



To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: December 13, 2013

State Activity

Introduced Bills

There was no new education related legislation introduced in the House or Senate this week.

Legislation- passed in the House

[House Bill 111](#) (Duffey, R- Worthington/ Stinziano, D-Columbus) 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. (85-6)

[House Bill 181](#) (Brenner, R-Powell) would prohibit submission of a student's personal identifiable information to the federal government without direct authorization of the local school board.(86-6)

This Week's Committees

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Tuesday, December 10th to hear the following bills:

- [House Bill 158](#) (Brenner, R-Powell/ Patmon, D-Cleveland) to authorize nonrefundable tax credits for donations to nonprofit entities providing scholarships to low-income students enrolling in nonpublic schools had its 3rd hearing. Larry Keough, Catholic Conference of Ohio and Izaak Vanderschel, legislative director for the Buckeye Christian School Association testified in support of the bill. The Ohio School Boards Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Ohio Association of School Business Officials jointly submitted written testimony in "strong" opposition to the bill.
- [House Bill 171](#) (McClain, R- Upper Sandusky/ Patmon, D-Cleveland) which would permit public school students to attend and receive credit for released time courses in religious instruction conducted off school property during regular school hours had its 3rd hearing and was voted favorably out of committee with a vote of 13-2. Testifying against the bill was Gary Daniels, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio.
- [House Bill 178](#) (Phillips, D-Albany) which increases the flexibility with respect to school safety drills. No one testified for the bill's 3rd hearing. The committee accepted an amendment that Rep. Phillips said would add sprinkler systems as a factor for determining building tiers. Under the change, the bill requires schools with smoke detectors or sprinkler systems to conduct six fire drills and three safety drills, but schools lacking sprinklers and smoke detectors would still have to do the nine fire drills.
- [House Bill 193](#) (Brenner, R-Powell) which revises current high school diploma requirements including state-administered assessments passed favorably out of committee (18-1) without

additional testimony at the bill's 5th hearing. An omnibus amendment as well as one additional amendment was accepted by the committee.

- [House Bill 241](#) (Hagan, C., R-Alliance) had its 1st hearing. Representative Hagan provided sponsor testimony on a bill that would prohibit an employee of a public or nonpublic school or institution of higher education from engaging in sexual conduct with a minor who is enrolled in or attends that public or nonpublic school or who is enrolled in or attends that institution of higher education and is also enrolled in or attends a public or nonpublic school.

House State and Local Government Committee

The House State and Local Government Committee met on Tuesday, December 10th to hear [House Bill 328](#) (Young, R-Leroy/ Hagan,C.,R-Alliance). Sponsor testimony was provided and a substitute version of the bill was accepted by the committee.

Next Week's Committees

The Senate and House Education Committees will not meet next week.

Federal Activity

There is no federal update this week.