

DIGEST OF ENACTMENTS 2021

134th General Assembly (2021-2022)

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Columbus, Ohio



February
2022

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Director

Wendy Zhan

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INTRODUCTION

The *Digest of Enactments 2021* summarizes legislation passed by the General Assembly during 2021, including 36 Senate bills, 35 House bills, and H.C.R. 35. Governor Mike DeWine vetoed S.B. 113. He also vetoed S.B. 22 but the General Assembly overrode the veto.

The summaries in this publication are condensed versions of the final analyses prepared by the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) for the General Assembly. The *Digest* does not purport to represent the details of each enactment. Readers may obtain a full LSC final analysis by conducting a keyword search for the act number on the home page of the General Assembly's website, legislature.ohio.gov. The final analysis is indicated by the link "As Enrolled" in the list of documents for the act. Readers also may obtain a copy of the act from among those documents. Readers may obtain a scanned copy of the signed act by selecting "[Bill Effective Dates](#)" under the link "[Legislation & Ballot Issues](#)" on the Ohio Secretary of State's website, ohiosos.gov.

The legislative history of each act is available on the General Assembly's website, by selecting the "Status" link on the act's summary page, or by selecting "[Status Reports](#)" under the "Legislation" link. Status Reports are available as PDF reports and Excel spreadsheets.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>ENACTMENT</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| Introduction | | 3 |
| COVID-19 Pandemic | | |
| Modifications to laws governing health professionals and educator preparation programs due to COVID-19 and other circumstances; energy efficiency programs | H.B. 6 | 3 |
| Authority of executive and legislative branches during state of emergency | S.B. 22 | 10 |
| Prohibitions on mandatory vaccinations in public K-12 schools and colleges; Department of Health authority over quarantine and isolation; technology-based educational opportunities for military children | H.B. 244 | 11 |
| Remote learning; state report card; school emergency management plans; Third Grade Reading Guarantee; financial literacy instructions; scholarship payments; educational service center payments | S.B. 229 | 14 |
| Business Fairness Act | H.B. 215 | 16 |
| <i>See also: H.B. 67, pg. 144; H.B. 167, pg. 116; H.B. 168, pg. 168; H.B. 169, pg. 117; H.B. 170, pg. 118; S.B. 18, pg. 186; S.B. 57, pg. 186; S.B. 108, pg. 118; S.B. 109, pg. 119</i> | | |
| Appropriations | | |
| Departments of Public Safety and Transportation appropriations..... | H.B. 74 | 17 |
| Bureau of Workers' Compensation appropriations; changes to Workers' Compensation Law | H.B. 75 | 25 |
| Industrial Commission appropriations..... | H.B. 76 | 27 |
| Biennial operating appropriations act | H.B. 110 | 27 |
| Federal COVID relief funds for rent and utility assistance, Department of Public Safety..... | H.B. 167 | 116 |
| Unemployment compensation advance repayment; federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding..... | H.B. 168 | 116 |
| Federal COVID relief funds; commercial driver's license training..... | H.B. 169 | 117 |
| Federal COVID relief funds for schools and other entities | H.B. 170 | 118 |
| Federal COVID relief funds for hospitality businesses..... | S.B. 108 | 118 |
| Federal COVID relief funds for assistance programs | S.B. 109 | 119 |

See also: H.B. 2, pg. 135; H.B. 92, pg. 179; S.B. 6, pg. 153

Commerce

| | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|
| Fireworks Law | H.B. | 172 | 120 |
| Cigarette minimum pricing reforms | S.B. | 40 | 122 |
| Payment assurance program for registered design professionals | S.B. | 49 | 122 |
| Fireworks Law | S.B. | 113 | 122 |

See also: H.B. 2, pg. 135; H.B. 75, pg. 25; H.B. 133, pg. 156; H.B. 215, pg. 16; S.B. 102, pg. 175

