DeWine Urges General Assembly to Pass Ban on Flavored Vaping Liquids

On the same day advocates of vaping products rallied at the Statehouse in support of their right to use, Gov. Mike DeWine urged the General Assembly to pass legislation that would ban flavored vaping products.

At a press conference held in his ceremonial office Tuesday afternoon, DeWine said he believes passing such a ban will have the biggest effect on curbing youth vaping. He noted that when he was in the U.S. Senate, he pushed a ban of flavored cigarettes, saying there was no doubt those products were aimed at young children.

He said progress has been made in this country on curbing youth smoking, with a 63 percent decrease in the use of cigarettes by high school students since 2011. That progress, he said, "is being gutted by new efforts to get kids hooked on vaping." DeWine pointed to statistics that show a 135 percent increase in e-cigarette use by high school students, something he called an "absolutely dramatic increase."

In the short term, DeWine said he wants to address severe medical problems related to vaping that have appeared nationwide. There have been 12 deaths nationally, while in Ohio there have been 22 separate cases involving severe illnesses, with another 19 under investigation.

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Amy Acton said the ages of people in the Ohio cases range from 15 to 59, with the average age being 21. She said many of the cases have been tied to the use of marijuana products, though not all of them, which has made the problem harder to pinpoint.

Long-term, DeWine said nicotine addiction will have long-lasting consequences on Ohio children and the state. He said e-cigarette companies have used sweet flavors to get children hooked on massive quantities of nicotine while making it seem cool on social media. He said it is a similar scheme to what tobacco companies used decades ago to get kids hooked on cigarettes.

He noted studies that showed most children don’t realize that vaping products contain nicotine, and added that some vape cartridges have nicotine equal to the amount in an entire pack of cigarettes.

In addition to asking the General Assembly to ban flavored e-cigarette products, DeWine said his administration is sending a letter to the Food and Drug Administration asking for swift action on President Donald Trump's call for a federal ban on flavored products. Letters will also be sent to all Ohio college and university presidents in Ohio asking them to enhance smoke-free campus policies to include rules on vaping, after a similar letter was sent to all Ohio public school superintendents.

Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor Randy Gardner said 26 of the 37 public institutions in Ohio have restrictions on tobacco and e-cigarette use on campus, with a majority having a complete ban. Others, he said, restrict use to certain parts of campus.

DeWine said he would love to sign an executive order banning the sale of flavored products as his counterparts in other states have done, but he said his administration did not feel it had the authority to do so.
With the statewide ban on tobacco and vaping products for those under the age of 21 set to go into effect on Oct. 17, DeWine was asked why he did not limit flavor sales to those over 21. He argued that while adults could buy the products legally, evidence has proven the products eventually end up in the hands of high school and middle school students.

He argued that the push to ban flavors is not a complete ban on e-cigarettes.

"We're not judging nor are we interfering with the adult smoker who has made decision that they are better off vaping than continuing down the path of tobacco. Our focus will remain on children. That's where I think we have a moral obligation. That's the responsible thing to do," DeWine said.

Among other actions the DeWine administration has taken this week:

- ODH has updated a previous directive and now requires all vaping-related illnesses to be reported to the state agency.

- The Ohio Department of Commerce has issued an alert to medical marijuana licensees referring them to a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advisory linking the use of e-cigarettes that contain cannabinoid and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to some of the vaping-related illnesses. DeWine said the licensees have been told the medical marijuana program may be amended in the future in response.

- The Ohio Board of Pharmacy is also passing the CDC advisory on to medical marijuana dispensaries.

The governor also said he has asked ODH to start looking at regulating e-cigarette products that are delivered through the mail, including requiring some kind of age verification.

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) introduced a ban on flavored vapor products last week in the form of HB346. The bill has not yet received a first hearing. Patton has also introduced HB347, which would place restrictions on retailers as well.

**Number of Abortions Dropped by 2 Percent in 2018, ODH Says**

The number of abortions obtained in Ohio in 2018 decreased by 2 percent from 2017, according to statistics released Tuesday by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

A total of 20,425 induced pregnancy terminations were reported in 2018, down from 20,893 in 2017, according to ODH's report, "Induced Abortions in Ohio." The 2017 number was a slight increase over 2016's total of 20,672. (See The Hannah Report, 9/28/18.)

Overall, the number of abortions has decreased by an average of about 1,000 per year since 2001, according to ODH.

While anti-abortion organization Ohio Right to Life (ORTL) argues the reduction in abortions is due to their advocacy and the many legal restrictions placed on abortion clinics and patients over the past decade, abortion rights organization NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio contends that the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) requirement that insurance cover birth control is largely responsible for the change.

"This report goes to show what we a state already know -- even as more Ohio women are rejecting abortion than ever before, much still needs to be done to protect life," ORTL Vice President Stephanie Ranade Krider said. "As we continue to promote a culture of life in Ohio, we are proud to be able to implement groundbreaking pro-life legislation that offers moms and babies real support and helps us grow healthy families and communities throughout Ohio. With the strong pro-life leadership of Gov. Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly, we have been able to continue to fight for the protection of the unborn with unprecedented success."
NARAL Executive Director Kellie Copeland said abortion rates and birth rates in Ohio and nationally have declined in recent years, citing the ODH report and the Guttmacher Institute's recent reports on abortion data. That suggests fewer people are becoming pregnant, not that more women chose or were forced to give birth rather than obtain an abortion, she said.

"We are seeing two important things in this year's report. First, abortion remains accessible across Ohio for many of the people who need it despite relentless political attacks against abortion providers. We are also seeing that like across the country, the ACA's provisions ensuring insurance coverage of birth control have provided a clear and measurable benefit to people looking to prevent unwanted pregnancies in Ohio," Copeland said. "It is imperative that GOP leaders in the Ohio Statehouse and Congress stop their crusade to close abortion clinics, fund fake clinics, and defund Planned Parenthood family planning centers. When individuals have access to the health care they need -- whether abortion care, birth control, or prenatal care -- our people, our families and our communities are healthier."

In 2018, the Ohio abortion rate was 8.7 per 1,000 resident women aged 15-44, slightly lower than the 2017 rate of 8.9. There were 142 abortions for every 1,000 live births in 2018, compared to 144 abortions per every 1,000 live births in 2017.

More than half (56 percent) of induced abortions involved pregnancies of less than nine weeks, while 30 percent involved pregnancies between nine and 12 weeks gestation. About 12 percent of abortions occurred between 13 and 18 weeks gestation, while about 2 percent occurred at 19 weeks or more.

About 94 percent of abortions were obtained by Ohio residents, while 6 percent of abortion patients were from out of state. About 60 percent of women getting abortions were between the ages of 25 and 55, with 30 percent being between the ages of 20 and 24. A little more than 6 percent of women obtaining abortions were 18 or 19 years old, while 3 percent were younger than 18.

About 14,250 abortions were done surgically, while about 6,200 were done non-surgically.

Copeland said three of Ohio's nine remaining abortion clinics are medication-only facilities, while the other six provide surgical abortions.

ODH's full 2018 abortion report is available at www.hannah.com>Important Documents and Notices>Library.

**Advocates Pitch Education Standards as Means to Address Health Challenges**

Counselors, teachers, local school leadership and health care organizations urged lawmakers Tuesday to institute health education standards in Ohio, saying the measure can pay dividends in academic achievement as well as help to address other concerns like increased childhood obesity and Ohio's addiction crisis.

Proponents testified in the Senate Education Committee in support of SB121 (Sykes-Kunze), which would require the State Board of Education adopt such standards. Some committee members appeared skeptical, questioning why local schools can't address the issue themselves and whether statewide standards would be relevant to the varying health concerns of communities.

Those speaking or submitting written remarks in support of the legislation included Ohio Commission on Minority Health Director Angela Dawson; Darold Johnson, legislative director for the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT); Sarah Miller, communications and advocacy manager for Local Matters; Mary Kay Irwin, director of school health services for Nationwide Children's Hospital; Nichole Miller of the Ohio School Counselors Association (OSCA); Franklin County Health Commissioner Joe Mazzola, president-elect of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioner (AOHC); Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators and Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators as a group; Kevin Lorson, advocacy chair for the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (OAHPERD); Ohio Education Association President Scott DiMauro; Kelly Trautner, interim CEO of the Ohio Nurses Association; Dr. Roopa Thakur, a Cleveland Clinic pediatrician; Priyam Chokshi, director of
community and legislative strategies for CelebrateOne; Susan Telljohann from the University of Toledo; Eliza Pendexter, a Columbus resident; James Smith, a health teacher at Northmont High School; and Hilliard resident Kelli Arthur Hykes.

Dawson focused her testimony on the health effects and costs related to the increasing incidence of diabetes, as well as the increased risk of youth developing the condition as childhood obesity increases.

"Without significant policy, systems and environmental changes, those costs are expected to double by 2030. Unfortunately, Ohio is the only state in the nation without health education standards, in addition, health education is the only subject area without standards. Health risks such as poor dietary choices, inadequate physical activity, physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse and gang involvement have a significant impact on how well students perform in school. Educational standards are the learning goals for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. Each state sets its own standards—or "benchmarks"—for core curriculum areas such as language arts, mathematics, physical education, science, social studies, technology and health. Education standards ensure better accountability and the practice of aligning learning to standards also helps ensure that a higher level of learning and skill is attained. Education standards are not a curriculum. Local communities choose their own curriculum, which is a detailed plan for day-to-day teaching," she said.

Sen. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell) expressed doubt that health education standards could fix change in behavior and diet that gave risk to higher rates of obesity in recent decades.

"We know that you can't do better if you don't know better," Dawson responded, saying standards could, for example, established that kindergarteners should be able to distinguish between a healthy and unhealthy snack.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-West Chester) said the substantial health differences stemming from socio-economic and other factors would seem to argue for locally determined standards, not statewide standards. He said such standards emanating from Columbus tend to be "homogeneous" and "vanilla."

