



## GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC. & RH RESOURCES

### Ohio Speech & Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition Legislative Activities Report August 2023

The legislature put the final touches on the F.Y. 2024-2025 spending plan Friday, June 30th, hours before the constitutional deadline. The massive budget bill (HB 33) largely retained a package of tax cuts expanded on by the Senate, while picking up several changes in committee. Also intact is the House's version of K-12 funding and the Senate's universal private school voucher plan. The latest version's General Revenue Fund totals are \$41.4 billion in FY24 and \$44.7 billion in FY25. The all-funds total is \$95 billion in FY24 and \$95.7 billion in FY25. Both biennium totals fall between the House and Senate spending proposals. The legislature ultimately added a three-day interim budget to allow Gov. Mike DeWine to go through the thousands of pages and issue line-item vetoes before signing the bill. The final conference committee was accepted by the Senate with a vote of 25-6, and by a vote of 67-30 in the House.

- **Taxes:** While the conference report maintained the Senate's plan to further reduce the number of tax brackets to just two, it increased the threshold of the bottom bracket from \$92,000 to \$100,000. Also maintained was the structure of the Senate's extended tax holiday, however, it was reduced from \$1 billion to \$750 million. Senate Finance Chair Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) said the total of tax cuts in the bill remains around \$3 billion.
- **Education:** The House agreed to include one of the Senate's education priorities; a controversial overhaul of the Department of Education in exchange for its more generous version of the Cupp- Patterson formula, which contained multiple funding guarantee provisions removed by the Senate. The conference committee also agreed to the Senate's policy establishing universal private school voucher eligibility, with prorated awards for families making above 450% of the federal poverty levels. Additionally, provisions regarding financial aid for higher education were added back in the bill by the conference package included the Senate's Ohio College Opportunity Grant funding proposal and an amendment adding \$20 million in FY 2025 for a new merit-based scholarship program championed by Gov. Mike DeWine.
- **Other notable provisions included:**
  - Retaining the Senate's additional \$1 per hour for direct support professionals serving individuals who use developmental disability waivers, to be funded by county boards.
  - Including the House proposal for a Connect4Ohio program to fund transportation improvements in rural areas but providing \$500 million rather than the \$1 billion proposed by the House.
  - Maintaining Senate authorization of a 15-year extension of the state's contract with JobsOhio, but with approval of the extension to go through the Controlling Board rather than requiring General Assembly passage of concurrent resolutions supporting the extension.
  - Removing the Senate's proposal to make the Ohio Housing Finance Agency a division of the Ohio Department of Development.
  - Removing Senate language prohibiting state employees from working from home more than one day per week.

- Eliminating several Senate-proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, including one that would require photo ID.
- Nixing changes to the public records law regarding specific investigatory work product, trial preparation records, and attorney work product records.
- Removing language that would have lowered the minimum age for a person to be eligible for an original appointment as a police officer from 21 to 18 years old (SB 53).
- Deleting a Senate provision increasing document services charges for new and used cars from \$250 to \$500.

Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted recounted the enactment of their priorities through the new FY24-25 budget bill at a post-budget news conference, while DeWine offered more explanation on why he made some of his 44 line-item vetoes in HB33 (Edwards). He also forecast near-term announcements on leadership for the new Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the renamed and reformed Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). DeWine said he had set up transition teams to guide implementation of both departments. DeWine declined to say whether he thinks transfer of most education policy authority to a cabinet position from the State Board of Education should lead to changes of the board's structure. The 19-person board has 11 members elected to represent districts of more than one million people apiece, plus eight gubernatorial appointees. "I'm going to pass on that. I think we have to see how this thing plays out. They certainly still have functions, and I don't see an immediate need to do anything about that," DeWine said. He also said to expect the announcement of a DCY director "shortly." Before taking press questions, DeWine and Husted spent more than half an hour outlining how the final version aligned to the goals they laid out in the beginning -- reforms to nursing home oversight and quality incentives, greater emphasis and resources for literacy instruction aligned to the "science of reading," investment in the build-out of a community mental health system, policies to encourage more housing development, and funding for economic development, among many other provisions.