Courts

| | | | |
|---|------|----|-----|
| Probate, Trust, and Guardianship Law changes | H.B. | 7 | 123 |
| Competency to stand trial; Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact | S.B. | 2 | 127 |
| Period of limitations – contracts/borrowing statute; legal malpractice actions | S.B. | 13 | 129 |

See also: H.B. 8, pg. 131; H.B. 133, pg. 156; S.B. 36, pg. 132; S.B. 80, pg. 151; S.B. 217, pg. 154

Crimes, Corrections, and Law Enforcement

| | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|
| Custodial interrogation recordings; restraint or confinement of pregnant suspects..... | H.B. | 8 | 131 |
| Eligibility for crime victim reparations | S.B. | 36 | 132 |
| Telecommunications fraud | S.B. | 54 | 132 |
| Penalties for hazing at educational institutions | S.B. | 126 | 133 |

See also: S.B. 217, pg. 154

Economic Development

| | | | |
|--|------|---|-----|
| Broadband expansion through grants, easements, and pole attachments | H.B. | 2 | 135 |
|--|------|---|-----|

See also: S.B. 166, pg. 148

Education

| | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|
| 2020-2021 school year provisions, including state assessments, high school graduation requirements, community school sponsor evaluations | H.B. | 67 | 144 |
| State report card, achievement assessments; other education provisions | H.B. | 82 | 145 |
| Financial literacy; high school curriculum; substitute teachers .. | S.B. | 1 | 147 |
| Career-technical education; work-based learning experiences; Northeast Ohio Medical University; commercial driver training student aid; tax incentives; dental assistant certification | S.B. | 166 | 148 |

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Invalidation of proposed amendments to rule related to K-12 school curriculum and operations | H.C.R. 35 | 150 |
| <i>See also: H.B. 6, pg. 10; H.B. 170, pg. 118; H.B. 244, pg. 13; S.B. 126, pg. 133; S.B. 229, pg. 14</i> | | |
| Elections | | |
| Partisan designation for judicial candidates | S.B. 80 | 151 |
| Congressional redistricting; delay of 2022 primary election deadlines | S.B. 258 | 151 |
| <i>See also: H.B. 92, pg. 179; S.B. 52, pg. 191</i> | | |
| Employment, Labor, and Professional Regulation | | |
| Chemical dependency counselor licensure | H.B. 5 | 152 |
| Athletic trainers' practice | H.B. 176 | 152 |
| Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact | H.B. 252 | 152 |
| Nurse Licensure Compact; Fresh Start Act (H.B. 263 of the 133 rd General Assembly) exemptions | S.B. 3 | 153 |
| Physical Therapy Licensure Compact | S.B. 5 | 153 |
| Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; nurse aide training | S.B. 6 | 153 |
| Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact | S.B. 7 | 154 |
| Access to criminal record check information | S.B. 217 | 154 |
| <i>See also: H.B. 75, pg. 25; H.B. 168, pg. 116; H.B. 172, pg. 120; S.B. 2, pg. 127; S.B. 4, pg. 181; S.B. 49, pg. 122; S.B. 157, pg. 171; S.B. 166, pg. 148</i> | | |
| Environment and Natural Resources | | |
| Owls used in sport of falconry | S.B. 28 | 155 |
| <i>See also: H.B. 168, pg. 116</i> | | |
| Financial Institutions and Consumer Finance | | |
| Residential mortgage lending; consumer finance; commercial credit reports; business linked deposits; banking; legal malpractice claims relating to opinions of title | H.B. 133 | 156 |
| Ohio Pooled Collateral Program changes | S.B. 115 | 156 |
| <i>See also: H.B. 7, pg. 123; S.B. 1, pg. 147; S.B. 13, pg. 129</i> | | |
| Gambling | | |
| Legalization, regulation, and taxation of sports gaming; other changes to the Gambling Law | H.B. 29 | 159 |
| Health | | |
| Sales of dextromethorphan to minors prohibited | H.B. 9 | 168 |
| Organ donation | H.B. 21 | 159 |

| | | |
|---|----------|-----|
| Telehealth services; Medicaid credentialing program; One-Bite program; suspension of insurance programs..... | H.B. 122 | 168 |
| Emergency medical services and stroke patient care | S.B. 21 | 170 |
| Electronic monitoring in long-term care facilities | S.B. 58 | 171 |
| Child born alive after attempted abortion | S.B. 157 | 171 |