Dawson said it's important to distinguish between standards and curriculum. The standards could say schools should teach based on the disease and disparity experiences in the community, leaving local leadership to identify those unique concerns and tailor the curriculum to address. And she said local officials would have the opportunity to weigh in during the process of developing the standards. She also said the legislation would make the standards permissive, leaving local education officials free to disregard them.

Johnson and Lorson also emphasized the fact that lawmakers are already establishing health standards in one-off fashion, with specific legislation requiring education on suicide prevention, the dangers of opioids and other discrete topics.

"It's a crisis driven model that just deals with the topic of the day," Lorson said, arguing that the standards proposed in SB121 are more respectful of local control than the various health education mandates instituted by lawmakers.

Lorson said his association would be fine with lawmakers maintaining the authority over health education standards instead of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), so long as they develop standards that promote skills-based health education and offer additional support and guidance to schools and teachers for meeting them. Health education is the only content
area for which ODE does not have a curriculum consultant, he said, leaving teachers without resources to develop local curriculum.

Mazzola and Hykes both addressed the bill's explicit exclusion of sex education and venereal disease from topics to be addressed in the standards, saying while advocates of standards would like to see those topics include they understand the political barriers to doing so and would rather move forward on the rest of the standards and not let those specific topics prevent progress elsewhere.

Mazzola noted that local health departments were recently required by law to start meeting national accreditation standards, which he said has been a positive development for public health but has allowed local health districts to meet the standards in their own way.

**Lawmakers to Visit Massachusetts for Distress Commission Deliberations**

A group of senators will visit Massachusetts next week in search of lessons from that state's experience with school turnaround efforts in the city of Springfield, as part of continued work to change Ohio's academic distress law via HB154 (Jones-J. Miller).

"We're going to see if we can get some fresh ideas here that can infuse some life into 154," Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), chair of the Senate Education Committee, told Hannah News. The trip is planned for Monday, she said.

The Senate has looked to Massachusetts' efforts to inform revisions to HB154, and recently heard from an Ohio-based school turnaround expert who worked with Bay State schools on improvement efforts. (See The Hannah Report, 9/10/19.)

The Senate Education Committee's hearing agenda Tuesday did not include testimony on HB154. Lehner said previously the chamber likely won't take further action until a new senator is appointed to the 8th District, from which Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) just retired. Terhar had been heavily involved in developing the Senate version of HB154. One of the contenders to replace him, Rep. Louis Blessing III (R-Cincinnati), chairs the House Education Committee, which passed a much different version of HB154 than what the Senate is currently considering.

The House-passed version of the bill would dissolve the academic distress commissions now in control of East Cleveland, Lorain and Youngstown school and institute a new building-based school turnaround model with no ability for the state to take control of local districts. The version of HB154 pending in Lehner's committee would expand the timeframe schools have to show improvement and offer financial support for the services of turnaround experts, but would retain the ultimate authority for the state to intercede in local district management.

**Lawmakers Seek Required Coverage of Children's Hearing Aids**

Reps. Casey Weinstein (D-Hudson) and Allison Russo (D-Columbus) appeared before the House Health Committee Tuesday seeking approval for their proposal to require insurance companies to cover hearing aids for Ohioans under the age of 21.

The sponsors said hearing aids are currently classified as "cosmetic devices" by many insurance companies, though Weinstein said it was "ludicrous" to have hearing aids in the same category as Botox.

HB243 would require health plan issuers to cover one hearing aid per hearing-impacted ear up to $2,500 every four years for individuals under the age of 21, for no more than $5,000 total, and to cover the associated costs for screenings, fitting and repairs required for the proper care and maintenance of hearing aids, according to the sponsors.

Russo emphasized that hearing is an essential part of a child's development, and unaddressed hearing deficits can end up costing states $400,000 per child by the end of high school. Weinstein said 23 states have similar laws.
The bill elicited numerous responses from committee members, including Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg), who said the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) fiscal analysis indicates the bill would cost around $1.8 million for school districts and $1.5 million to local government, adding that private employers would also experience increased costs. He noted that bills mandating increased health care coverage result in increased premiums, and he asked the sponsors how to balance one family's new hearing aid coverage with another family's increased premiums.

Russo said the bill deals with a "very finite population" amounting to around two or three hearing-impaired children out of 1,000 children, and said that other states that passed similar legislation saw premium increases between 5 and 39 cents per member per month. Those premium increases are in line with premium increases experienced by veterans when the military health plan added coverage for hearing aids.

"When you weigh that in terms of the cost to the state in intervention services if you don't have early interventions, this is high value to the state and the taxpayer," Russo said.

Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) asked why seniors were not included in the bill, and Weinstein said "that would be great," but the bill is an attempt to home in on hearing interventions for young people in order to garner the highest return on investment for the state.

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) voiced concerns about the effect the bill would have on self-insured companies and said the sponsors were not asking state plans to be covered by the mandate. Russo said that about 40 percent of Ohioans are on Medicaid, which already covers hearing aids, 40 percent are on self-insured plans subject to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which are not governed by state law, but HB243 would apply to the remaining 22 percent of employees. She added that the bill would apply to institutions of higher education and public schools, which receive state funds but are not on the state health plan.

Responding to a question from Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) on medical standards for hearing aids, Russo said the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board would provide standards for what types of hearing aids should receive coverage.

Committee Chairman Derek Merrin (R-Monclova) proposed a scenario where the law is passed, asking why a hearing aid manufacturer would ever set a price for their product below $5,000 if that is the maximum amount insurers would be required to cover. Weinstein said mandated insurance coverage would not shield a business from market competition, allowing for a competitor to offer its comparable product at a cheaper price than $5,000 to secure insurers' business. Russo added that $5,000 is the cost of a "mid-level" hearing aid, and the average cost is typically more than that.

Responding to a follow-up from Merrin, Russo said that some insurers already offer coverage for hearing aids, but it's "very inconsistent." She said many employers don't realize that hearing aids are not covered under their plans until they hire employees who are in need of hearing aids for themselves or their children.

Russo explained at the end of the committee meeting that a substitute bill updated the bill's coverage amount and time frame, and added the provision about the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board providing standards for hearing aids. The substitute bill was accepted without objection.

**Sponsors Distinguish Sex Abuse Prevention Bill from Sex Education Efforts**

The sponsors of a bill to educate children on preventing childhood sexual abuse sought to distinguish their measure from other sex education efforts at a Tuesday meeting of the House Health Committee.

Reps. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) and Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) said their bill, HB321, would require age-appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade and age-appropriate instruction in sexual violence prevention education for seventh through twelfth grades.

"The Ohio Department of Education would be required to provide free resources for schools and instructors to create their curricula. Each school district, educational service center, community school and STEM school would be required to include
training on child sexual abuse in its in-service training for teachers and other professionals," Kelly said, adding that such curricula are already in use in 37 states and available for use in Ohio.

Lipps added, "According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, one in five girls and one in 20 boys are victims of child sexual abuse. Every nine minutes, child sexual abuse claims are substantiated. Children are often taught to be on the lookout for 'stranger danger;' however, 95 percent of child sexual abuse is by someone the child knows and trusts."

He said the bill stemmed from a situation in his district where a teacher from Springboro was charged with 36 counts of gross sexual imposition involving 28 students all under the age of 13, with law enforcement believing possibly more students could have been abused and that 88 students were affected in total.

Lipps explained that the teacher set up a classroom reward system where children who exhibited good behavior were rewarded by being called up to the front of the class to sit on the teacher's lap. This was discovered when a student reported to her mother she was disappointed at not being chosen, and a camera was installed in the classroom to collect evidence on the teacher's behavior.

A parent from that classroom wrote to Lipps, saying, "I knew to talk to my little girl about it very early on. I truly felt she understood. ... Someone can come in and teach children this early on, a professional, someone trained to know what and how manipulative child molesters are. Someone to teach them the things parents didn't think of, and then maybe there wouldn't have been 88 of them, maybe there would've been one or two before someone stood up and recognized that it was wrong."

Committee Chairman Derek Merrin (R-Monclova) noted the bill had been introduced in previous General Assemblies and asked how the bill has changed.

"We made no changes to the previous bill. The priority has changed because I need to go home to 88 victims," Lipps said.

Responding to a follow-up, Lipps said the only opposition to the bill has come from those "vehemently opposed" to sex education in schools.

Committee members sought further clarifications, with Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) asking whether the bill was more about prevention than sex education, and Rep. Sara Carruthers (R-Hamilton) asking whether the bill will "get information to the child before it becomes sex ed." The sponsors said the bill is more about preventive education than sex education.

Rep. Diane Grendell (R-Chesterland) asked how the bill would balance the concerns of parents, and asked whether there could be another remedy for the situation directed more at teachers than young students. Lipps said he could provide sample curricula to the committee, and Kelly said the bill is not aimed at teachers, but is instead targeted to students to give them the knowledge to recognize inappropriate behavior regardless of the circumstance.

Responding to a question from Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem), Lipps said the bill would not mandate specifically what curriculum a school uses, but instead would mandate that a school dedicates a certain number of hours to the program.

**Omission from House Employee Handbook Triggers Renewed Calls for Passage of Ohio Fairness Act**

House Democratic Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron) and Rep. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) joined Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein and Marshall Troxell and Grant Stanciff from Equality Ohio in a press call Tuesday to urge action on the Ohio Fairness Act to protect LGBTQ+ Ohioans from discrimination in employment, housing and accommodations.

The call followed the Friday release of the *Ohio House of Representatives Administrative Reference Guide* which Sykes said fails to extend non-discrimination protections to LGBTQ+ House employees despite Democratic requests to the speaker to include the provisions during the drafting process.
Couching it as one of the Democrats’ concerns as they were considering speaker candidates, Sykes said, "The speaker’s new directive sends the wrong message, not only to LGBTQ+ staffers at the House, but also to the thousands of Ohioans across the state who worry that they can be fired any time, any day simply for being who they are.

