



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 1, 2020

This has been a busy couple of weeks. The voucher system has been under scrutiny and a temporary solution passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor. Feelings are running very high. We are approaching the end of the active time as the primary comes closer.

SB 120

(Enacted)

PERFORMANCE AUDITS ([MCCOLLEY, R.](#), [RULLI, M.](#))

To authorize the Auditor of State to conduct performance audits of any and all state institutions of higher education, to modify the requirement regarding College Credit Plus informational sessions, to modify the law regarding campus housing facilities leases with nonpublic vendors, and to make an appropriation.

Signed by the Governor (1/31/2020) Signed: January 31, 2020; earlier Senate Concur in House Amendments; 23-6

Friday, January 31, 2020

[Senate Reluctantly Accepts, DeWine Signs Voucher Application Delay](#)

[Gov. Mike DeWine](#) Friday signed into law a temporary delay for Ohio's school voucher application process, enacting a controversial bill that demonstrated rifts between the Republican-controlled Senate and House. The Senate voted 23-6 to concur with House changes to the stopgap measure ([SB 120](#)) with even those voting in support expressing frustration at the lack of action in a conference committee on a pending Senate "fix" to the EdChoice School Scholarship program ([HB 9](#)). Senators voting against concurrence were: [Sen. Dave Burke](#) (R-Marysville), [Sen. Matt Huffman](#) (R-Lima), [Sen. Steve Huffman](#) (R-Tipp City), [Sen. Rob McColley](#) (R-Napoleon), [Sen. Bob Peterson](#) (R-Sabina) and [Sen. Sandra Williams](#) (D-Cleveland), many of whom offered sharp criticism for how the process was handled. For his part, House [Speaker Larry Householder](#) (R-Glenford) did not appreciate many of the comments during the Senate's debate. For days, both chambers have been maneuvering to head off an expansion that was set to take place on Saturday that would grow the list of schools in which students qualify for vouchers from 517 to more than 1,200. Under SB120, that application window now opens April 1.



INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

HB 478

SCHOOL VOUCHERS ([Miller, A.](#), [Miranda, J.](#))

To make changes regarding the eligibility criteria for the Educational Choice scholarship program.

INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE

SB 262

SCHOOL FUNDING ([Williams, S.](#))

To require the direct payment of state funding to community schools and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics schools; to require the direct payment of K-12 state scholarships; and to make an appropriation.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Senate Education

(Chair [Lehner, P.](#), [\(614\) 466-4538](#)), South Hearing Rm., 10:15 am [Add to Calendar](#)

SB 34

SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT ([KUNZE, S.](#))

Regarding school employee employment and educator licensure and conduct. --8th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments

SB 218

SCHOOL START TIMES ([WILLIAMS, S.](#))

To prohibit public schools from beginning the school day earlier than eight-thirty a.m. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

SB 219

APPRENTICE PROGRAM ([WILLIAMS, S.](#))

To establish a career pathways apprentice program. --1st Hearing-Sponsor

HB 123

SCHOOL SECURITY ([HOLMES, G.](#), [MANNING, G.](#))



With regard to school security and youth suicide awareness education and training. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments

House Health

(Chair [Lipps, S.](#), (614) 644-6023), Rm. 116, 11:00 am [Add to Calendar](#)

HB 151

CHIROPRACTIC LOANS ([CARFAGNA, R.](#))

To create the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program and to revise certain laws administered by the State Chiropractic Board. --6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote

HB 412

DISEASE COUNCIL ([CLITES, R.](#), [GINTER, T.](#))

To establish the Rare Disease Advisory Council. --4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments

HB 418

MEDICATION SWITCHING ([CLITES, R.](#), [CARRUTHERS, S.](#))

Regarding prescription drugs and medication switching. --3rd Hearing-All testimony

HB 436

DYSLEXIA ([BALDRIDGE, B.](#))

With regard to screening and intervention for children with dyslexia. --2nd Hearing-Proponent & interested party

HB 243

HEARING AIDS ([WEINSTEIN, C.](#), [RUSSO, A.](#))

To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons under twenty-two years of age. --2nd Hearing-Proponent & interested party

HB 338

MENTAL HEALTH ([GREENSPAN, D.](#))

To enact the Mental Health Awareness and Community Violence Protection Act. --3rd Hearing-All testimony

House Primary & Secondary Education

(Chair [Jones, D.](#), (614) 644-8728), Rm. 121, 5:00 pm [Add to Calendar](#)

SB 89

CAREER-TECH EDUCATION ([HUFFMAN, M.](#))

With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in enterprise zones, and to make changes regarding STEM school report cards. --5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote



SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

SB 7

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING ([Lehner, P.](#), [Hackett, B.](#))

To require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military and spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for military duty.

Signed: January 27, 2020

PROTECTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

On [Religious Freedom Day](#) (January 16), President Trump announced nine proposed rules to protect religious organizations from unfair and unequal treatment by the federal government. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) also released a [memorandum](#) requiring federal agencies to ensure that the grant-making practices of state recipients of federal funding comply with the First Amendment. And, as directed by Congress, the Department released updated guidance regarding constitutionally protected prayer in schools (see [President's remarks](#), [video](#), and [fact sheet](#)).

“In a sacred principle of our Republic that government must never stand between the people and God,” the President explained. “Yet, in public schools around the country, authorities are stopping students and teachers from praying, sharing their faith, or following their religious beliefs.... And we are doing something to stop that.”

