

OASBO

Legislative Update

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- HB3 DATAOHIO BOARD CREATION** (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make appropriations.
Current Status: 9/20/2017 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
Position: Monitor
- HB8 PUBLIC RECORDS-MINORS** (HAMBLEY S, REZABEK J) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident.
Current Status: 9/26/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (Fourth Hearing)
Position: Support
- HB21 COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION** (HAMBLEY S) Regarding verification of community school enrollments.
Current Status: 9/12/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
Comments:
HB 21, sponsored by Rep.Steven Hambley (R-Brunswick), would require community schools to verify a community school student's district of residence. Under current law, each school district is required to conduct monthly enrollment reviews for district students attending community schools and submit verification to the OhioDepartment of Education (ODE). This legislation eliminates the current process and would instead require each community school to conduct those monthly review and submit verification to the ODE.

We are opposed to the removal of the district's ability to verify the district of residence for community school students. The process of correctly identifying a district of residence is extremely important given the fact that local funds are deducted from districts and sent to community schools. The Committee has adopted a substitute version of the bill that would allow school districts to challenge the addresses/residency of community school students while increasing the responsibility of charter schools to maintain residency information for their students.
Position: Support
- HB26 TRANSPORTATION-PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET** (MCCOLLEY R) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017,

and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

Current Status: 3/31/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Some provisions line-item vetoed, eff. 6/30/2017

Comments:

HB 26 is the biennial budget bill for Ohio's transportation and public safety budget for FY 2018-2019. One provision in the bill requires the Director of Natural Resources to distribute money received by the state pursuant to federal law (16 U.S.C. 500) from the sale of national forest timber and other national forest products to the applicable county or counties in which the national forest is situated. Each county that receives such money must use 50% of the money received for maintaining county roads and bridges and 50% for the benefit of public schools.

Position: Support

HB37 SCHOOL SAFETY-STRUCTURES (ARNDT S) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.

Current Status: 5/23/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

Comments: The intent of this bill is similar to that of SB 8 (see below).

Position: Support

HB47 STUDENTS IN MILITARY (BOCCIERI J) To enact the "Students to Soldiers Support Act (S3A)" regarding the participation of students who are serving in the uniformed services in extracurricular activities at public and nonpublic schools and public and private colleges.

Current Status: 5/9/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

Comments: OASBO, OSBA and BASA are interested parties in this legislation.

Position: Neutral

HB49 OPERATING BUDGET (SMITH R) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.

Current Status: 8/22/2017 - Consideration of Governor's Veto

Comments: For information about the budget bill, click here to go to the state budget page on the OASBO website: <https://oasbo-ohio.org/advocacy/state-budget-school-funding>

Position: Amend

HB58 CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION (BRENNER A, SLABY M) To require instruction in cursive handwriting.

Current Status: 6/21/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fourth Hearing)

Comments:

HB 58, sponsored by Reps. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell) and Marilyn Slaby (R-Copley), would require districts to offer instruction in printed and cursive handwriting to students in grade kindergarten through five. Districts would be required to ensure that students have the ability to

print legibly by third grade and have legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade.

This is a local issue that should be decided by local boards of education. While we understand the importance of the ability to read materials that are expressed in cursive handwriting and the ability to produce one's own signature in cursive format, students' use of these skills have diminished. For instance, technology allows for the conversion of our country's founding documents from cursive to typed text allowing every citizen to read these important materials. Therefore, the priority placed on cursive writing instruction as required in HB58 is unwarranted. We oppose state and federal mandates that require school districts to devote limited resources and time to such requirements.

Position: Oppose

HB80 SCHOOL FOOD-SUMMER INTERVENTION (LATOURETTE S, SMITH K) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.

Current Status: 4/5/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

Comments: This bill is similar to one that was passed by the Senate in the last General Assembly (GA) and seriously considered by the House during the lame duck session in December, 2016. OASBO and the other education organizations had worked on improvements to the bill addressing school district liability when outside groups utilize schools' cafeteria facilities and to add authority for districts to charge reasonable fees for wear and tear on equipment in addition to actual costs incurred.

The House Education and Career Readiness Committee amended the bill before recommending it to the full House making the provisions in the bill "permissive" for school districts. The Senate included the provisions from this legislation (SB 54) in their version of the budget bill, Am. Sub. HB 49, however, it would be mandatory that school districts allow the outside groups to utilize their facilities for summer food service. The provision was included in the final version of the budget bill.