See also: H.B. 5, pg. 152; H.B. 6, pg. 10; H.B. 7, pg. 123; H.B. 176, pg. 152; H.B. 215, pg. 16; H.B. 222, pg. 178; H.B. 244, pg. 13; H.B. 252, pg. 152; S.B. 3, pg. 153; S.B. 5, pg. 153; S.B. 6, pg. 153; S.B. 7, pg. 154; S.B. 22, pg. 1

Highways and Transportation

| | | |
|---|----------|-----|
| Don Manning Memorial Bridge | H.B. 191 | 173 |
| Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission; towing law | S.B. 162 | 173 |

See also: H.B. 74, pg. 17; H.B. 169, pg. 117

Housing and Real Property

See also: S.B. 57, pg. 186

Human Services

See also: H.B. 92, pg. 179

Insurance

See also: H.B. 122, pg. 168

Liquor Control

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-----|
| Liquor control laws | S.B. 102 | 175 |
|---------------------------|----------|-----|

Local Government

| | | |
|--|----------|-----|
| County utility supply contracts | H.B. 87 | 178 |
| Nonprofit formed or acquired by a county hospital or joint township hospital..... | H.B. 222 | 178 |

See also: H.B. 2, pg. 135; H.B. 8, pg. 131; H.B. 168, pg. 116; H.B. 177, pg. 184; H.B. 201, pg. 190; S.B. 22, pg. 11; S.B. 52, pg. 191; S.B. 115, pg. 158

Military and Veterans

| | | |
|--|---------|-----|
| Child abuse or neglect reporting for military families; procedures for public to submit plans to Ohio Redistricting Commission; judicial candidate information earmark..... | H.B. 92 | 179 |
| War relics on public property or cemetery association property | S.B. 59 | 180 |

See also: H.B. 137, pg. 183; H.B. 170, pg. 118; H.B. 244, pg. 13; S.B. 4, pg. 181

Public Land Conveyances*See also: H.B. 228, pg. 185***Public Officials and Employees**

| | | | |
|--|------|---|-----|
| Public service worker status expanded with respect to Public Records Law disclosures; disclosure of workers' compensation claimant information | S.B. | 4 | 181 |
|--|------|---|-----|

*See also: S.B. 27, pg. 182***Public Retirement**

| | | | |
|---|------|----|-----|
| State employment automatic enrollment in deferred compensation program | S.B. | 27 | 182 |
|---|------|----|-----|

Public Safety and Homeland Security*See also: H.B. 21, pg. 168; H.B. 172, pg. 120; S.B. 4, pg. 181; S.B. 21, pg. 170; S.B. 162, pg. 173***Special Designations**

| | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|
| Radon Awareness Month..... | H.B. | 106 | 183 |
| Ohio Tuskegee Airman Day..... | H.B. | 137 | 183 |
| Overdose Awareness Day | S.B. | 30 | 183 |
| Ohio Diabetes Awareness-Heart Connection Week..... | S.B. | 42 | 183 |

State Government

| | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|
| Governmental use of distributed ledger and blockchain technology | H.B. | 177 | 184 |
|---|------|-----|-----|

*See also: H.B. 2, pg. 135; H.B. 244, pg. 13; H.C.R. 35, pg. 150; S.B. 4, pg. 181; S.B. 22, pg. 11; S.B. 115, pg. 158***Taxation**

| | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|
| Municipal net profits taxes; conveyance of state-owned property | H.B. | 228 | 185 |
| Federal income tax conformity; tax law changes | S.B. | 18 | 185 |
| Property tax law changes; tax increment financing enforceability | S.B. | 57 | 184 |