"The governor and leading Ohio businesses have it right - we can’t compete for jobs and investment if we don’t value our workers. It’s past time to pass the Ohio Fairness Act to renew our promise of opportunity for all Ohioans."

Gov. Mike DeWine, as one of his acts after being sworn in, signed an executive order that maintained the non-discrimination policy of the Kasich administration that protected state employees from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, military status, gender identity and expression. (See The Hannah Report, 1/14/19.) Sykes said, however, his executive order does not protect legislative employees.

She went on to note that, "More than 800 leading Ohio businesses and organizations have signed onto the Ohio Fairness Act, which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and accommodations."

"Businesses and workers alike say non-discrimination policies often determine investment and relocation," said Skindell, who plans to introduce a version of the Ohio Fairness Act in the Ohio House in the near future. It was introduced earlier this year in the Ohio Senate by Sen. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and is SB11.

Ohio remains one of 28 states where individuals can be denied jobs, housing and services based on sexual orientation or gender identity, they said in the call. "In Ohio, more than two dozen communities have enacted ordinances protecting LGBTQ+ residents, but the majority of Ohioans still have no protections from discrimination," Sykes added.

Asked whether this was a decision of the new House human resources director or the speaker, Sykes said her initial conversations were with Kim Hartman, who explained it wasn’t included in the policy because Ohio does not currently have a statewide law on the issue -- which has led to the renewed calls to pass the Ohio Fairness Act.

Sykes had noted in the press call that the Ohio Senate has language protecting its LGBTQ+ members and staffers -- language that reads as follows:

"The Senate is an equal opportunity employer. The Senate is committed to creating and maintaining a work environment in which all employees are treated with respect and are free from discrimination and harassment based upon a person’s age, sex, sexual orientation, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, or disability. The Senate does not discriminate against applicants or employees in its employment practices on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, religion, or disability."

Senate Republican Caucus spokesman John Fortney told Hannah News this has been part of the Senate employee handbook for "at least the past eight years."

Spokeswoman for Speaker of the House Larry Householder (R-Glenford), Gail Crawley told Hannah News in an email: "The Ohio House of Representatives values its staff and is committed to an inclusive, professional work environment. It is the ongoing practice of the Ohio House to evaluate employees based on their knowledge, skills and abilities. The most recent version of the House Administrative Guide, consistent with last General Assembly, expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment and retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry, disability, age (40 years or older), genetic information, veteran or military status, or any other characteristics protected by law."

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein did suggest in answer to a question that House employees would be able to file a complaint with the city which has passed an ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
Advocates Praise Lawmakers for Providing Domestic Violence Funding

Leaders of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) praised Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) for leading the effort to ensure -- for the first time ever -- that funding for domestic violence programs was included in the state budget.

The Legislature provided $1 million in General Revenue Funds (GRF) for domestic violence programs in each fiscal year of the FY20-21 budget, HB166 (Oelslager).

"Last year, those programs provided counseling, court advocacy, housing assistance and other services to more than 60,000 survivors and their children. They help with awareness, they did prevention, they connected families to social services, they helped them find employment, they helped them find child care, they helped them get back on their feet, which is what our work is all about," ODVN Executive Director Mary O'Doherty said during her organization's annual National Domestic Violence Awareness Month event at the Statehouse Tuesday.

"Until this year, Ohio's network of DV programs relied completely on competitive federal funding and a small amount of money from fees generated at the county level. They also, of course, look to their local communities for help, but local support can be very limited, especially for a program in a rural community. Meanwhile, 32 other states and all of our surrounding states provided general fund support for their domestic violence programs," O'Doherty said. "That's what I told Rep. Lanese on March 14, the day that I met her in her office. I remember that she asked me some questions about our programs ... but what I remember most was that she didn't hesitate at all when we asked her if she would spearhead our effort to get general line item support."

O'Doherty noted that her organization had been working on getting GRF support for a number of years. (See The Hannah Report, 10/3/17, 10/10/18.)

"This year we made it happen, and we owe a huge debt to Rep. Lanese because she championed our line item and she pushed it over the finish line," she said.

Lanese praised the advocates in the audience for their work to address domestic violence issues.

"The fact that we didn't have funding before was rather shocking to me," Lanese said, noting that while $1 million "is not enough ... once you're in you're in."

Lanese lamented the domestic violence fatality statistics released by ODVN at the event, which showed there were 81 fatalities from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. In 73 percent of the cases the fatalities were caused by non-law-enforcement guns, while 25 percent of cases involved children at the scene.

"We have to change these statistics. It's up to every one of us in this room to do that. The funding, again, is just a drop in the bucket. Everything that you guys do every day is making a difference," said Lanese, who serves as House assistant majority whip. "There are a few perks to being in leadership, and this is one of them. I made this my top priority because I knew the value of getting this in for the first time."

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) also spoke at the event, saying the line item made her "believe that miracles do happen," and gave her hope that SB146 (Kunze-Antonio) could pass during this General Assembly. That bill would expand the offense of domestic violence to specifically include choking.

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) also attended the event.

ODVN highlighted its clemency work with domestic violence survivors in prison, with ODVN Legal Assistance Program Director Nancy Grigsby saying that women in prison are much more likely to be victims of physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Grigsby said 25 women were chosen for her organization's clemency project, but the Ohio Parole Board only recommended one be granted clemency. Former Gov. John Kasich then commuted the sentence of Thomia Hunter, a former police officer who served 15 years in prison for killing her abuser.
"I was convicted by a system that I held in such high regard. I was sentenced to 15 to life in prison for defending myself in my own home after never being in trouble with the law," Hunter said, continuing to note she was thankful for Grigsby and Kasich helping to give her a second chance. She said she got a job six days after leaving prison, and is on schedule to graduate from Ashland University in 2020. She said there are many other women currently in prison who also deserve to be released, and hopes ODVN's project frees more domestic violence survivors like herself.

ODVN Board Chair Bridget Mahoney said her organization annually does a one day "snapshot" of services provided.

"In just one day, over 2,400 victims were served with shelter or services. But that same day, 270 victims could not be served because programs lacked the resources for housing, shelter, transportation, child care and legal representation. Imagine a woman with her children being brave enough to take that step, to face that challenge of leaving their abuser, only to be turned away. The biggest obstacles to ending abuse is not a matter of whether the victim chooses to leave, but whether that victim is able to safely escape and have the finances to assist her and her children in starting a new life," Mahoney said.

"We are calling on legislators to get the guns out of the hands of abusers, to recognize strangulation as a precursor of murder. We are asking that a steady, reliable and sufficient stream of funding for domestic violence programs stays in Ohio's state budget. And we are asking for laws to stop the weaponization of the courts by abusers who retaliate against a victim who chooses to leave, report crimes or share their story publicly.

"We need these changes now," Mahoney said.

**Graduation Task Force to Seek Input on High School Redesign**

In its initial discussion on redesigning the Ohio high school experience, members of the State Board of Education's Graduation Requirements and High School Redesign Task Force reviewed broad goals of the effort and decided to survey schools in their districts to identify best practices that could be implemented on the statewide level.

A brief document outlining the scope of work divided the high school redesign effort into three phases: (1) research and information gathering; (2) developing a framework of attributes of an engaging and inspiring high school; and (3) developing recommendations and actions. State Board of Education member Martha Manchester led the discussion on phase one of the plan, encouraging members to solicit feedback from district leaders, teachers and students on how to ensure that students want to come to school and be engaged with learning.

Task force members agreed that the best practices worth identifying may not be reflected in a school's state report card scores, but instead could be rooted in a school's culture.

State Board of Education member Mark Lamoncha commented that his business saw great improvements in employee turnover and productivity after restructuring corporate language, such as calling managers "coaches" and employees "team members." He said students could be thought of as "customers" and school counselors could be called "life coaches." Board member Meryl Johnson added that a change in language would be empty if the way students are treated does not follow suit, saying, "You can call me a customer, but not treat me like a customer. We have schools where every student is a scholar, but they're not treating them any different."

A recommendation from Julia Simmerer, senior executive director for the Center for Teaching, Leading and Learning at the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), was to ask districts what "interesting" strategies they have recently implemented, noting that district leaders' excitement about new changes could be a good gauge of efficacy.

ODE Deputy Superintendent John Richard cautioned the task force that innovation does not necessarily translate to improvement, and added that catering to students' passions would be a good way to ensure that students want to come to school.

Members agreed to share their findings at the next meeting of the task force.
The task force also continued its discussion on graduation requirements, with ODE Program Administrator of College and Career Readiness Sarah Wilson focusing discussion on new "competency" and "diploma seal" graduation requirements.

Lawmakers passed in state budget bill HB166 (Oelslager) new requirements that ODE in consultation with the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation develop "competency scores" on the English II and Algebra I exams to qualify for a high school diploma.

Task force members mulled the definition of "competency," with ODE Superintendent Paolo DeMaria saying the score will likely sit between current "basic" and "proficient" scores. He said the current scoring levels were developed by teachers, and he will seek feedback from teachers on where the "competent" score should be.

Lisa Gray, president of education think tank Ohio Excels, who pitched the "competency" idea to lawmakers, said the idea for a new cutoff was developed because she was hearing that the "proficient" score was set too high.

"We were comfortable with keeping the word 'proficient,' but educators felt the word proficient was above and beyond 'competent,' so that's how that word came up," Gray said. "But we ought to put this question to bed to some degree."

Manchester asked whether "competent" should correspond to a 10th grade level of expertise, and DeMaria said the word is an indicator of a student's knowledge and skill rather than a grade level expectation. However, he added that 10th graders are expected to complete the Algebra I and English II exams.

