

October 10, 2021

## **OASBO Legislative Tracking Tool**

The OASBO Legislative Tracking Tool provides information on pending legislation introduced by the 134th General Assembly that impacts public education. The bills are listed in descending order by the last action date. Links are included to the respective bill pages with additional information, such as the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) analysis and fiscal notes.

- HB281**      **MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITY TERMINOLOGY ACT (JARRELLS D, YOUNG T)** Regarding people with mental illnesses and people with disabilities and to name this act the Mental Health and Disability Terminology Act.  
*Current Status:* 10/6/2021 - Senate Health, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/23/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Health  
6/16/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 93-1  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-281>
- SB1**      **FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER REQUIREMENTS (WILSON S, MCCOLLEY R)** Relating to teaching financial literacy in high school, to provide discretion regarding educational requirements of substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year, and to declare an emergency.  
*Current Status:* 10/6/2021 - Consideration of House Amendments; Senate Does Concur, Vote 32-0, Emergency Clause 32-0  
*Recent Status:* 9/29/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 91-1, Emergency Clause 88-5  
9/29/2021 - Bills for Third Consideration  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-1>
- SB242**      **RETAIL MERCHANT CASH PAYMENTS (BLESSING III L)** To require retail merchants to give customers the option to pay by cash.  
*Current Status:* 10/6/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity  
*Recent Status:* 9/30/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-242>
- SB225**      **TAX CREDITS - TEMPORARY MODIFICATION (SCHURING K)** To temporarily modify the historic rehabilitation and the opportunity zone investment tax credits.  
*Current Status:* 10/5/2021 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 9/15/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance  
9/8/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-225>
- SB229**      **BLENDED LEARNING MODEL - EDUCATION (BLESSING III L)** With regard to the reporting of graduation rate data, the use of blended or remote learning by public and chartered

nonpublic schools during the 20212022 school year, the withdrawal of students enrolled in internet- or computer-based community schools for not taking state assessments, and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 10/5/2021 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 9/28/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
9/21/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-229>

**HB66 REVIEW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS (HOOPS J)** To require the reporting of information on and legislative review of property tax exemptions.

*Current Status:* 10/5/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 9/21/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
3/10/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-66>

**HB34 TIME REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENT RECORDS (INGRAM C)** To require that public and private schools transmit a transferred student's records within five school days.

*Current Status:* 9/29/2021 - Informally Passed

*Recent Status:* 9/29/2021 - Bills for Third Consideration  
9/22/2021 - Informally Passed

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-34>

**HB91 AUTHORIZE CERTAIN PUBLIC-PRIVATE INITIATIVES (PATTON T)** To authorize certain public entities to enter into public-private initiatives with a private party through a public-private agreement regarding public facilities.

*Current Status:* 9/29/2021 - House Infrastructure and Rural Development, (Third Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 4/28/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Infrastructure and Rural Development, (Second Hearing)  
3/10/2021 - House Infrastructure and Rural Development, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-91>

**HB298 CHANGE VOTING MEMBERSHIP OF SBOE (BIRD A, MILLER J)** To change the voting membership of the State Board of Education to consist of only elected members.

*Current Status:* 9/28/2021 - House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 5/20/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)  
5/12/2021 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-298>

**HB333 REGARDING SCHOOL COUNSELORS (MIRANDA J, WHITE A)** To require the Department of Education to make recommendations for a job description for school counselors and to designate at least one staff member as a school counselor liaison.

*Current Status:* 9/28/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
6/1/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-333>

**HB334**      **SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION, ETHICS** (SOBECKI L, INGRAM C) Regarding school district board member compensation and ethics and open meetings training.

*Current Status:* 9/28/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
6/7/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-334>

**SB9**      **REDUCE REGULATIONS** (MCCOLLEY R, ROEGNER K) To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions in their administrative rules.

*Current Status:* 9/28/2021 - House Government Oversight, (Second Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 5/20/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)  
3/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-9>

**SB56**      **INDEMNITY-DESIGN CONTRACTS** (BLESSING III L) To regulate the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts related to public improvements.

*Current Status:* 10/12/2021 - House Civil Justice, (Third Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 9/28/2021 - House Civil Justice, (Second Hearing)  
6/22/2021 - House Civil Justice, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-56>

**HB368**      **WEIGHTED GRADE AVERAGES FOR CCP COURSES** (BIRD A, PAVLIGA G) To permit school districts and schools to establish their own policies for weighted grade averages of courses completed through the College Credit Plus program.

*Current Status:* 10/13/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 9/28/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-368>

**HB327**      **STOP TEACHING OF DIVISIVE CONCEPTS** (GRENDALL D, FOWLER S) To prohibit school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and state agencies from teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts.