Position: Support

HB87 COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS (ROEGNER K) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school.

Current Status: 5/17/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Second Hearing)

Position: Support

- HB89** **AUGUST SALES TAX HOLIDAY** (PATTERSON J, KELLY B) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes.
 Current Status: 2/28/2017 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
 Position: Neutral
- HB98** **CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS** (DUFFEY M, BOGGS K) Regarding the presentation of career information to students.
 Current Status: 10/10/2017 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Fourth Hearing)
 Position: Monitor
- HB102** **SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM** (BRENNER A) To replace locally levied school district property taxes with a statewide property tax and require recipients of certain tax exemptions to reimburse the state for such levy revenue lost due to those exemptions; to increase the state sales and use tax rates and allocate additional revenue to state education purposes; to repeal school district income taxes; to require the Treasurer of State to issue general obligation bonds to refund certain school district debt obligations; to create a new system of funding schools where the state pays a specified amount per student that each student may use to attend the public or chartered nonpublic school of the student's choice, without the requirement of a local contribution; to eliminate the School Facilities Commission; to eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program, Pilot Project Scholarship Program, Autism Scholarship Program, and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program; to eliminate interdistrict open enrollment; to require educational service centers to transport students on a countywide basis; and to permit school districts to enter into a memoranda of understanding for one district to manage another.
 Current Status: 6/20/2017 - House Finance, (First Hearing)
 Comments: This legislation represents a major change in how Ohio would fund education, creating winners and losers for both school districts and taxpayers. We have no indication the bill is being seriously considered by the full General Assembly. Representative Brenner has indicated he wanted to introduce the bill for purposes of generating discussion about our school funding system.

 The committee has scheduled a hearing this week on this bill.
 Position: Oppose
- HB108** **INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT ACT** (HAGAN C, MCCOLLEY R) To require one-half unit of financial literacy in the high school curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act."
 Current Status: 9/12/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)
 Comments: This bill was considered during the last General Assembly. OASBO and the other education groups raised questions about the implications of an additional mandate for students and districts.
 Position: Monitor
- HB110** **COLLEGE CREDIT APPRENTICESHIPS** (HAGAN C, DEAN B) To create a subprogram of

the College Credit Plus Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs.

Current Status: 5/3/2017 - House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)

Position: Neutral

HB124 VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TAX LEVY (BRENNER A, CARFAGNA R) To authorize a joint vocational school district to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at an election held in November of 2015 because the levy was only placed on the ballot in one of several counties in which the district has territory.

Current Status: 6/28/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. immediately

Comments: This bill is in response to a 4-3 Ohio Supreme Court decision regarding a renewal tax levy for the Delaware Area Career Center (DACC) that passed in 2015. The Delaware County Board of Elections failed to distribute the ballot language to the surrounding counties whose residents would be subject to the tax. The tax commissioner is refusing to certify the levy because of the mistake by the elections board even though the number of voters in the election from those counties would not have changed the outcome of the levy. The decision means the DACC would have to put a new issue on the ballot (with no Homestead and Rollback payments) to replace the funds from the renewal levy. OASBO, OSBA and BASA submitted a friend of the court brief to the Supreme Court in support of DACC in the original case. DACC has now filed an appeal for reconsideration by the Court and the three organizations are preparing a brief in support of the reconsideration. This bill would allow the issue to be placed on the ballot in just the omitted counties. The votes would be added to the votes from Delaware County in the November 2015 election.

The amendment added to the bill had to do with County ballot initiatives (unrelated to schools). The chairman expects to vote on this bill this week.

Position: Support

HB129 SCHOOL EXTERNSHIPS-GOVERNOR (SMITH K, KELLY B) To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

Current Status: 3/28/2017 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)

Position: Neutral

HB134 SCHOOL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (HAMBLEY S, KICK D) To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.

Current Status: 5/16/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)

Position: Neutral

HB170 COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION (CARFAGNA R, DUFFEY M) With regard to academic content standards and curriculum requirements for computer science; to revise educator qualifications regarding computer science; to create a competitive technology grant program for the 2018-2019 school year; and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 10/18/2017 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

Comments: OASBO, OSBA and BASA submitted written testimony in support of this legislation. It is permissive, but is seen as a bill that would give students additional options for obtaining the necessary credits to graduate.

Position: Neutral

HB176 SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS (THOMPSON A) With regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations.

