



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 GAC
Legislative Activities Report
August 2021**

After five months of work, the Ohio General Assembly passed the biennial budget bill (HB 110) with bipartisan support. The massive spending package included historic tax cuts and an overhaul of the state's school funding formula. The final version of HB 110 provides over \$74 billion in GRF spending over the next two years. Favorable revenue forecasts for the state allowed lawmakers to make massive cuts to personal income taxes, totaling more than \$1.6 billion. The tax changes include a reduction of 3% in personal income taxes beginning in 2021. Additionally, HB 110 eliminates the highest tax bracket, which reduces the number of brackets from five to four. Just a few years ago Ohio had seven tax brackets. The move to reduce the number of tax brackets is an effort to advance towards the goal of many GOP lawmakers, which is a flat tax rate. HB 110 also increased the income level at which the first tax bracket begins, from \$22,150 to \$25,000. Even with the cut in taxes, legislators were able to make investments in multiple areas, the most high-profile being school funding. After over three years of work, lawmakers adopted a new system for funding primary and secondary education. The proposal, which was developed by Speaker Bob Cupp and former legislator John Patterson, would establish new, individualized base costs per pupil for each of the state's school districts and determine every district's capacity for generating revenue locally based on property and income factors within a community. While the proposal received pushback in the Senate, which raised concerns that the costs of the House plan could balloon over its proposed six-year phase-in, the legislature largely accepted the House plan but limited the formula to two years, to ensure the bill does not tie the hands of future legislators. The Ohio Speech and Hearing GAC was happy to see the budget include \$200,000 per year for the "Mothers and Children Safety Net Services" fund, which is to be used to assist families with hearing impaired children under 21-years of age. The bipartisan vote on the budget was welcomed by many, including Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, who said, "my hope is that we use this as a starting point, and my hope is that for the next 18 months we continue to work together, we continue to make things happen, because we can, and we must."

Governor DeWine signed HB 110 on June 30th. Prior to signing the budget bill, the governor issued 14 vetoes striking language impacting numerous issues including COVID-19 violations, Medicaid managed care procurement, nursing facility quality incentive payments, and

the General Assembly's intervention in lawsuits. The governor's signature marks the end of the lengthy budget process that started on February 1st when the DeWine Administration first rolled out the proposal. The governor praised the bill as assisting Ohioans by investing in communities, businesses, and economy. The Ohio House and Senate can override the governor's vetoes, however, there has been no indication given from either chamber if they plan to do so.

When lawmakers return to session this fall, they will likely take up legislation expanding the use of telehealth services, which were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic. HB 122 is pending in the Ohio Senate after receiving unanimous support in the House. HB 122, sponsored by Rep. Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) and Adam Holmes (R-Nashport), expands the types of providers who may bill for telehealth services. OSHGAC worked with the bill's sponsors to ensure audiology and speech-language pathology services were covered under the bill and provided proponent testimony. "The Telemedicine Expansion Act is essential as we begin to reopen the state following the COVID-19 pandemic," Rep. Fraizer said shortly after the House passed the bill. The bill's passage becomes more pressing as the state of emergency order was lifted in June.

Another bill that is awaiting action is HB 198, otherwise known as Medeline's Law. This legislation is pending in the House Health Committee where it has received two hearings. The legislation, sponsored by Reps. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) and Susan Manchester (R-Lakeview) would expand health insurance coverage to include hearing aids for children up to the age of 21. Named after a Northeast Ohio girl whose parents brought the issue to lawmakers, the bill would require coverage of up to \$2,500 per hearing aid every 48 months. During the bill's second hearing, nearly two dozen witnesses provided proponent testimony. The business community have pushed back against the measure, pointing to the potential of higher premium payments. In her sponsor testimony Rep. Russo said, "for young children, hearing is an essential part of their development and learning, especially since their young brains are undergoing rapid development."

The Ohio Speech and Hearing GAC was happy to participate in a bill signing ceremony with Governor DeWine, marking the passage of HB 252. The measure, sponsored by Reps. Andrea White (R-Kettering) and Phil Plummer (R-Dayton), would enter Ohio into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC). HB 252 received unanimous support in both the House and Senate. The ASLP-IC would allow audiologists and speech-language pathologists licensed in one state to practice in other states that enter the compact. Since the ASLP-IC has been adopted by 10 states, the compact is now operational. An effort was made to pass this legislation as quickly as possible to ensure Ohio was able to participate in the ASLP-IC Commission, which will be created to serve as the compact's governing body. The Commission will likely begin meeting in the fall, with the goal to create rules and bylaws by the end of the year.