*Current Status:* 9/22/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 6/23/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)  
6/15/2021 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-327>

- HB322**      **REGARDING RACE, SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (JONES D)** Regarding the teaching of certain current events and certain concepts regarding race and sex in public schools.  
*Current Status:* 9/22/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/23/2021 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)  
6/15/2021 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-322>
- HB123**      **COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREAS (FRAIZER M, CROSS J)** To modify the law governing community reinvestment areas and the terms under which property may be exempted in such areas.  
*Current Status:* 9/21/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/2/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  
5/26/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 57-36  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-123>
- HB126**      **REGARDING PROPERTY VALUES (MERRIN D)** To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.  
*Current Status:* 9/21/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 9/14/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
4/21/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government and Elections  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-126>
- HB140**      **MODIFY ELECTION NOTICES, BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR PROPERTY TAX LEVIES (MERRIN D)** To enact the "Ballot Uniformity and Transparency Act" to modify the form of election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.  
*Current Status:* 9/21/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 9/14/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
4/28/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-140>
- SB89**      **RENEWABLE ENERGY (DOLAN M)** To extend the renewable portfolio standard, increase solar energy benchmarks, and extend the property tax exemption for qualified energy projects that use renewable energy resources.  
*Current Status:* 9/21/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/12/2021 - Senate Energy and Public Utilities, (First Hearing)  
3/3/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Public Utilities  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-89>
- SB200**      **PERMIT STUDENTS-REPEAT 12TH GRADE (BRENNER A, FEDOR T)** To permit students who were enrolled in 12th grade during the 2020-2021 school year to re-enroll in that grade in the 2021-2022 school year and to declare an emergency.  
*Current Status:* 9/21/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 6/23/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Primary and Secondary Education  
6/22/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-200>

**HB412**      **REQUIRE CERTAIN TAX-RELATED ADDRESSES PUBLISHED ONLINE** (STOLTZFUS R, ROEMER B) To require mailing addresses to which certain tax complaints and appeals are filed to be published online.

*Current Status:* 10/12/2021 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 9/21/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
9/8/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-412>

**SB181**      **STUDENT RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION-ATHLETICS** (GAVARONE T) Regarding student religious expression in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities.

*Current Status:* 10/13/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 9/21/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
6/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-181>

**HB369**      **SCHOOL BOARD FAIRNESS ACT** (WEINSTEIN C) To enact the School Board Fairness Act, requiring school districts to approve certain residential community reinvestment area property tax exemptions.

*Current Status:* 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
*Recent Status:* 7/7/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-369>

**HB370**      **SEIZURE SAFE SCHOOLS ACT** (BIRD A) To enact the "Seizure Safe Schools Act" to require public and chartered nonpublic schools to create a seizure action plan for each student with a seizure disorder.

*Current Status:* 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
*Recent Status:* 7/7/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-370>

**HB373**      **REQUIRE SCHOOL SEIZURE ACTION PLAN** (INGRAM C) To enact Sarah's Law to require public and chartered nonpublic schools to create a seizure action plan for each student with a seizure disorder.

*Current Status:* 9/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
*Recent Status:* 7/12/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-373>

- SB209**      **MASK MANDATES (BRENNER A)** With regard to mask mandates and facial covering requirements for public schools, state institutions of higher education, and businesses.  
*Current Status:* 9/8/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government Budget  
*Recent Status:* 7/13/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-209>
- HB400**      **BAN MASK MANDATES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (LOYCHIK M, SCHMIDT J)** To prohibit public schools from requiring students to wear a mask or other facial covering on school premises or a school bus and to declare an emergency.  
*Current Status:* 8/24/2021 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-400>
- HB401**      **EMPLOYER-MANDATED COVID VACCINATION INJURY (EDWARDS J)** To exempt an injury or disability caused by an employer-mandated COVID-19 vaccination from the Workers' Compensation Law and to allow the employee to sue the employer for damages.  
*Current Status:* 8/24/2021 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-401>
- HB388**      **REGARDING VACCINE REFUSAL (JORDAN K)** To prohibit taking certain actions against an individual because the individual refuses to be vaccinated against a disease.  
*Current Status:* 8/12/2021 - Introduced  
*Recent Status:*  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-388>
- SB19**      **REGARDING PROPERTY TAXATION (SCHAFFER T)** To modify the law regarding property taxation and sales and use tax.  
*Current Status:* 6/28/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 61-36  
*Recent Status:* 6/28/2021 - Bills for Third Consideration  
6/25/2021 - Informally Passed  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-19>
- SB111**      **VACCINATIONS, CORONAVIRUS RECOVERY INCLUDING TOWNSHIPS (BLESSING III L, BRENNER A)** To prohibit certain mandatory vaccinations and other activities related to an individual's vaccination status and to make an appropriation related to coronavirus local fiscal recovery.  
*Current Status:* 6/24/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 62-34  
*Recent Status:* 6/24/2021 - Bills for Third Consideration  
6/23/2021 - Informally Passed  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-111>
- HB357**      **INDEX HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AMOUNTS (STEPHENS J, LARE J)** To index the homestead exemption amounts to inflation.

*Current Status:* 10/12/2021 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
6/21/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-357>

**HB358**      **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GIFTS** (LANESE L, MANNING G) To change the minimum dollar amount of a gift required to be reported, and to require that reporting be done according to a dollar amount range, under the Ohio Ethics Law.

*Current Status:* 6/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight  
*Recent Status:* 6/22/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-358>

**HB61**      **REQUIRE SINGLE-SEX SPORTS TEAMS** (POWELL J, STOLTZFUS R) To require schools, state institutions of higher education, and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex.

*Current Status:* 6/24/2021 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 4/28/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
2/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-61>

**HB4**      **REGARDS CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT REPORTING** (PLUMMER P, MANCHESTER S) Regarding county child abuse and neglect memorandums of understanding, cross-reporting of child abuse and neglect reports by public children services agencies to law enforcement agencies, notification of reporter rights, home assessor eligibility, and creation of the children service ombudsman office.

*Current Status:* 6/22/2021 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/2/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary  
5/26/2021 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 92-2  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-4>

**SB166**      **VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS-COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREAS** (REINEKE W) With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in community reinvestment areas.

