (BALDRIDGE B) with regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia and to modify achievement assessment requirements for students receiving state scholarships.

Current Status: 12/22/2020 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 81-5

HB442 PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT CERTIFICATE (ROEMER B, WEST T) To revise the state's occupational regulations.

Current Status: 1/7/2021 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 90 days
HB452 OCCUPATIONAL REGULATIONS (WILKIN S, STEPHENS J) To revise and streamline the state's occupational regulations.

Current Status: 12/8/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

HB573 COVID-19 - OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE (SOBECKI L, BOGGS K) To make COVID-19 an occupational disease under the Workers' Compensation Law under certain circumstances and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/12/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

HB574 TRANSFER FUNDS - UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND (MILLER J) To transfer moneys to the Unemployment Compensation Special Administration Fund, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/19/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

HB580 REQUIRE INSURERS COVER TELEMEDICINE (LISTON B, PATTON T) To require health plan issuers to cover telemedicine services during a state of emergency, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 9/23/2020 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

HB581 ADDRESS COVID-19 CONCERNS (CALLENDER J) To address immediate concerns related to COVID-19.

Current Status: 5/5/2020 - Referred to Committee House Health

HB606 CIVIL IMMUNITY - COVID-19 TRANSMISSION (GRENDELL D) To grant civil immunity to a person who provides services for essential businesses and operations for injury, death, or loss that was caused by the transmission of COVID-19 during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020.

Current Status: 9/14/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

HB617 LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL PROCEDURES - SHUTDOWN ORDERS (JORDAN K) To establish certain time frames and legislative approval procedures as conditions governing the authority of the Department of Health to issue statewide shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases, to invalidate existing statewide shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders issued by the Department, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 12/16/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

HB618 NOW ACT (BECKER J) To limit the authority of the Governor and the Department of Health to issue orders regarding contagious or infectious diseases, to prohibit any order from affecting the conduct of an election, to designate its provisions as the "Need Ohio Working (NOW) Act," and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 12/8/2020 - House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)
HB619 ODH PUBLISH INFECTIOUS DISEASE INFORMATION (JORDAN K, HILLYER B) To require the Department of Health to compile and publish certain information on its web site during a state of emergency relating to infectious disease.

Current Status: 12/1/2020 - House Health, (First Hearing)

HB620 HEALTH IMPACT STATEMENTS, INTERAGENCY TEAM (CRAWLEY E) To require the Legislative Service Commission to create health impact statements for introduced bills and to create the Health and Equity Interagency Team.

Current Status: 12/15/2020 - House Health, (First Hearing)

HB624 COVID-19 TESTING INFORMATION RELEASE (GRENDELL D) To require the reporting and release of certain COVID-19 testing and related information and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 12/9/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)

HB633 COVID-19 - OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE (BOGGS K) To make COVID-19 contracted by specified types of employees an occupational disease under the Workers' Compensation Law under certain circumstances and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/19/2020 - Referred to Committee House Insurance

HB649 ODH - TESTING (STOLTZFUS R, HOOD R) Regarding the authority of the Department of Health and local boards of health to make certain orders and regarding the testing of individuals for certain communicable diseases.

Current Status: 6/9/2020 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

HB656 HEARING AID COVERAGE (GALONSKI T) To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons under twenty-two years of age and to require the Medicaid program to cover hearing aids.

Current Status: 5/19/2020 - Introduced

HB671 PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER LIMITS (ABRAMS C, STEPHENS J) To establish limits on certain public health orders issued by boards of health and the Department of Health, to prohibit a licensing authority from taking disciplinary action against a licensee for engaging in permitted activities during a pandemic, and to declare an emergency.


HB672 WORKER PROTECTION ACT (LELAND D, SOBECKI L) To enact the "Worker Protection Act" to require the Director of Job and Family Services to consider certain factors related to COVID-19 when determining, for purposes of unemployment benefit eligibility, whether an individual had just cause to quit work or refuse employment and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/27/2020 - Referred to Committee House Insurance
HB673 BUSINESS OPERATION, EDUCATION COMPLETION (ROEMER B) Regarding the operation of businesses, practice of certain professions, and completion of education as it relates to COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.
   Current Status: 12/31/2020 - Informally Passed

HB676 GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY APPEAL BOARDS (JORDAN K) To create twelve regional State and Local Government Accountability Appeal Boards and to declare an emergency.

