



GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC. & RH RESOURCES

Ohio Speech & Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition Legislative Activities Report March 2024

In a surprising turn of events, the Ohio Senate amended a House bill in late February addressing college costs to appropriate \$1.4 billion toward school construction and public works as the chamber works through differences in a potential capital appropriations bill. The amendment to HB27 (Mathews-Thomas) appropriates \$600 million for schools, \$575 million for public works, \$196 million for state fair improvements requested by Gov. Mike DeWine, and \$38 million for the adoption grant program. Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) said the reason for the amendment is because the fiscal year starts on July 1, so the Legislature needs to pass a bill by the end of March in order to have appropriations they usually deal with in the capital bill take effect by July 1. He acknowledged the House's passage of HB2 (Cutrona-Upchurch) and said some of the same appropriations in HB27 are also in HB2, but said the Senate has set a deadline of Monday, April 8 for capital project submissions, and there was not enough time to take up HB2 and have it done by the end of March. The bill passed 30-2. Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) told reporters he doesn't think it makes a difference which bill passes between HB27 and HB2, but said the issue is passing appropriations that both chambers have already agreed with, referring to the school and public works funds.

The Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus heard from school-based health care providers from around the state who described their roles in filling gaps and providing students and families with a range of services from routine check-ups to social services. The virtual meeting featured panelists Javar Jackson Sr., chief operating officer (COO) with Third Street Family Health Services in Mansfield; Nancy Pepler, the supervisor of community and school partnerships at Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools; Dina Thurman, a nurse practitioner with Dayton Children's Hospital; Sherry Shamblin, chief strategy officer of Hopewell Health Centers in Southeast Ohio; and Dr. Mona Mansour, professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Medicine and associate director of population health at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Reem Aly, executive director of the Ohio School-Based Health Alliance, moderated the forum. The panelists all provide onsite services at schools, in addition, in some cases, to telehealth and mobile services.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) recently released data for openings posted on OhioMeansJobs.com from Dec. 14, 2023 through Jan. 13, 2024, saying there were 179,412 during the period. That reflected an increase of 2,166 from the previous period and a decrease of 11,642 from the same time period one year ago. Salary ranges for the postings included 13.4 percent under \$30,000; 29.2 percent \$30,000 to \$49,000; 26.8 percent \$50,000 to \$79,000; 12.1 percent \$80,000 to \$99,000; and 18.4 percent over \$100,000. A GED or high school diploma was required for 44.4 percent of postings, while 35 percent needed a bachelor's degree, 14.4 percent needed an associate degree and 6.3 percent needed a master's or doctoral degree.

State tax revenues ran nearly 2 percent ahead of expectations in February and are just about on target for the fiscal year so far, according to preliminary revenue data from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). Tax receipts reached \$2.11 billion in February, \$38.4 million or 1.2

percent over forecasts. The sales tax drove that trend, coming in \$32 million or 3.5 percent ahead, yielding \$954.2 million versus expectations of \$922.2 million. The non-auto sales tax was ahead by \$22.3 million or 2.8 percent, while the auto sales tax was up \$9.6 million or 7.2 percent. Income taxes missed the mark by \$14.8 million or 5 percent, bringing in \$278.2 million versus expectations of \$293 million. The Commercial Activity Tax was close to the target, yielding \$524.1 million and missing expectations by just \$2.4 million or 0.4 percent.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed an executive order recently that directs all state departments and agencies to be prepared to ensure the health and safety of all Ohioans and visitors before, during and after the forthcoming solar eclipse. The total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8 will cross a 124-mile-wide band in the state of Ohio, the governor's office said. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) is coordinating the state's preparation and response to the event, and all law enforcement agencies are prepared to respond with necessary personnel and resources to assist local law enforcement in contributing to the safety and security of Ohio residents and tourists. Travelers are urged to arrive early and stay late to avoid the heaviest traffic. Additional preparedness resources are available at www.eclipse.ohio.gov and events surrounding the eclipse can be found at www.ohio.org/eclipse.



Below is a list of legislation we are currently tracking during the 135th 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>
- HB147** **TEACHER LICENSURE REVOCATION (FOWLER S, MILLER A)** Regarding teacher licensure revocation, teacher hiring practices, and conduct unbecoming to the teaching profession.
Current Status: 2/27/2024 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-147>
- 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>

HB427 **GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT** (JARRELLS D, LIPPS S) To phase out the subminimum wage for individuals with physical or mental disabilities and to name this act the Ohio Employment First and Greater Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act.

Current Status: 2/21/2024 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-427>

HB436 **REMOTE SERVICES - EDUCATIONAL AIDES, INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS** (PICCOLANTONIO B, CARRUTHERS S) To require the State Board of Education to permit educational aides and intervention specialists to provide remote services.

Current Status: 3/4/2024 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-436>

HB440 **REMOTE SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS** (FOWLER S, LEAR B) Regarding the provision of remote services for special needs scholarship recipients and regarding credentialed professionals who may provide services under the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program.

Current Status: 3/4/2024 - Introduced

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-440>

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>