DeWine signed HB33 (Edwards), the FY24-25 operating budget, vetoing a total of 44 items in the process. The signing occurred at the very end of the three-day interim budget enacted by the Legislature to give time both for enrolling the final version of the budget and for the governor to review what was passed in the now over 6,000-page budget. Two years ago, the governor vetoed only 14 items. The Legislature concluded its work on the budget on Friday, June 30 just ahead of the start of FY24, thus necessitating the enactment of a three-day interim budget – which was included in the Bureau of Workers' Compensation budget bill, HB31 (Edwards). The conference committee on HB33 did not meet until Friday afternoon but then worked through nearly 900 items of difference. The committee approved the report along party lines. Both chambers then approved the HB33 conference committee report with the Senate passing it along party lines 25-6. The House vote of 67-30 was not entirely along party lines with Reps. Rachel Baker (D-Cincinnati), Sean Brennan (D-Parma), Richard Dell'Aquila (D-Seven Hills), Michele Grim (D-Toledo), Bride Sweeney (D-Cleveland), Dan Troy (D-Willowick), and Casey Weinstein (D-Hudson) voting in favor. Reps. Bill Dean (R-Xenia), Ron Ferguson (R-Wintersville), Beth Lear (R-Galena), Jena Powell (R-Arcanum), Reggie Stoltzfus (R-Minerva), Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster), and Bernard Willis (R-Springfield) voted against it.



Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Budget Chief Aaron Rausch and ODE Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs Jennie Stump took the State Board of Education (SBOE) on a tour of education funding and policy initiatives, explaining what made it into the final budget and what didn't. The FY24-25 budget includes new state spending of about \$2.79 billion over the biennium for K-12 education. Rausch said changes to state foundation funding are the major drivers behind the large increases in new state spending. The budget continues the phase-in of the new school funding formula and includes updates to student enrollment and local capacity calculations. It also uses FY22 inputs for salaries, insurance and other expenditures to increase resources to schools. Another major area of funding is around the state's school choice programs. The Senate was successful in establishing universal eligibility for the EdChoice Expansion program. Full scholarships will be available for families at or below 450 percent of the federal poverty level (which equals an income of about \$135,000 for a family of four). Partial scholarships will be available for families earning above that amount with a 10 percent minimum scholarship award regardless of family income, Rausch said.

Most of the powers of the SBOE will be transferred to the DeWine administration over the next six months as a result of budget bill HB33, ODE officials said. "Most of the budget bill provisions are effective 91 days after the act is filed with the secretary of state. ... We do not know that date ... but we are tracking that," ODE Chief Legal Counsel Tony Palmer said during SBOE's meeting. "There is also an additional 90 days after that, so it's a period of six months altogether to complete any actions necessary to implement the transfer of powers." ODE Chief of Staff Jessica Voltolini said she and other administration officials are working on an estimate of how many staffers will be moved from ODE -- which will soon be renamed the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) -- to SBOE in order to carry out SBOE's remaining responsibilities, which mainly include teacher licensing.

Gov. Mike DeWine and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Director Kevin L. Miller announced that up to \$7,000 per person is available to Ohioans with disabilities for college, training and credentialing programs for the 2023 fall term. The OOD Education Support Funds help students with disabilities in their pursuit of continued education. OOD will provide all eligible college and non-traditional students with disabilities up to \$7,000, while participating in OOD services, to be used for tuition or educational expenses during the upcoming fall term. This includes students with disabilities participating in colleges, apprenticeships, trade schools and credentialing programs. Students with disabilities (e.g., physical, learning, mental health, sensory, hearing, vision, and more) can qualify for the OOD Education Support Funds through the following steps:

- Apply for OOD services online at [OODWorks.com](https://oodworks.com).
- OOD staff will call the applicant and schedule an in-person or virtual appointment.
- Complete the required paperwork to finalize the application.
- OOD staff will determine eligibility and help plan the next steps.

The Biden administration recently issued a report outlining new flexibility to provide Medicaid-covered health services in schools. "States can adopt flexibilities outlined in the guide to reduce the administrative burden for schools significantly, making it easier to get paid for covered health services delivered to children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. By making it easier for schools to bill Medicaid and CHIP, small, rural, and under-resourced schools can provide more



services, thereby improving health care access for children with Medicaid and CHIP coverage," said the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act directed CMS to expand access to Medicaid services in schools and reduce associated administrative burdens. A report from CMS, "Delivering Services in School-Based Settings: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming," outlines new flexibilities in several categories.