*See also: H.B. 29, pg. 159; S.B. 40, pg. 122; S.B. 166, pg. 148; S.B. 217, pg. 154***Utilities**

| | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|
| Amendment and elimination of certain provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133 rd General Assembly; excessive earnings test; Power Siting Board report..... | H.B. | 128 | 188 |
| Local government prohibited from limiting consumers' use of natural gas and propane | H.B. | 201 | 190 |

Local restriction of wind and solar generation; Power Siting
Board membership, certification, and amendmentsS.B. 52 191

See also: H.B. 2, pg. 135; H.B. 6, pg. 10; H.B. 87, pg. 178

Index.....195

COVID-19 Pandemic

(In Chronological Order)

H.B. 6

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Roemer

Effective date: Emergency: May 14, 2021; Sections 3 and 4 effective October 9, 2021

Administration of immunizations and COVID-19 tests

- Prohibits the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine to a minor without first obtaining written permission from the minor's parent or guardian.
- Authorizes podiatrists, pharmacists, and pharmacy interns to administer COVID-19 vaccines to individuals seven and older.
- Authorizes a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to administer any vaccines to individuals 13 and older, rather than only those included in federal recommended schedules.
- Authorizes a pharmacist to order and administer diagnostic tests for COVID-19 and COVID-19 antibodies.
- Authorizes a pharmacy intern or certified pharmacy technician to administer diagnostic tests for COVID-19 and COVID-19 antibodies if the intern or technician is under the direct supervision of a pharmacist.

Registration of pharmacy technician trainees

- Revises the law governing the registration of pharmacy technician trainees, including by authorizing the State Board of Pharmacy to register an applicant who is 17 if certain conditions are met.

Temporary nursing licenses without examination

- Continues until July 1, 2021, the suspension of the requirement that an applicant pass a licensure examination to receive a license to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, and adds eligibility limitations.
- Specifies that a nursing license issued without examination is valid until July 1, 2021, unless the licensee does not take or fails the licensure examination, is convicted of a felony, or fails a drug test.

Pupil services licenses and school nurses

- Revises the educational qualifications governing the pupil services licensure exemption available to school nurses.

Educator preparation program make-up time

- Requires each educator preparation program to develop and implement a plan to provide its students with alternative experiences in the 2021-2022 academic year to make up hours or weeks of clinical experiences missed due to school closure or limited hours because of COVID-19.
- Requires the Department of Higher Education and Department of Education to consider a student who successfully completes make-up hours or weeks in the 2021-2022 academic year using alternative experiences eligible for licensure and endorsement recommendations in the same manner as a student who completes clinical experiences.

Re-established low-income energy efficiency programs

- Requires electric distribution utilities (EDUs) to re-establish from portfolio plans that terminated December 31, 2020, energy efficiency (EE) programs for low-income customers with an annual income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Requires the re-established low-income EE programs to include the same terms and conditions, including its originally allocated funding level, that the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) approved for the program before its termination.
- Terminates the re-established low-income EE programs on December 31, 2021.
- Requires PUCO to issue an order requiring EDUs to re-establish their low-income EE programs and setting forth the process for their re-establishment.
- Prohibits PUCO order from permitting new or extended cost recovery mechanisms for the re-established programs.
- Provides for the reconciliation of the difference between revenue collected and the compliance efforts occurring prior to (1) December 31, 2021, for re-established programs and (2) the date on which full energy savings compliance is deemed achieved for all other EE compliance efforts.

S.B. 22

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Johnson and McColley

Effective date: June 23, 2021

State of emergency

- Limits the duration of a state of emergency issued by the Governor to 90 days unless extended by the General Assembly, and allows the General Assembly to extend a state of emergency in 60-day intervals by adopting a concurrent resolution.
- After a state of emergency declared by the Governor has been in effect for 30 days, permits the General Assembly to terminate the state of emergency.

- Prohibits the Governor from reissuing a state of emergency for 60 days after expiration or termination, unless approved by the General Assembly by adopting a concurrent resolution.
- Permits the General Assembly to rescind orders and rules issued in response to the emergency, and prohibits the reissuance of a rescinded order or rule for 60 days unless approved by the General Assembly by adopting a concurrent resolution.
- During a state of emergency, requires the Governor and Department of Health (ODH) to report to the Senate President and Speaker of the House any actions taken in response to the emergency.

Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee

- Establishes the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee, consisting of three members of the Senate and three members of the House.
- Authorizes the Committee to oversee actions taken by the Governor, ODH, or any agency in response to a state of emergency; to oversee actions taken by ODH and the ODH Director for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious disease and for controlling and suppressing the cause of disease; and to consult with and advise the Governor, ODH, and other agencies during a state of emergency.

Authority of ODH and local boards of health

- Permits the General Assembly to rescind certain orders and rules issued by ODH and certain actions of the Director.
- Specifies that the authority of ODH relating to the preservation of the life and health of the people is superior to the authority of local boards of health.
- Specifies that a local board of health may only issue a quarantine and isolation order that applies to specific individuals that have been medically diagnosed with or have come into direct contact with someone who has been medically diagnosed with a specified disease.
- Generally, prohibits a local board of health from closing schools or prohibiting public gatherings and instead permits a local board to close a specific school if certain conditions are met.
- Specifies that a local board of health may only issue orders and regulations that apply to specific individuals and businesses, and that orders and regulations for preventing or restricting disease may only apply to individuals and businesses that have been medically diagnosed with or come into direct contact with someone who has been medically diagnosed with the disease or have a documented incident of the disease in the building.

Impact of act on existing declarations, orders, rules, and actions

- Terminates the existing state of emergency on July 23, 2021 (30 days after the act takes effect), unless extended by the General Assembly by concurrent resolution, and prohibits

the Governor from reissuing a state of emergency for 60 days, unless approved by the General Assembly by adopting a concurrent resolution.¹

- Subjects existing emergency orders and rules issued in response to a state of emergency, and certain orders and rules issued by ODH or actions taken by the Director to review by the Committee and rescission by the General Assembly.

H.B. 244

Primary Sponsors: Reps. White and Lampton

Effective date: October 13, 2021

Public school and higher education vaccination mandates

- Prohibits a public K-12 school or state institution of higher education from (1) requiring an individual to receive a vaccine that is not yet fully approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration and (2) discriminating against an individual who has not yet received such a vaccine.

Department of Health quarantine and isolation authority

- Permits the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to quarantine and isolate individuals arriving from another country that meets certain criteria regarding communicable diseases.
- Specifies that if ODH quarantines or isolates these individuals, ODH is responsible for providing transportation, lodging, food, and any necessary medical care.

Education provisions for military children

- Requires public schools to permit children of military families to participate in technology-based educational opportunities to minimize disruptions when their families transition from one military installation to another.
- Requires school districts to permit children of active duty uniformed services members who relocate to Ohio who are not district residents to apply for enrollment in the same manner and at the same time as resident students.

¹ Governor DeWine rescinded the declaration of emergency on June 18, 2021, and most related orders before or shortly after that date.

S.B. 229

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Blessing

Effective date: Emergency: December 14, 2021; conforming change related to financial literacy instruction in R.C. 3314.03 effective January 27, 2022

Blended learning for the 2021-2022 school year

- Permits a school district, other public school, or chartered nonpublic school to submit to the Department of Education a declaration to implement or discontinue use of a blended learning model during the 2021-2022 school year by April 30, 2022.
- Requires the Department to post a list of districts and schools that have submitted a blended learning model declaration during the 2021-2022 school year on its website.
- Provides specific operating requirements for districts and schools that implement blended learning for any portion of the 2021-2022 school year.

Blended learning definition

- Revises the permanent law definition of blended learning to add “noncomputer-based learning opportunities.”

Remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year

- Permits a school district, other public school, or chartered nonpublic school to adopt a resolution to continue to provide instruction using the school’s remote learning plan for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Requires a district or school that adopts a resolution to notify the Department of that decision by December 15, 2021.
- Requires a school or district that continues to offer remote instruction to update its remote learning plan with specific requirements.

