

Legislative Report

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Bill Information

HB75 PROPERTY VALUE CONTESTS *(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

2/12/2020 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs

COMMENTS

This bill changes the BOR process for school districts. The House had included the bill's provisions in its version of the budget bill (HB166), but the Senate removed them. The bill is now in the Senate for consideration. Once we know when hearings are scheduled, we will enlist the help of members for testimony in the Senate.

HB76 BALLOT LANGUAGE UNIFORMITY *(MERRIN D)*

To enact the "Ballot Uniformity and Transparency Act" to modify the form of election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.

CURRENT STATUS

1/22/2020 - Senate General Government and Agency Review , (Fourth Hearing)

COMMENTS

We presented joint opposition testimony with five other organizations on December 11th in the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee. We had been getting feedback from the Senators on the committee that the bill might not move, but there have been four hearings in the committee so it could be that some version of the bill will pass. Committee members have asked questions during the hearings as to whether there could be some modernization of ballot language by changing the following phrase: "expressed in cents or dollars and cents for each one hundred dollars"

The point being the term "hundred" could be changed to "thousand".

Attorney Becky Princehorn from Bricker and Eckler who testified in the hearing on January 22nd, indicated to the committee that such a change was unnecessary.

HB123 SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING *(HOLMES G, MANNING G)*

With regard to school security and youth suicide awareness education and training.

CURRENT STATUS

2/4/2020 - **BILL AMENDED**, Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

COMMENTS

This bill is patterned about legislation supported by the Sandy Hook Promise non-profit organization. It continues to be considered by the Senate Education Committee with a fifth hearing this morning. There are a number of new requirements districts would need to follow, including the formation of threat assessment teams in each building. The teams would need to receive training and they would be charged with developing a threat assessment document that would be included in the emergency management plan. The bill also requires schools to have a student-based club that focuses on suicide prevention and safety threat prevention.

HB154 DISSOLVE DISTRESS COMMISSIONS (MILLER J, JONES D)

To revise the law on interventions for low-performing school districts and schools, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

CURRENT STATUS

9/24/2019 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)

COMMENTS

The House has actually included some provisions from HB 154 in its version of SB 89, passed on February 5th. The bill would dissolve the three existing Academic Distress Commissions and place a moratorium on any new ones until 2024. It would establish the state Education Transformation Board, requiring that the board make recommendations on school improvement.

While most legislators agree that the current Academic Distress Commission laws are not working, there has not been agreement on what to do about it. Governor DeWine will weigh in on the legislature's proposals.

HB305 SCHOOL FINANCING (CUPP B, PATTERSON J)

To create a new school financing system, and to make an appropriation.

CURRENT STATUS

11/20/2019 - House Finance, (Sixth Hearing)

COMMENTS

There are components of the proposed formula in the Cupp/Patterson bill that still have not had hearings in the House Finance Committee. We expect hearings in the coming weeks. Bill sponsors Cupp and Patterson have been looking at possible changes to the legislation in response to feedback from stakeholders. Speaker Householder has also talked about making changes to assist the school districts from his part of the state. However, the EdChoice issues have been the focus in recent weeks, putting off discussions about school funding. We will keep members updated once details of possible changes to the bill become available.

SB89 CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION (HUFFMAN M)

With regard to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in enterprise zones.

CURRENT STATUS

2/12/2020 - Consideration of House Amendments; Emergency Clause 7-24, Senate Does Not Concur

COMMENTS

This bill has been used by the House to propose changes to the EdChoice voucher program, phasing out the district-paid, building performance-based program. New vouchers going forward would be income-based and paid for directly by the state. The income threshold would be raised to 250% of the Federal poverty level (up from the current 200%).

Other provisions added to the bill were the elimination of the three current Academic Distress Commissions and the sunset of the law adopted last spring in the budget bill that allows township residents to vote to move from one district to another.

SB120 PERFORMANCE AUDITS-HIGHER EDUCATION *(MCCOLLEY R, RULLI M)*

To authorize the Auditor of State to conduct performance audits of any and all state institutions of higher education.

CURRENT STATUS

1/31/2020 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Portions effective immediately

COMMENTS

This bill was amended to delay the application window for EdChoice vouchers for 60 days (moves the start of the application period from February 1 to April 1).

SB179 REQUIRE TWO LICENSE PLATES *(UECKER J, HOTTINGER J)*

To retain and continue current law requiring the display of two license plates for most motor vehicles.

CURRENT STATUS

12/11/2019 - Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing)

COMMENTS

Sponsor and proponent testimony were both presented in the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee on December 11th. We submitted joint written testimony with OSBA and BASA in support of the bill. The Ohio Association of Pupil Transportation also provided written testimony. The hope would be that the bill could be passed and become effective prior to the July 1st implementation of the change that occurred last year in the Transportation Budget that eliminated the requirement for a front license plate.

SB212 AUTHORIZE TOWNSHIPS-EXEMPT PROPERTY TAX *(SCHURING K)*

To authorize townships and municipal corporations to designate areas within which new homes and improvements to existing homes are wholly or partially exempted from property taxation.

CURRENT STATUS

2/11/2020 - Senate Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)

COMMENTS

This tax exemption would be for residential developments. The same provisions for school board involvement as with other tax exemptions (the board has to approve anything over 75% of the tax loss and anything past 10 years in length).

SB244 CERTIFICATES OF TRANSITION *(RULLI M)*

To require fiscal officers of certain political subdivisions to provide certificates of transition to their successors when leaving office.

CURRENT STATUS

COMMENTS

This bill was introduced at the request of State Auditor Keith Faber. We were asked to provide feedback on the first version of the proposal, and changes were made after we submitted our input and before the bill was introduced. The bill is improved over the original version, but the members (from the OASBO AOS and Legislative Committees) who have responded to our request for feedback on the bill, indicates there are still concerns.

School treasurers are already required by law to turn over information, etc., when they leave office. SB 244 makes reference to that statute for school treasurers as we had suggested, but still adds a new requirement for a Certificate of Transition.

One point of interest is regarding that statute from current law. It still refers to the treasurer needing to turn over information related to teachers. Since we no longer possess those records, we have indicated to the AOS that the section needs to be amended. The AOS agrees and his staff has talked to legislators about removing the reference.

HB 450 is a similar bill that was introduced in the House in December. It was recently assigned to the House State and Local Government Committee. Sponsor testimony was presented on February 12th.



SB248 SCHOOL STORM SHELTERS (SCHAFFER T)

To extend until November 30, 2022, the moratorium on the building code requirement for storm shelters for school construction projects.

CURRENT STATUS

1/22/2020 - Senate General Government and Agency Review , (First Hearing)

COMMENTS

The bill extends from September 15, 2020, to November 30, 2022, the existing moratorium on the building code requirement for storm shelters in school buildings operated by a public or private school or in any such school building undergoing or about to undergo construction, alteration, repair, or maintenance financed prior to the end of the moratorium.

