



## GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC. & RH RESOURCES

### Ohio Speech & Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition Legislative Activities Report February 2024

The Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services (Ohio EMS) announced that non-sterile personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, masks, gowns and hand sanitizer, are being made available by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) as the "use by" date will expire in time. The PPE supplies were purchased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Package quantities include 875 non-sterile surgical masks and 200 N95 NIOSH-approved respirators. ODH can ship requested items to organizations which have a FedEx or UPS account, arrange for pick up at the ODH warehouse in Groveport or deliver orders of at least five PPE cases to facilities within 25 miles of the warehouse. Entities interested in requesting PPE should go to <http://tinyurl.com/39ceab2n>. Those with questions about this PPE offer or shipping options should contact the warehouse at [RSS@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:RSS@odh.ohio.gov) or 614-491-9013.

The House passed a \$2 billion infrastructure bill that appropriates \$350 million of the \$700 million in One Time Strategic Community Investments funding a day after it was announced, though the debate in the chamber had not ended before Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) made it clear that he was not on board. House Speaker Jason Stephens (R- Kitts Hill) had announced the plan to amend the funds into HB2 (Cutrona-Upchurch) and pass it, while planning to address capital appropriations at a later date. The bill cleared the House Finance Committee with nary a witness save the two co-sponsors -- Reps. Al Cutrona (R-Canfield) and Terrence Upchurch (D-Cleveland) -- and with only one question from committee member Rep. Dan Troy (D-Willowick). The committee was told the bill includes \$600 million for school buildings; \$400 million for the Public Works Commission infrastructure program; nearly \$400 million for numerous higher education projects; and \$250 million for local jail construction across Ohio. In addition, it appropriates \$350 million -- the House share of the \$700 million One Time Strategic Community Investments Fund that was created in the FY24-25 budget bill, HB33 (Edwards) -- for 318 projects across the state. Huffman, however, said in a memo that there is no agreement between the House and Senate on HB2, and there were not any negotiations with the Senate or with himself. "Approving a large spending bill without additional debate would be irresponsible and an abdication of the duties of the Senate. Normally, both chambers work together to create an agreed upon bill. For unknown reasons, the House chose to break from that process," Huffman wrote. "The Senate will continue to follow its timeline announced in December for this year's capital budget process which includes the additional \$700 million for the One Time Strategic Community Investment Fund, with the goal of both chambers passing a single agreed upon bill later in May or early June."

Gov. Mike DeWine and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) released official program guidelines for the \$85 million Appalachian Community Innovation Centers program. K-12 school districts, joint vocational school districts, regional councils of government, or other political subdivisions located in the 32 Ohio Appalachian counties may apply for funding. The application period began Monday, Feb. 5 and ends Thursday, March 21. The program is administered by the OFCC. Eligible projects include new construction, renovation, or expansion of existing facilities that support public education; deliver physical or behavioral health care services onsite to students and the public; and provide community access to job-related

programming. To qualify, projects must demonstrate a significant impact in all three areas, according to the governor's office.

Tax revenues are down about half a percent for the fiscal year so far after another underperformance in January, but the overall revenue picture and sizable underspending leave Ohio's budget on solid footing, Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Kim Murnieks told Hannah News. Outsize refunds linked to a 2022 tax law change are the main driver of under-estimate income tax collections, she said. According to preliminary revenue figures from OBM, the income tax missed estimates by 5.1 percent or \$57.6 million. Sales taxes were under estimates by about \$18.5 million, with a 2.2 percent or \$24 million underperformance in the non-auto sales tax, which was partially offset by a 4 percent or \$5.8 million overperformance in the auto sales tax. Total January tax revenues of \$2.58 billion were \$70.4 million or 2.7 percent below estimates.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published its revised poverty guidelines for 2024 which were applicable beginning Thursday, Jan. 11. The guidelines -- or various multiples of the guidelines such 150 percent, 175 percent or 200 percent -- are used to the measure individuals' eligibility for a variety of federal and state programs including Medicaid. The HHS secretary is required, under federal law, to update the guidelines "at least annually, adjusting them on the basis of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)." The guidelines, for various size families are as follows: for a family of 1, \$15,600; for a family of 2, \$20,440; for a family of 3, \$25,820; and for a family of 4, \$31,200.

House Democrats announced the election of Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) as the new minority assistant whip. This follows the resignation of former Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) from the Ohio House in mid-January to become the Summit County Clerk of Courts.



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:* 1/24/2024 - Consideration of Governor's Veto; Senate Overrides Veto, Vote 24-8  
*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:* 1/24/2024 - Consideration of Governor's Veto; Senate Overrides Veto, Vote 24-8  
*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:* 2/7/2024 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Insurance, (Third 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:* 1/24/2024 - Referred to Committee Senate Insurance  
*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:* 12/12/2023 - House Behavioral Health, (First Hearing)  
*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:* 2/7/2024 - House Public Health Policy, (First Hearing)  
*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 Jan. 1, 2025, to continue the changes on and after that effective date.  
*Current Status:* 12/12/2023 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
*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:* 2/7/2024 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Homeland Security, (Second Hearing)  
*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:* 2/13/2024 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-327>

**HB337**     **PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME** (SWEENEY B, MANNING G) To recognize Prader-Willi syndrome as a developmental disability.  
*Current Status:* 2/7/2024 - House Public Health Policy, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-337>

**HB339**     **NONCHARTERED EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT** (CLICK G) To establish the Nonchartered Educational Savings Account Program.  
*Current Status:* 2/13/2024 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-339>

**HB377**     **HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT** (WILLIAMS J, SANTUCCI N) To enact the Human Trafficking Prevention Act to increase the penalty for human trafficking of a minor or person with a developmental disability, kidnapping, and abduction.  
*Current Status:* 2/6/2024 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice



*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-377>

**HB400**     **MEDIGAP FOR THOSE UNDER 65 (CALLENDER J, SWEENEY B)** To provide Medigap policies for Medicare-eligible individuals under the age of 65.

*Current Status:* 2/6/2024 - Referred to Committee House Insurance

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-400>

**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:* 1/3/2024 - Re-Referred to Committee  
*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>

