



## GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC. & RH RESOURCES

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

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) will host hiring events and provide information about available positions during National Disability Employment Awareness Month which is observed in October. The events are part of OOD's campaign to celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities and raise awareness about the employment of people with disabilities. The hiring events will provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to connect one-on-one with employers.

Seven members of the State Board of Education filed a lawsuit on September 19 to challenge the new K-12 governance structure enacted in the state budget that transfers most of their power to a gubernatorial appointee, arguing it violates the Ohio Constitution. The lawsuit, filed in the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, is assigned to Judge Karen Phipps. On September 21, Phipps issued an order temporarily blocking the DeWine administration from moving forward with implementation of the law creating the new Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) or appointing an agency director.

Attorney General Dave Yost's office is now taking applications through Thursday, Nov. 30 for grant funding for up to \$30,000 to help schools respond quickly to threats for items such as silent panic alarms, gunshot-detection technology and more. Applications can be submitted online at <https://grants.ohio.gov/fundingopportunities.aspx>. The submission date will be a factor in evaluating applications, Yost's office said. Awards are expected to be announced in January and paid in early 2024. Those with questions about the program can contact: [OfficerSchoolSafetyGrants@ohioago.gov](mailto:OfficerSchoolSafetyGrants@ohioago.gov).

Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill) made a second round of changes to the fall schedule for House sessions, assuring the House wouldn't meet in September but adding more potential sessions later in the year. Canceled were an if-needed session set for Wednesday, Sept. 27 and a session set for Wednesday, Oct. 18. Added were a session for Wednesday, Oct. 11 and if-needed sessions for Wednesday, Oct. 3, Tuesday, Dec. 5 and Tuesday, Dec. 12.

The Ohio Redistricting Commission late Tuesday, September 26 unanimously passed new House and Senate maps that will lock in a Republican majority until the end of the decade. The two Democrats on the commission -- Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) -- said that while they were voting for the plan and that it was better than what was originally adopted as the working document last week, the process was still broken and should be taken out of the hands of politicians. According to co-chair Auditor Keith Faber, the new map would see 20 Republican, three lean Republican, nine Democratic, and one lean Democratic seats in the Senate. There would be 58 Republican, three lean Republican, 30 Democratic seats, and eight lean Democratic seats in the House.

A proposed constitutional amendment that would replace the state's legislative and congressional redistricting process with a 15-member citizens' panel took a step forward after Attorney General Dave Yost approved the petition summary on its third try. The "Amendment to Replace the

Current Politician-Run Redistricting Process with a Citizen-Led Commission Required to Create Fair State Legislative Districts Through a More Open and Independent System" then went to the Ohio Ballot Board, which confirmed that the proposal contains one ballot issue. Yost had previously rejected two submissions from the group behind the amendment -- Citizens Not Politicians -- saying the summary language did not meet the requirement that the language be "fair and truthful."



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

**HB7      STRONG FOUNDATIONS ACT (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 amend the versions of sections 5180.21, 5180.22, and 5180.32 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect January 1, 2025, to continue those changes on and after that date; to name this act the Strong Foundations Act; and to make appropriations.

*Current Status:* 10/11/2023 - House Finance, (Third 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:** 9/26/2023 - Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity, (First Hearing)

**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:* 9/26/2023 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
*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** (SCHAFFER 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:* 10/11/2023 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 30-0

*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>



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