Asked whether interested party meetings have taken place, DeMaria said ODE has held "a handful of external conversations to frame our thinking on the issue."

On the subject of diploma seals, Wilson explained that ODE will soon be sending districts guidance on which state tests, College Credit Plus courses and Advanced Placement tests will appropriately apply to given diploma seals.

Manchester asked whether all seals will be based on an assessment, and both Wilson and DeMaria confirmed that all state-issued seals -- apart from the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal -- will require some sort of testing. The flexibility of the seals system, DeMaria said, lies in the student being allowed to choose which seals to pursue, noting that a student struggling in history may excel in biology.

However, Wilson said that locally defined seals can offer more flexibility, and may not have to rely exclusively on testing. Locally defined seals could include completion of a capstone project, participation in clubs, sports or organizations, or completion of community service. A student will be required to earn two diploma seals to graduate, one of which must be state-defined.

**BWC Could Soon Propose Agency Rebranding, Name Change Reflecting its 'Vision and Performance'**

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) could soon propose a name change and department-wide rebranding that captures the "energy, vision and performance" of the government-run insurer, says Administrator/CEO Stephanie McCloud, culminating an internal review of the agency dating to early 2018.

McCloud has told staff that BWC is presented with an opportunity to capitalize on its growth as a world-class insurance agency, "and now is the time to do it."

"Our name doesn't adequately reflect who we are, what we do or what we want to become. We provide much more than compensation to injured workers. We are safety, prevention, health and wellness; we provide security to Ohio's employers, and we contribute to the economic well-being of the state," she told employees this spring.
"We have a responsibility to lead. We are one of the largest workers' compensation providers in the country, with vast expertise, knowledge and talent. Our name and brand should convey those qualities."

McCloud said of the proposed name change after Friday's board meeting, "Everything is in consideration," reaffirming agency statements since last year. (See The Hannah Report, 9/28/18, 2/22/19, 6/28/19.)

She points to recommendations from a 2018 internal work group, External Communications, which found only 26 percent of surveyed Ohioans regard BWC favorably, and that rebranding is "essential."

"While this data wasn't gathered scientifically, it is still troubling on an anecdotal basis that twice as many people had an unfavorable view of the agency than a favorable or neutral view, even in the wake of $8 billion in rebates and savings to the people of this state over the last seven years," states the group's report, Rebranding BWC.

"Our name signals that we're a government bureaucracy that pays money to workers ...," it says. "A new name would bring attention to our mission of caring for others and convey a sense of action and progress on safety, prevention, health and wellness."

McCloud has since solicited recommendations from diverse stakeholders, including the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Business, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Township Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Oil and Gas Association, Ohio State Medical Association, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Pharmacists Association, Ohio Chiropractic Association, Ohio Employee Health Partnership, CareWorks of Ohio, Ohio Contractors Association, Associated General Contractors of Ohio, Ohio AFL-CIO, Ohio Trucking Association, Ohio Home Builders Association, Ohio Restaurant Association, Ohio Grocer Association, Ohio Automobile Dealers Association, Ohio AgriBusiness Association, Ohio Insurance Agents, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, Council of Smaller Enterprises, and National Association of Professional Employer Organizations, among others.

"We seek a name and brand that capture the spirit and dedication of our employees, as well as our commitment to be a world-class insurance carrier, a catalyst for a safe, healthy and prosperous Ohio," she told interested parties.

They have submitted dozens of proposed name changes, not including former GOP Rep. Mike Henne's "Office of Employee Safety and Rehabilitation" in 132-HB269, which saw only three hearings in 2017.

Simon Everett, the rebranding firm retained by the workgroup, has offered several possibilities including "Work Sure Ohio" and "Ohio Safety Works," among others.

A long list of anonymous contributors have proposed everything from Ohio Bureau of Worker Safety, Bureau of Workers' Health & Compensation, Ohio Workforce Wellness Agency, Ohio Workers Insurance Agency, Ohio Employer's Insurance Fund, and Ohio Department of Workplace Insurance, Safety and Education (WISE), all the way to Buckeye Employers' Insurance Fund, Buckeye Safety & Wellness, Buck-I-Safe, Ohio Prevention+Care, Worksafe Ohio, SafeWorkOH, CompSafeOH, InsureSafeOH, EnsureSafeOH, CardinalCompOH, CardinalSafeOH and more.

More imaginative suggestions include "Because We Care," "I'm Going To Be OK Ohio" and even "You Break It, We Fix It Ohio."

"Our goal is to present recommendations to management and the board soon ...," McCloud told employees. "I am excited to recommend to the governor and General Assembly a name that more fully conveys the depth and quality of our work and attracts committed professionals to join our mission."

BWC Rebranding can be found at www.hannah.com > Important Documents and Notices > Library.
People in the News


Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Heights) said Tuesday that she has filed for maternity leave with House leadership and announced her adoption of a baby boy.

"I am grateful, and indeed, overcome with joy to share with you and our colleagues that after years of being a waiting-adoptive parent, I am becoming a mom," said Boyd in her official letter. "Therefore, it is vital that I take this irreplaceable time to bond and build a familial and chemical connection with our new baby. Our attachment as mother and son will directly influence his social-emotional development for years to come.

She said she plans to be in attendance and participate in any hearings regarding HB3 (Boyd-Carruthers), which would strengthen protections for victims of domestic violence.

Boyd said that as an adopted child herself, she has dedicated her political career to expanding family and kinship care services in Ohio. Her work this session includes HB14 (Boyd-Baldridge), which creates the statewide Kinship Navigator Program to help caregivers locate support services available to them.

Judicial Actions

**Ohio Supreme Court - Appeals Accepted**

*Menorah Park Center for Senior Living v. Rolston*, 2019-0939

From the 8th District Court of Appeal. Cuyahoga County. App. No. 107615, 2019-Ohio-2114.

Chief Justice O'Connor and Justice Stewart dissent.

*State v. Owens*, 2019-0980

From the 8th District Court of Appeals. Cuyahoga County. App. No. 107494, 2019-Ohio-2221. Appeal accepted on proposition of law No. I.

Justices French, Donnelly and Stewart would accept the appeal on both propositions of law. Justices Kennedy, Fischer and DeWine dissent.

Legislative Schedule Changes

- Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee specified that its Wednesday, Oct. 2 hearing will now begin at 2:45 p.m. rather than after session, since session is cancelled.

- Senate session for Wednesday, Oct. 2 is cancelled.

- House Finance Committee added sponsor testimony on HB354 (Plummer-Swearingen) to the agenda for its Wednesday, Oct. 2 hearing.

- House State and Local Government Committee cancelled its Wednesday, Oct. 2 hearing.

- House Commerce and Labor Committee removed HB144 from its Wednesday, Oct. 2 agenda.
- Sunset Review Committee added the Ohio Public Defender Commission to the list of agencies presenting at its Wednesday, Oct. 2 hearing.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS FOR 10/01/2019**

**HOUSE ACTIONS**

**INTRODUCED**

**HB352** CIVIL RIGHTS EMPLOYMENT LAWS (CROSS J, LANG G) To modify Ohio civil rights laws related to employment.

**HB353** HIGHWAY DESIGNATION-CLARENCE SMITH (MANNING D) To designate a portion of State Route 7 in Mahoning County as the "Clarence "Sonny" Smith, Jr. Highway."

**HB354** WEAPONS DISABILITY DATA PORTAL (PLUMMER P, SWEARINGEN D) To require the juvenile court to expunge all records sealed pursuant to the juvenile sealing law upon the person's twenty-eighth birthday, to expand the circumstances under which a person has a weapon under disability, to specify that moderate or severe substance use disorder is a mental illness for purposes of the law governing civil commitments, to require the Director of Public Safety to create and maintain the weapons disability data portal, to impose certain consequences on specified entities that fail to comply with data submission requirements, and to make an appropriation.

**HR237** HONORING UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO (CUPP B) Honoring the University of Northwestern Ohio on its Centennial.

**HR238** HONORING JOE BOYLE-TEACHER (SOBECKI L, GHANBARI H) Honoring Joe Boyle on being named the 2019 Ohio History Teacher of the Year.

**HR239** HONORING WILGING'S FINE MEATS (ROMANCHUK M) Honoring Wilging's Fine Meats on its One Hundredth Anniversary.

**HR240** HONORING MEDICAL HANDICAPS PROGRAM (HOUSEHOLDER L) Honoring the Ohio Department of Health Children with Medical Handicaps Program on its One Hundredth Anniversary.

**RE-REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

**FINANCE:**

**SB26** TAX DEDUCTION-TEACHER CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (KUNZE S) To authorize a state income tax deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses for professional development and classroom supplies.

The House adjourned until Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019 at 1 p.m. (Voting Session)

The Senate adjourned until Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. (Nonvoting Session)
HOUSE CIVIL JUSTICE

Tue., Oct. 1, 2019

HCR13 GENDER REPRESENTATION (WEST T, CARRUTHERS S) To encourage equitable and diverse gender representation on the boards and in senior management of Ohio companies and institutions.

Reps. West and Carruthers offered sponsor testimony, with West saying the goal of the resolution is to "urge all private and public companies and institutions doing business in this state to commit to increase the gender diversity on their board of directors and in senior management positions and to set and publish goals by which to measure their progress."

Corporate boards should be reflective of the state and nation, he said, but while women make up 46.8 percent of the U.S. labor force, they only hold 17.7 percent of board seats for Russell 3000 companies. In Ohio, women are 44.3 percent of the labor force but represent only 20.5 percent of board seats for Fortune 1000 companies headquartered in the state.