Current Status: 5/31/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Second Hearing)

Comments: This proposal removes the state's ability to utilize the Common Core Standards and removes ODE's ability to provide model curriculum and makes other changes to the education system.

Position: Oppose

HB181 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS (HOOD R, BRINKMAN T) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments.

Current Status: 6/20/2017 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Education and Career Readiness, (Third Hearing)

Comments: This bill eliminates the Common Core Standards and specifies the type of testing that can be utilized. It also makes other changes to Ohio's education accountability system.

Position: Oppose

HB200 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (KOEHLER K) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Current Status: 10/10/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (Sixth Hearing)

Comments: This bill is a companion to SB 85, the Senate voucher expansion bill. OASBO is opposed to this legislation and we will be testifying in the House Education and Career Readiness Committee in opposition.

Position: Oppose

HB220 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS (LELAND D) With regard to the use of funds by community schools and nonpublic schools.

Current Status: 6/20/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

Position: Monitor

HB224 RE-SERVING SCHOOL LUNCH ITEMS (INGRAM C) To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging.

Current Status: 5/23/2017 - Referred to Committee House Education and Career Readiness

Position: Monitor

HB227 LICENSE PLATE-KENSTON LOCAL SCHOOLS (LATOURETTE S) To create the "Kenston Local Schools" license plate.

Current Status: 6/7/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing)

Position: Neutral

HB235 EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT PROCEDURE (GAVARONE T) Regarding procedures for approval or disapproval of the state education plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

Current Status: 9/27/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

HB237 MULTICOUNTY LOCAL ELECTIONS (PELANDA D) To require a political subdivision with territory in more than one county that places an issue on the ballot to notify the board of elections of every county in which the political subdivision has territory, to require the Secretary of State to establish a database to facilitate communication between the boards of elections and the Secretary concerning local elections, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 6/21/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)

HB242 SCHOOL RETIREMENT-COST OF LIVING (CARFAGNA R) Regarding School Employees Retirement System annual cost-of-living adjustments.

Current Status: 6/20/2017 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Aging and Long Term Care, (Third Hearing)

Comments: The SERS Board has requested this legislation. Click here for a fact sheet from SERS for an explanation of the request and why the SERS Board believes it is necessary: <http://www.ohsers.org>

A committee of OASBO members met with executive staff and board members from SERS to learn more about the need for changing the COLA for retirees. After the meeting, the group concluded: The decision to propose changes that affect current and future retirees was a difficult one. It was clear the SERS staff and the board considered a variety of options for protecting the system's 30-year funding period before settling on the changes to the COLA. While changes to the COLA will be difficult for retired school employees, the future health and stability of the pension system as a whole is crucial.

SB 151 was introduced as a companion bill. However, essentially the same language was included in the final version of Amended Substitute HB 49. Permissive authority for the SERS board to make changes to the COLA will be effective at the end of September.

Position: Monitor

HB246 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CLASSROOMS (BOCCIERI J, REZABEK J) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide funding to certain county boards of

developmental disabilities to assist in the acquisition of classroom facilities.

Current Status: 9/12/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

HB277 STAY OF JUDGMENT-DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (SEITZ B) To stay the execution of certain judgments in favor of the Department of Education during the appeals process.

Current Status: 6/20/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight

Comments: This bill was introduced following the State Board of Education's decision to require ECOT to pay back \$60 million of state funding. It would delay this requirement until after all litigation on the matter is resolved.

HB312 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARDS (SCHURING K, GREENSPAN D) Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions.

Current Status: 10/17/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Third Hearing)

Comments: The OASBO Auditor of State (AOS) Advisory Committee met last November with representatives from the State Auditor's office to discuss possible legislation aimed at putting more guardrails around credit card usage. That initial discussion included possible Ohio Revised Code (ORC) parameters around what credit cards could be used for, spending limits on school district credit cards and more specific hands-on responsibility for boards of education with the use of credit cards.

As a result of the feedback from the committee, the AOS stepped back and re-evaluated the proposal. OASBO, along with OSBA and BASA, were recently asked to react to a new version of proposed legislation that focused more on school district "controls" and the process for determining those controls, rather than codifying in the ORC specific rules for credit card use. Once again, the OASBO AOS Advisory Committee provided feedback.

OASBO, OSBA and BASA presented "interested party" testimony in the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on October 17th utilizing the comments OASBO members continue to share with us about the bill.