Governor Mike DeWine recently announced that Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff will serve as the next director of the Department of Health (ODH). Vanderhoff was appointed ODH's chief medical officer last fall. He will succeed Director Stephanie McCloud, who will return to her prior role as administrator of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Dr. Vanderhoff has frequently joined Governor DeWine during his virtual news conferences on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before taking his position, he served as a senior vice president and chief

medical officer at OhioHealth. "Working together as a team, Stephanie McCloud and Bruce Vanderhoff guided the Ohio Department of Health over the past nine months," Governor DeWine said in a statement. "I am pleased that Dr. Vanderhoff has agreed to serve as Director of the Ohio Department of Health. His medical and organizational expertise will help the department as we move forward and continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic."

Ohio's August 3rd special election saw Democrat Shontel Brown and Republican Mike Carey secure their parties' nominations in the hunt for two vacant seats in Ohio's 11th and 15th Congressional Districts. Despite a crowded field, the 11th District contest saw Ms. Brown defeat top contender Nina Turner, in a battle framed as a battle between the party's establishment and progressive wings. Brown will now face Republican Laverne Gore in the November matchup, in the heavily blue district, which saw former Congresswoman Marcia Fudge win 80% of the vote in the most recent election. The 15th District also featured a crowded race to replace Steve Stivers, who left Congress to lead the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Mike Carey, who had the backing of former President Donald Trump, faced off against a field of 11 other Republicans, including a handful of sitting lawmakers. Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Washington Court House), Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard), Rep. Jeffrey LaRe (R-Canal Winchester), and former Rep. Ron Hood. Mr. Carey pulled away from the field, claiming nearly 37% of the vote. Carey will face Democrat Allison Russo, who currently represents the 24th Ohio House District. The 15th Congressional District heavily favors the GOP, with former Congressman Stivers winning well over 60% of the vote in the most recent election.

The process of drawing new district lines for the Ohio General Assembly is quickly approaching. Governor DeWine recently set the first meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. Every ten years, Ohio must redraw its congressional and General Assembly districts based on the updated population data. The process is getting a late start as the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the ability for the U.S. Census Bureau to compile and deliver the data needed to produce the maps. That data is usually released in April, yet this year it was not provided to the state until mid-August. The seven-member Redistricting Commission is charged with drawing the Ohio House and Senate Districts. This panel consists of five Republicans and two Democrats: Gov. Mike DeWine, State Auditor Keith Faber, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima), Senator Vernon Sykes (D-Akron), House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima), and House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron). The Redistricting Commission has until September 1st to draft its first map. If a bipartisan agreement is not reached, the panel must draft a new map by September 15th. If a bipartisan plan still cannot be reached, the revised map will be in effect for only four years. Congressional mapmaking is handled within the General Assembly, which needs to have 3/5 of the members of each chamber agree to the maps, including at least 1/2 of the members of each political party. The first deadline facing that process is September 30th. Should the legislature reach an impasse on the proposal, the Redistricting Commission takes over and must adopt a plan by October 31st. If the Redistricting Commission fails to adopt a bi-partisan plan, the job falls back on the legislature, which would have until November 30th to adopt a plan.

Below is a list of legislation we are currently tracking during the 134th Ohio General Assembly:

HB1 CREATE NEW SCHOOL FINANCING SYSTEM (CALLENDER J, SWEENEY B) To create a new school financing system for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Current Status: 3/1/2021 - House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-1>

HB6 MODIFY LAWS GOVERNING CERTAIN PROFESSIONS DUE TO COVID-19 (ROEMER B) To amend Section 30 of H.B. 197 of the 133rd General Assembly to modify the laws governing certain health professionals and educator preparation programs due to COVID-19 and other circumstances and to modify the electric utility laws regarding energy efficiency programs; to amend the version of section 4729.92 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 9, 2021, to continue the changes to that section on and after that date; and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/14/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. Immediately

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-6>

HB13 MODIFY THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW (GRENDALL D, FRAIZER M) To modify the campaign finance law and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 4/15/2021 - House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-13>

HB60 PERMIT MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR AUTISM (BRENT J, SEITZ B) To authorize the use of medical marijuana for autism spectrum disorder.

Current Status: 6/15/2021 - House Health, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-60>

HB90 OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNOR'S AND HEALTH ORDERS (WIGGAM S, EDWARDS J) To establish legislative oversight of the Governor's executive orders, certain public health orders, and emergency rules, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

Current Status: 2/24/2021 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-90>

HB103 REGARDS ADOPTION/DURATION EMERGENCY RULES (MERRIN

D) Regarding the adoption and duration of emergency administrative rules.

