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**State Board
of Education**

Legislative Update

To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: February 28, 2014

State Activity

Introduced Bills

[House Bill 460](#) (Brenner, R-Powell/ Driehaus, D-Cincinnati) to authorize school districts and community schools to initiate a community learning process to assist and guide school restructuring. Am. 302.15, 3302.16, and 3302.17

Passed in the Senate

[House Bill 416](#) (Hill, R-Zanesville, Burkley, R- Paulding) to permit payment in fiscal year 2015 to school districts and STEM schools that exceed, by up to four days, the number of permitted 'calamity' days in fiscal year 2014 and to declare an emergency. Amendments on the floor changed from four to three calamity days and an additional permissive professional development day. The vote was 32-0.

[House Bill 342](#) (Brenner, R-Powell/ Drienhaus, D-Cincinnati) To permit an educational service center to be a partner or the lead applicant of an education consortium seeking a grant under the Straight A Program, to modify the goals of projects supported by the program, to make other changes regarding the operation of the program, and to declare an emergency. The vote was 32-0.

Passed in the House

[House Bill 264](#) (Wachtmann, R-Napoleon/ Barnes, D-Cleveland) regarding care for students with diabetes in schools passed in the House with a vote of 93-1.

Concurrence in the House

The **House concurred** with the Senate on [House Bill 342](#) (Brenner, R-Powell/ Drienhaus, D-Cincinnati) To permit an educational service center to be a partner or the lead applicant of an education consortium seeking a grant under the Straight A Program, to modify the goals of projects supported by the program, to make other changes regarding the operation of the program, and to declare an emergency. The vote was 95-0.

The **House did not concur** with the Senate changes to [House Bill 416](#) (Hill, R-Zanesville, Burkley, R- Paulding) to permit payment in fiscal year 2015 to school districts and STEM schools that exceed, by up to four days, the number of permitted 'calamity' days in fiscal year 2014 and to declare an emergency. A conference committee is expected to take up this legislation in the upcoming weeks.

This Week's Committees

House Economic Development & Regulatory Reform Committee

The House Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee met Tuesday, February 25th to hear two bills regarding the Controlling Board.

[Senate Bill 228](#) (Widener, R-Springfield) would limit the Controlling Board's authority to approve the expenditure of certain funds and to require state agencies to provide certain information to the Controlling Board regarding requested purchases from out-of-state suppliers. There was no testimony offered at the 2nd hearing of the bill.

A substitute bill was accepted at the 3rd hearing of [House Bill 328](#) (Young, R-LeRoy/ Hagan, C., R-Alliance) to modify the authority of the Controlling Board to approve certain expenditures. Maurice Thompson, executive director of the 1851 Center for Constitutional Law gave testimony.

House State & Local Government: Shared Services & Government Efficiency Subcommittee

The Shared Services and Government Efficiency Subcommittee met for the 5th hearing of the DataOhio legislative package on Tuesday, February 25th. Testimony on the "DataOhio" legislative package came from Ohio Municipal League Executive Director, Sue Cave, who expressed concerns on the proposal. Nancy Reger, director of regional data and mapping for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), offered support for three of the four-bill package. Written support for the bill was offered by Matthew DeTemple, executive director of the Ohio Township Association and Ohio Society of CPAs.

The DataOhio Package includes the following pieces of legislation:

[House Bill 321](#) (Duffey, R- Worthington/ Hagan, C., R-Alliance), to create the DataOhio Board, and to specify requirements for posting public records online

[House Bill 322](#) (Duffey, R-Worthington/ Hagan, C., R-Alliance), to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices

[House Bill 323](#) (Duffey, R-Worthington/Hagan, C., R-Alliance), to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov

[House Bill 324](#) (Duffey, R-Worthington), to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

Senate Finance Committee

The Senate Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 25th. [House Bill 107](#) (Baker, R- Westlake) to create a grant program for businesses that employ high school students in career exploration internships. The bill was favorably reported out of committee with no additional testimony at its 5th hearing.