Following the most recent feedback by the committee, HB 312 was introduced. Members are urged to weigh in on the proposal by contacting legislators and providing testimony when hearings are scheduled. It will be important for lawmakers to be aware of the current policies and procedures for school district credit cards. OASBO will continue to monitor the proposed legislation.

HB318 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEFINITION (PATTERSON J, LATOURETTE S) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers.

Current Status: 10/10/2017 - House Education and Career Readiness, (First Hearing)

HB322 SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANS (MILLER A, KENT B) To revise the law regarding emergency management plans and school safety drills; to require each educational service center to employ an emergency response planner; to make an appropriation; and to declare an emergency.

Current Status: 9/12/2017 - Referred to Committee House Finance

HB342 LOCAL TAX ISSUES-ELECTION DATES (MERRIN D) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.

Current Status: 10/11/2017 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)

Comments: This bill would eliminate the August Special Election option for schools and local governments. Language in HB 49, the biennial budget bill, has already eliminated the February Special Election. OASBO opposes the removal of the August Special Election as one option districts may want to utilize.

HB 342 also changes the way the amount produced by the levy is expressed in ballot language.

HB343 PROPERTY VALUE CONTEST-RESOLUTIONS (MERRIN D) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.

Current Status: 9/19/2017 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

Comments: This bill requires a separate board resolution for every parcel of land for which a school district intends to challenge the tax valuation. The property owner would need to be notified in advance of the passage of the board resolution. This onerous requirement appears to be an effort to reduce the number of valuation challenges by school districts. OASBO is opposed to the bill.

SB3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs

Week.

Current Status: 10/11/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Higher Education and Workforce Development, (Fifth Hearing)

Comments:

Senate Bill 3 was introduced by Senators Bill Beagle(R-Tipp City) and Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville), adding changes to the Governor's workforce development system.

- It requires each region to offer on one-stop "OhioMeansJobs"center.
- It authorizes the creation of STEAM schools, equivalents and programs of excellence - science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics schools. STEAM schools are to be authorized to offer all-day kindergarten programs.
- Requires the Department of Jobs and Family Services to offer option for career-technical students to participate in pre-apprenticeship training programs.
- Permits public and chartered nonpublic schools to integrate academic content from two or more subjects and to offer academic credit for all subject areas that are integrated into that course, based an end-of-course exam.
- Requires ODE to develop a framework for grant credit to students who demonstrate competency through work-based learning experiences,internships or cooperative education.
- Requires ODE to establish an OhioMeansJobs-Ready Certificate to be awarded to student who meet the requirements.
- Requires ODE to develop a regional workforce career counseling collaborative model.
- Designates the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week

We generally support the recommendations of SB 3 related to primary and secondary education.They should serve to make parents and teachers more aware of job opportunities,clarify the requisite skills needed to be successful and open additional opportunities.

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Position: Monitor

SB8 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (GARDNER R, TERHAR L) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security.

Current Status: 10/2/2017 - House Appoints Managers; R. Smith, K. Schuring, J. Cera Named as House Conferees

Comments:

SenateBill 8, introduced by Sens. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) and Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati), requires the School Facilities Commission to establish a program that would allow a school district to apply for state funding to make infrastructure improvements specifically for technology and or safety and security. In order to qualify for funding under this proposal a district must not have already received assistance under the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP). The bill requires the School Facilities Commission to establish guidelines and procedures for participation in the program including the method for determining funding amounts and whether or not the funding should be related to the district's state share of the basic project cost.

HB 37 is a companion bill in the House. However, the provisions in SB 8 were amended into the final version of Amended Substitute HB 49, the biennial budget bill.

We are supportive of an alternative program to the traditional CFAP that focuses on safety and security enhancements for public school districts. This new proposal will benefit districts that may not be eligible for a significant state share and otherwise have little chance of state funding through the traditional CFAP program. OASBO, OSBA and BASA presented testimony in support of the bill in the House Education and Career Readiness Committee on June 14th.

Position: Neutral

SB9 AUGUST TAX HOLIDAY (BACON K) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes.

Current Status: 6/13/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 6/13/17

Position: Neutral

SB34 SCHOOL YEARS (MANNING G) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

Comments:

SenateBill 34, introduced by Sen. Gayle Manning (R- North Ridgeville),

would require schools to open after Labor Day unless the school board adopts a resolution allowing the school to open earlier. The school board would also be required to hold a public hearing at least 30 days before adopting the resolution.

