



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 24, 2020

This is an interim report since so much is changing moment to moment.

Exactly when the two chambers will actually meet given the desire to minimize exposure opportunities during the votes, was an open question heading into Monday evening as legislative leaders continued to discuss specifics on how and when to hold session. The House has session days slated for Tuesday, Wednesday and, if needed, Thursday. The Senate previously scheduled a Wednesday session. Both chambers could suspend rules to forego the committee process in order to act on the emergency legislation, although House leaders were still discussing their legal options Monday. Rep. Edwards, the chamber's majority whip, said discussions continue to center on how to best protect members in light of how easily the virus spreads. "We're trying to make this as safe as we can for our members and as efficient and all-encompassing as we can," Rep. Edwards said. "I think the plan is to possibly come in tomorrow. If we can't get an agreement by then, then Wednesday."

House Activity for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 (including COVID responses)

INTRODUCED

HB 585

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (PATTERSON, J., ROBINSON, P.)

To waive certain primary and secondary education requirements to account for school closings in compliance with the Director of Health's order due to the implications of COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

HB 587

SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM (ROBINSON, P., PATTERSON, J.)

To suspend all performance-based Educational Choice scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year, to make changes to the Educational Choice Scholarship Program and the expansion of that program for the 2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter, and to declare an emergency.

Code Sections



Senate Activity for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 (including COVID responses)

INTRODUCED

SB 294

ELECTIONS (HUFFMAN, M.)

To extend absent voting by mail for the March 17, 2020, primary election to April 28, 2020, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

House Activity for Monday, March 23, 2020

INTRODUCED (WITH A RAFT OF COVID 19 RESPONSES)

HB 560

ELECTIONS (LEPORE-HAGAN, M., LISTON, B.)

To modify the law governing voter registration and the method of conducting elections.

Code Sections

HB 569

CHILD CARE (SMITH, K.)

To extend the date by which publicly funded child care providers must be rated through the Step Up to Quality Program and to declare an emergency.

Code Sections

HB 571

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES (BOGGS, K.)

To make COVID-19 contracted by a peace officer, firefighter, or emergency medical worker an occupational disease under the Workers' Compensation Law under certain circumstances and to declare an emergency.

Code Sections



HB 577

ACADEMIC COMMISSIONS (MILLER, J., LIGHTBODY, M.)

To dissolve existing academic distress commissions, to place a moratorium on the creation of academic distress commissions, to establish the School Transformation Board, and to declare an emergency.

Code Sections

HB 578

HOMELESS SHELTERS (SMITH, K.)

To make an appropriation to support homeless shelters in the state and to provide emergency rental assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to declare an emergency.

HB 581

COVID-19 RESPONSE (CALLENDER, J.)

To address immediate concerns related to COVID-19.

THANK YOU TO DAWN AND JIM (and kudos to our community)

I know everyone is scrambling to find creative solutions to new and unforeseen challenges multiple times a day right now. Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback on the multiple messages that I've sent these last couple of weeks in the midst of everything else. I wanted to give you an update on a couple of issues.

First, last night Julie McIntosh (University of Findlay and President of OACTE) submitted a formal request (attached here) to Krista Maxson at ODHE for the edTPA to be recognized as a Performance-Based Assessment and authorize this to be used as a substitute for the OAE APK effective July 1, 2020. Initially, the plan had been for this to go into effect July 1, 2021 but, by moving up the effective date, we can help candidates graduating in May who are still in need of these OAEs. Thanks to Brian Yusko, Tammy Kahrig, and Tracy Huziak-Clark for working on this proposal.

Next, Jim Wightman (on behalf of OAPCTE) and I (on behalf of SUED) have been in active (and ongoing) conversation with ODE about other stop-gap measures for the OAEs. ODE and Pearson have continued to say that testing centers are open and that students can/should be registering for their OAEs. Clearly, this is not a viable option and particularly problematic given Governor DeWine's "Stay at Home" order that is effective through April 6. Jim and I have contacted the Chancellor and the Governor's office about ODE's position and provided the following recommendation to ODE:

ODE's website includes the following information about an option for a one-year license:



One-Year Out-of-State – If you are employed in an Ohio school, you may apply for a one-year out-of-state teaching license to allow time to complete the required Ohio licensure exam(s). To be eligible for this license, you must hold a valid, standard out-of-state teaching license and have met all requirements for a standard Ohio teaching license **except** for the Ohio licensure exams. You may only apply for the one-year out-of-state license at the request of your employing Ohio school.

If it is within ODE's authority to temporarily waive the requirements that candidates "hold a valid, standard out-of-state teaching license" and that they may "only apply. . . at the request of (their) employing Ohio school", this option could provide the flexibility that we need in these extraordinary circumstances. Again, this would only be available to teacher candidates who have successfully met all of the other criteria except the OAEs (so quite consistent with what appears to be the intent of this license).

ODE has responded to say that they will look into this and other options. I realized that all of us are getting questions from candidates who are scheduled to graduate in just over a month. We have communicated this urgency to ODE. If we do not have a response within the next few days, we can coordinate efforts to exert additional pressure. I am also communicating with Will Schwartz and OSBA about this issues since this may be something to address through legislative action as it will radically impact the availability of newly licensed teachers in the fall.

I'll continue to keep you posted.

Thanks.
Dawn

Dawn Shinew
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KEEP WELL!!

Ann Shelly