House Judiciary Committee

The House Judiciary Committee met on Wednesday, February 26th for the 3rd hearing of [House Bill 376](#) (Derickson, R-Oxford/ Patmon, D-Cleveland) to enact the Ohio Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The bill received no additional testimony and has been indefinitely postponed.

Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Service Committee

The Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services Committee met on Wednesday, February 26th for the 3rd hearing of [House Bill 296](#) (Johnson, R-McDermott/ Duffey, R- Worthington) which would permit public schools to procure epinephrine auto injectors in accordance with prescribed procedures and to exempt them from licensing requirements related to the possession of epinephrine auto injectors. No testimony was provided.

Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee met Wednesday, February 26th to hear [Senate Bill 284](#) (Coley, R- Liberty Twp.) which provides additional calamity day relief for schools and declares an emergency. It was scheduled but not heard. Instead, the bill was amended into [House Bill 416](#) (Burkley, R-Paulding/Hill, R-Zanesville) which permits payment in fiscal year 2015 to school districts and STEM schools that exceed, by up to four days, the number of permitted 'calamity' days in fiscal year 2014 and to declare an emergency. The bill was favorably reported out of committee with a vote of 10-0. Testimony was heard from the sponsors of the bill, Representatives Hill and Burkley, as well as, Superintendent John Shue.

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Wednesday, February 26th and heard the following bills:

[House Bill 228](#) (Brenner, R- Powell) would reform the system of funding elementary and secondary education. Proponent testimony at the bill's second hearing was provided by Olentangy Local Schools Superintendent, Wade Lucas and Steven Cuckler, an attorney whose children attend the Olentangy Local School District.

[House Bill 393](#) (Baker, R-Westlake) would require public high schools to publish annually a career decision guide in its newsletter or on its web site. Representatives Baker and Landis gave sponsor testimony.

[House Bill 413](#) (Stautberg, R-Cincinnati) would prohibit the administration of the assessments developed by the PARCC for the 2014-2015 school year and prohibit the renewal of the state's memorandum of understanding with the Partnership, and declare it an emergency. Representative Brenner presented proponent testimony on this bill.

The committee favorably reported [House Bill 362](#) (Scherer, R- Circleville/ Derickson, R- Oxford) which would authorize the STEM Committee to grant a designation of STEM school equivalent to a community school or chartered nonpublic school and to make other revisions to the law regarding STEM schools. Proponent testimony was given by Joshua Jennings, director of Global Impact STEM Academy in Springfield and Alison White, director of the Ohio STEM Learning Network - Akron Hub.

House Education Committee (continued)

Also favorably reported out of committee without further testimony was [House Bill 367](#) (Driehaus, D-Cincinnati/ Sprague, R- Findlay) which requires the health curriculum of each school district to include instruction in prescription opioid abuse prevention.

Next Week's Committees

There are no committees scheduled to meet next week.

Federal Activity

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget and Appropriations

The President will release his Administration's Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposal on March 4. According to reports, the proposal will be based on existing discretionary spending caps for FY15, set under the Murray-Ryan budget deal late last year. The budget will also include a proposal to close tax loopholes and use the savings to increase the sequester cap by \$56 billion. In related news, the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee have established a deadline of April 4 for appropriations requests for the FY15 spending bill.

E-Rate

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected to release a Public Notice in the coming days to reform the E-Rate program. The proposal is expected to include a "modernization" of the E-Rate program and take steps to double investment in broadband spending. The proposal is also expected to distribute funds more equitably and predictably and better align funding priorities to help ensure broadband access in schools and libraries.

Congressional Hearings

- The Senate HELP Committee held a hearing on [Promoting College Access and Success for Students with Disabilities](#) (February 27)
- Two House Education and the Committee of Higher Education and Workforce Committee Subcommittees (the K-12 and higher ed subcommittees) held a joint hearing on [Exploring Efforts to Strengthen the Teaching Profession](#) (February 27)
- The Senate HELP Committee is expected to announce a hearing on teacher preparation under the Higher Education Act (HEA) in the coming weeks.