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**State Board  
of Education**

# Legislative Update

To: State Board of Education  
Re: Legislative Update  
Date: February 3, 2012

## **State Activity**

### **Senate Activity**

The Senate appointed Senators Obhof (R-Montville Township), Lehner (R-Kettering), and Sawyer (D-Akron) to the conference committee on [Senate Bill 165](#). This legislation would include content on specified historical documents in the state academic standards and in the high school American history and government curriculum.

### **Introduced Bills**

[House Bill 437](#) (Roegner, R-Hudson and Patmon, D-Cleveland), to increase the number of miles a school district board may authorize its motor vehicles for out-of-state travel

### **House Education Committee**

The House Education Committee met on Wednesday and heard presentations on digital learning from the following individuals:

- Lisa Duty, Director of External Affairs for KnowledgeWorks
- Hamilton Ingwerson, ECOT student
- Jordan Randolph, Winton Woods High School Global Studies student
- Drew Lovejoy, Ohio Connections Academy student
- Faith Washington, Reynoldsburg High School Student
- Tom Vander Ark, Founder of [gettingsmart.com](#)
- Valerie Dortch, Parent of an e-school student
- Cathy Bryan, Parent of an e-school student
- Jessica Hussey, Ohio Connections Academy teacher
- Jennifer Easley, Teacher at the Academy of Global Studies at Winton Woods High School
- Nicole Luthy, Director of the Ohio Resource Center
- Kate Harkin, Executive Director eTech Ohio

The committee held a first hearing on [House Bill 381](#) with Representative Slaby (R-Copley Township) offering sponsor testimony. This legislation would require a school district board, when it decides to dispose of real property, to offer the right of first refusal to a state university, having its main or a branch campus located within the district (prior to offering that property to community schools as required under current law).

The committee also held a fifth hearing on [House Bill 191](#) (Hayes, R-Harrison Township and Patmon, D-Cleveland) which would establish a minimum school year for school districts, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools based on hours, rather than days, of instruction and prohibit public schools

from being open for instruction prior to Labor Day except in specified circumstances. The following individuals offered interested party testimony:

- Damon Asbury, Ohio School Boards Association
- Barbara Shaner, Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Mark Schare, Member of the Worthington Board of Education

### **Next Week's Committees**

#### **House Education Committee**

The House Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in Room 313 of the Statehouse to hear the following bills:

[House Bill 397](#) (Antonio, D-Lakewood), to specify that school districts and chartered nonpublic schools may excuse from high school physical education students who play rugby in a school club—1<sup>st</sup> hearing—sponsor testimony

[House Bill 381](#) (Slaby, R-Akron), with respect to offering school district property to state universities—1<sup>st</sup> hearing—2<sup>nd</sup> hearing—sponsor testimony

[House Bill 377](#) (Duffey, R-Worthington and 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—2<sup>nd</sup> hearing—proponent testimony

[House Bill 255](#) (Gonzales, R-Westerville), to require school districts and community schools to establish school breakfast programs in academic emergency buildings and to make other changes regarding school breakfast programs—3<sup>rd</sup> hearing—all testimony

#### **Federal Activity**

There is no federal activity to report this week.