

THREE RIVERS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

May 9, 2017

CHAMBER/COMMITTEE	BILL	DESCRIPTION
House of Representatives	HB49	The Ohio House voted 58-37 this week in approving House Bill (HB) 49, the biennial budget. The bill is now in the Senate for consideration.
House Ways and Means Committee	HB124	The committee passed HB 124. The legislation would allow a joint vocational school district to submit a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at the last election because the levy was placed on the ballot in only one of several counties in which the district has territory.
House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee	HB58	The committee received proponent testimony on HB 58, requiring instruction in cursive handwriting.
Senate Finance Committee	HB49	The committee held hearings on HB 49 with testimony from Office of Budget and Management Director Tim Keen and Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria.
Senate Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education	HB49	The subcommittee met this week and heard the following testimony on HB 49: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohio School Boards Association • Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) • Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) • Dr. Howard Fleeter, consultant for the Ohio Education Policy Institute • Legislative Service Commission • INFOhio
Senate Ways and Means Committee	SB36	The committee heard proponent testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 36, which would make changes to the current agricultural use valuation formula.
	SB123	The committee also heard sponsor testimony on SB 123 from Sen. William P. Coley II (R-Liberty Township). This legislation would limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county where the property is located.

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THE LINK

between the Ohio School Boards Association and its legislative liaisons

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Biennial budget update

The Ohio House recently introduced a substitute version of House Bill (HB) 49, the biennial budget.

What follows is a list of some of the education related changes made by the House Finance Committee.

College Credit Plus

- Mandates that the chancellor of higher education and the superintendent of public instruction study the outcomes of the College Credit Plus (CCP) program.
- Restricts the awarding of CCP credit unless the student receives a C or higher.
- Modifies the CCP textbook requirements by requiring IHEs to pay 50% or an amount agreed to with the school district.
- Restores the ability of districts to negotiate CCP payments below the default floor.

Funding Provisions

- Makes the following revisions to the Executive proposal:
 - increases the per pupil amount to \$6,020 per year from \$6,000;
 - removes the transportation supplement from the transitional aid calculations;
 - increases the gain cap to 5.5% from 5%; raises the capacity aid multiplier to 4 from 3.5;
 - adjusts the valuation index in certain districts with high public utility personal property from a three-year average valuation to the districts' 2016 total taxable valuation, if the 2016 value is less.
 - Adds the small business deduction back into the school district income tax earned income base.

Educational service centers

- Increases the per-pupil state payment for ESCs to \$25 for high-performing ESCs and \$23 for all other ESCs.
- Places a moratorium on additional districts joining ESCs during fiscal years 2018 and 2019.
- Modifies an earmark in accountability/State Report Cards, requiring a portion for ESCs to support training and professional development instead of providing it to a nonprofit with expertise in value-added dimensions.

Early learning

- Directs that unspent preschool funding be offered to 3 year olds after all eligible 4 year olds have been served.
- Reverses a recent Ohio Administrative Code rule regarding preschool staffing ratios.

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Educator provisions

- Removes the externship requirement for teachers.
- Removes the proposed requirements that a Career-Technical Educator Level I license applicant have five years of experience and the specific college program that a Level II applicant must complete.
- Eliminates the Ohio Teacher Residency program. Keeps the resident educator license and the alternative resident educator license. Individuals now participating in the Ohio Resident Educator Program are not required to complete the program.

Other education provisions

- Eliminates the additional nonvoting business community representatives to school boards. Calls for the creation of operating standards for school business advisory councils.
- Clarifies that public officials may accept registration fees, travel expenses and meals during a meeting or convention of a national, state and regional organization to which that a government body pays dues.
- Allows public and chartered nonpublic schools the option of using paper for state tests.
- Studies the appropriate funding levels and methods for gifted funding.
- Abandons the requirement for bid bonds in school bus purchases.
- Exempts certain classes of part-time or intermittent school district employees from mandated automated external defibrillator training.
- Permits a school district to offer early retirement or severance pay only if both of the following are met: the agreement is financially sound, and the district must comply with tax levy provisions concerning wage and salary increases.
- Mandates that driver education courses include instruction on substance and prescription drug abuse, the science of addiction and the effect of psychoactive substances while driving.
- Orders the Joint Education Oversight Committee to develop legislative recommendations for creating a Joint Transportation Pilot Program where at least two districts share transportation services.
- Charges the Joint Education Oversight Committee with a review of the Ohio Department of Education manual used to audit or review enrollment in public schools.
- Mandates a school district pay owners fees when they appeal a property tax assessment case and lose.
- Adds two new factors to be considered in calculating the current agricultural use value (CAUV) “typical cropping and land use patterns” and “typical production costs” and deletes one existing factor “market value.” States that the equity yield rate used to calculate the capitalization rate equals the 25-year average of the “total rate of return on farm equity” published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the holding period for the purposes of calculating the components of capitalization is 25 years.

The House is expected to finish their version of the biennial budget during the first week of May. The Ohio Senate has already begun holding hearings on the bill in both the Senate Finance Committee and the Primary and Secondary Education Finance Subcommittee.