



## GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC. & RH RESOURCES

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

Gov. Mike DeWine named Jessica Voltolini interim director of the renamed Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) effective Monday, Oct. 23 after a visiting Franklin County judge denied a preliminary injunction to further block the transfer of control over K-12 education governance from the State Board of Education (SBOE) to the governor's office. Richard Frye, a retired Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge, ruled that the state can proceed with the education overhaul laid out in the latest state budget, HB33 (Edwards).

Steve Dackin is back atop the state's K-12 education agency after a very brief stint last year cut short by an ethics inquiry. Gov. Mike DeWine said he's nominating Dackin to serve as the first permanent director of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), a renamed and reconfigured agency that's assuming many powers from the State Board of Education (SBOE) and state superintendent. Dackin is a former teacher, school administrator and community college official who served as vice president of the State Board of Education, a position he resigned to pursue the job of state superintendent. His former board colleagues chose him for the role, but he served just weeks before resigning and returning his pay.

Members of the House Higher Education Committee accepted a sub bill for higher education reform bill SB83 (Cirino) that removes a provision prohibiting university faculty from striking and adds other flexibilities, though Democrats on the committee said the legislation still threatens collective bargaining rights. Sen. Jerry Cirino (R-Kirtland), who appeared at the hearing to discuss the changes, said he still strongly supports the provisions barring faculty and college employees from striking but agreed to remove it at the request of House members. "I stand firmly behind the idea ... that students' instruction should not be put in jeopardy because of labor negotiations," he said.

The House passed legislation on November 15 to require schools to set policies on staff speech, with majority Republicans saying it's meant to address ideological conformity in schools and Democrats warning it would sow confusion and exacerbate teacher shortages. Under HB214 (Holmes), schools would be required to set policies stating they won't require employees or applicants to affirm or opine about specific ideologies or beliefs, or use such statements as part of evaluation criteria, among other restrictions. The bill passed 64-30.

Ohioans approved two statewide issues in the Tuesday, November 7 election. Issue 1, the reproductive and abortion rights constitutional amendment, was approved by a vote of 56.62% to 43.38%, according to numbers posted by the Ohio Secretary of State's Office. Issue 2, the initiated statute to commercialize, regulate, legalize, and tax the adult use of cannabis, was approved by a vote of 56.97% to 43.03%.

Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) said he will retire Friday, Dec. 1, creating a vacancy in the 30th Senate District, which covers Athens, Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble and Washington counties and part of Guernsey County. Senate Republicans said they will take applications until 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29 for those interested in completing Hoagland's

term, which runs through the end of 2024. His retirement statement did not specify a reason for his early departure but said he "looks forward to spending time with his grandchild and family."



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:* 11/28/2023 - Senate Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)

*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:* 11/1/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Insurance, (Fourth 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>
- HB319 CONSCIENTIOUS RIGHT TO REFUSE ACT (GROSS J, WIGGAM S)** To prohibit discrimination against an individual for the refusal of certain medical interventions for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions, and to name this act the Conscientious Right to Refuse Act.  
*Current Status:* 11/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House Health Provider Services  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-319>
- HB321 911 SPECIAL NEEDS DATABASE (CLICK G, LORENZ B)** To establish a statewide 9-1-1 special needs database.  
*Current Status:* 11/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House Homeland Security  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-321>
- HB325 PROVIDE DEAF INMATES WITH TELETYPEWRITERS (UPCHURCH T)** To require municipal and county correctional facilities and state correctional institutions to provide inmates who are deaf, hard of hearing, or severely speech impaired with access to teletypewriters.  
*Current Status:* 11/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-325>



- HB327**      **REQUIRE CERTAIN CONTRACTORS TO USE E-VERIFY (WIGGAM S, SWEARINGEN D)** To require government contractors, private nonresidential contractors, and certain employers to use E-verify.  
*Current Status:* 11/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-327>
- 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:* 11/1/2023 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Higher Education, (Second 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:* 10/24/2023 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor  
*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>

