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**Ohio Speech and Hearing GAC
Legislative Activities Report
September 2021**

The House Health Committee returned early from the summer recess in August to hold a hearing on HB 248, which would prohibit employers from mandating vaccines. The high-profile bill drew national attention earlier this year when proponents made unfounded claims about the vaccines. Meanwhile, opponents claim the bill threatens public health and violates the rights of individual businesses. Committee Chairman Scott Lipps said he encouraged more testimony, with the goal of amending the bill when legislators return to session this fall. Despite staunch opposition from the business community and healthcare advocates, many members of the Republican caucus support the measure. Speaker Bob Cupp issued the following statement on the proposal: “We appreciate the continued hard work of the members of the Health Committee on HB 248. This legislation is important to many members of this caucus. Due to the high interest of the bill, we have directed Chairman Lipps to have one hearing with no amendments or votes. We will then pause hearings on HB 248 while we work with the chairman, the bill’s sponsor, and all interested parties on this important issue.”

HB 122, a bill aimed to codify the expansion of telehealth services implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic recently received its first hearing before the Senate Health Committee. OSHGAC testified in support of the measure during the committee process in the House. The measure passed the House with unanimous support in April. During sponsor testimony before the Senate Health Committee, Rep. Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) said, "Each medical board in Ohio has already set their own rules regarding what services are allowed to be performed in their respective field and the state of Ohio needs consistency to ensure those wanting to take advantage of telemedicine have the opportunity to do so, with as much ease as possible."

OSHGAC is encouraging the House Health Committee to resume hearings on HB 198, otherwise known as Medeline’s Law. 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 in the House Health Committee, nearly two dozen witnesses provided proponent testimony. It is expected that the business

community will push 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 Redistricting Commission, which is charged with redrawing Ohio’s district maps for the Ohio House and Senate, were under a tight timeline to adopt the new maps prior to a September 15th Constitutional deadline. The panel had a late start in developing the maps, as census data, which is used to determine population shifts, was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The seven-member, bipartisan panel voted along party lines to adopt the maps, meaning that they will only take effect for four years. If the panel would have been able to strike a deal with bipartisan support, the maps would have remained in effect for 10 years. The Commission could be called back should the plan be challenged in the Ohio Supreme Court, which is likely. The GOP redistricting plan is expected to result in supermajorities for the Republicans in both chambers, with 62 of the 99 districts favoring Republicans in the House and 23 of 33 districts leaning Republican in the Senate. The two Democrats on the panel, Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) and House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) voted against the measure calling it a clear attempt at gerrymandering. Redrawing Ohio’s congressional districts is a separate process handled within the Ohio General Assembly. The deadline to draw Ohio’s congressional districts is at the end of September. The Ohio General Assembly needs to have 3/5 of the members of each chamber, including at least half the members of each party, agree to the maps.

Governor DeWine this month pleaded with school officials to require facial coverings for students and staff to combat the spread of COVID-19. The governor said while a statewide health order requiring masks would be helpful, he does not believe it would be productive for the Department of Health to put forth a statewide order, as it would be overturned by the General Assembly, under SB 22, which took effect in June after the legislature overrode the governor’s veto. In making his plea, the governor said COVID cases are increasing at nearly twice the rate among school-age children as compared to how they’re increasing among the rest of the population. Officials from multiple children’s hospitals said the spike in cases of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses are driving the facilities to the breaking point.

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: 9/15/2021 - Senate Health, (First Hearing)

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: 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight

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>

HB401 EMPLOYER-MANDATED COVID VACCINATION INJURY (EDWARDS J) To exempt an injury or disability caused by an employer-mandated COVID-19 vaccination from the Workers' Compensation Law and to allow the employee to sue the employer for damages.

Current Status: 8/24/2021 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-401>

HB411 INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT (CLICK G, GRENDELL D) To prohibit mandatory disclosures related to an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status, to name the act the Individual Privacy and Anti-Discrimination Act, and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 9/8/2021 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-411>

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: 9/8/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health

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