*Current Status:* 10/13/2021 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 6/22/2021 - Referred to Committee House Economic and Workforce Development  
6/16/2021 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 33-0  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-166>

**SB154**      **SIGNAGE-SCHOOL SPEED ZONES** (MAHARATH T) To establish signage requirements for indicating school zones for speed limit purposes, and to make an appropriation.

*Current Status:* 6/16/2021 - Senate Transportation, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 4/21/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation  
4/13/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-154>

**HB303**      **REGARDS CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION (SWEARINGEN D)** With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in community reinvestment areas.

*Current Status:* 6/16/2021 - House Economic and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 5/12/2021 - Referred to Committee House Economic and Workforce Development  
5/11/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-303>

**HB323**      **TAX CREDIT FOR EDUCATION EXPENSES (FOWLER S)** To authorize a personal income tax credit for certain primary and secondary education expenses.

*Current Status:* 6/15/2021 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
5/25/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-323>

**HB151**      **REPLACE OHIO TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM WITH LOCAL MENTORSHIP (JONES D)** To amend Section 4 of H.B. 442 of the 133rd General Assembly to replace the Ohio Teacher Residency program with local new teacher mentorship programs beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

*Current Status:* 6/15/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 6/9/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
3/24/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-151>

**HB335**      **REQUIRE ONLINE POSTING OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES (SCHMIDT J)** To require the Ohio Ethics Commission to post certain financial disclosure statements online and to make an appropriation.

*Current Status:* 6/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight

*Recent Status:* 6/7/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-335>

**HB316**      **HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION RECOVERY ACT (JARRELLS D, HILLYER B)** To enact "the 2020-2021 High School Education Recovery Act" to establish the Supplemental School Year Program for the 2021-2022 school year and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 6/9/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 5/25/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
5/19/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-316>



- SB192**      **REDUCE PROPERTY TAX-OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES (WILLIAMS S)** To reduce property taxes on owner-occupied homes to the extent the taxes increase by more than 10% per year.
- Current Status:* 6/2/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  
*Recent Status:* 6/1/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-192>
- SB145**      **REVISE STATE REPORT CARD (BRENNER A)** To revise the state report card system.
- Current Status:* 6/1/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (Fifth Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/25/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)  
5/11/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-145>
- SB165**      **ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS (MANNING N)** To modify the operation of academic distress commissions in certain school districts and to declare an emergency.
- Current Status:* 6/1/2021 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & AMENDED**, Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (Fourth Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/25/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)  
5/11/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-165>
- SB155**      **PROHIBIT SECLUSION-PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MAHARATH T)** To prohibit the use of seclusion in public schools.
- Current Status:* 5/25/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 4/21/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Primary and Secondary Education  
4/13/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-155>
- HB73**      **EDUCATIONAL TESTING, ASSESSMENT, RETENTION (MANNING G, CRAWLEY E)** Regarding the college and work ready assessment system, to require school districts to form work groups to evaluate the amount of time students spend on testing, and to eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.
- Current Status:* 5/18/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 5/12/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
4/20/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-73>
- HB112**      **PERFORMANCE AUDIT/ ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS (MILLER J, LEPORE-HAGAN M)** To require one-time performance audits of school districts with a current academic distress commission.
- Current Status:* 5/18/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/17/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
2/16/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-112>

**HB118**      **REVISE CERTAIN WIND FARM/SOLAR FACILITY LAWS** (RIEDEL C, STEIN D) To require inclusion of safety specifications in wind farm certificate applications, to modify wind turbine setbacks, and to permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm and solar facility certificates.

*Current Status:* 5/12/2021 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Public Utilities, (Fourth Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 3/23/2021 - House Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)  
3/9/2021 - House Public Utilities, (Second Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-118>

**HB275**      **EXPAND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION JOINT PURCHASING AUTHORITY** (LAMPTON B) To expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.

*Current Status:* 5/12/2021 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 5/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor  
4/27/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-275>

**SB140**      **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS-COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (SCHAFFER T) To modify the property tax exemption procedures applicable to community schools.

*Current Status:* 5/12/2021 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 3/24/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  
3/23/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-140>

**SB178**      **REFORM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** (REINEKE W) To reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Department of Education.

*Current Status:* 5/11/2021 - Introduced

*Recent Status:*

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-178>

**HB290**      **EXPRESS INTENT FOR SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA** (MCCLAIN R, JOHN M) To express the intent of the General Assembly to establish a school funding formula that allows families to choose the option for all computed funding amounts associated with students' education to follow them to the public and nonpublic schools they attend.

*Current Status:* 5/11/2021 - Referred to Committee House Finance

*Recent Status:* 5/5/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-290>

- HB70**      **REVISE LAW FOR PASSING SCHOOL BUS (BROWN R)** To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus.  
*Current Status:* 5/6/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 2/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice  
2/9/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-70>
- HB147**      **SCHOOL COMPLIANCE WITH BULLYING POLICY (BOGGS K, LIGHTBODY M)** To require the Department of Education to develop a process for requesting an investigation of a school's compliance with its policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.  
*Current Status:* 4/28/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 2/24/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
2/23/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-147>
- SB159**      **REDUCE PROPERTY TAX-OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES (CRAIG H)** To reduce property taxes on qualifying owner-occupied homes to the extent that property taxes increase by more than 5% from the previous year and to name this act the Property Tax Relief and Local Government Support Act.  
*Current Status:* 4/21/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means  
*Recent Status:* 4/13/2021 - Introduced  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-159>
- HB200**      **REVISE STATE REPORT CARD SYSTEM (JONES D, ROBINSON P)** To revise the state report card and school accountability systems.  
*Current Status:* 4/20/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 4/13/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (Second Hearing)  
3/16/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-200>
- HB99**      **REGARDS ARMED PERSONS WITHIN SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE (HALL T)** To expressly exempt persons authorized to go armed within a school safety zone from a requirement that peace officer basic training be obtained and to require that those persons successfully complete firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements for concealed handgun licensees for the exemption to apply.  
*Current Status:* 4/15/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)  
*Recent Status:* 3/17/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)  
3/4/2021 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)  
*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-99>
- HB234**      **REPEAL THE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY TAX (GROSS J, MCCLAIN R)** To repeal the commercial activity tax with a five-year phase-out.  
*Current Status:* 10/12/2021 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 4/14/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means  
3/25/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-234>