We are opposed to this legislation because it proposes to strip away local control. We believe that locally elected boards of education are in the best position to determine a school calendar that meets the needs of their students and their communities. Furthermore, this bill does not address the state assessment schedule. If enacted, this bill would reduce the amount of time available for instruction prior to assessments for districts starting after Labor Day.

Position: Oppose

SB36 AGRICULTURAL COMPUTATION (HITE C) To require that the computation of the capitalization rate for the purposes of determining CAUV of agricultural land be computed using a method that excludes appreciation and equity buildup and to stipulate that CAUV land used for a conservation practice or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program for at least three years must be valued at the lowest of the values assigned on the basis of soil type.

Current Status: 5/16/2017 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means

Comments:

Senate Bill 36 was introduced by Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findley). Events have led to rapidly accelerating land valuations and higher taxes for farmers. This bill recommends changes to the current methodology used to calculate the Current Agricultural Use Values (CAUV) for farmlands and woodlands.

The bill prescribes in statute that the method used to compute CAUV values must employ a capitalization rate that excludes factors expressing land value appreciation and equity buildup. It places a ceiling on the taxable value of CAUV land if the land is also used for conservation purposes by requiring the land to be valued as though it included soil of the least productive type.

We oppose piecemeal changes to the manner of calculating CAUV values. Under the existing school foundation formula, changes in the land valuation of any district result in changes to all districts, regardless of the mix between agricultural and residential land. Reductions in agricultural land values and taxes leads to increases in residential taxes. We support looking at the formula for CAUV calculations in a comprehensive manner as opposed to piecemeal changes.

The House included a phased-in version of SB 36 in their version of the biennial budget bill, HB 49. The Senate modified the House version and added the provisions from SB 36. We continue to oppose the provision.

Position: Oppose

SB39 COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATION (SCHIAVONI J) Regarding community school operator contracts, the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools, and performance metrics for blended learning schools.

Current Status: 9/27/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

Comments:

SenateBill 39, introduced by Sen. Joe Schiavoni(D-Boardman), seeks to increase oversight and provide additional transparency for online charter schools in order to fully account for their attendance and reporting. The bill specifies that an e-school, not sponsored by a school district, must keep a record of the number of hours in which each student is actively participating in learning opportunities during a consecutive 24-hour period. Attendance records then must be submitted to theOhio Department of Education(ODE) on a monthly basis and posted on the department's website. If an e-school student fails to participate in learning opportunities for ten consecutive days, the school is required to notify ODE,parents (guardians), and the student's resident district.

The bill specifies when an Auditor issues a finding for recovery on a charter school, the money is returned to the traditional public school district. SB 39also would require e-school governing board meetings to be live-streamed with public notice. In addition, any e-school advertisement purchased with public funds must include a disclaimer with the school's most recent state report card grade. The bill also includes additional requirements such as a provision that requires an evaluation by the student's parent/guardian, teachers and principal on whether the student should continue with the e-school should the student's performance decline and a requirement for e-schools to report their student mobility rate on their report cards.

We support increased oversight, accountability and transparency for online charter schools and the public tax dollars used to support them. Stronger attendance records are necessary to ensure that these students are actually provided learning opportunities and not just offered the opportunity to learn. Unfortunately far too many of Ohio's e-schools are failing some of our most vulnerable students.

Position: Support

SB54 SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS (BROWN E, LEHNER P) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food

service for summer intervention services under certain conditions.

Current Status: 6/6/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Fifth Hearing)

Comments: This bill is similar to one that was passed by the Senate in the last General Assembly (GA) and seriously considered by the House during the lame duck session in December, 2016. OASBO and the other education organizations had worked on improvements to the bill addressing school district liability when outside groups utilize schools' cafeteria facilities and to add authority for districts to charge reasonable fees for wear and tear on equipment in addition to actual costs incurred.

The House Education and Career Readiness Committee amended their companion bill (HB 80) before recommending it to the full House making the provisions in the bill "permissive" for school districts. The Senate included the provisions from this legislation in their version of the budget bill, Am. Sub. HB 49, however, it would be mandatory that school districts allow the outside groups to utilize their facilities for summer food service. The provision was included in the final version of the budget bill.

Position: Neutral

SB82 SCHOOL ABSENCES-PARENTAL NOTIFICATION (WILLIAMS S, LEHNER P) To require a public school to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Third Hearing)

Comments: We are concerned about the bill's short turn-around time for districts to notify parents. Additionally, not all school districts take attendance within the first hour of the day. We urge the legislature to work with school districts on a solution that allows local flexibility while maintaining student safety.

