



GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC. & RH RESOURCES

Ohio Speech & Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition Legislative Activities Report September 2023

Rep. Bob Young (R-North Canton) announced his resignation from the Ohio House as he faces misdemeanor domestic violence charges. He said he plans to officially resign from his seat on Monday, Oct. 2. In a letter to House Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill), Young said the allegations have become a "distraction" and asked for continued privacy for his family. Stephens had previously asked Young to resign and later stripped him of his chairmanship over the House Pensions Committee.

After state lawmakers earlier this year stripped the State Board of Education (SBOE) of most of its powers, more changes could be on the way. Biennial budget bill HB33 (Edwards) mostly sidelines SBOE and the state superintendent in favor of a new governor-appointed director of the renamed Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). The board and state superintendent will retain a small subset of their current powers, mostly around educator licensure, licensee disciplinary actions, and school district territory transfers. A former SBOE member, Rep. Sarah Fowler Arthur (R-Ashtabula) presented sponsor testimony in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee on her proposal to make additional changes to the board. Fowler Arthur's HB235 reduces the SBOE from 19 members to 15 members, all of whom would be elected based on the 15 congressional districts, moves elections for State Board members from the nonpartisan ballot to the partisan ballot, and provides for primary elections for State Board members.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently published guidance for implementation of a new law included in the budget bill changing how schools can make up for lost in-person class days with remote learning. The final version of HB33 (Edwards) includes a Senate-added provision to repeal the old "blizzard bag" law allowing schools to post online or send home in paper form lessons to be completed when school is closed for weather or other hazards. It was replaced with language requiring schools to adopt by Aug. 1 of each academic year a plan to provide online instruction to make up the equivalent of up to three days of missed school. The plans are required to include provision of real-time, interactive instruction to the extent possible and attendance requirements and documentation. The new law takes effect Tuesday, Oct. 3, and ODE is urging schools to update their calamity day plans by Wednesday, Nov. 1.

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) announced that the state's Rainy Day Fund (RDF) stands at a record of nearly \$3.7 billion, "an increase of \$174.7 million following the accrual of interest at the close of FY23 and the completion of a cash transfer into the fund" as authorized by the FY24-25 budget bill, HB33 (Edwards). This is an increase over the "historic high" of the fund announced earlier this year when it reached nearly \$3.5 billion. Meanwhile, OBM reported August tax revenues were 1.4 percent over estimates.

Gov. Mike DeWine announced that the Ohio Redistricting Commission will begin meeting in September to redraw the Ohio House and Ohio Senate district maps. Saying time is not their ally, Secretary of State Frank LaRose sent a letter to fellow members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission warning that the timeline for adopting new Ohio House and Senate plans may be even more truncated than previously considered. LaRose told other members of the commission

that the redistricting process could potentially conflict with the statutory requirements of election administration if new maps are not approved by Friday, Sept. 22.



Below is a list of legislation we are currently tracking during the 135th 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: 9/26/2023 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
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: 9/13/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight



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: 9/13/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity

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: 9/20/2023 - House Insurance, (Third 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: 9/13/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance



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: 9/20/2023 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

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: 9/19/2023 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth 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: 9/12/2023 - Referred to Committee House Public Health Policy



State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-246>

HB266 **EVACUATION PLANS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
(WIGGAM S) To require school districts and schools to update emergency management plans to include evacuation procedures for individuals with disabilities and to amend the version of section 3314.03 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2025, to continue the changes on and after that effective date.

Current Status: 9/12/2023 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-266>

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>

