



GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC. & RH RESOURCES

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

Gov. Mike DeWine delivered his annual State of the State Address before a joint session of the General Assembly on April 10. The speech was largely focused on children's initiatives, but also urged state policymakers to act on his longstanding calls to ban flavored tobacco and intoxicating hemp, revise the state's recreational marijuana statute, and update traffic safety laws. Among the initiatives announced was the Childcare Choice Voucher Program, which will subsidize early education costs for families that make up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Gov. DeWine also encouraged local school officials to consider opening school-based health centers, potentially with state Student Wellness and Success funds from the operating budget. The remarks also detailed a new partnership among the Department of Medicaid, the state's Children's Hospitals, and Medicaid Managed Care plans aimed at helping children with conditions like asthma and sickle cell disease manage their afflictions so they can enjoy a better quality of life and miss fewer days of school. Other asks of the legislature included adding career planning to the state's high school graduation requirements and providing the funding necessary for every student who wants to take part in career-tech education to have that option.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) recently revamped its Deaf Services webpage for greater inclusivity and accessibility. The update includes a wide range of American Sign Language (ASL) videos. "At OOD, we understand the unique needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and this update is part of our ongoing commitment to enhance accessibility. Discover a wealth of ASL videos that explain the diverse range of services available to you," the agency said. The updated website, which includes answers to common questions through ASL videos, can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ypbxw64b>.

Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague announced that April is "ABLE to Save Month" and promoted the state's version of Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts that help people with disabilities to enhance their financial independence. A new STABLE Account enrollment incentive that began Monday matches the first \$25 that an eligible Ohioan contributes when opening a new account, according to Sprague's office. The accounts are similar to 529 plans and enable Ohioans to save up to \$18,000 annually without losing federal assistance. Those who are employed can save an additional \$14,580 each year. Earnings on STABLE accounts grow tax-free if they are spent on qualified expenses, which include housing, transportation, living expenses, health care and assistive technology. The state program was launched in 2016, following the creation of the federal ABLE Act. Sprague's office said participation has grown from fewer than 10,000 accounts when he took office in January 2019 to almost 40,000 active accounts now.

Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) Director Maureen Corcoran highlighted for the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC) two programs targeting Medicaid programs for children and pregnant women: the Early and Periodic Screening and Diagnosis Treatment (EPSDT) or Healthchek program, which targets services to Medicaid beneficiaries under age 21, and Pregnancy Related Services (PRS) - both federally required programs. Members also heard from Dr. Sean Gleeson of Partners for Kids (PFK) at Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Dayton

Children's Hospital who described how the program works to provide care to 470,000 Medicaid children.

Businessman Bernie Moreno cruised to victory in the U.S. Senate Republican primary on March 20, defeating Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) and Secretary of State Frank LaRose. Moreno will now face U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) in the general election in November. Eighth District Court of Appeals Judge Lisa Forbes won the only contested Supreme Court primary this year, defeating Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge Terri Jamison by a 26.4 percentage point margin in the Democratic election. Four incumbent Republicans lost their seats in Republican primaries. Those who did not succeed in retaining their seats were Reps. Sara Carruthers (R-Hamilton), who lost to Diane Mullins; Brett Hillyer (R-Uhrichsville), who lost to Jodi Salvo; Gail Pavliga (R-Atwater), who lost to Heidi Workman; and Jon Cross (R-Findlay), who lost to Ty Mathews. Rep. Elliot Forhan (D-South Euclid) was the lone Democrat incumbent to lose his seat in the primary, coming in third behind winner Eric Synenberg and second-place finisher Angel Washington in the three-way primary.

Victor Hipsley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Governmental Policy Group, Inc., is pleased to announce that Sydney Sanders has been promoted to Director of Policy and Communication for the firm (GPG-RHR). Additionally, GPG-RHR announced the hire of Alexys Nukes as Manager of Communications and Outreach. Alexys will begin full time on April 22nd. “Sydney’s elevation is well deserved as she has used her stellar communications background to enhance and provide real time information on all issues impacting our entire client base as well as lobbying and coordinating the policy issues on behalf of our firm,” said Hipsley. Sanders joined the firm in 2022. Ms. Nukes is a graduate of The Ohio State University, where she earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Communications, as well as a minor in Spanish. She began her career as a Public Relations Assistant for KimMossPR based in Cleveland, Ohio. During her time there, Alexys worked closely with the public relations agency to carry out various duties for motion picture entertainment companies such as Amazon MGM Studios and Warner Bros. In addition to hosting advanced screenings at movie theaters and conducting post-film audience interviews, she also completed target audience background research and collaborated with local community partners to maximize the success of outreach efforts within the community.



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: 4/9/2024 - Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity, (Second 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: 4/17/2024 - Senate Education, (Third 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: 4/23/2024 - 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: 4/9/2024 - House Health Provider Services, (First Hearing)

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: 4/23/2024 - House Commerce and Labor, (Third 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: 4/10/2024 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)
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: 4/16/2024 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)
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: 4/2/2024 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education
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: 4/2/2024 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

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

HB463 **MEDICAL RECORDS-MINOR CHILDREN (CLICK G)** Related to medical records of minors and to name the act the My Child-My Chart Act.

Current Status: 4/2/2024 - Referred to Committee House Health Provider Services

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-463>

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: 4/23/2024 - House Commerce and Labor, (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>

