

## **Legislative Update for OACTE, OAPCTE, and SUED**

August 9, 2024

### **Lawmakers on summer recess**

Ohio lawmakers are on summer recess for several months after a flurry of legislative activity in June in which more than 20 bills were sent to Gov. Mike DeWine for his signature. The Senate recently released its schedule for the remainder of the year and will return after the November general election for five session days. The House has yet to announce its plans for the rest of the year.

2024 is not just an election year for the presidential candidates, but also for state lawmakers. All 99 House districts are up for election and 16 of the 33 state Senate seats are as well. Meanwhile, the race for House Speaker continues as current Speaker Jason Stephens attempts to fend off term-limited Senate President Matt Huffman, a fellow Republican who is running for a House seat and intends to take the gavel from Stephens.

Development of the state budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 is already underway as the Office of Budget and Management recently released budget guidance to state agencies for their appropriation requests, which are due this fall. These requests, and other policy proposals, will inform the administration's budget requests that will take form in the executive budget proposal released by Gov. Mike DeWine in February of 2025. A budget must be passed by June 30, 2025.

### **DeWine signs SB 168 and other bills**

Gov. Mike DeWine signed several bills in June and July. On June 28, he signed into law House Bill 2, the capital appropriations bill that includes more than \$4 billion in construction, renovation, and other one-time spending. On July 24, he signed into law Senate Bill 168 (licensure and grade band changes) and Senate Bill 94 (audits of teacher prep programs), both of which take effect on October 24, 2024. To read more about the contents of SB 168, [click here](#). To read more about the contents of SB 94, [click here](#).

DeWine has indicated he would sign Senate Bill 104 should it reach his desk. The bill, which originally dealt with College Credit Plus, was amended on the House floor prior to passage to include the provisions of HB 183, the Bathroom Bill. That bill cleared the House but failed to receive a final concurrence vote before lawmakers departed for their summer recess. Another bill that passed the House but failed to receive a concurrence vote was SB 117, which would appropriate \$4.7 million to the State Board of Education to address its budget shortfall.

### **Legal updates on legislation**

- An appeal was filed just one day after Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Holbrook rejected a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of House Bill 68. That law had been temporarily halted by Holbrook.

- A Franklin County magistrate recently recommended that a Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge dismiss a lawsuit challenging portions of the Science of Reading laws from last year's state operating budget. A decision from the judge is still pending.

- A Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge granted the state's motion to dismiss the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of creation of the Department of Education and Workforce and transferring to it much of the duties and authority of the State Board of Education. An appeal has not yet been filed.