Current Status: 3/24/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-103>

HB110 OPERATING BUDGET (OELSLAGER S) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

Current Status: 7/1/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; effective 7/1/21

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-110>

HB122 TELEHEALTH SERVICES (FRAIZER M, HOLMES A) To establish and modify requirements regarding the provision of telehealth services.

Current Status: 4/21/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-122>

HB125 HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS/ BENEFITS (CROSSMAN J, LIGHTBODY M) Regarding health insurance premiums and benefits.

Current Status: 2/24/2021 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-125>

HB160 HEALTH CARE COST ESTIMATES (HOLMES A) Regarding the provision of health care cost estimates.

Current Status: 3/10/2021 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-160>

HB198 REQUIRE COVERAGE OF HEARING AIDS FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE (RUSSO A, MANCHESTER S) To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons twenty-one years of age and younger and to designate these changes Madeline's Law.

Current Status: 5/11/2021 - House Health, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-198>

HB202 VOID ORDERS REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS (POWELL J) To void the order of the Interim Director of Health requiring the use of facial coverings throughout the state and prohibit the Governor or other administrative department heads from requiring the use of facial coverings without approval by the General Assembly.

Current Status: 4/22/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-202>

HB203 REQUIRE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE IF EXPERIENCED IN OTHER STATE (POWELL J) 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 and to amend the version of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on April 12, 2023, to continue the changes on and after that date.

Current Status: 6/9/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-203>

HB252 AUDIOLOGY/SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY INTERSTATE COMPACT (WHITE A, PLUMMER P) To enter into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

Current Status: 7/1/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-252>

HB267 LIMIT PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS (JORDAN K) To limit the duration of public health orders and to allow the General Assembly to act via concurrent resolution in response to a public health emergency if the Governor or Department of Health does not.

Current Status: 5/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-267>

HB269 REPEAL SB22 (GALONSKI T) To repeal the version of Section 3 of S.B. 22 of the 134th General Assembly scheduled to take effect on June 23, 2021, to repeal the changes made by S.B. 22 of the 134th General Assembly to the laws governing legislative oversight of certain orders and rules issued by the executive branch, including the establishment of the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 5/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-269>

HB350 PROHIBIT MANDATORY COVID-19 VACCINE (CUTRONA A) To prohibit mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations, requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and certain other actions relating to an individual's COVID-19 vaccination or health status and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 6/22/2021 - House Civil Justice, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-350>

HB359 LICENSE, REGULATE ART, MUSIC THERAPISTS (RUSSO A, CALLENDER J) To license and regulate art therapists and music therapists.

Current Status: 6/24/2021 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-359>

HB376 OHIO PERSONAL PRIVACY ACT (CARFAGNA R, HALL T) To enact the Ohio Personal Privacy Act.

Current Status: 7/12/2021 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-376>

HB388 REGARDING VACCINE REFUSAL (JORDAN K) To prohibit taking certain actions against an individual because the individual refuses to be vaccinated against a disease.

Current Status: 8/12/2021 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-388>

SB3 NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (ROEGNER K) To enter into the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Current Status: 7/1/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-3>

SB5 PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT (ROEGNER K, BLESSING III L) To enter into the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

Current Status: 3/31/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 6/30/21

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-5>

SB6 MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT (ROEGNER K, HUFFMAN S) To enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Current Status: 7/1/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 90 days

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-6>

SB7 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT (ROEGNER K) To enter into the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

Current Status: 3/31/2021 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 6/30/21

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-7>

SB9 REDUCE REGULATIONS (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions in their administrative rules.

Current Status: 5/20/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-9>

SB22 LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT-PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS (JOHNSON T, MCCOLLEY R) To establish legislative oversight of orders issued by the executive branch, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

Current Status: 3/24/2021 - Consideration of Governor's Veto; House Overrides Veto, Vote 62-35

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-22>

SB60 MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERY-INFORMED CONSENT (SCHAFFER T) To require Medicaid applicants to certify that they have been notified about the Medicaid estate recovery program.

Current Status: 2/10/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-60>

SB111 VACCINATIONS, CORONAVIRUS RECOVERY INCLUDING

TOWNSHIPS (BLESSING III L, BRENNER A) To prohibit certain mandatory vaccinations and other activities related to an individual's vaccination status and to make an appropriation related to coronavirus local fiscal recovery.

Current Status: 6/24/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 62-34

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-111>

SB131 LICENSURE RECIPROCITY (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 and to amend the version of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on April 12, 2023, to continue the changes on and after that date.

Current Status: 5/26/2021 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-131>

SB206 REGULATE ART, MUSIC THERAPY (YUKO K, BRENNER A) To license and regulate art therapists and music therapists.

Current Status: 7/1/2021 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-206>