



The House and Senate have been busy organizing for the new session. There are no bills formally on the agenda yet. There are several items worth noting.

1. SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE 133RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVE YET TO BE ANNOUNCED.
2. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 133<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Standing Committee List for the 133RD General Assembly coming soon.)

## Board of Education Elects President, Vice President

The State Board of Education on Tuesday chose new leadership by electing at-large board member Laura Kohler as president and District 3 board member Charlotte McGuire as vice president. With the unanimous support of her seven fellow appointed board members, Ms. Kohler earned the role as leader of the panel in a 13-6 vote over District 10 board member Nick Owens. Ms. McGuire's election was less decisive, with the board splitting 9-9 in the first round of voting between her and District 7 board member Sarah Fowler. District 9 board member Stephanie Dodd, who abstained from the initial vote, cast the deciding vote for Ms. McGuire in the second round. Ms. Kohler succeeds former President Tess Elshoff, an appointed board member whose term expired at the end of December. Ms. McGuire succeeds former Vice President Nancy Hollister, an elected board member who chose not to seek a new term last fall. Tuesday's meeting was the board's first with three new members elected in November and four new members appointed by Gov. John Kasich earlier this month.

Executive Order 2019-02D  
*Jan 14, 2019, 9:05:04 AM EST*

## Creating the Governor's Children's Initiative

**WHEREAS**, Ohio's future depends on its children, yet nearly 1,000 Ohio babies did not live to see their first birthday in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, more than half of all Ohio children are born into economically disadvantaged homes, and just 41 percent of children arrive at kindergarten with the essential language, social, and mathematical skills to be successful in school; and

**WHEREAS**, on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, just 24 percent of Ohio's economically disadvantaged fourth graders read at grade level, which research has shown to be a strong predictor of timely high school graduation and post-graduate success; and

**WHEREAS**, educational gaps can persist and grow over time, impacting a child's ability to live up to his or her God-given potential; and

**WHEREAS**, research conducted by the National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs has shown that every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood programming yields up to nine dollars in future return; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio's programming impacting children is split across multiple state agencies and lacks coordination and a clear point of accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Opportunity for Every Ohio Kid plan calls for a special position, reporting to the Governor, who works daily to improve the lives of Ohio's children;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Governor's Children's Initiative ("Initiative") is created in order to elevate the importance of children's programming in Ohio and drive improvements within the many state programs that serve children. The Initiative is charged to:

1. Improve communication and coordination across all state agencies that provide services to Ohio's children.
2. Engage local, federal, and private sector partners to align efforts and investments in order to have the largest possible impact on improving outcomes for all of Ohio's children.
3. Advance policy related to home visiting, early intervention services, early childhood education, foster care, and child physical and mental health.
4. Initiate and guide enhancements to the early childhood, home visiting, foster care, education, and pediatric health systems.

2. In order to carry out these responsibilities, I have appointed a Director of the Governor's Children's Initiative to oversee and implement all activities described above. In order to carry out these responsibilities the Director shall have the authority and discretion to employ and fix the compensation of Initiative personnel, who shall be in the unclassified civil service. The Initiative Director will be the appointing authority for the Initiative and will be responsible for making all employment decisions relating to the Initiative including, but not limited to, hiring, firing, disciplining, and promoting employees. In addition, the Initiative Director shall have the authority and discretion to establish the organizational structure of the Initiative.

3. All Cabinet Agencies, Boards, and Commissions shall comply with any requests or directives issued by the Initiative Director or the Initiative Director's designee, subject to the supervision of their respective agency directors. This requirement extends, but is not limited to, the cabinet directors and employees of the following agencies and departments:

- a. Ohio Department of Education
- b. Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- c. Ohio Department of Job and Family services
- d. Ohio Department of Health

- e. Ohio Department of Higher Education
- f. Ohio Department of Medicaid
- g. Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- h. Ohio Department of Public Safety
- i. Ohio Department of Youth Services
- j. Office of Budget and Management

4. The Initiative shall have the ability to convene the Early Childhood Advisory Council, Cross Agency Leadership Team, the Family and Children First Cabinet Council as needed to accomplish the directives included above.

I signed this Executive Order on January 14, 2019 in Cedarville, Ohio and it will not expire unless it is rescinded.

Mike DeWine, Governor

LeeAnne Cornyn was named to head that program.