**HB117**      **SCHOOL DISTRICT TERRITORY TRANSFERS (BRINKMAN T)** Regarding school district territory transfers and to declare an emergency

*Current Status:* 3/24/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/17/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
2/16/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-117>

**HB100**      **DISSOLVE ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS (SMITH K, MANNING G)** To amend Section 5 of S.B. 89 of the 133rd General Assembly and to repeal Sections 4, 5, and 6 of H.B. 70 of the 131st General Assembly to dissolve existing academic distress commissions and to repeal the law on the creation of new commissions.

*Current Status:* 3/9/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
2/9/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-100>

**HB1**      **CREATE NEW SCHOOL FINANCING SYSTEM (CALLENDER J, SWEENEY B)** To create a new school financing system for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

*Current Status:* 3/1/2021 - House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, (Fourth Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/25/2021 - House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, (Third Hearing)  
2/24/2021 - House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, (Second Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-1>

**HB71**      **EXEMPT CERTAIN HOUSING FROM PROPERTY TAXATION (PLUMMER P, HICKS-HUDSON P)** To exempt from property taxation qualifying housing for individuals diagnosed with mental illness or substance use disorder and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 2/23/2021 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/17/2021 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
2/10/2021 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-71>

**SB23**      **ILLEGALLY PASSING SCHOOL BUS (GAVARONE T)** To impose a civil penalty when a driver who illegally passes a school bus cannot be identified, to designate the month of August as "School Bus Safety Awareness Month," and to designate this act as the School Bus Safety Act.

*Current Status:* 2/23/2021 - **BILL AMENDED**, Senate Veterans and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/9/2021 - Senate Veterans and Public Safety, (Second Hearing)  
2/2/2021 - Senate Veterans and Public Safety, (First Hearing)

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-23>

**SB37**      **EDUCATION LAW - COVID-19** (FEDOR T, MANNING N) To make changes to education law for the 2020-2021 school year in response to implications from COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 2/23/2021 - Senate Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/3/2021 - Referred to Committee Senate Primary and Secondary Education  
2/2/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-37>

**HB113**      **TRAINING SCHOOLS - PROSPECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT** (UPCHURCH T, MILLER J) To allow the chief of police of a municipal corporation to conduct training schools for prospective law enforcement officers.

*Current Status:* 2/17/2021 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

*Recent Status:* 2/16/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-113>

**HB115**      **SCHOOL DISTRICT REAL PROPERTY** (INGRAM C, BIRD A) To eliminate the right of first refusal for certain schools in the acquisition of school district real property.

*Current Status:* 2/17/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education

*Recent Status:* 2/16/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-115>

**HB43**      **PUBLIC BODIES - ELECTRONIC MEETINGS** (SOBECKI L, HOOPS J) To authorize public bodies to meet via teleconference and video conference.

*Current Status:* 2/11/2021 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Government Oversight  
2/4/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-43>

**HB49**      **REINSTATE JOINT EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE** (SOBECKI L, ROBINSON P) To reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee, make an appropriation, and declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 2/9/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
2/4/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-49>

**HB54**      **DISSOLVE ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS** (MILLER J, CUTRONA A) To dissolve academic distress commissions and to instead require improvement plans for certain low-performing school buildings.

*Current Status:* 2/9/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
2/4/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-54>

**HB40**      **PROVIDE EXEMPTIONS FROM STATE REPORT CARDS** (SOBECKI L, CROSSMAN J) To waive state testing requirements for the 2020-2021 school year, to provide exemptions from state report cards and other provisions related to test results, and to declare an emergency.

*Current Status:* 2/9/2021 - House Primary and Secondary Education, (First Hearing)

*Recent Status:* 2/4/2021 - Referred to Committee House Primary and Secondary Education  
2/4/2021 - Introduced

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-40>

**SR9**      **RECOGNIZE NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK** (HUFFMAN M) Recognizing National School Choice Week, observed in Ohio January 24-30, 2021.

*Current Status:* 1/27/2021 - Introduced

*Recent Status:*

*State Bill Page:* <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SR-9>

## **ABORTION**

The number of abortions in Ohio increased 3 percent between 2019 and 2020, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) said in its latest report on annual abortion statistics. ODH said there were 20,605 induced pregnancy terminations in the state in 2020, including 19,438 obtained by Ohio resident women. The agency noted that there has been a steady decline in abortions from 2000 to 2020, averaging a decline of approximately 720 per year.

## **AGRICULTURE**

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODAg) Director Dorothy Pelanda appeared before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Tuesday, saying the agency and the industry have remained resilient despite the challenges of the pandemic. She outlined a number of programs administered by the agency, including meat inspections, plant and animal health, H2Ohio, promoting agriculture, and ride inspections.

