



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

August 6, 2020

This has been a very busy and tense time in the Ohio House)! Representative Householder is out as speaker and Robert Cupp is in. The normal schedule of consideration of bills has been interrupted by special legislation proposed to meet the various crises that face us. As you probably know, Governor Dewine has tested positive for Corona virus and that has led to lots of commentary.

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Newly Elected Speaker Cupp Promises Transparency, Restoration Of Public Trust

New House **Speaker Bob Cupp** said Thursday he will work to restore trust in the Ohio House following an ongoing racketeering scandal that has thrown the chamber into turmoil. House Republicans now hope that scandal is behind them after the majority of party members coalesced around Rep. Cupp (R-Lima) to succeed former speaker **Rep. Larry Householder** (R-Glenford), who was ousted from the job earlier in the day.

In remarks to the press after the vote, Cupp indicated he had no immediate plans to call the Chamber back into action, suggesting that the scheduled session date in mid-September might be the next time they would be back in Columbus. The Senate, likewise, has no scheduled meetings before mid-August, so, as a result, there are no committee hearings to share this week.

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Ohio House of Representatives: Next Session: August 4th, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Ohio Senate: Tuesday, August 18, 1:30 pm Session (If Needed), Wednesday, August 19, 1:30 pm Session
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SB 246 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING (ROEGNER, K., MCCOLLEY, R.)

To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances. **General Government & Agency Review CONTINUED**

SB 342 FINANCIAL LITERACY (Wilson, S., McColley, R.)

Relating to teaching financial literacy in high school. Introduced in Senate.



HB 123 SCHOOL SECURITY (Holmes, G., Manning, G.)

With regard to school security and youth suicide awareness education and training. 31-0 (Emergency clause 31-0) Passed Senate.

HB 732 READING GUARANTEE (Manning, G.)

To eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and to require the Department of Education to seek a federal waiver for the 2020-2021 school year regarding the federal testing requirement for a third grade reading assessment. Introduced in House.

SB 317 SCHOOL WEAPONS (Coley, B.) To expressly exempt, from a requirement that peace officer basic training be obtained, certain employees that a board of education or governing body of a school authorizes to go armed in a school safety zone within which the board or governing body has authority. CONTINUED Government Oversight & Reform (2nd Hearing-All Testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 350 SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (Brenner, A.) To prohibit school districts from providing vouchers for public transportation to students enrolled in grades kindergarten through eight for the 2020-2021 school year.

HB 673 BUSINESS PRACTICES (Roemer), 1) Require each educator preparation program to develop and implement a plan to provide its students with alternative experiences in the 2020-2021 academic year to make up hours or weeks of clinical experiences missed due to school closure or limited hours because of COVID-19. 2) Require the Department of Higher Education and Department of Education to consider a student who successfully completes make-up hours or weeks in the 2020-2021 academic year using alternative experiences eligible for licensure and endorsement recommendations in the same manner as a student who completes clinical experiences. This bill passed the House in June and has been referred to the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee where it is still pending. **(See ODHE guidance)**

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DeWine Mandates Masks For All Schoolchildren

Gov. Mike DeWine on Tuesday provided additional guidance for schools as they reopen in the fall while announcing mandatory facial coverings for all K-12 students. The governor had originally recommended that students wear masks while in the classroom setting from grades three through 12. At his regular briefing on the novel coronavirus pandemic, however, Gov. DeWine said that health experts are now suggesting that all students in classroom settings wear facial coverings to reduce the spread of the disease that as of Tuesday has led to the deaths of 3,570 Ohioans. "The



jury is back on the issue," he said. "There is a broad, broad, broad consensus among experts in this country." The state also reported 95,106 cumulative cases of COVID-19, resulting in 11,119 hospitalizations. Given the spread of the virus in communities, Gov. DeWine said masks provide the best opportunity for schools to reopen as normally as possible.

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Business, School Immunity Remains Priority For Administration

The DeWine Administration on Thursday took its arguments in favor of shielding businesses and others from coronavirus-related liability to the highest office in the land.

Lt. Gov. Jon Husted told the Common Sense Initiative Small Business Advisory Council during a virtual meeting he would raise the issue with President Donald Trump during his afternoon visit to Sandusky County. The lieutenant governor said he remains hopeful liability protections will be included in a fourth federal coronavirus relief package currently being debated in Congress. "We know how important that this is to employers – not just big businesses, but small businesses and even schools," he said. The remarks came a few hours before the administration announced Gov. Mike DeWine had tested positive for COVID-19 and would not meet with the president. Mr. Husted, who tested negative, made the trip. The lieutenant governor said fear of civil suits may be one issue preventing some school districts returning to in-person instruction at the start of the 2020-21 school year. "I've talked to a number of school superintendents who mentioned liability as one of the reasons for not going to in-person learning," he said. "And while I don't believe that, if schools follow the rules, they have that liability, some of the legal advice they're getting suggests that it is important and I'll respect that," he continued. "Bottom line is we've got to do something about it."

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