Research has shown a "distinct link" between gender diversity and better corporate performance, West said, citing a 2011 study from Catalyst Research Center. However, a McKinsey study from 2018 found women are less likely to be promoted to manager or hired to more senior positions. This disparity is not only inequitable but hurts corporate performance, he added. The resolution would be an important step to further a conversation on the issue and close the gap. He also added to his testimony that Oct. 1 was the birthday of his late mother, "a woman of strength and power."

Carruthers said the concurrent resolution is "a strong reminder that women are vital in the success of Ohio" and should be involved in business decisions. She said more women need to be encouraged to strive and apply for leadership positions.

Carruthers also praised Gov. Mike DeWine for having more women in his cabinet than any previous Ohio governor and Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) for hiring women in key roles as well.

There were no questions.

HB288 EMINENT DOMAIN (MANNING D) To amend the law regarding eminent domain and to declare an emergency.

Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) Manager of Government Affairs Jason Warner offered interested party testimony, saying that eminent domain raises a "level of passion" from advocates for and against it and that he believed it should only be used as a last resort, for legitimate public purposes and in cases when the public interest is served.

Public parks and recreational trails serve a legitimate public purpose, Warner said, and the GOPC has several concerns with the current bill, including that its "undefined reach" could bar any usage of eminent domain for public park purposes and that it could lead to further "eroding" of local control and home rule authority.
He contended that neighborhoods around Ohio have been "decimated" by state usage of eminent domain for highways or other rights of way without proposals for a ban, and said a "knee-jerk reaction" with long-term negative consequences cannot occur here as well.

Rep. Seitz asked whether all Ohio county park districts are comprised of board members appointed by the probate judge, which Warner said was correct to his knowledge. Seitz said elected probate judges could be held accountable for their appointments by the people of the specific county, but that several park districts had expanded into other counties whose residents did not have any way to hold the probate judges appointing the board members accountable.

Warner said he was not able to list how many county park districts had expanded into adjacent counties. Seitz said he was interested in "massaging" a potential amendment requiring park districts to obtain local legislative approval to only apply to county park districts that have expanded into other counties. Warner said Seitz had raised a "legitimate concern" and the committee would do better approaching the bill in "that regard" rather than applying it to all park districts in the state.

Rep. Lanese said she considers the trail system in Franklin County to be a public transportation system but was concerned by public testimony, asking if Warner had any suggestions on how to provide relief to people being "bullied" by potential eminent domain usage. Warner recommended letting active legal proceedings run their course while considering what options to take.

Beth Wanless, director of government affairs at Ohio Realtors, offered written-only proponent testimony.

The committee did not discuss potential amendments to the bill Tuesday, though Chair Hambley told reporters one potential amendment would allow park districts to use eminent domain with the approval of the relevant elected local government, such as township trustees, city council members or county commissioners.

Another potential amendment involved trails along municipal boundaries and would give the city some authority in those cases. Hambley said that Seitz had been referencing a combination of the two, and they are being discussed with interested parties.

**HOUSE HEALTH**


**Tue., Oct. 1, 2019**

**HB243** HEARING AIDS COVERAGE (WEINSTEIN C, RUSSO A) To require health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons under twenty-two years of age.

**SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**

(See separate story, this issue.)

**HB321** CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION (LIPPS S, KELLY B) With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention.

(See separate story, this issue.)

**HB323** PSYCHOLOGISTS-PRESCRIBING (MANNING D) To authorize certain psychologists to prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices as part of the practice of psychology.

Rep. Don Manning said his bill would allow specially trained and certified psychologists to prescribe medications used for the treatment of mental illness and substance addiction, provided they meet the following criteria:

- They are a doctorate level psychologist licensed in the state of Ohio.
- They have completed a master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology.

- They have completed 700 hours of clinical supervision, 350 of which are under a psychiatrist.

- They have passed the Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists, administered by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards.

- They have entered into and maintain a collaborative relationship with a state licensed physician.

- They have applied to the Ohio Board of Psychology and adhere to all relevant rules/regulations governing the prescription of medications in Ohio.

Psychologists would then be required to obtain certification every two years from the Ohio Board of Psychology and complete 24 hours of continuing education specific to psychopharmacology in addition to current continuing education requirements.

He said the bill is designed to address Ohio's ongoing mental health crisis and its workforce shortage of psychiatrists, and said five states have similar laws.

Responding to a question from Rep. West, Manning said the Ohio Board of Psychology is opposed to the bill. In a follow-up, he said he was not sure how many psychologists qualify now, given the education requirements.

HB329 TANNING AGE LIMIT (HILLYER B, LIGHTBODY M) To prohibit the provision of sun lamp tanning services to individuals under age 18.

Rep. Hillyer said the bill is aimed at protecting Ohio's children from the harmful use of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from indoor tanning beds, which is strongly correlated with development of skin cancer. The bill does not preclude children using tanning beds at home, tanning outside in the sun or spray tanning.

"Even one indoor tanning session can increase a user's risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma by 67 percent. Researchers estimate that indoor tanning may cause upwards of 400,000 cases of skin cancer in the United States each year," he said.

Rep. Lightbody added, "This bill is vitally important, as the 14-18 age group is not as cognizant about the long-term impacts on their health. Indeed, a recent study found a 20 percent prevalence of tanning bed use among high school girls in the U.S. ... Eighteen states and Washington, D.C. have already enacted bans on the use of tanning beds by minors under 18."

She continued, "The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services classifies UV radiation from tanning beds as 'carcinogenic to humans' and the FDA has issued a Black Box warning against the use of indoor tanning by minors under the age of 18."

Rep. Antani asked why the sponsors wouldn't ban all tanning bed use, including the use of home tanning beds. Hillyer said the bill did not apply to home tanning bed use, and is intended to apply to tanning salons, which are required to receive parental consent every 90 days in order for a minor to use their tanning beds but often don't follow that protocol. He said enforcing a home tanning bed ban for minors would be difficult.

Rep. Carruthers asked why not instead direct tanning salons to put more precise timers on tanning beds, saying that she tanned regularly. Lightbody said timers are already calibrated based on an individual's skin type, and Hillyer said the General Assembly just raised the minimum age to buy cigarettes to 21 "without even a whimper, and we all agree smoking is dangerous."
Rep. Russo asked what the cost impacts were from skin cancer treatment, and Lightbody said the annual cost of treating skin cancer in the U.S. amounts to $8.1 billion, adding that she is looking to get data specific to Ohio. Responding to a follow-up, she said data regarding the cases of skin cancer specifically attributable to tanning beds are difficult to obtain.

HB58  EBT CARD REQUIREMENTS (SCHAFFER T) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The committee received written proponent testimony from Auditor of State Keith Faber, who wrote, "This bill is not about punishing SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) recipients. To the contrary, it is designed to protect SNAP recipients from those who would steal their benefits."

He wrote that the bill was prompted by a 2016 audit of the SNAP program that uncovered various instances of fraud, including individuals who received benefits after death; $28.7 million in benefits spent outside of Ohio; "unusual card activity at neighborhood corner stores where an entire month's benefits were spent in a single transaction;" $28.5 million spent in "even dollar" transactions, which are indicators of fraud; and multiple transactions worth hundreds of dollars that occurred within minutes of each other.

He said a photo requirement will not solve all the issues of the SNAP program, including "trafficking" efforts in which recipients swap their benefits for cash, drugs or other items of value.

"As members of law enforcement have already testified in previous years, when drug busts are made, they usually find four things: guns, drugs, cash and SNAP cards. This is because 'trafficked' SNAP cards are easy to use -- under current federal regulations, possession of the card plus the PIN equals authorized use," Faber wrote.

However, he added that a photo requirement will bolster state efforts to deter SNAP trafficking.

Written proponent testimony was also received from Dennis Lowe, commander of the Major Crimes Unit in southeast Ohio, who said SNAP cards are often recovered in drug busts.

"As an undercover officer it was common for me to use at that time food stamps and untaxed cigarettes as a form of payment for illegal narcotics. Not only was this form of payment widely accepted it also served to provide me instant credibility as 'bad guy' in my undercover roles. I assure you that if I were still operating as an undercover officer today I would use EBT SNAP electronic benefit cards as payment for drugs or accept them as payment in reverse sting operations."

He continued, "I believe that HB58 will reduce the use of EBT SNAP electronic benefit cards as a form of currency to purchase illegal drugs. It is the anonymity of the current system which makes this form of payment attractive to those involved in the drug trade. By placing identification photos of those issued the cards directly on them I am confident that drug users and drug traffickers will be far less likely to accept them as payment, and those issued the cards will be more likely to use them explicitly for their intended purpose and not as 'free money' to purchase narcotics."
and the "dash 3" version which is the sub bill. A comp doc comparing the two versions will be posted on the Hannah News HB310 bill page as will the sub bill.

The bill proposes revisions to the definition of "harassment, intimidation or bullying" to expand the law's provisions beyond student to student to include references to school administrators, employees, teachers or volunteers, among others. The bill goes on to spell out the due process steps and an appeal process.

Under HB310, a variety of disciplinary actions that may be taken in reaction to bullying by a student are spelled out with greater reliance on detention in this version as well as the possibility for counseling or intervention services for both the bully and the victim. Discipline, which also includes suspension and expulsion, is subject to a 10-day limit.

In addition, the bill requires the school superintendent or designee to investigate any allegations of bullying, harassment or intimidation by a staff member.

HB310 requires a school district to post its anti-bullying policy online if it has one. The bill also requires chartered, nonpublic schools to develop such a policy.

Another section of the bill addresses hazing, prohibiting such activities and setting penalties. Greenspan noted the definition of hazing has been broadened to address treatment of individuals who are already members of the group.

There was a question about why this bill addresses bullying in only grades four through 12 with Greenspan noting Sen. Lehner's bill addressed grades K through three. Greenspan said there is a different protocol for dealing with younger children.

Rep. Miller wanted to know the difference between hazing and a ritual with Greenspan saying hazing addresses severe, visible harm.