## **FY22-23 BUDGET**

Total General Revenue Fund (GRF) tax receipts for September finished \$94 million (4.5 percent) higher than the budgeted estimate, the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) announced Wednesday.

## **BUSINESS/CORPORATE**

Lordstown Motors Corporation (LMC) and Hon Hai Technology Group, known as Foxconn, announced Friday that they had reached an agreement in principle to work jointly on LMC electric vehicle (EV) programs at the LMC plant in Lordstown. LMC continues to "move forward with its plan to build a limited number of vehicles for testing, validation, verification and regulatory approvals during the balance of 2021 and the first part of 2022," according to its release.

## **CORONAVIRUS**

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Bruce Vanderhoff announced Friday the state has doubled the prize money for the Ohio Vax-2-School program to a total of \$2 million in scholarships. In addition, Vanderhoff said the state plans to expand the age group of eligible Ohioans to younger children. Entries opened Monday, Oct. 4 for Ohioans aged 12 to 25, online at [www.ohiovox2school.com](http://www.ohiovox2school.com) or by phone at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

After pushing a bill establishing new exemptions for COVID vaccine mandates through committee in one hearing but scrubbing the planned floor vote last week, the House announced Monday two days' worth of hearings on HB435 in another committee. The House Commerce and Labor Committee held informal hearings on the bill Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday's hearing was scheduled to last all day but ended before lunch, with the bulk of the time dedicated to questioning of Ross McGregor, a manufacturing company owner and former lawmaker who spoke against the bill on behalf of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association. At Thursday's hearing, the bill faced criticism from all sides of the issue. Representatives of health care organizations and business groups argued that the legislation goes too far in restricting the ability of employers to require vaccines to ensure a safe workplace. Anti-vaccine activists said the bill doesn't go far enough to protect unvaccinated individuals. Trial lawyers derided HB435 for language that "would gift new immunity to negligent, harmful actors until June 2023."

Ohio is seeing "early indicators" that COVID-19 case numbers are peaking and may start to decline, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff told reporters Monday. Hospitalizations and deaths "should soon follow," he continued during the morning briefing.

Ohio reported Tuesday 5,533 COVID cases from the previous 24 hours, below the three-week average of 6,094. Meanwhile, hospitalizations of the past day hit 375, above the average of 262; intensive care unit admissions reached 27, compared to the average of 23. The twice-weekly death count, updated Tuesdays and Fridays, included 217 deaths. The daily average sits at 58.

## **CORRECTIONS**

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's (DRC) Bureau of Community Sanctions and Adult Parole Authority (APA) are moving forward on the administration and Legislature's FY22-23 budget priorities for improved reentry, recovery, community-correction and employment of felony offenders with additional resources for chemical dependency, workplace skills and education, along with tougher standards for community-based correctional facilities (CBCF) developed by the University of Cincinnati.

## **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

The Ohio Supreme Court and the University of Cincinnati agreed Monday to "tell the full story" of criminal sentencing in Ohio as Chapter 1 of the larger march toward comprehensive criminal justice data. Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said the state's current "swamp" of unknown or disparate felony sentencing will present a clearer picture when the Ohio Sentencing Database Platform (OSDP) is complete.

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost Monday announced the results of the statewide anti-human trafficking "Ohio Knows" operation, which focused on targeting the "demand side" of human trafficking. The operation, which took place from Sept. 24 to Oct. 1, included the arrest of 161 men who were trying to buy sex in what Yost said was the largest human trafficking sting in Ohio history to date. Three of the men arrested sought to buy sex from minors.

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) reported another year of striking increases in domestic violence fatalities. Ohio saw 131 domestic violence fatalities in the year ending June 30, 2021, a 20 percent increase from the period last year, and a 62 percent increase from two years ago, according to ODVN's sixth annual count of domestic violence fatalities in the state.

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor joined a panel of seasoned jurists and a voice for broad-based decriminalization Thursday to address the future of felony sentencing for individuals battling not only addiction but also felony incarceration numbers that disproportionately impact persons of color. O'Connor gathered virtually with former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, moderator and Ohio State University (OSU) law Professor Douglass Berman, Chief Justice Algenon Marbley of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, and author and speaker Piper Kerman, whose "Orange is the New Black" spawned a Netflix series based on her time in federal prison for international money laundering.

The governor's office says \$4 million from HB110 (Oelslager) is now available for the first year of the Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program the administration proposed early in the budget process. "Local law enforcement officers are already out there doing everything they can to protect the public, and these grants will help them do even more," Gov. Mike DeWine said in a statement. "Public safety strategies are constantly evolving, and these funds will help ensure that local agencies have the tools they need to protect our neighborhoods and hold violent offenders accountable." The grant application for FY22 can be found at the Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) webpage at <https://ocjs.ohio.gov/#gsc.tab=0>. The application deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 8.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Gov. Mike DeWine's administration announced Monday the approval of assistance for 12 projects expected to create 2,426 new jobs and retain 3,252 jobs statewide. During its monthly meeting, the Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) reviewed economic development proposals brought by JobsOhio and its regional partners. The projects are expected to collectively result in more than \$108 million in new payroll and spur more than \$162 million in investments across Ohio.



The combination of Ohio Aerospace Day and the past statewide defense and aerospace forums into one event provides a "single focus," Gov. Mike DeWine said during opening remarks Tuesday. "Ohio has always been -- and will continue to be -- a leader," he continued. DeWine also praised the commitment JobsOhio has shown to military and defense installation growth in the state and noted the pending creation of an Air National Guard cyber wing in Mansfield.