HB679 TELEHEALTH SERVICE REQUIREMENTS (FRAIZER M, HOLMES A) To establish and modify requirements regarding the provision of telehealth services and to declare an emergency.
   Current Status: 11/18/2020 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (Second Hearing)

HB691 MEDICAID MANAGED CARE - PROMPT PAY (MANCHESTER S, PLUMMER P) To amend the prompt pay requirements for providers and third-party payers and to include Medicaid managed care organizations.
   Current Status: 12/1/2020 - BILL AMENDED, House Insurance, (Third Hearing)

HB737 MODIFY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW (MANNING G, MIRANDA J) To modify the Campaign Finance Law regarding independent expenditures and political action committees.
   Current Status: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

HB739 ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT (SWEENEY B, RUSSO A) To modify the campaign finance law, to name this act the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act, and to amend the versions of sections of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect January 1, 2021, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date.
   Current Status: 8/31/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

HB762 MODIFY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS (GRENDELL D, FRAIZER M) To modify the campaign finance law and to declare an emergency.
   Current Status: 11/17/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

HB763 TERMINATE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY (GRENDELL D, STOLTZFUS R) To terminate the COVID-19 state of emergency in Ohio and to declare an emergency.
   Current Status: 11/17/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
HB767 CHRONIC DISEASE ABSENCES EXCUSE FOR INTERVENTION (PERALES R) To specify that a child's absence due to a chronic medical condition that is acknowledged by the child's individualized education program or 504 plan is a medical excuse for purposes of absence intervention requirements.

Current Status: 11/17/2020 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

HB782 TAX CREDIT FOR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS (BRINKMAN T) To authorize an income tax credit for a taxpayer's campaign contributions to candidates running for statewide office, the State Board of Education, or the Ohio General Assembly.

Current Status: 11/17/2020 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

HB799 TERMINATE MASK ORDER FOR BUSINESSES (REINEKE W, LANG G) To terminate certain provisions of the "Director's Order for Retail and Business Compliance for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio," issued on November 13, 2020, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 12/8/2020 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor

SB1 REDUCE REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions in their administrative rules, to require the approval of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review for Department of Health orders to be effective for more than fourteen days, and to modify the Department's rulemaking authority.

Current Status: 12/22/2020 - Consideration of Conference Committee Report

SB7 TEMP STATE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES-MILITARY (LEHNER P, HACKETT R) Regarding temporary state occupational licenses for members of the military and their spouses.

Current Status: 1/27/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 4/28/2020

SB14 DRUG PRICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE (MAHARATH T) Regarding pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacists, and the disclosure to patients of drug price information.

Current Status: 4/3/2019 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

SB25 MEDICAID WORK, EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (HUFFMAN M) Regarding work and education requirements for the Medicaid program.

Current Status: 3/20/2019 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Second Hearing)

SB29 MEDICAID COPAYMENTS (DOLAN M) Regarding Medicaid copayment requirements.

Current Status: 2/19/2019 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (Second Hearing)
SB60 Establish Waiver-Medicaid Expansion (Burke D) To establish a waiver component for the Medicaid expansion eligibility group and to abolish the Healthy Ohio Program.

Current Status: 3/6/2019 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

SB102 Dyslexia Screening Program (Brenner A, Lehner P) To establish the Dyslexia Screening Program for school districts and other public schools.

Current Status: 1/28/2020 - Senate Education, (Sixth Hearing)

SB166 Unlawful Sexual Contact-Health Professionals (Kunze S, Craig H) To prohibit unlawful sexual contact between health care professionals and patients and to revoke professional licenses for criminal misconduct.

Current Status: 10/2/2019 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)

SB171 17-Day Interim Budget (Dolan M, O'Brien S) To enact a 17-day interim budget.

Current Status: 6/30/2019 - Signed by Governor; Effective Immediately

SB172 30 Day BWC Budget (Dolan M, O'Brien S) To make operating appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the period beginning July 1, 2019, and ending July 31, 2019.

