

➤ **Fair School Funding Plan (Sub. H.B. 305, S.B. 376)**

Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to our advocacy efforts in moving the Fair School Funding Plan forward. Over the past few weeks, Sub. H.B. 305 received a unanimous vote out of the House Finance Committee and an overwhelming majority vote in the Ohio House of Representatives (87-9) to approve the first comprehensive school funding formula overhaul in decades. Unfortunately, the Fair School Funding Plan will not be approved this General Assembly. However, as described in more detail below, S.B. 310 did provide funding for the studies.

Your efforts have helped to create such positive momentum that there are already plans to introduce the Fair School Funding Plan in the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. If you have not already done so, please take the time in the next few weeks to introduce yourself to newly elected legislators. Offer to be a resource to them as they acquaint themselves with school funding and operations. This is also the perfect time to reconnect with your legislators who will be returning in January. Please click [here](#) for a sample letter to legislators.

Starting in January, please plan to continue your discussions with representatives in the Ohio House and Senate to ensure we maintain this positive momentum. Together, we can ensure all children in Ohio receive the education they need to succeed!

➤ **Certificates of Transition (H.B. 450)**

House Bill 450 has been sent to Governor DeWine for signature. The bill requires fiscal officers, including a treasurer/CFO of a school district, to provide certificates of transition to their successors. The bill clarifies that the certificate must contain an inventory of items delivered in accordance with ORC Section 3313.28. The form and substance of the certificate is to be prescribed by the Auditor of State (AOS), with input from treasurers and other fiscal officers. The OASBO Auditor of State Committee looks forward to discussing and providing input on the form and substance of the certificate.

Click [here](#) for the bill synopsis and other documents.

➤ **Capital Appropriations Bill (S.B. 310)**

Senate Bill 310 has been sent to Governor DeWine for signature. The \$2.1 billion capital appropriation bill was amended in conference committee to include \$3 million to fund the studies called for Sub. H.B. 305, as well as \$385 million for school construction projects through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. In addition, the bill specifies that, for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, the limit on a school district's expenditures for the operation of student activity programs specified under current law does not apply. The bill also changes the start date of the EdChoice application period from March 1 to March 2.

Click [here](#) for the bill synopsis and other documents.

➤ **Treasurer and Business Manager Licenses (H.B. 442)**

Due to your advocacy efforts, treasurer and business manager licenses were **removed** from the amendment to House Bill 442.

Thank you for contacting the members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee to share your personal experiences and emphasize the importance of state-required licenses for school treasurers and business managers to ensure the integrity of the profession and our public schools.

➤ **Challenges to Property Tax Assessments (H.B. 75)**

House Bill 75 was passed out of Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee last week. The bill requires that school districts pass a resolution approving the filing of a property tax complaint before a complaint can be filed. It also limits the circumstances under which a property tax complaint may be filed for residential property, as well as counter-complaints. However, the bill no longer includes the requirement to send a notice of the resolution to both the street address and mailing address and would require the notice to only be sent to the owner's mailing address.

The bill has been informally passed by the Senate. Click [here](#) for bill analysis and other documents.

➤ **Neighborhood Development Areas (S.B. 212)**

The House Ways and Means Committee amended and passed S.B. 212, which would provide a full or partial tax exemption to developers and owners of newly constructed homes within specified areas during the construction period and for 10 years after the home is occupied. Exemption may be any percentage but must receive school board approval if greater than 75%. The committee adopted an amendment to limit developer exemptions, including the authorization of a property tax exemption for vacant property owned by developers, beginning the year the property is subdivided and continuing until construction begins, but for no more than ten years.

The bill could go to the floor for a vote. Needs to be approved by both chambers. Click [here](#) for bill analysis and other documents.

➤ **COVID-Related Property Tax Complaints (H.B. 38 amended to include provisions of H.B. 751)**

Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee amended and passed House Bill (H.B.) 38 to include provisions of H.B. 751. As a quick recap, this bill modifies the Board of Revision (BOR) process for certain property valuation challenges for businesses as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic for tax years 2020, 2021, and 2022. Since tax rates for 2020 have already been set (with the first half of property taxes for tax year 2020 due next month), local governments will lose dollar for dollar in revenue on challenges authorized under H.B.

Thank you for contacting members in both the House and Senate regarding concerns around this legislation and its impact on local governments, including school districts.

The bill could go to the floor for a vote. The bill needs to be approved by both chambers. Click [here](#) for bill analysis and other documents.

➤ **Ballot Uniformity and Transparency Act (H.B. 76)**

The Senate General Government and Agency Review held a sixth hearing on H.B. 76, which would modify the form of election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. These modifications include, (i) requiring property tax election notices and ballot language to convey a property tax levy's rate in dollars for each \$100,000 of "true value" instead of in dollars for each \$100 of taxable value, and (ii) requiring election notices and ballot language to display the estimated amount the levy would collect annually.

OSBA, BASA, OASBO, the Ohio Library Council and the Ohio Township Association provided opponent testimony. A number of issues with the bill were highlighted in testimony, including: there is no acknowledgement made of existing variations in Ohio law in valuation and assessment methodology for

different types of property (e.g., residential, commercial, or other); many homes are valued at less than \$100,000; and the bill assumes every taxpayer is a homeowner.

The bill has not moved out of committee. Click [here](#) for bill analysis and other documents.

➤ **COVID-Related Legislation (H.B. 409, amended with provisions from S.B. 358)**

Certain COVID-19-related provisions originally included in S.B. 358 have been amended into H.B. 409. The bill prohibits the Department of Education (ODE) from issuing state report card ratings and rankings of school districts for the 2020-2021 school year, and establishes 2020-2021 school year as a safe harbor year. The bill provides authority for the State Superintendent to adjust deadlines for filling a vacancy on a district board of education, teacher evaluations, and intent to reemploy notifications, among others. In addition, the bill exempts districts from retaining a student under the third-grade reading guarantee for the 2020-21 school year, as well as provides flexibility to school districts regarding educational requirements of substitute teachers for the 2020-21 school year.

The Senate passed H.B. 409 last week. The bill will be sent to the House for a concurrence vote.

Click [here](#) to read a synopsis of the bill.

➤ **Dyslexia Screen (H.B. 436)**

The bill requires districts, by the 2022-23 school year, to administer annual dyslexia screenings and establish a multisensory structured literacy certification process for teachers employed by the district or school who provide instruction in grades K-3. The bill also establishes certain professional development requirements. The bill was amended in committee to require ODE to do a cost analysis on dyslexia screening programs. The bill removes a provision that would have allowed the use of Student Wellness and Success Funds for dyslexia screening, intervention and training.

H.B. 436 passed the Senate. The bill will now be sent to the House for a concurrence vote.

➤ **Water Bottle Filling Stations (S.B. 259 amended with provisions form H.B. 360)**

The bill prescribes minimum drinking fountain and water bottle filling station requirements for new school buildings that are constructed with assistance from OFCC.

The bill will go to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

➤ **Records Transfer (H.B. 111)**

House Bill 111 requires that public or chartered nonpublic schools transmit a transferred student's records within five school days after receiving a request from the school or district that the student is attending.

The Senate Education Committee passed H.B. 111. The Senate still needs to approve the bill.

Click [here](#) to read a synopsis of the bill.