After months of political wrangling, campaigning, protests and TV ads, Ohio voters defeated a proposed constitutional amendment that would have made it significantly more difficult to amend the Ohio Constitution. With more than 2.9 million votes counted on the night of Tuesday, August 8, the "no" side of State Issue 1 was winning 56.7 percent to 43.3 percent. The Associated Press and other organizations called the race within an hour-and-a-half of the polls closing. The proposed amendment would have:

- Required that any proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Ohio receive the approval of at least 60 percent of eligible voters voting on the proposed amendment.
- Required that any initiative petition filed on or after January 1, 2024 with the Secretary of State proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio be signed by at least five percent of the electors of each county based on the total vote in the county for governor in the last preceding election.
- Specified that additional signatures may not be added to an initiative petition proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio that is filed with the Secretary of State on or after January 1, 2024 proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

Ohioans will decide this November if adults age 21 and older should be allowed to use marijuana. The Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol (CRMLA) filed enough valid signatures to place its initiated statute on the ballot this fall, according to the Ohio Secretary of State's Office. The campaign was 679 signatures short during the initial gathering period, and submitted 6,545 more. Of those signatures, 4,405 were valid, Secretary of State Frank LaRose told petitioners.



Below is a list of legislation we are currently tracking during the 135<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly:

**HB7 ADDRESS INFANT, MATERNAL MORTALITY (WHITE A, HUMPHREY L)** To support strong foundations for Ohio mothers and babies in their first one thousand days to address maternal and infant mortality, to improve health, developmental, and learning outcomes for babies and mothers through expanded prenatal, postnatal, infant, and toddler health care and early intervention and wraparound services and supports; to name this act the Strong Foundations Act; and to make appropriations.

*Current Status:* 6/13/2023 - Re-Referred to Committee

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-7>



- HB12 REFORM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (JONES D, DOBOS D)** To rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce; to create the position of Director of Education and Workforce; and to reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.  
*Current Status:* 4/18/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-12>
- HB33 FY24-25 OPERATING BUDGET (EDWARDS J)** To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.  
*Current Status:* 7/3/2023 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. immediately  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-33>
- HB68 GENDER SERVICES FOR MINORS, SINGLE-SEX SPORTS TEAMS (CLICK G)** To enact the Saving Ohio Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act regarding gender transition services for minors, and to enact the Save Women's Sports Act to require schools, state institutions of higher education, and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex.  
*Current Status:* 6/21/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 64-28  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-68>
- HB96 INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE (JARRELLS D, MOHAMED I)** To increase the state minimum wage.  
*Current Status:* 3/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-96>
- HB105 MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX RETURNS EXTENSIONS (THOMAS J)** To modify the law regarding extensions for filing municipal income tax returns and to limit penalties for late filings.  
*Current Status:* 5/31/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-105>





- HB106 PAY STUB PROTECTION ACT (JARRELLS D, LIPPS S)** To enact the Pay Stub Protection Act requiring employers to provide earnings and deductions statements to each of the employer's employees.  
*Current Status:* 6/30/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 96-0  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-106>
- HB115 EQUAL PAY ACT (MIRANDA J, BRENT J)** To address wage disparities in public and private employment and to name this act the Ohio Equal Pay Act.  
*Current Status:* 3/22/2023 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-115>
- HB116 TAXPAYER DEDUCTIONS (PETERSON B, CLAGGETT T)** To allow taxpayers to deduct in a single year the full bonus depreciation and enhanced expensing allowances the taxpayer deducts for federal income tax purposes.  
*Current Status:* 5/2/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-116>
- HB121 REMOTE WORKERS - MODIFIED MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX (ROBB BLASDEL M, MATHEWS A)** To allow businesses with remote workers to use a modified municipal income tax apportionment formula.  
*Current Status:* 6/21/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-121>
- HB126 TAX EXEMPTION - MILITARY PAY (MATHEWS A, MILLER A)** To expand a municipal income tax exemption for military pay.  
*Current Status:* 5/23/2023 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-126>
- HB130 EXEMPTION - PRIOR AUTHORIZATION (MILLER K)** To establish an exemption to prior authorization requirements.  
*Current Status:* 6/7/2023 - House Insurance, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-130>