The [Department-specific rule](#) addresses five general areas of importance to religious organizations, faith-based institutions, and students (see [press release](#), Secretary's Twitter threads [1](#) and [2](#), and her [USA Today op-ed](#)):

- First, the rule seeks to implement the President's [Executive Order 13831](#), ensuring that religious and non-religious organizations are treated equally by the federal government and organizations are not discriminated against simply because they are religious in nature, by removing unequal, burdensome regulatory requirements.
- Second, the rule requires that, as a material condition of a direct grant or subgrant from a state-administered formula grant program, a public institution of higher education not deny to a faith-based student organization any of the rights, benefits, or privileges otherwise afford to non-faith-based student organizations.
- Third, the rule amends regulations governing federal strengthening institutions development grants to allow activities or services if they merely relate to “sectarian instruction” or “religious worship,” by revising the definition of a “school or department of divinity” in a manner that is more consistent with the First Amendment and other federal laws.
- Fourth, the rule seeks to clarify how an educational institution may demonstrate that it is controlled by a religious organization for purposes of Title IX.



- Fifth, to implement the President's [Executive Order 13864](#), the rule requires that, as a condition of a direct grant or subgrant from a state-administered formula grant program, public institutions must comply with the First Amendment and private institutions must comply with their stated policies regarding freedom of speech, including academic freedom.

Current Legislation:

Bill	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
HB436	Regards screening and intervention for children with dyslexia	2019-12-10 <i>[Hearing: Feb 4 @ 11:00 am]</i> To House Health Committee
SB128	Change Educational Choice and Cleveland scholarship programs	2019-05-01 To Senate Finance Committee
SB26	Permit income tax deduction for certain teacher expenses	2020-02-05 Effective 2/5/20
HB2	Create TechCred and Microcredential Assistance Programs	2019-12-12 Conference report agreed to
SB7	Regards temporary occupational licensing for military	2019-12-12 Conference report agreed to
HB4	Develop industry-recognized credential and certificate programs	2019-12-11 Passed



Bill	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
HB164	Regards student religious expression	<u>2019-12-04</u> To Senate Education Committee
HB321	Regards age-appropriate child sex abuse instruction	<u>2019-11-12</u> Re-referred: Primary and Secondary Education
HR266	Urge instituting mandatory four-year life skills program	<u>2019-11-12</u> Introduced and Referred to Committee: Primary and Secondary Education
SB89	Regards career-technical ed and JVSD in enterprise zones	<u>2019-10-29</u> To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB123	Regards school security and youth suicide awareness/training	<u>2019-10-09</u> <i>[Hearing: Feb 4 @ 10:15 am]</i> To Senate Education Committee
HB305	Create new school financing system	<u>2019-06-30</u> To House Finance Committee



Bill	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
SB157	Regards notification of student absences	<u>2019-06-19</u> To Senate Education Committee
HB281	Require designating high school valedictorians and salutatorians	<u>2019-06-18</u> To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB154	Dissolve and replace academic distress commissions	<u>2019-05-15</u> To Senate Education Committee
HB239	Reduce end-of-course assessments; require testing work groups	<u>2019-05-14</u> To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
SB102	Establish Dyslexia Screen Program for schools	<u>2019-03-21</u> To Senate Education Committee
SB110	Modify operation of school academic distress commissions	<u>2019-03-21</u> To Senate Education Committee
HB132	Regards school immunization requirements/exemptions	<u>2019-03-19</u> To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee



Bill	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
HB121	Allow tax credit for teacher purchase of instructional materials	<u>2019-03-12</u> To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
SB81	Prohibit use of seclusion in public schools	<u>2019-03-12</u> To Senate Education Committee
SB34	Regards school employment, educator licensure, and conduct	<u>2019-02-13</u> <i>[Hearing: Feb 4 @ 10:15 am]</i> To Senate Education Committee
SB120	Conduct performance audits of state higher ed institutions	<u>2020-01-31</u> Concurred in House amendments
SB40	Enact the Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act	<u>2020-01-28</u> Passed
HB9	Regards student degree completion and general ed requirements	<u>2020-01-28</u> Insist on amendments; asks for committee of conference
HB410	Exempt post-secondary student textbooks from sales tax	<u>2019-11-18</u> To House Ways and Means Committee



Bill	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
HB16	Grant state college residency status to military and dependents	<u>2019-11-13</u> Passed
SB181	Create template for workforce-education partnership programs	<u>2019-11-12</u> Introduced
HB371	Grant in-state tuition if receive high school equivalence in Ohio	<u>2019-10-22</u> To House Higher Education Committee
SB200	Regards professional development for screening for dyslexia	<u>2019-10-09</u> To Senate Education Committee
HB322	Revise Ohio Teacher Residency Program	<u>2019-09-24</u> To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
HB336	Reinstates the Joint Education Oversight Committee	<u>2019-09-24</u> To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee
SB121	Adopt health education standards/GA need only approve VD ed	<u>2019-05-01</u> To Senate Education Committee
HB165	Regards adoption of health education standards	<u>2019-04-02</u> To House Primary and Secondary Education Committee



Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Bill	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
SB69	Regards community college career programs-grants/credit	<u>2019-03-06</u> To Senate Higher Education Committee
HB90	Spread information to protect humanity of unborn child	<u>2019-03-05</u> To House Health Committee
HB88	Enact Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act	<u>2019-03-05</u> To House Civil Justice Committee