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**State Board
of Education**

Legislative Update

To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: October 25, 2013

State Activity

Introduced Bills

[House Bill 317](#) (Sears, R-Sylvania), regarding reforms relating to Medicaid, fraud committed against the state, penalties for certain drug offenses committed against pregnant women, non-opiate medication for released inmates, prescription-related identification requirements and education for individuals without a high school diploma

This Week's Committees

House Ways and Means Committee

The House Ways and Means Committee met on Wednesday, October 23 and heard testimony on [House Bill 107](#) (Baker, R-Westlake), to authorize a tax credit for businesses that employ high school students in a career exploration internship. The committee accepted a substitute version of the bill that included the following changes:

- Changes the basis of the incentive program from a tax credit to a grant program, which is capped at \$1 million as a pilot program
- Funding comes from money in a casino licensing fund earmarked for workforce development efforts at the Board of Regents

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Wednesday, October 24 and held its third hearing on [House Bill 8](#) (Roegner, R-Hudson/ Kunze, R-Hilliard), to authorize off-duty peace officers to possess deadly weapons and dangerous ordnance in a school safety zone, to authorize a board of education or governing body of any school to designate employees who may carry concealed handguns in a school safety zone, to generally prohibit the disclosure of the names of designated employees, to exclude from collective bargaining the development and implementation of a protocol to designate the employees, and to generally provide immunity from civil liability to a board of education or governing authority of any school and to a designated employee of any such school for injury, death or loss arising from the employee's possession or use of a handgun in a school safety zone. The committee heard interested party testimony from Darold Johnson with the Ohio Federation of Teachers.

The committee also heard [House Bill 111](#) (Duffey, R-Worthington/ Stinziano, D-Columbus), 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. The following individuals offered proponent testimony:

- Mike Suver, Inter-University Council
- Josph Bizjak- Kent State Undergraduate Student Government
- Jordan Ballinger- Ohio University Student Senate
- Benjamin Reinke- The Ohio State University Board of Trustees

A second hearing was held on [House Bill 178](#) (Phillips, D-Albany), with respect to school safety drills. The committee accepted a substitute version of the bill that does the following:

- If a school has smoke detectors in each classroom building, the principal or person in charge is required to conduct six fire drills during the school year. If a school does not have smoke detectors in each classroom building, requires the principal or person in charge of that school to conduct nine fire drills during the school year. In that case, permits fire drills to be combined at the discretion of the principal or the person in charge
- Requires the principal or person in charge to conduct three safety drills during the school year
- Requires the principal or person in charge to conduct one additional “theoretical” safety drill during the school year for faculty and staff, but does not require student participation at the drill
- Requires at least one of the three safety drills that involve student participation to involve a scenario where students are secured in the school building rather than rapidly evacuated
- Requires the three safety drills that involve student participation to be conducted in conjunction with the local police chief, similar chief law enforcement officer, sheriff, or a designee from local law enforcement
- Requires all safety drills to be conducted pursuant to school’s comprehensive school safety plan
- Requires the principal or person in charge to conduct at least one fire drill or one safety drill during each month of the school year
- Specifically permits the principal or person in charge to determine the exact date and time that each drill will be conducted
- Permits the principal or person in charge to conduct a fire drill and a safety drill during the same month of the school year
- Maintains current law requiring the principal or person in charge of a school to provide written certification by mail of the date and time of each safety drill, and adds that the certification can also be done by facsimile or electronic mail as well
- Maintains current law requiring the principal or person in charge to provide such certification by December 5 of each year

The following individuals offered proponent testimony:

- Michelle Francis, Ohio School Boards Association
- Tom Ash, Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- Barbara Shaner, Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Tom Pyle, Athens City Police Chief
- Carl Martin, Athens City Schools Superintendent
- Ron Brooks, Athens City Police Officer
- Kent Butler, Athens City Councilman

The final piece of business before the committee was [House Bill 216](#) (Patterson, D-Jefferson), to forgive a school district’s indebtedness to the Solvency Assistance Fund upon its voluntary consolidation with another district if specified conditions are satisfied. The committee accepted two amendments to the bill that do the following:

- Fixes a drafting error
- Allows the OBM Director to transfer General Revenue Fund dollars from the operating payments to schools to the Solvency Assistance Fund to resolve any shortages that might occur when a loan is forgiven

Next Week's Committees

House Ways and Means Committee

The House Ways and Means Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, October 29 at 3:00 pm in Room 114 to hear the following bill:

- [House Bill 107](#) (Baker, R-Westlake), to authorize a tax credit for businesses that employ high school students in a career exploration internship- 5th hearing- all testimony- possible vote

House Health and Aging Committee

The House Health and Aging Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, October 30 at 9:30 am in Room 116 to hear the following bill:

- [House Bill 264](#) (Wachtmann, R- Napoleon/ Barnes, D- Cleveland), regarding care for students with diabetes in schools- 4th hearing- all testimony- possible vote

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 30 at 5:00 pm in Room 121 to hear the following:

- [House Bill 296](#) (Johnson, R-McDermott/ Duffey, R-Worthington), to permit public schools to procure epinephrine autoinjectors in accordance with prescribed procedures and to exempt them from licensing requirements related to the possession of epinephrine autoinjectors- 1st hearing- sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 171](#) (McClain, R-Upper Sandusky/ Patmon, D-Cleveland), to permit public school students to attend and receive credit for released time courses in religious instruction conducted off school property during regular school hours- 3rd hearing- all testimony
- [House Bill 215](#) (DeVitis, R-Uniontown), to authorize a board of education or governing authority of a school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer who is a current or retired law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event, to generally provide to a board of education or governing authority of a school and to such a volunteer immunity from civil liability for injury, death, or loss arising from the volunteer's services, and to provide tax credit for volunteer services- 2nd hearing- proponent testimony
- [House Bill 216](#) (Patterson, D-Jefferson), to forgive a school district's indebtedness to the Solvency Assistance Fund upon its voluntary consolidation with another district if specified conditions are satisfied- 5th hearing- all testimony- possible amendment- possible vote

Federal Activity

There is no federal update this week.