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To: State Board of Education  
Re: Legislative Update  
Date: January 24, 2014

## **State Activity**

### **House Activity**

The House met Wednesday and passed [House Bill 8](#) (Roegner, R-Hudson/ Kunze, R-Hilliard) by a vote of 62-28, to authorize off-duty peace officers to possess deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance in a school safety zone, to authorize a board of education or governing body or any school to designate employees who may carry concealed handguns in a school safety zone, to generally prohibit the disclosure of the names of the 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 House also accepted a floor amendment to require psychological assessments for employees to discharge weapons in schools and add active shooter training to the curriculum developed by the General Assembly.

The House also passed [House Bill 193](#) (Brenner, R-Powell), with respect to state academic achievement assessments and high school graduation requirements, by a vote of 88-1.

### **Introduced Bills**

[House Bill 413](#) (Stautberg, R-Cincinnati/ Brenner, R-Powell), to prohibit administration of the assessments developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers for the 2014-2015 school year, to prohibit the renewal of the state's memorandum of understanding with the Partnership, and to declare an emergency.

### **This Week's Committees**

#### **Senate Education Committee**

The Senate Education Committee met on Wednesday and held its first hearing on [House Bill 342](#) (Brenner, R-Powell/ Driehaus, D-Cincinnati), to permit an educational service center to be a partner or the lead applicant of an education consortia seeking grant under the Straight A Program and to modify the goals of the projects supported by the program. Representative Brenner and Representative Driehaus offered sponsor testimony.

The committee also held a hearing on [Senate Bill 167](#) (Tavares, D-Columbus), with respect to school district policies for violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior. The following witnesses offered proponent testimony:

- Darold Johnson, Ohio Federation of Teachers
- Erin Davies, Children's Law Center
- Adil Baguirov, Dayton Board of Education

#### **House Education Committee**

The House Education Committee met on Wednesday and held its first hearing on [House Bill 304](#) (Hayes, R-Harrison Township), regarding student access to public school facilities. Representative Hayes offered sponsor testimony.

The committee also held its second hearing on [House Bill 58](#) (Gerberry, D-Austintown Township), to change the voting membership of the State Board of Education to consist of a member from each of several electoral districts with boundaries coinciding with the state's Congressional districts and a president appointed by the Governor if there is an even number of such electoral districts. Bill Phillis with the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding provided proponent testimony.

The committee heard [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. Izzac VanderSchel with the Buckeye Christian Schools Association offered proponent testimony. Darold Johnson with the Ohio Federation of Teachers offered opponent testimony.

The final bill before the committee was [House Bill 343](#) (Stebelton, R-Lacaster), regarding educational programs for certain students and individuals who have not received a high school diploma. No witnesses were present to testify on the bill.

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

#### **Senate Education Committee**

The Senate Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 29 at 4:00 pm in the South Hearing Room to hear the following bills:

- [House Bill 111](#) (Duffey, R-Worthington/ Stinziano, D-Columbus), to require the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University to adopt a resolution to grant or not grant to student members voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions- 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing- all testimony
- [House Bill 342](#) (Brenner, R-Powell/ Driehaus, D-Cincinnati), to permit an educational service center to be a partner or the lead applicant of an education consortia seeking a grant under the Straight A Program and to modify the goals of projects supported by the program- 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing- all testimony

#### **House Education Committee**

The House Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 29 at 5:00 pm in Room 313 to hear the following:

- [Senate Bill 69](#) (Beagle, R-Tipp City), to establish the Course and Program Sharing Network- 1<sup>st</sup> hearing- sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 281](#) (Ruhl, R-Mt. Vernon), to revise the law regarding tobacco and nicotine use in public schools and at public school-sponsored functions- 1<sup>st</sup> hearing- sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 303](#) (Hayes, R-Harrison Township), regarding student religious expression- 1<sup>st</sup> hearing- sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 362](#) (Scherer, R-Circleville/ Derickson, R-Oxford), to 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- 1<sup>st</sup> hearing- sponsor testimony
- [House Bill 367](#) (Driehaus, D-Cincinnati/ Sprague, R-Findlay), to require the health curriculum of each school district to include instruction in prescription opioid abuse prevention- 1<sup>st</sup> hearing- sponsor testimony

**Federal Activity**

There is no federal update this week.