Ohio military and federal installations generated \$40 billion in gross regional product and 380,500 direct and indirect jobs in 2020, according to an economic analysis released by JobsOhio during the two-day Ohio Aerospace Day forum. At 6 percent of the state economy, this represents \$69 billion in total activity. The Dayton region, home to installations including Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, has \$19.4 billion in total activity and 103,000 jobs. The analysis included a review of U.S. Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Veterans' Affairs (VA) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) installations in the state. It was prepared by Matrix Design Group, and Matrix Senior Research Analyst Matt Schwalb detailed the methodology used for the analysis at the forum Tuesday.

Ohio remains second in aerospace manufacturing attractiveness, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) findings presented during the second day of Ohio's 2021 aerospace forum. The full report has not been publicly released yet, but Ohio was also second in 2020. PwC Global Aerospace and Defense Leader Scott Thompson explained the methodology during the forum, adding that Ohio was first in tax policy, third for both economy and industry, fourth in infrastructure, 17th in labor and 33rd in cost. Thompson added that business leaders are more accepting on the cost issue if states provide quality and accessibility, and that labor is one of the biggest challenges in the industry.

Two loan programs to support minority- and women-owned businesses were announced by the DeWine administration Wednesday, and the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) added its support Thursday as well. The Women's Business Enterprise Loan Program and Ohio Micro-Enterprise Loan Program were both created under the FY22-FY23 operating budget, HB110 (Oelslager).

The Ohio Department of Development (DOD) announced awards totaling more than \$12 million as part of the Community Development Critical Infrastructure and Neighborhood Revitalization programs Monday. Both have around \$6 million awarded, with 13 recipients in the critical infrastructure program and nine in the neighborhood revitalization program. The grants will benefit more than 35,000 Ohioans, DOD said.

## **EDUCATION**

The three districts under state academic distress oversight have submitted their plans for improving academic performance and reverting to local control to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). East Cleveland City Schools, Lorain City School District and Youngstown City Schools all met the Thursday, Sept. 30 deadline to submit their academic improvement plans; they can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/c33pxfsz>.

The U.S. Department of Education included 16 Ohio schools in its recent recognition of National Blue Ribbon Schools, an honor that is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized 325 schools nationally this year, the 39th year for the award.

Ohio State University (OSU) is partnering with the city of Columbus, Columbus City Schools, and Columbus State Community College for a new initiative that will offer training to teachers and students. The "STEAMM Rising Columbus" initiative will create a summer institute to train and develop 500 STEAMM teachers in the next five years. The initiative also establishes STEAMM Pathways among the participating educational institutions to develop and share curriculum to provide more access to this specialized education, OSU explained in an announcement about the program.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT) had no right to turn to the courts for review of the State Board of Education's decision that it owed more than \$60 million to the state, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Tuesday in a split decision.

Does one school district's agreement to split levies from disputed land with a wealthier neighbor amount to a "tax grab" by the second district, as Warrensville Heights claims, or does the contract remain enforceable when no land transfer has occurred and the State Board of Education has not approved the deal, as Beachwood City School District argues? That is the question the Ohio Supreme Court faced in Wednesday's oral arguments, when justices considered Beachwood's annexation of Warrensville Township land in 1990; Warrensville Heights' six-year battle over Beachwood's secondary attempt to transfer the land to its district; their subsequent contingency agreement in 1997 allowing Warrensville Heights schools to retain the parcel and split the revenue with Beachwood 70/30 when it reached \$22.3 million in value; and Warrensville Heights' objection when Beachwood attempted to exercise its contractual rights 16 years later when the land hit \$22,258,310.

The Ohio School Safety Center, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and Ohio Homeland Security, convened a free, virtual conference on school safety topics Wednesday through Friday of this week. The conference includes more than 60 breakout sessions and keynote addresses, covering topics including physical security, mental health, school climate, critical incident response, cyber, threat assessment and more. Gov. Mike DeWine kicked off the summit Wednesday with opening comments, touting his administration's efforts to promote and fund school safety initiatives. Among them is the creation of the Ohio School Safety Center itself. The center assists local schools and law enforcement agencies in preventing and preparing for any acts of violence.

Nonprofits that award scholarships for primary and secondary school students can now apply to participate in a new program that provides tax credits to such organizations. Lawmakers created the tax credits in the recently enacted biennial budget, HB110 (Oelslager). The Scholarship Granting Organization Certification application is available at <https://charitable.ohioago.gov/ScholarshipGranting-Organization-Certification>.

Sponsors and supporters of legislation to create a money-follows-the-student education funding model released a draft substitute bill Wednesday to replace the placeholder copy in the introduced version of HB290 (John-McClain).

## **ELECTIONS**

Secretary of State Frank LaRose's office released the latest statewide party affiliation information Friday, showing the state has more registered Democrats than Republicans. According to the county boards of elections' voter registration and voter history data from 2019-2021, Ohio's voter affiliation breakdown is currently as follows:

- Number of Registered Voters in Ohio: 7,982,501
- Number of Registered Democrats: 947,027
- Number of Registered Republicans: 836,080
- Number of Registered Libertarians: 2,847
- Number of Unaffiliated Registered Voters: 6,196,547

A split Ohio Elections Commission Thursday voted four to two that there was no campaign finance violation in a complaint filed by two groups against Ohio legislators and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) over the use of software that ALEC had given to the legislators.

