



To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: January 31, 2014

State Activity

House Activity

The House met Wednesday and passed [House Bill 113](#) (Antonio, D-Lakewood/ Henne, R-Clayton), to specify that school districts and chartered nonpublic schools may excuse from high school physical education students who participate in a school-sponsored athletic club, by a vote of 82-9.

Introduced Bills

[House Bill 416](#) (Burkely, R-Paulding/ Hill, R-Zanesville), 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 the 2013-2014 school year and to declare an emergency

[Senate Bill 269](#) (Brown, D-Toledo), to permit state payments to school districts, STEM schools and community schools that exceed, by up to three days, the number of permitted “calamity” days in the 2013-2014 school year and to declare an emergency

This Week’s Committees

Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee met on Wednesday and held its second 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. The following witnesses offered proponent testimony:

- Craig Burford, Ohio Educational Service Center Association
- Rob Amodio, Norwood City Schools
- Scott Inskeep, Reading Community City Schools
- Dustin McKee, Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met on Wednesday and held its first hearing on [House Bill 416](#) (Burkely, R-Paulding/ Hill, R-Zanesville), 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 2013-2014 school year and to declare an emergency, with Representative Burkley and Representative Hill offering sponsor testimony. The committee added two amendments to the bill that do the following:

- Allow districts to make up lost time by adding time in half-hour increments to the school day
- Allow chartered nonpublic schools to take advantage of the provisions in the bill as well

The committee passed the bill by a vote of 16-2.

The committee also held first hearings on the following bills:

[Senate Bill 69](#) (Beagle, R-Tipp City), to establish the Course and Program Sharing Network, with Senator Beagle offering 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, with Representative Ruhl offering sponsor testimony.

[House Bill 303](#) (Hayes, R-Harrison Township), regarding student religious expression, with Representative Hayes offering 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, with Representative Scherer and Representative Derickson offering 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, with Representative Driehaus and Representative Sprague offering sponsor testimony.

Next Week's Committees

There will be no committee meetings next week.

Federal Activity

There is no federal update this week.