Rep. Ingram repeatedly commented that she believes the provisions will be understood differently and applied differently among the school districts and even by schools in the same districts. Greenspan said that the boards of education would address the application in their districts. Ingram also noted that some of the enforcement issues might stem from concerns about how the districts'/schools' report cards would be affected.

HB336 REINSTATE JEOC (SOBECKI L, ROBINSON P) To reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee, make an appropriation, and declare an emergency.

Reps. Sobecki and Robinson presented sponsor testimony on HB336, telling the committee that the bill reinstates the Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC). They explained that it had been created in 2015 and eliminated in this year's budget bill, HB166 (Oelslager). It was a bipartisan, bicameral committee that oversaw "emerging education policy issues in Ohio," providing "non-partisan, fact-based and in-depth analysis of the K-12 education system ....." They added that the staff provided greater expertise than is possible for the Legislative Service Commission to have.

Sobecki supplied the committee with a list of the various reports JEOC produced. She said not only did the committee conduct research, it was also available to answer specific questions from legislators.

Among the reasons to keep such an entity is the fact that for FY20 to FY21, "28.1 percent of the operating budget funds K-12 education ...."

Also important were the "types of policy conversations" the committee generated, again noting its bipartisan and bicameral makeup.
"JEOC seems to us to be an essential tool for providing the best information to created education policy," she concluded.

Robinson said he believes what JEOC provided was research, bipartisan conversation and data.

Committee Chair Rep. Blessing, who noted he is a co-sponsor of the bill, asked if they would be agreeable if a similar entity were housed in LSC. Sobecki said she agrees and disagrees. She explained that the feels the research would be a good fit with LSC but fears that LSC would not be able to provide the opportunities for dialogue that she believes is also important. Rep. J. Miller added that he believes the data driven research would be missing.

They were asked about JEOC's budget and where they might find the money. Sobecki said the budget was $350,000 and "they spent it." Robinson said they hope a source could be identified during the hearing process.

Rep. Patterson, noting the hearing was taking place "the first day of life after JEOC" since it closed on Sept. 30, observed that the bill has 45 co-sponsors. However, it was the Senate that abolished the agency in the budget and he wondered whether they had talked with any senators. Sobecki said she has reached out and that she is "staying optimistic."

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Tue., Oct. 1, 2019

HB202 ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE (SMITH K, WEINSTEIN C) To establish the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study Committee.

Al Rosenfield testified as a proponent of the bill on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

"As you know, motor vehicles are the largest source of greenhouse gasses in the United States. Yet the General Assembly has taken no action to reduce emissions despite introduction of several meritorious bills in the past," he said.

He said the bill establishes a study committee, and added that the group is confident that the committee will "produce a positive report, and will lead to a good infrastructure plan."

Written testimony was also submitted by William Murdock of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and Kent Scarrett of the Ohio Municipal League.

HB285 LICENSE REINSTATEMENT AMNESTY (GREENSPAN D, BRENT J) To establish a permanent Driver's License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program.

No witnesses.

HB295 ELECTRIC SCOOTERS (HOOPS J) To establish requirements governing low-speed electric scooters.

Edward Fu, senior regulatory counsel for Bird, an electric scooter company, gave proponent testimony, saying the bill represents a compromise between shared electric scooter operators and interested parties like the Ohio Municipal League, the city of Columbus, the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, and the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks.

He said the bill clarifies that an electric scooter is not a motor vehicle, but instead takes the same approach as dozens of other states by treating and regulating low-speed electric scooters similar to bicycles.

"Like bicycles, you don't have to register or title them. Like bicycles, you can ride on bike lanes or on the right side of the road. And like bicycles, cities and other local jurisdictions remain free to regulate where and how they travel. These regulations will govern shared scooter businesses like ours. This is exactly what Ohio does with bicycles: the
state defines what a bicycle is, and that it's not a car -- but doesn't take away the authority for local communities to determine to how bicycles must operate or how to run a bikeshare program," he said.

Rep. Brent asked if legislation requiring people on bicycles to wear helmets would apply to scooters. Fu said that whatever the state decides to require for bicycles would apply to scooters because they are considered similar vehicles. On a follow up question, he told Rep. Sheehy that Bird encourages the use of helmets on their scooters and will give one to those who request one, but users are free to wear helmets as they choose. Sheehy asked if a municipality could require a scooter user to wear a helmet. Fu said under the bill, the municipality could make that a requirement.

Rep. O'Brien asked about the maximum speed for the scooters. Fu said the company sets a limit on the scooters to 15 miles per hour, which can't be overruled by the user. The bill states that the scooters can't go over 20 miles per hour.

**HB313 LICENSE PLATE-DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION (PLUMMER P)** To create the "Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution" license plate.

Rep. Plummer gave sponsor testimony on the bill to create the "Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution" license plate. He said the Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution (OSDAR) is part of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and is a non-political, women's service organization dedicated to historic preservation, education and patriotism.

"OSDAR was founded in December 1891 and is comprised of over 6,200 women in 100 chapters throughout Ohio. Their members are passionate about community service, preserving history and educating children as well as honoring those who have served or are currently serving our nation. In the last three years, Ohio Daughters have given over 585,000 hours in service to our local communities. They serve as mentors and tutors, including over 2,900 hours of promoting literacy with children, and over 850 hours with adult literacy efforts," he said.

He said the funds received through the license plate sales will go into the OSDAR general fund. The use of the funds would then be voted on by OSDAR board of management to subsidize various OSDAR state committees and projects, including an OSDAR-owned historic property, the Christian Waldschmidt Homestead.

Rep. Sheehy said the group has a controversial history of how it treated people of color and asked if OSDAR is a political organization that endorses candidates. Plummer said some organizations have made mistakes in the past, and their current statement is that they do not discriminate. He said it is a charitable organization and it does not appear that they support a political agenda.

Rep. Brent noted that the group had been sued in the past because it did not allow African Americans. Plummer said he is not aware of the lawsuits but said the group has made mistakes in the past. Brent asked if they could get some follow up on the lawsuits "because those are some serious accusations." Plummer said he would provide it to the committee.

Chairman Green said that because there was a request for additional information, he will delay the vote to a later time.

**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS**


Tue., Oct. 1, 2019

**SB26** TAX DEDUCTION-TEACHER CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (KUNZE S) To authorize a state income tax deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses for professional development and classroom supplies.

**RE-REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE**

Re-referred to House Rules and Reference Committee.
HB17 SURVIVING SPOUSES-HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (GINTER T) To allow an enhanced homestead exemption for surviving spouses of public safety personnel killed in the line of duty.
Proponent Mark Kidd, chief of the Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District and second vice president of the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA), spoke on behalf of his department and OFCA.

"While no amount of money can ever take away the heartbreak of losing a loved one, HB17 goes a long way to reducing the burden that these families bear in the aftermath of a tragedy," Kidd said.

Governmental Affairs Director James Carney also submitted written-only proponent testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters (OAPFF).

HB197 TAX CODE CORRECTIONS (POWELL J, MERRIN D) To enact the "Tax Code Streamlining and Correction Act" to make technical and corrective changes to the laws governing taxation.
Gregory Saul provided written-only proponent testimony on behalf of the Ohio Society of CPAs.

SENATE EDUCATION
Sen. Lehner: 614-466-4538

Governor's appointments: Approved.

SB81 PROHIBIT USE OF SECLUSION IN SCHOOLS (MAHARATH T) To prohibit the use of seclusion in public schools.
Sen. Maharath said in sponsor testimony the bill would bar the use of seclusion on students in public schools, requiring the State Board of Education to update its policy and standards on seclusion and requiring school districts to comply with the updates.

"Seclusion means a procedure that does both of the following: (i) Isolates and confines a student in a separate area until the student is no longer an immediate danger to the student's self or others; (ii) Occurs in a specifically constructed or designated room or space that is physically isolated from common areas and from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. Seclusion is a profoundly harmful practice, especially when used on children whose brains are still developing and whose developmental stages are always in flux. Multiple studies show that children who are secluded are more likely to commit suicide, attempt suicide, and engage in self-harming behaviors," her testimony stated.

Chair Lehner said she was "intrigued" by the bill given the existing Ohio Department of Education (ODE) rule that already "basically prohibits" seclusion except in narrow circumstances where it's needed to address the immediate risk of physical harm. Maharath responded that the bill would codify that prohibition and add more specificity to the language.

Maharath told Sen. Brenner she would follow up with him on the enforcement mechanism of the bill.

SB84 ARMED FORCES PARENTS (MAHARATH T) To allow an individual enrolling a student to voluntarily state if student's parent or guardian is a member of the Armed Forces.
Sen. Maharath said in sponsor testimony the bill would require schools to give families the opportunity to voluntarily disclose upon enrollment or at any other time during the school year if a student's parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces who is deployed to active duty or expects to be deployed during the school year.

"Military families often encounter school challenges for their children, ranging from enrollment, eligibility, placement, and graduation due to frequent relocations. According to the Department of Defense Education Activity, it is estimated that the average military family moves three times more often than the average non-military family. Currently, Ohio participates in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which seeks to make transitions easier for the children of military families so they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their
educational goals. The purpose of SB84 is to provide an additional layer of protection and to ensure our military families have the best options possible during their school transitions," she said.

There were no questions.

**SB157** STUDENT ABSENCES (WILLIAMS S) Regarding notification of student absences.

Sen. Williams said the legislation is a follow up to her 132-SB82, which requires schools to contact parents when their children are marked absent without an excuse on file. That legislation, which took effect earlier this year after being added as an amendment to 132-HB66, was introduced in reaction to the death of Alianna DeFreeze, a 14-year-old Clevelander who went missing in January 2017 and was found dead a few days later in an abandoned House not far from the school. DeFreeze's mother wasn't notified she hadn't made it to school until after 4 p.m. the day she went missing.