Current Status: 6/30/2019 - Signed by Governor; Effective Immediately

SB200 Professional Development-Dyslexia (Lehner P, Brenner A) With regard to professional development for screening and intervention for children with dyslexia.

Current Status: 1/21/2020 - Substitute Bill Accepted, Senate Education, (First Hearing)

SB238 License Art Therapists (Yuko K, Brenner A) To license and regulate art therapists and music therapists.

Current Status: 9/23/2020 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Second Hearing)

SB246 Occupational Licensing (Roegner K, McColley R) To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances.

Current Status: 12/17/2020 - Senate General Government and Agency Review, (Tenth Hearing)

SB294 Absentee Voting (Huffman M) To extend absent voting by mail for the March 17, 2020, primary election to April 28, 2020, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/6/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform
SB305  **TELEMEDICINE DURING EMERGENCY** (CRAIG H) To require health plan issuers to cover telemedicine services during a state of emergency and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 12/1/2020 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (Second Hearing)

SB308  **CIVIL LIABILITY-EMERGENCY SERVICES** (HUFFMAN M) To revise the law governing immunity from civil liability for health care providers during disasters, to provide qualified civil immunity to service providers providing services during and after a government-declared disaster or emergency due to COVID-19, and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 6/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House Civil Justice

SB310  **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (DOLAN M) To provide for the distribution of some federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions and businesses, to revise the formula used to determine Medicaid rates for nursing facility services, to exclude loan amounts forgiven under the federal CARES Act from the commercial activity tax, to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to transportation improvement district projects under certain circumstances, to allow certain state employees' salaries and pay supplements to be frozen during the pay period that includes July 1, 2020, through the pay period that includes June 30, 2021, to temporarily expand the use of certain tax increment financing payments, to exempt certain political subdivision purchases from competitive bidding requirements during the COVID-19 emergency, to suspend certain county hospital bidding requirements during the COVID-19 emergency, to allow a county, township, or municipal corporation appointing authority to establish a mandatory cost savings program in response to COVID-19, to make capital reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2022, to make other appropriations, and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 12/29/2020 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. immediately

SB311  **LIMIT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH ORDER-ISSUING AUTHORITY** (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To modify the law governing public health orders, quarantine, and isolation.

*Current Status:* 12/3/2020 - VETOED BY GOVERNOR

SB314  **BUSINESS RELOCATIONS** (BRENNER A) To prohibit state agencies from charging a fee to professional license holders in relation to a business relocation during the COVID-19 declared state of emergency and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 12/17/2020 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0, Emergency Clause 32-0

SB347  **CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW** (MANNING N) To modify the Campaign Finance Law regarding independent expenditures and political action committees.

*Current Status:* 9/16/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)
SB348  LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH  (SCHAFFER T, ROEGNER K) To prohibit local boards of health from using certain threatening words in notifications to the public, to allow local boards of health to reject Department of Health orders during an emergency, to allow health care professionals who serve on a board of health to receive continuing education credit, and to change the makeup of local boards of health.

Current Status:  9/1/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid

SB349  CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW  (FEDOR T) To modify the campaign finance law, to name this act the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act.

Current Status:  11/18/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

SB376  SCHOOL FINANCING  (SYKES V, LEHNER P) To create a new school financing system for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status:  12/1/2020 - Senate Finance, (Second Hearing)

SB387  TERMINATE PROVISIONS OF HEALTH ORDER  (BURKE D) To terminate certain provisions of the "Director's Order for Retail and Business Compliance for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio," issued on November 13, 2020, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status:  12/9/2020 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (Second Hearing)

SCR13  PROHIBIT GOVERNMENT-EXCEED AUTHORITY  (JOHNSON T) To resolve that no branch of government, be it executive, legislative, or judicial, nor any subordinate department, agency, or entity thereof, may take or otherwise promulgate actions that exceed its authority to do so as expressly granted under the Ohio Constitution or United States Constitution.

Current Status:  6/10/2020 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

SCR17  URGE CONGRESS-DISCLOSE POLITICAL DONORS  (FEDOR T) To urge Congress to pass legislation requiring corporations and labor organizations that make political expenditures to disclose the identities of their donors.

Current Status:  9/22/2020 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)