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**State Board
of Education**

Legislative Update

To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: January 27, 2012

State Activity

House Activity

The House met on Tuesday and insisted on their amendments to [Senate Bill 165](#) (Obhof, R-Montville Township). This legislation would include content on specified historical documents in the state academic standards and in the high school American history and government curriculum. The bill will now move to a conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions. At this time, neither chamber has made appointments to the conference committee.

The House met on Wednesday and concurred on the Senate amendments to [House Bill 116](#) (Barnes, D-Cleveland). This legislation would enact the “Jessica Logan Act” regarding public schools’ policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying and to qualify certain homeschooled students for in-state tuition at state institutions of higher education.

Introduced Bills

[House Bill 428](#) (Johnson, R-McDermott and Kozlowski, R-Pierpont) to establish a process to appeal letters of admonishment issued by the State Board of Education

Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee met on Tuesday and held its first hearing on [Senate Bill 229](#) with Senator Sawyer (D-Akron) offering sponsor testimony. This legislation would require a performance review of each chartered nonpublic school participating in the Educational Choice Scholarship Program.

The committee also held its first hearing on [Senate Bill 230](#) with Senator Sawyer (D-Akron) offering sponsor testimony. This bill would create the Office of Regional Services and Accountability in the Department of Education.

[Senate Bill 266](#) (Widener, R-Springfield and Sawyer, D-Akron) had a second hearing. This legislation would grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions. Six students from The Ohio State University offered proponent testimony.

The final piece of business before the committee was [Senate Bill 220](#) (Sawyer, D-Akron) which would terminate interdistrict open enrollment with the possibility of renewal following the General Assembly’s examination of the study’s findings. No witnesses were present to testify on the bill.

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Wednesday and held their second hearing on [Senate Concurrent Resolution 11](#) (Lehner, R-Kettering) to approve the Department of Education's proposed graduation rate changes to the state accountability system for public schools. Jeanine Molock, ODE's Director of Accountability offered proponent testimony. The committee passed the resolution by a vote of 12-4.

The committee also held a second hearing on [House Bill 375](#) (Butler, R-Oakwood) to allow school districts to sell real property to private, nonprofit institutions of higher education. C. Todd Jones with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities offered proponent testimony. The committee favorably reported the bill.

The final piece of business before the committee was a fourth hearing on [House Bill 191](#) (Hayes, R-Harrison Township and Patmon D-Cleveland). This legislation would establish a minimum school year for school districts, STEM schools and chartered nonpublic schools based on hours, rather than days, of instruction and to prohibit public schools from being open for instruction prior to Labor Day except in specified circumstances. The committee heard opponent testimony from Phillip Hayes, a high school teacher for Columbus City Schools. The committee accepted a substitute version of the bill which does the following:

- Changes the minimum school year for school district, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools from 182 days to 455 hours for half-day kindergarten, 910 hours for full-day kindergarten through grade 6, and 1,001 hours for grades 7-12.
- Retains and revises the provisions in law permitting school to make up calamity days via online lessons or blizzard bags.
- Eliminates the bill's prohibition against staying open after Memorial Day.
- Retains the bill's prohibition against opening prior to Labor Day, but adds a procedure by which a school district, community or STEM school may open earlier.
- Makes the bill's provisions effective July 1, 2013.

Next Week's Committees

Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 31st at 9:30 AM in the South Hearing Room of the Statehouse to hear the following bill:

[Senate Bill 266](#) (Widener, R-Springfield, Sawyer, D-Akron), to grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions—3rd hearing-opponent/interested party testimony

Special Presentation

On Wednesday, February 1st at 5:00 p.m. prior to committee hearings on House Bills 381 and 191, the committee will hear testimony for Ohio Digital Learning Day from the following:

- Tom Vander Ark – Author of *Getting Smart: How Digital Learning is Changing the World* and founder of GettingSmart.com
- Lisa Duty (with student and parent testimonials) – Director of External Affairs for KnowledgeWorks Ohio
- Kate Harkin – Executive Director of eTech Ohio
- Nicole Luthy – Director of Ohio Resource Center

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 1st at 5:00 p.m. in Room 313 of the Statehouse to hear the following bills:

[House Bill 381](#) (Slaby, R-Akron), With respect to offering school district property to state universities—1st hearing—sponsor testimony

[House Bill 191](#) (Hayes, R-Pataskala, Patmon, D-Cleveland), to establish a minimum school year for school districts, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools based on hours, rather than days, of instruction and to prohibit public schools from being open for instruction prior to Labor Day except in specified circumstances—5th hearing- all testimony

Federal Activity

There is no federal activity to report for this week.