Williams said SB157 would allow the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to assess a penalty against a school that has failed to comply with the absence notification requirement.

Williams cited the attorney general's 2017 report on missing children, which states that while 98 percent of the 20,043 children reported missing were found, the remaining 2 percent represents more than 400 children, three of whom were found dead.

"Considering this, we must continue to be proactive to keep our children safe and hold our educational institutions accountable for non-compliance," Williams said.

Sen. Coley said he wanted to confirm with Williams that the legislation is meant to allow the use of automated notification systems, saying it would be cumbersome for schools to manually make all the phone calls needed, particularly in cold and flu season. Williams said she would hope parents would proactively reach out to schools to alert them of absences for illness. She added that the school in DeFreeze's case actually did have an automated notification system but it wasn't working on that particular day, so she said it's important for schools to have a backup plan or institute procedures to verify that the automated system is working.

Sen. Fedor asked what type of penalty Williams was considering for non-compliant schools. Williams said she left it for ODE to determine, saying they have the expertise to consider what's an appropriate penalty.

**SB168** SERVICES FOR STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE MEALS (YUKO K, MAHARATH T) To enact the "Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act" to require schools to provide certain services to students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Sens. Maharath and Yuko said in sponsor testimony their bill, titled the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights, would require district and chartered nonpublic schools that participate in the national school lunch or breakfast program to do the following:

- Provide a free meal application to each prospective or enrolled students;

- Include an application or explanation of the application process in every enrollment packet;

- File free meal applications on behalf of students upon learning they are eligible, under the National School Lunch Act;

- Ensure the homeless education liaison and nutrition department of a school coordinate to ensure homeless students receive free meals;
- Provide meals regardless of a student's inability to pay;

- Require students to take action to engage parents and guardians, determine free-meal eligibility and identify underlying problems related to inability to pay, rather than "burdening and stigmatizing" a student. That specifically means school would need to communicate with the parents, not the students, about meal debt;

- Prohibit a school from stigmatizing or "shaming" students for inability to pay, such as with handstamps, wristbands or requirements to do chores to reimburse the school.

"Members of this committee are well aware that hungry children can't learn. Our children not only deserve to eat, but also don't deserve to be embarrassed for experiencing poverty or hunger," their testimony stated.

The sponsors said New Mexico passed similar legislation in 2017. They also noted a 2018 report from the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies showing more than 1.6 million Ohioans live in poverty, including more than 500,000 children.

Yuko told Sen. Fedor he surveyed other states in search of good examples but did not find any, and learned the practices at issue in this bill are widespread.

Chair Lehner asked what happened to a version of the legislation introduced previously, saying she recalled it had been moving along through the process. Yuko said it died in the House.

SB121 HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS (SYKES V, KUNZE S) To require the State Board of Education to adopt health education standards and to require that only statewide venereal disease education standards and curriculum be approved by the General Assembly.

See separate story, this issue.

SENATE FINANCE

Tue., Oct. 1, 2019

SJR1 CLEAN WATER IMPROVEMENTS (GAVARONE T, O'BRIEN S) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund clean water improvements.

Sens. Gavarone and O'Brien presented sponsor testimony on the resolution, with Gavarone explaining that Gov. DeWine is championing Lake Erie water quality through his H2Ohio Program but her concern is the program is only funded through the current biennium.

SJR1 proposes "a constitutional amendment to create a $1 billion bond that would be disbursed over 10 years."

This money could only be used for water quality improvement projects such as the following:

- Water treatment and wastewater treatment systems
- Water quality research
- Reduction of open lake disposal of dredged material into Lake Erie and other bodies of water,
- Support for agricultural best management practices including water resource management, watershed restoration, and soil and water conservation
- Other sewer and water capital improvements

Gavarone concluded by noting that "we need to plan for the future of Lake Erie post-2021, and this legislation displays a strong commitment to doing just that."

O'Brien said this proposal, which had originally been targeted for the 2019 November ballot, also specifically "targets areas in Ohio most in need of water improvements by requiring funds to be allocated according to a
watershed's proportion of phosphorus loading compared to the total amount of phosphorus in the state's watersheds, and providing that at least 50 percent is allocated to the various counties of the Western Lake Erie Basin. SJR1 would also spread these funds out over an extended time period, with the bond issuing authority limited to not more than $1 billion and a prohibition on the issuance of more than $100 million of state general obligations in a single year. If annual limits are not reached, the amount not issued may be issued in a subsequent year and does not count toward that fiscal year's limit."

He concluded by noting that maintenance and upgrades to the state's drinking water infrastructure "alone could cost Ohio cities upwards of $20 billion over the next two decades.

"Considering this, the funding created by SJR1 is just a drop in the bucket ... until we no longer have lead in our drinking water and algal blooms in our Great Lake."

O'Brien told Chairman Dolan that he's open to changing the ballot date from November 2019 to a later date.

Sen. Eklund asked if it's necessary to further amend the Ohio Constitution to permit this type of bonding. Gavarone said she would look into that, but noted her goal is just to ensure that water quality programs are funded regardless of how the economy is doing.

Sen. Burke said he was concerned that state funding under the resolution could be used to fund water treatment facilities that only have financial problems because they've been poorly managed by a private company or by a local government. He said companies and municipalities that do a good job with setting rates could miss out on state funding because of their competence. O'Brien said that's not the intent of the language including water treatment. He said water treatment is included because there are often unexpected issues relating to water treatment.

O'Brien told Sen. Sykes that he and Gavarone would get back to him on exactly how the bonding mechanism would work under the legislation.

SB71  AFRICAN AMERICAN PROGRESS COMMITTEE (WILLIAMS S) To establish a committee to study the progress and challenges of African Americans in Ohio and to make an appropriation.

Sen. Williams said that SB71 is a reintroduction of 132-SB346 (Tavares). It appropriates $70,000/fiscal year to create a 30-member, two-year study committee "in recognition of the 400th anniversary of African Americans in the United States" by examining "the progress, contributions and challenges of African Americans in the state of Ohio." She said that African Americans currently comprise 13 percent of Ohio's population -- roughly 1,519,000 individuals.

Noting that Africans Americans have been "disproportionately affected in areas such as health, education, housing and employment," she said these would be areas the committee would look at. In addition, she cited the "rich history" of African Americans in Ohio from the Underground Railroad network to prominent African American Ohioans including George Washington Williams, Jesse Owens, Toni Morrison and Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

She said the study "would not only aid in the growth of the African American community but our state as a whole to ensure that all Ohioans have the necessary tools needed to advance."

Williams told Sen. Lehner that she would move the due date of the preliminary report from December 2019 to a different date depending on when the bill passes.

Chairman Dolan said a 30-member committee would be "unwieldy," asking why she's proposing such a large panel. Williams said many groups contacted Sen. Tavares asking to be involved, noting the committee would likely have a large workload. She said she's open to narrowing it down if necessary, though.

Williams told Dolan that the $70,000 per year would go toward committee operations.
SB180 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS (SCHAEFFER T) To authorize the issuance of industrial development bonds by a township and to authorize counties, townships, and municipal corporations to issue industrial development bonds without requiring the county, township, or municipal corporation to designate a community improvement corporation as its agency for industrial, commercial, distribution, and research development.

Sen. Schaffer said SB180 "aims to put townships on the same playing field as counties and cities by allowing them to issue bonds for economic development purposes." The bill streamlines the process for issuing industrial development bonds by fixing an antiquated system that did not anticipate having competent economic development staff at townships, he said.

He said the bill was brought to him by the trustees of Violet Township.

"This bill adheres to Article VII Section 13 of the Ohio Constitution, which sets forth guidelines that allow for potential interaction between a public body and a private entity. As long as this arrangement results in the creation or preservation of jobs and employment opportunities, the state or its political subdivision can issue bonds to provide money for the project. In this language, a 'political subdivision' is not defined and does not articulate which subdivisions are eligible to issue these bonds for economic development. However, it is generally agreed that the bond-issuing authority authorized by Section 13 was implemented by the enactment of ORC Chapter 165, which excludes townships from the definition of issuers of these bonds."

He also noted that the definition of "insurer" for industrial bonds excludes townships and that these bonds needed a community improvement corporation (CIC) to certify the project. "[I]t no longer seems necessary or even appropriate that every such project should be approved by the local CIC," he said. Also, he noted that some CICs appear to be no longer active.

Schaffer told Chairman Dolan that he plans on contacting the Ohio Municipal League to discuss the bill.

HB2 CREDENTIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CROSS J, LEPORÉ-HAGAN M) To create the TechCred Program and the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program, to develop a grant program to support industry sector partnerships, and to make an appropriation.

In-person proponent testimony was provided by North Central State College President and CEO Dorey Diab, Nissen Chemitec America President Shawn Hendrix, Rhinestahl Corporation Vice President for Corporate Development Amy Meyer and ConxusNEO Director of Manufacturing Engagement Jenny Stupica.

Diab said his college currently offers 31 certificates in various areas, noting many stack into degrees and can be completed in 12 months or fewer. He said his college has also seen growth in customized training participation and requests.

Diab told Sen. Burke that his college tracks the sustainability of the jobs students get after graduation.

Diab told Sen. Sykes that his college offers courses allowing for lectures and reading to be done online, while some of the training requires students to travel to campus. He pointed specifically to hydraulics and robotics as areas that definitely require hands-on learning.

Hendrix, who also serves as chair of the Central Ohio Manufacturing Partnership (COMP), said HB2 will improve the development of business sector partnerships in the state.

"The benefits of an industry working together cannot be overstated. Manufacturers and their workforce partners have one place to go to work on workforce strategy, get information and ask questions. By working together, we can scale programs and maximize our resources," he said.

