



To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: June 21, 2013

State Activity

Senate Activity

The Senate passed [House Bill 167](#) (Heard, D-Columbus/ Heard, R-Grove City), to authorize certain school districts to levy property taxes, the revenue from which may be shared with partnering community schools; to require such districts to place such a levy on the ballot at the next general or special election to prescribe the creation of the position of independent auditor for such a school district, subject to voter approval; to authorize the mayor of the city in which such a school district is located to sponsor community schools; and to declare an emergency by a vote of 31-1. The bill should be up for a concurrence vote in the House early next week.

Introduced Bills

[House Bill 211](#) (Williams, D-Cleveland), to require the Director of the State Lottery Commission to prepare a report related to the Lottery Profits Education Fund

[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 a tax credit for volunteer service

[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

This Week's Committees

Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee met and heard [House Bill 167](#) (Heard, D-Columbus/ Heard, R-Grove City), to authorize certain school districts to levy property taxes, the revenue from which may be shared with partnering community schools; to require such districts to place such a levy on the ballot at the next general or special election to prescribe the creation of the position of independent auditor for such a school district, subject to voter approval; to authorize the mayor of the city in which such a school district is located to sponsor community schools; and to declare an emergency. The committee added the following two amendments before unanimously passing the bill.

- Requires standards by which community schools sponsored by the mayor must comply. The mayor must create those rules not later than 180 days after the effective date of the bill and must submit them to ODE.
- Establishes a distribution and allocation process for funds raised by a partnering community school levy.

The committee also held their third hearing on [Senate Bill 96](#) (LaRose, R-Copley Township), to require one unit of world history in the high school social studies curriculum. The committee accepted a substitute version of the bill before unanimously passing the bill. Dan Dodd with the Ohio Association of Independent Schools offered testimony asking for the association's schools to be exempt from the world history requirement. Members entertained an amendment to make that change, but it was eventually withdrawn. Debe Terhar submitted written testimony on the bill as an interested party.

[House Bill 14](#) (Pelanda, R-Marysville), with respect to a school district's withholding or transfer to another district or school of the records of a child who is alleged or adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child. Sarah Biehl with the Children's Defense Fund and Betsie Norris with the Adoption Network of Cleveland offered proponent testimony.

House Ways and Means

The House Ways and Means Committee met and held its third hearing on Senate Bill 42 (Manning, R-North Ridgeville/ Gardner, R-Bowling Green), to authorize school districts to levy a property tax exclusively for school safety and security purposes. No witnesses were present.

House Manufacturing and Workforce Development Committee

The House Manufacturing and Workforce Development Committee held its second hearing on [House Bill 168](#), to create a subprogram of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs. Bryan Williams with the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio offered proponent testimony.

House Bill 59 Conference Committee

The [House Bill 59](#) (Amstutz, R- Wooster) Conference Committee met and heard presentations from the Office of Budget and Management and the Legislative Service Commission on revenue and caseload estimates.

Next Week's Committees

House Bill 59 Conference Committee

The House Bill 59 Conference Committee is expected to meet next week to issue their final report, but meeting dates had not been announced at the writing of this report.

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 26 at 4:30 pm in Room 121 of the Statehouse to hear the following bills:

- [House Bill 30](#) (Johnson, R-McDermott), regarding letters of admonishment to licensed educators- 1st hearing- sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 181](#) (Brenner, R-Powell), to prohibit submissions of a student's personal identifiable information to the federal government without direct authorization of the local school board- 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- 2nd hearing- proponent testimony

Federal Activity

House Education Committee Approves ESEA Reauthorization Bill

On Wednesday, the House Education and the Workforce approved, on a party-line vote of 23-16, H.R. 5, the Student Success Act, a comprehensive measure to reauthorize the *Elementary and Secondary*

Education Act (ESEA), currently authorized as the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act*. NCLB is six years overdue to be reauthorized.

In general, H.R. 5 reduces the federal role in education by returning much of the authority for measuring student performance and turning around low-performing schools to states and local districts. The bill maintains much of the current law requirements with regards standards and assessments but allows states to establish alternate achievement standards aligned to content standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and allows states to adopt alternate assessments for such students. It maintains the 95% participation rate for assessing and disaggregation of data. It eliminates adequate yearly progress (AYP) and allows states to develop their own accountability system within three broad parameters. It generally maintains current requirements on annual report cards and allows states and districts flexibility to develop school turnaround strategies and to reward schools. It allows states and school districts to use federal funds for any activity authorized under most programs to meet their own unique needs and it eliminates the 40% poverty threshold for Title I schools to operate schoolwide programs. The bill eliminates maintenance of effort requirements allowing states to set their own spending levels. The bill eliminates more than 70 programs and creates a new Local Academic Flexibility Grant to provide funds states and districts to support their priorities.

It has been reported that House leadership may bring H.R. 5 to the floor in mid-July. To access a video of the committee hearing, the bill and summaries click [here](#).