## **Panel Unveils Draft Of Proposed House Rule Changes; Groups Back Televised Committees**

Democrats are encouraged so far by overtures from majority Republicans as a special committee to develop House rules for the 133rd General Assembly begins its work. The House Special Committee on Rules on Wednesday revealed **proposed language** for a series of changes put forth by **Speaker Larry Householder** in his effort to return to the chamber's top leadership post. The changes, which ultimately must be approved by the full chamber, were instrumental in landing Rep. Householder (R-Glenford) 26 Democratic votes – enough to be elected speaker earlier this month despite a lack of support from the majority of the GOP caucus. **Rep. Emilia Sykes** (D-Akron), who in addition to being the committee's ranking member is running to become minority leader, said she's encouraged by the progress so far. "Quite frankly, the rules are everybody's rules and it only benefits us to know what they are so we can all act accordingly and be the best advocates for our constituents," Rep. Sykes said in an interview. "I think that is a good sign of the work that is to come, and we look forward to having the opportunity to continue engaging with the members of the majority caucus and ensuring we get the best process out of this." Several of the changes were previously outlined by Speaker Householder during his remarks to the chamber moments after his election Jan. 7 and are aimed at curtailing methods previously used by the majority party to block Democratic amendments on the floor and in committee.

"They concern openness and making sure that every member has the ability to have their amendments or their legislation heard and that every member has access to having their voice heard," Chairman **Rep. Jamie Callender** (R-Concord) said of the changes. "It's very much an opening up, if you will."

Among the changes are the elimination of the requirement that amendments to be considered on the floor be submitted to the clerk at least two hours before session and **the creation of three standing subcommittees – on energy generation, criminal justice, and primary and secondary education – to be co-chaired by a Republican and a Democrat.**

Other proposed changes, according to Rep. Callender, include:

- Requiring a comparison document before a committee can consider a substitute bill and instructing the committee chairperson or the Legislative Service Commission when setting a meeting agenda to compile a comparison document. The bill sponsor could also request a comp doc be created under the rule change – an option that previously rested solely with the chairperson.
- Enabling members to amend a section of a bill in committee or on the floor that has just been amended even if the new amendment includes the language of the previous amendment.
- Removing the requirement that a motion for a roll call vote be seconded by another member.
- Enabling three-fifths of members to force a floor vote for a committee-passed measure by eliminating the requirement those members sign a discharge petition in the presence of the clerk. Under the proposal, the clerk would verify those signatures but would not be required to witness the signing.
- Permitting three-fifths of members via a signed petition to force a floor vote on legislation in committee, thereby bypassing the committee approval process.
- Eliminating "Hughes' American Parliamentary Guide" as the standard for situations not provided for by House rules and replacing it with "Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2010)."

Rep. Callender has scheduled the group's next meeting for Jan. 30, at which time he said he intends to hold a vote on the finalized rules. "That will give us time to talk amongst ourselves," he said regarding other potential changes. Rep. Sykes said Democrats are mulling offering several additional changes, including potential language that would clarify the role of the sergeant-at-arms and security staff with a goal of making the chamber more accessible to minority citizens. "Something around that will be included – what their duties may be in the House, in the gallery, in these areas," Rep. Sykes said. "Obviously we have some of our own ideas. We did discuss some of them prior to and will continue to discuss over the next couple of weeks." In addition to Reps. Callender and Sykes, the committee includes **Rep. Jay Edwards** (R-Nelsonville), **Rep. Niraj Antani** (R-Miamisburg), **Rep. Jim Butler** (R-Oakwood), **Rep. Tim Schaffer** (R-Lancaster), **Rep. Scott Oelslager** (R-N. Canton), **Rep. Jack Cera** (D-Oakwood) and **Rep. David Leland** (D-Columbus).

**Committee Cameras:** A wide-ranging coalition of groups, meanwhile, wrote to Speaker Householder on Wednesday, urging him to follow through on his expressed desire to televise all committee meetings. In **their letter**, the groups – representing voting rights advocates, criminal justice groups, news outlets and more – called it "an important step forward for all of Ohio." "Streaming Ohio House committee hearings via the Ohio Channel, and archiving the meetings for at least the entire legislative session in which they take place, will allow those with an interest in the legislative process and its impact on our state to be able to witness how our Ohio House committees operate," the groups wrote. "In order to ensure that the cameras stay on, we are also committed to having legislation introduced and passed that will enshrine this requirement in

law," the letter reads. "This will ensure that future House and Senate leaders cannot unilaterally reverse course."

## **Lawmakers Push For Stability With School Funding Proposal**

A bipartisan legislative duo hopes their plan to overhaul the state's system for funding K-12 education reduces financial uncertainty among local school officials. Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) and Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) went before the State Board of Education this week to discuss the conceptual framework behind their plan to reform education funding in Ohio. The pair are expected to release a report on the topic in early February, timed to play a role in the upcoming budget process. (See attached file)

The lawmakers have led a workgroup on the topic of funding for the past several months, traveling throughout the state to collect feedback from administrators and educators. Rep. Cupp said the hope is to improve upon the current "recession-era formula" that has been repeatedly tweaked but not overhauled as the state and national economies have improved. "This formula now has more patches than it does formula," he said of the existing system, adding that it can lead to unpredictable results for the school districts it funds.