## **ELECTIONS 2021**

Voter registration for the Tuesday, Nov. 2 General Election ended Monday, Oct. 4, 30 days before Election Day. Early, in-person voting and absentee balloting began Tuesday, Oct. 5.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose Tuesday convened his Ready for November Task Force as early voting for the Tuesday, Nov. 2 General Election began, saying he wanted to have a conversation on voting security as more disinformation and conspiracy theories circulate. LaRose said that he wanted to provide information on how secure Ohio's elections are, adding that many Ohioans don't realize "the care that goes into elections."

## **ELECTIONS 2022**

Consumer protection attorney Morgan Harper said Monday that she will report raising more than half a million in her quarterly campaign finance report for her U.S. Senate race. Harper, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for the Senate next year, said her filing will show \$533,146 from 4,117 contributions, with 86 percent of contributors giving \$100 or less.

Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley Wednesday sent a letter to Democratic gubernatorial primary opponent Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley proposing a series of debates between the two leading up

to the primary next May. The letter calls for the two to agree on a schedule of debates in each major media market around the state until the primary. The campaign noted that by this point in the 2018 gubernatorial campaign cycle, Democratic candidates had already participated in a televised debate.

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Tim Ryan Wednesday announced his campaign has raised \$2.5 million in the third quarter and has more than \$3.6 million on hand. Ryan, who will face Morgan Harper in next year's Democratic primary for the seat, saw 96.6 percent of contributions at \$100 or less, his campaign said, and the fundraising numbers include 22,522 new donors in the quarter.

The following endorsements were made over the week:

- The gubernatorial campaign of Democrat John Cranley announced the endorsement of the Stark County Black Caucus.

- The gubernatorial campaign of Democrat Nan Whaley announced the endorsement of the Baptist Ministerial Alliance of Columbus and Vicinity.

## **EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**

For the week ending Oct. 2, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported 9,222 initial traditional unemployment claims to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). That number is lower than last week, when the department reported 10,135 traditional jobless claims.

## **FEDERAL**

Speaking during an event at a Nationwide Children's Hospital parking garage overlooking the I-70/I-71 split in Columbus, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) Friday expressed optimism that President Joe Biden will be signing a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill by the end of the month despite the U.S. House delaying a vote on the bill on Thursday.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

In addition to changes in membership of the House Health Committee announced in tandem with action on vaccine mandate exemption measure HB435 (Carfagna-Seitz), the House formalized a handful of other changes to committees' memberships last week, as follows:

**Economic and Workforce Development:** Rep. Paul Zeltwanger (R-Mason) removed, Rep. Andrea White (R-Kettering) appointed.

**Infrastructure and Rural Development:** Reps. Don Jones (R-Freeport) and Thomas Hall (R-Middletown) removed, Reps. Kevin Miller (R-Newark) and Zeltwanger appointed.

**Transportation and Public Safety:** Rep. Jeff LaRe (R-Canal Winchester) removed, Miller appointed.

All Ohio high school students will soon be required to complete one-half unit of financial literacy to graduate, under legislation that is headed to the governor's desk. The Senate on Wednesday unanimously concurred with House amendments to SB1 (Wilson-McColley), sending the bill to Gov. Mike DeWine for his signature. The bill applies to all public school students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2022. Also passing Wednesday were SB217 (Schaffer), to align state law to FBI guidelines for criminal records checks; and HB291 (Callender-Troy), an omnibus road and bridge naming and license plate measure.

House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima) announced several changes to the session schedule for the rest of the year, in part to plan for the possibility that congressional redistricting will stretch into late November.

The House State and Local Committee Wednesday began another round of reviewing occupational licensing boards. Per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 101.63, as spelled out in 132-SB255 (McColley), the committee will hear from 19 occupational licensing boards in the next six to seven weeks, committee Chair Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) said.

In other legislative action, the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee reported out SB168 (Hoagland), to create the Ohio Mobile Training Team, and SB185 (Schaffer), regarding local governments' emergency powers and firearms rights.

## **GOVERNOR**

The Ohio State University (OSU) Wexner Medical Center held its 12th annual "Faces of Resilience" fundraising event Thursday evening in which Gov. Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine were presented with the 2021 STAR Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Fields of Trauma and Resilience.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

The human services coalition Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) Thursday provided several detailed and general proposals to use hundreds of millions of dollars in remaining federal COVID-19 relief funding, and also called on state leaders to bring their considerations for the funding's uses out in the open.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Ohio State University (OSU) will invest an additional \$20 million per year over the next decade to enhance safety and security on and around campus, President Kristina M. Johnson and Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther announced recently.

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) and Xavier University (XU) have partnered for a program meant to create a pathway for ODU students to pursue a career in the nursing field. Starting this fall, ODU students have the ability to apply for a select number of guaranteed seats in XU's

Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) Program upon the completion of their bachelor's degree.

Ohio University (OU) announced Thursday that its Board of Trustees approved a resolution to move forward with developing a voluntary separation retirement program for Athens campus faculty "to respond to changing enrollment patterns and the need for greater flexibility with financial and strategic decisions."

The University of Dayton (UD) has announced a new scholarship to benefit nursing students, which will be established by Mary Boosalis, president and CEO of Premier Health and chair of the UD Board of Trustees. The scholarship funds will be administered by the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation as well as the university.

