

APRIL 2023

House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education

The committee held testimony on the biennial budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Click [here](#) to read the testimony.

House Finance Subcommittee on Infrastructure and American Rescue Plan

The committee held testimony on the biennial budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, focused on Elementary and Secondary School Relief Funds (ESSER).

House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

The committee held a fourth hearing on [HB 12](#), which would rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and would create the position of Director of Education and Workforce. The bill also would reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. OSBA provided opponent testimony on the bill. Click [here](#) to read the testimony.

The committee held sponsor testimony on [SB 17](#), which would require the State Board to update the standards and model curriculum for financial literacy and entrepreneurship in grades nine-12 to include free market capitalism content.

The committee held sponsor testimony on [House Bill \(HB\) 70](#), which would require schools to adopt a policy regarding the administration of over-the-counter drugs.

House Economic and Workforce Development Committee

The committee held a second hearing on [SB 1](#), which would rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and would create the position of Director of Education and Workforce. The bill also would reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The committee held a fourth hearing on [HB 3](#), which would authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for the construction or rehabilitation of certain federally subsidized rental housing and authorize a uniform method for the tax valuation of most such housing.

House Ways and Means Committee

The committee held a fourth hearing on [HB 1](#), which would modify the law regarding property taxation and income tax rates.

The committee held a hearing on [HB 57](#), which would index the homestead exemption amounts to inflation.

The committee held a hearing on [HB 60](#), which would increase the amount of and expand the income qualifications for the homestead exemption.

Senate Finance Committee

The committee held a fourth hearing on [SB 6](#), which would prohibit the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and School Employment Retirement System (SERS), among others, from making investment decisions for the primary purpose of influencing environmental, social and corporate governance policies.

House Pensions Committee

The committee held sponsor testimony on [HB 78](#), which would change State Teachers Retirement Board membership to allow retirees who are reemployed to seek election as a contributing or retired member of the board; and would change the requirements of a contributing board member who retires or leaves employment and later seeks election as a retired board member.

Senate Government Oversight Committee

The committee amended [SB 44](#), which would require a state occupational licensing agency to accept electronic license applications. The amendment would allow state agencies to choose the system used to receive electronic applications for an occupational license, rather than requiring use of one selected by the Department of Administrative Services.

House Provider Services Committee

The committee held a second hearing on [HB 47](#), which would require the placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in each public and chartered nonpublic school and each public recreational facility. The bill would also require the Ohio Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs.

House Criminal Justice Committee

The committee held a third hearing on [HB 20](#), which would create the crime of electronic computer service interference. This would prohibit a person from knowingly and without authorization gaining access to or permitting access to be gained to a computer, computer system or computer network. Additionally, the bill would create the crime of electronic data theft which would prohibit a person from knowingly and without authorization obtaining electronic data with the intent to either revise or execute any scheme to defraud, deceive, extort or commit any crime or to wrongfully control or obtain property or wrongfully gain access to electronic data, among other provisions.

House State and Local Government Committee

The committee held sponsor testimony on [HB 74](#), which would establish a plan to migrate the state's information technology systems to the state's computer center and cloud environment and establish a cybersecurity and fraud advisory board.

The committee also held sponsor testimony on [HB 76](#), which would modify state agency data storage and notification law.

New Bills Introduced

- [HB 125](#), which would modify the income tax deductions for contributions to 529 plans and ABLE accounts;
- [HB 127](#), which would revise the law regarding the home education of children;
- [SB 87](#), which would establish the day of each general election as a legal holiday for which government employees receive paid leave.
- [HB 135](#), which would require school districts to grant students excused absences from school for participation in 4-H and FFA programs and activities;
- [HB 137](#), which would require ODE to study the feasibility of implementing a program similar to the Kentucky Bluegrass Challenge Academy;
- [HB 139](#), which would increase the penalties for assault if the victim is acting as a sports official or the assault is committed in retaliation for the victim's actions as a sports official;
- [HB 140](#), which would increase penalties for passing a school bus and allow the use of cameras on school buses;
- [SB 99](#), which would require public and chartered nonpublic schools to create a seizure action plan for each student with a seizure disorder.
- [HB 145](#), which would expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services;
- [HB 146](#), which would establish a contribution-based benefit cap in calculating a School Employees Retirement System member's retirement benefit;
- [HB 147](#), which would make changes to teacher licensure revocation, teacher hiring practices, and conduct unbecoming to the teaching profession;
- [SB 104](#), which would make changes to the College Credit Plus Program.

Senate activity

The Senate unanimously passed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 43](#), which would extend the homestead exemption for the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran to spouses of disabled veterans who died before receiving a qualifying disability rating.

Senate Education Committee

The committee amended and passed [SB 49](#), which would enact the Religious Expression Days "R.E.D." Act and require school boards to adopt a policy providing students with religious accommodations for up to three days. The amendment requires the school principal, instead of the classroom teacher, to approve the absence requests and requires the student's parent or guardian to provide the written notice instead of the student. The amendment also allows school principals to verify written requests with a parent or guardian before approving them. Finally, among other changes, the amendment requires each school district to annually convey the policy.

The committee held a second hearing on [SB 66](#), which would require public and private schools to transmit a transferred student's records within five school days.

The committee held sponsor testimony on [SB 79](#), which would make changes to dropout prevention and recovery community schools.

House Higher Education Committee

The committee held a second hearing on [HB 6](#), which would enact the Save Women's Sports Act. The bill would require schools, state institutions of higher education and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex.

House Commerce and Labor Committee

The committee held sponsor testimony on [SB 30](#), which would allow a person aged 14 or 15 to be employed between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. during the school year if the person has parental or legal guardian consent.

The legislature will be back on Monday, April 17, when the biennial budget process and committee hearings will resume. Please continue reaching out to your legislators as we advocate for a full phase in of the Fair School Funding Plan and updates to the base cost inputs to FY 2022.

Submitted by John Skerl