- HB141**      **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS - PHYSICAL THERAPISTS** (LARE J, ROBB BLASDEL M) To restrict cost-sharing requirements with regard to occupational and physical therapists and chiropractors.  
*Current Status:* 6/14/2023 - House Insurance, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-141>
- HB146**      **SERS BENEFIT CAP** (BIRD A) To establish a contribution based benefit cap in calculating a School Employees Retirement System member's retirement benefit.  
*Current Status:* 5/16/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Pensions, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-146>
- HB151**      **STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION** (DEMETRIOU S, WILLIAMS J) To enact the Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act regarding the operation of state institutions of higher education and to revise the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.  
*Current Status:* 6/14/2023 - House Higher Education, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-151>
- HB152**      **HEARING AID COVERAGE** (WEINSTEIN C, YOUNG B) To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons twenty-one years of age and younger and to name this act Madeline's Law.  
*Current Status:* 6/21/2023 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 86-8  
*Comments:* 5/10/2023 - Gina Hounam (on behalf of OSHGAC), Proponent, House Insurance Committee  
5/10/2023 - Maggie Kettler (on behalf of Cincinnati Children's Hospital), Proponent, House Insurance Committee  
6/7/2023 - Jane Mariani-Walker (on behalf of OSHGAC), Proponent, House Insurance Committee  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-152>
- HB159**      **AUTISM REPORTING** (LIPPS S) To require data collection, reporting, and outreach regarding applied behavior analysis for children with autism who are Medicaid enrollees.  
*Current Status:* 5/2/2023 - Referred to Committee House Behavioral Health  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-159>



- HB174**      **UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE** (SKINDELL M, GRIM M) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.  
*Current Status:* 5/23/2023 - Referred to Committee House Insurance  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-174>
- HB199**      **PERSONAL INCOME TAX JOINT FILER CREDIT** (YOUNG T, DEAN B) To modify the computation of the personal income tax joint filer credit.  
*Current Status:* 6/27/2023 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-199>
- HB200**      **PASS-THROUGH ENTITY TAXES** (CALLENDER J, YOUNG T) To modify the income tax treatment of income subject to other states' pass-through entity taxes.  
*Current Status:* 6/27/2023 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-200>
- HB246**      **SELF-DIRECTION MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAMS** (CUTRONA A, BREWER D) Regarding self-direction in certain Medicaid home and community-based services waiver programs.  
*Current Status:* 7/20/2023 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-246>
- HJR1**        **REQUIRE 60 PERCENT VOTE-CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT** (STEWART B) Proposing to amend Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require a vote of at least 60% of the electors to approve any constitutional amendment and to modify the procedures for an initiative petition proposing a constitutional amendment.  
*Current Status:* 4/19/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Constitutional Resolutions, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HJR-1>
- SB1**        **REFORM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** (REINEKE W) To rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce; to create the position of Director of Education and Workforce; and to reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.





*Current Status:* 5/9/2023 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-1>

**SB33**      **MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERY-INFORMED CONSENT (SCHAFER T)** To require Medicaid applicants to certify that they have been notified about the Medicaid estate recovery program.

*Current Status:* 3/7/2023 - Senate Medicaid, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-33>

**SB44**      **ELECTRONIC LICENSING APPLICATION REQUIREMENT (BRENNER A)** To require a state occupational licensing agency to accept electronic license applications.

*Current Status:* 6/20/2023 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-44>

**SB50**      **911 SERVICE LAW CHANGES (WILSON S, SMITH K)** To make changes to the law governing 9-1-1 service and to repeal program requirements for emergency-service-telecommunicator training.

*Current Status:* 6/6/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, Senate Financial Institutions and Technology, (Eighth Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-50>

**SB83**      **HIGHER EDUCATION OPERATIONS ENHANCEMENT (CIRINO J)** To enact the Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act regarding the operation of state institutions of higher education and to revise the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.

*Current Status:* 5/24/2023 - House Higher Education, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-83>

**SB96**      **LABOR LAW NOTICES-POSTING (LANG G, WILSON S)** To allow employers to post certain labor law notices on the internet.

*Current Status:* 6/21/2023 - Senate Workforce and Higher Education, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-96>



**SB131**      **DEAF HISTORY MONTH-APRIL** (CRAIG H, WILSON S) To change the designation for "Ohio Deaf History Month" to the Month of April.

*Current Status:* 6/28/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Health

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-131>

**SJR2**      **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE-60 PERCENT REQUIREMENT**  
(MCCOLLEY R, GAVARONE T) Proposing to amend Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require a vote of at least 60% of the electors to approve any constitutional amendment.

*Current Status:* 5/10/2023 - Consideration of House Amendments; Senate Does Concur, Vote 26-7

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SJR-2>