## **HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS**

A collection of organizations focused on housing, finance, health and human services is urging Gov. Mike DeWine and the General Assembly to dedicate nearly \$400 million of the state's \$5 billion-plus in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) COVID relief money to address affordable housing needs. "The recent economic upheaval, combined with rapidly increasing housing costs, have put many of our neighbors in precarious circumstances. Even before the pandemic, nearly 400,000 Ohio households were spending over half their income on rent, and that number has surely increased during the past year and a half," states a letter signed by 181 organizations including the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), Ohio Bankers' League, Ohio Credit Union League, Ohio Council of Churches, Nationwide Children's Hospital, multiple Medicaid managed care plans and numerous local entities.

Ohio Realtors reported recently that Ohio home sales in August were one percent above where they'd been a year earlier, but average prices were up double digits.

## **IMMIGRATION**

Gov. Mike DeWine flew to Texas Tuesday to see the work of the Ohio National Guard in assisting U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), which has been going on for nearly a year. DeWine also participated in a news conference Wednesday with other Republican governors who have placed blame for the border situation on President Joe Biden. DeWine said it has become a humanitarian and drug crisis, noting overdose deaths from fentanyl that he said has been coming over the border.

## **JUDICIAL**

Justice Melody Stewart has received the St. Thomas More Award from the Lawyers Guild of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland for "contributing high ethical standards and spiritual growth in the practice of law," the Ohio Supreme Court announced Friday.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) on Wednesday announced the launch of an online geographic information system (GIS) mapping tool for remediated properties across the state. The public can use the tool to track and research properties that have completed investigation and remediation work under Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program (VAP), the agency said in a news release.

## **PEOPLE**

Tony Seegers announced Monday the launch of 1803 Consulting LLC, a new lobbying firm. Seegers has been director of state policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau for the past nine years, and prior to that was director of labor and human resources policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. His Capitol Square experience dates back 25 years, when he was a House page while studying political science at Ohio State University.

## **POLITICS**

The Ohio Democratic Party announced that Cameron Kier has been hired as the party's new press secretary starting this week. Kier previously worked in the public information department for the city of Dublin, and as a producer on WBNS's "Face the State."

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

"Defunding is not the answer. The answer is reforming and changing the way we operate." Columbus Division of Police Chief Elaine Bryant told a packed room near the state capitol Wednesday that greater diversity, better training and a commitment to community service -- not police defunding -- can make Ohio's capital one of the safest cities in the country.

Warren Police Department in Trumbull County is the latest law enforcement agency to be formally certified under state law enforcement standards administered by the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS).

## **REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT**

The Princeton Gerrymandering Project this week released its grades for the Senate Democratic Caucus' proposed congressional redistricting plan introduced as SB237 (Yuko-Sykes), finding the map gives a slight advantage to Democrats. The map gets an overall grade from the group of "B," and a "B" for partisan fairness, which is better than average for the category, but bias still exists.

In a post grading the Senate Democratic congressional redistricting proposal SB237 (Yuko-Sykes), former legislator Jeff Jacobson of Renew Ohio said that Democrats are projecting when they accuse Republicans of trying to draw a map that only favors their candidates while doing the same. Jacobson graded the SB237 plan a "C-", saying it fails to meet constitutional requirements.

Plaintiffs in all three lawsuits filed against the Ohio Redistricting Commission over new legislative district maps adopted for the Ohio House and Senate asked the Ohio Supreme Court to compel the Republican members of the commission to comply with discovery requests, including depositions. The Republican members of the commission Wednesday responded to the motions, saying the motions are unreasonable and not necessary. The Supreme Court partially granted the request Thursday, allowing for discovery and for depositions from the Republican members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, but setting parameters surrounding those depositions.

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

The Controlling Board Monday approved all of the items on its agenda without lawmakers holding any of those items. Items approved Monday included coronavirus relief funds for schools, as well as money for adoption and child care programs, special counsel work, and vaccine distribution efforts. Most of Monday's meeting was spent receiving an update on a collective bargaining agreement between the attorney general's office and the Fraternal Order of Police Bargaining Unit 46, which represents Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) agents.

## **TAXATION**

Lawmakers continued efforts to lower and eliminate income taxes in the latest version of the budget, HB110 (Oelslager), but according to some experts, they deviated from how previous cuts were enacted as the top income tax bracket was eliminated, and the new top bracket rate dropped below 4 percent. When announcing the changes made to the conference committee version of HB110, the conferees noted that the bill would execute an across-the-board income tax cut at 3 percent. However, Howard Fleeter, an economist, long time tax consultant, and author of *Hannah News'* "On the Money," said he noticed the hit to revenues was much higher than the proposed 5 percent across-the-board tax cut passed by the Ohio Senate, which did not make sense if it was a straight 3 percent cut to all brackets. "I probably would not have noticed it if I wasn't so curious [about] how this cost so much more money than what the Senate proposed," he said. Instead, he found that by getting rid of the top bracket, reducing the number of income brackets from five to four, and making the top marginal rate 3.99 percent, some earners will have nearly a 17 percent reduction as a result of changes in the budget.

## **TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE**

Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced Monday that the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will provide Ohioans with valid credentials the ability to make one online order of a driver's license or ID card reprinting. This had previously only been an option in person at a deputy registrar location, and the new service could save an average of 500,000 visits per year. The reprint represents an exact copy of the last-issued credential, with no changes to personal information. It is not available for changes to a name, address or other identifier, though customers visiting the BMV can benefit from "Get In Line, Online" queuing.

## **TREASURER OF STATE**



Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague proposed the "Ohio Gains" initiative, which he said puts "the state's balance sheet to work for Ohioans." He explained that "the proposal centers around three new investment reforms that will help bolster support for the state's agriculture community, health systems and institutions of higher education.â€•

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