Position: Monitor

SB85 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (HUFFMAN M) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Current Status: 4/25/2017 - Senate Education, (Second Hearing)

Comments:

Senate Bill 85, introduced by Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), will expand voucher eligibility to all families regardless of where they live or the performance of their local schools. Families with household incomes at or below 400% of the federal poverty level (roughly \$96,000 for a family of four) would be eligible for a portion of the full voucher amount. The voucher amounts, as proposed in this legislation, would increase to \$5,000 for students in grades K-8 and \$7,500 for high school.

In addition, the legislation proposes the introduction of Education Savings Accounts(ESAs). The ESA would include any unused portion of the voucher that will be retained by the state under the student's name and may be used later towards future private school tuition or for college tuition at an Ohio school. Lastly,the proposal ends the practice of deducting the funding from the local public district and directly funds this new voucher from the state. HB 200 is a companion bill to SB 85.

We are opposed to any expansion of Ohio's school voucher system. SB 85 would further divert public taxpayer dollars away from traditional public school districts to be used for private and parochial school tuition. Ohio should not enact a policy that undermines the public-school system in favor of privatization. The fact remains that state dollars are public dollars and school districts rely heavily on our state's school funding system to provide a high-quality education for our students. Private entitlements provided by SB 85 is bad public policy and further drains funding from public schools.

We hope members will take the opportunity to educate their representatives and senators on the range of choice options currently available to students in your districts. Highlight special programs,including STEM, the arts, Advanced Placement courses, InternationalBaccalaureate programs, career-technology or other curricula, that promote educational achievement.

Position: Oppose

SB104 PROHIBIT SECLUSION USE-SCHOOLS (TAVARES C) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools.

Current Status: 9/20/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

Position: Monitor

SB111 SCHOOL ZONE SIGN LIGHTS (TAVARES C) To require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights or that indicate the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced, and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 4/26/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight and Reform

Position: Monitor

SB123 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINT PROCESS (COLEY W) To limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county in which the property is located.

Current Status: 6/14/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

Comments: This legislation mirrors a bill from the last General Assembly. It would prohibit school district boards of education from challenging property values on properties they believe are valued too low. Instead, the County Recorder and the property owner would be the only persons permitted to challenge the values set by the County Auditor. If a property owner files a claim to lower property values, school districts could become a party in the claim.

No action was taken on this legislation before the summer recess, however, we expect to see more activity later in the session.

We oppose this legislation as it takes away one component of the current checks and balances system for maintaining an equitable property tax system.

Position: Oppose

SB133 STUDENT DISCIPLINE-VIOLENT BEHAVIOR (LAROSE F) To require the Education Management Information System to include information regarding persons at whom a student's violent behavior that resulted in discipline was directed and to require the Department of Education to submit a one-time report to the General Assembly regarding that information.

Current Status: 4/26/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Education

Position: Monitor

SB149 ELECTION POLLING PLACES-SCHOOLS (LAROSE F) Regarding the use of a school district building as a polling place for elections.

Current Status: 6/21/2017 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (First Hearing)

Position: Monitor

SB151 SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS (HITE C) To permit, rather than require, the School Employees Retirement System to grant annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirement, disability, and survivor benefit recipients and to reduce the maximum amount of the adjustment.

Current Status: 6/20/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (Second Hearing)

Comments: This is a companion bill to HB 242. The Senate has also including the Senate version in the budget bill, Sub. HB 49.

Position: Monitor

SB196 AGGRAVATED BULLYING-OFFENSE CREATION (WILLIAMS S, BROWN E) To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor.

Current Status: 10/3/2017 - Senate Judiciary, (First Hearing)

SB197 SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (WILLIAMS S, BROWN E) To require a tiered disciplinary procedure for harassment, intimidation, or bullying in school; to require annual student instruction about preventing such acts; and to create the offense of aggravated bullying as a third-degree misdemeanor.

Current Status: 10/11/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

SB216 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEREGULATION ACT (HUFFMAN M) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs.

Current Status: 10/18/2017 - Senate Education, (First Hearing)

Comments: This bill came about as a result of input from a group of superintendents with Senator Matt Huffman's legislative district. He agreed to propose the bill as an "Education Deregulation" bill. SB 216 covers a wide range of issues. For more information, click here to view the LSC analysis of the bill: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=7777&format=pdf>

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