Stupica also discussed the importance of sector partnerships.
Meyer pointed to her company’s teacher extern program, saying they hosted 12 teachers from schools in the Cincinnati area and taught them about careers in manufacturing. The teachers are required to create a lesson plan to teach this fall and meet two more times during the school year, and will be paid $1,000.

Sen. Lehner asked if that program was part of former Gov. Kasich's proposal, which wasn't received well by teachers. Meyer said she was aware of the former governor's proposal, but that this program wasn't related to that. She said the company wanted to do it and it was received well by the 12 teachers who participated.

Written proponent testimony was provided by Ohio Council of Retail Merchants Public Affairs Manager Alex Boehnke, Ohio Chamber of Commerce Small Business and Workforce Policy Director Kevin Boehner, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Ohio Legislative Director Chris Ferruso and Rob Brundrett of the Ohio Manufacturers' Association.

Chairman Dolan said the bill could be amended and reported out during next week's committee hearing.
Revised Agenda

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

SENATE JUDICIARY


SB175 CIVIL IMMUNITY-NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS (SCHAFFER T) To grant civil immunity to nonprofit corporations and persons associated with them for certain injuries, deaths, or losses resulting from the carrying of handguns.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

SB166 UNLAWFUL SEXUAL CONTACT-HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (KUNZE S, CRAIG H) To prohibit unlawful sexual contact between health care professionals and patients and to revoke professional licenses for criminal misconduct.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

SB58 NONVIOLENT CRIMINALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (GAVARONE T) To express the intent of the General Assembly to reform the process of restoring the competency of individuals with serious mental illness charged with nonviolent crimes and to provide alternatives for treatment.

Third Hearing, Opponent Testimony

SB146 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-CHOKING (KUNZE S, ANTONIO N) To expand the offense of domestic violence to also prohibit a person from knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of a family or household member by applying pressure to the family or household member's throat or neck or blocking the family or household member's nose or mouth.

Third Hearing, All Testimony

SENATE TRANSPORTATION, COMMERCE AND WORKFORCE

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 10:00 AM, South Hearing Room

HB113 TOWING SPOTTERS (PATTON T) To prohibit a towing service from employing or compensating spotters.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony, AMENDMENTS

SB134 PASSING SCHOOL BUSSES (GAVARONE T) To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus, to create a new offense for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault related to improperly passing a stopped school bus, to make an appropriation, and to designate this the School Bus Safety Act.

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

SB66 ROAD DESIGNATIONS-MATTHEW J. MAZANY (YUKO K, EKLUND J) To designate a portion of State Route 2 in Lake County as the "Patrolman Mathew J. Mazany Memorial Highway."

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

HB133 MILITARY-TEMPORARY LICENSURE (PERALES R, WEINSTEIN C) 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.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony
SB176 LICENSE RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS (SCHAFFER T) To license residential only construction contractors and to make changes to the law regulating specialty construction contractors.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

HB276 HIGHWAY-BRIDGE DESIGNATIONS (GHANBARI H) To designate multiple memorial highways and bridges.

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

HOUSE FINANCE

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 10:30 AM, Hearing Room 313

SB26 TAX DEDUCTION-TEACHER CLASSROOM SUPPLIES (KUNZE S) To authorize a state income tax deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses for professional development and classroom supplies.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony, PENDING REFERRAL

HB270 UNCLAIMED FUNDS REFORM (MERRIN D) To create the Unclaimed Funds Reform Act.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

HB282 ELECTRONIC BINGO (HOLMES A, LARE J) To permit the use of electronic instant bingo devices.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

HB157 SURPLUS FUND-ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (GREENSPAN D) To use some surplus state revenue to help counties fund adult protective and senior services.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

HB354 WEAPONS DISABILITY DATA PORTAL (PLUMMER P, SWEARINGEN D) To require the juvenile court to expunge all records sealed pursuant to the juvenile sealing law upon the person's twenty-eighth birthday, to expand the circumstances under which a person has a weapon under disability, to specify that moderate or severe substance use disorder is a mental illness for purposes of the law governing civil commitments, to require the Director of Public Safety to create and maintain the weapons disability data portal, to impose certain consequences on specified entities that fail to comply with data submission requirements, and to make an appropriation.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony, PENDING REFERRAL

SUNSET REVIEW COMMITTEE

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 11:00 AM, Hearing Room 311

Agencies on the agenda:
- Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors
- Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee
- Lake Erie Commission
- Ohio Public Defender Commission

HOUSE RULES AND REFERENCE

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 11:00 AM, Hearing Room 119


HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 11:00 AM, Hearing Room 121

CANCELLED

SENATE RULES AND REFERENCE

Sen. Obhof: 614-466-7505
SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 11:15 AM, Senate Finance Hearing Room


HB9 CREDIT TRANSFER-GENERAL EDUCATION (JONES D, SWEENEY B) With regard to student degree completion at state institutions of higher education and to establish a universal standard for general education courses required by state universities.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

SB181 WORKFORCE-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS (COLEY W) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs.

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

SB69 OHIO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (WILLIAMS S) To qualify students in noncredit community college and career and technical programs for Ohio College Opportunity Grants and to require the awarding of academic credit for community colleges' career certification programs.

Third Hearing, Opponent Testimony

HB16 MILITARY SERVICE-IN-STATE TUITION (PERALES R) To grant residency status for in-state college tuition to active duty military service members and their spouses and dependents.

Third Hearing, Opponent Testimony

OHIO HOUSE

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 1:00 PM, House Chambers

HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR


Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 1:15 PM, Hearing Room 114

OR AFTER SESSION

HB289 ELEVATOR LAW (BALDRIDGE B) To revise the Elevator Law.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

HB219 SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES (BECKER J, HOOPS J) To alter the law relative to Sunday sales of beer and intoxicating liquor and to name the act the "Sunday Alcohol, Liquor, and Especially Spirits Act" or "SALES Act."

Third Hearing, Opponent Testimony

OHIO SENATE

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 1:30 PM, Senate Chambers

CANCELLED

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND MEDICAID

Sen. Burke: 614-466-8049

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 2:30 PM, South Hearing Room

SB178 PODIATRISTS (SCHURING K) Regarding the authority of podiatrists to administer influenza vaccinations.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

SB150 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK (MAHARATH T) To designate the first week of May as "Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week."

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

SB173 HIRSCHSPRUNG'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH (KUNZE S) To designate September as "Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness Month."

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

SB174 OHIO GRATEFUL PATIENT DAY (KUNZE S) To designate September 7 as "Ohio Grateful Patient Day."

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony
SB76  TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK (LEHNER P, MAHARATH T) To designate the first week of May as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week."

Second Hearing, All Testimony, POSSIBLE VOTE

SB97  COST ESTIMATES FOR HEALTH CARE (HUFFMAN S) Regarding the provision of cost estimates for scheduled health care services and health care services requiring insurer preauthorization.

Third Hearing, All Testimony, POSSIBLE VOTE

SB151  MATERNAL MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH (MAHARATH T) To designate the month of May as "Maternal Mortality Awareness Month."

Third Hearing, All Testimony

SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

Sen. Coley: 614-466-8072

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 2:45 PM, Senate Finance Hearing Room

SCR4  JAMES BUSTER DOUGLAS DAY (HOTTINGER J) To designate February 11, 2020, as James Buster Douglas 42:1 Odds Day.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

SR237  WORLD REFUGEE DAY (MAHARATH T) Honoring June 20, 2019, as World Refugee Day.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

SB138  MONTH DESIGNATION-PRIDE MONTH (MAHARATH T) To designate the month of June as "Pride Month."

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY REVIEW

Sen. Schuring: 614-466-0626

Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 3:15 PM, North Hearing Room

SB192  DESIGNATE POINDEXTER VILLAGE-HISTORIC SITE (CRAIG H) To require the Ohio History Connection to designate Poindexter Village as a state historic site.

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

HB10  OFFICE OF DRUG POLICY (BROWN R, STOLTZFUS R) To establish the Governor's Office of Drug Policy and to make an appropriation.

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEMS (RULLI M) To rename the Board of Voting Machine Examiners as the Board of Voting Equipment Examiners, to require the Board to approve voter registration systems for use in Ohio, and to require a board of elections to decide a protest against a candidate filing within ten days.

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

SB194  HANK KABEL SARCOMA AWARENESS MONTH (SCHAFER T) To designate July as "Hank Kabel Sarcoma Awareness Month."

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

SNAP ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER CARDS (SCHAFER T) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

Thursday, October 3, 2019

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Rep. Lang: 614-466-8550

Thu., Oct. 3, 2019, 11:00 AM, Hearing Room 017

SB5  PROMOTING PROSTITUTION PENALTIES (KUNZE S, DOLAN M) To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution.

Fifth Hearing, All Testimony, AMENDMENTS
HB302  INCLUDE CHILD ABUSE IN VIOLENT OFFENDER DATABASE (PERALES R) To include certain child abuse-related offenses in the violent offender database, to name the act Jacob's Law, and to make an appropriation.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony, AMENDMENTS

HB299  PENALTIES-CRIMES AGAINST CORRECTIONS (GREENSPAN D) To enhance penalties for certain crimes against corrections officers, parole officers, probation officers, and parole board members.

First Hearing, Sponsor Testimony

LOCAL CONTROL-TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS (STOLTZFUS R) To grant municipal and county courts original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action concerning a traffic law violation, to modify certain requirements governing the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices by a local authority, and to make corrective changes to the distracted driving and texting-while-driving law.

Third Hearing, All Testimony

ENHANCE PENALTIES-DRUG TRAFFICKING (GAVARONE T) To enhance penalties for certain drug trafficking offenses committed in the vicinity of a community addiction services provider and to name the act's provisions the "Relapse Reduction Act."

Second Hearing, Proponent Testimony

OHIO HOUSE

Thu., Oct. 3, 2019, 1:00 PM, House Chambers