COVID remediation plans

- Requires each school district and other public school to submit to the Department a remediation plan to address the loss of learning students experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, unless the district or school previously submitted an Extended Learning Plan or Local Use of Funds Plan.
- Requires the Department to develop standards and a template for remediation plans.
- Requires the Department to compile the remediation plans and submit a report to the General Assembly.

Online services for special education students

- Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, upon the request of a parent or guardian, permits an individual who holds a valid license issued by a licensing board to provide

services via electronic delivery method or telehealth communication to special education students.

Quarantined students

- For the 2021-2022 school year only, permits a school or district operating an online learning school to allow a quarantined student to participate in the online learning school for the duration of the student's quarantine period.
- For the 2021-2022 school year, requires districts and schools to report monthly to the Department the number of students quarantined and the duration of the quarantine.

State report cards

- Adds two school district superintendents, a school principal, and a community school representative, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to the State Report Card Review Committee and requires majority party members appointed from the House of Representatives and the Senate to serve as committee co-chairpersons.
- Prohibits the Department from considering performance on the chronic absenteeism measure on the state report card for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Requires the Department to report without a rating the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate on the state report card for students who were continuously enrolled in the same district or building for grades 9-12.
- Requires the Department to publish the continuously enrolled four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the total number of students in each cohort for all districts and buildings for the 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 school years on state report cards for the 2021-2022 school year.

Withdrawal of students for failure to take assessments

- Resets, to the 2021-2022 school year, the starting point for the law requiring automatic withdrawal of students from internet- or computer-based community schools (e-schools) and district-operated internet- or computer-based schools for failure to take state assessments.

Financial literacy instruction

- Reinstates law requiring public and chartered nonpublic schools to integrate the study of economics and financial literacy into one or more existing social studies credits, or into the content of another class, for students who enter ninth grade for the first time prior to July 1, 2022 (classes up to the Class of 2025).

Third Grade Reading Guarantee

- For the 2021-2022 school year only, exempts public and chartered nonpublic schools from retaining a student under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee based solely on the student's academic performance.

Emergency management plans

- Exempts an online learning school from the requirement that school administrators develop an emergency management plan for each building under their control, unless students participate in in-person instruction or assessments at a location that is not covered in a district's or school's existing emergency management plan.

Educational service center funding

- Revises the "funding base" used to determine state payments to educational service centers (ESCs) to the amount the ESC would have received for FY 2020 using the student counts of the school districts with which the ESC has service agreements in the fiscal year for which payments are being made.

Educational Choice and Cleveland scholarship payments

- Specifies that, in the case of a student who is not living with the student's parent, the Department must make Educational Choice (Ed Choice) Scholarship and Pilot Project (Cleveland) Scholarship payments to the student's guardian, legal custodian, kinship caregiver, foster caregiver, or caretaker.
- Requires the Department to make monthly partial payments for the Cleveland Scholarship, rather than "from time to time in partial payments" as under prior law.
- Adds to the definition of "caretaker" to include any responsible adult (other than a parent or relative) who has care of the child and, if not for being in that adult's care, the child would be homeless or likely homeless.

H.B. 215

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wilkin and Cross

Effective date: March 2, 2022

- Allows businesses required to limit or cease operations by orders or rules issued by the Director or Department of Health due to a pandemic, epidemic, or bioterrorism event to remain open so long as they observe the same safety requirements imposed on businesses that were not required to limit or cease operations.
- Is titled the Business Fairness Act.

Appropriations

H.B. 74

(For details of the act's fiscal provisions see, the LSC Budget in Brief, As Enacted, LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted, LSC Appropriation Spreadsheets, and LSC Greenbooks, all of which are available on LSC's website, www.lsc.ohio.gov, under "Budget Central")

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Oelslager

Effective date: June 30, 2021; appropriations for current expenses effective March 31, 2021, but first apply July 1, 2021; certain other provisions effective March 31, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Temporary motor vehicle license registration

- Changes the name of the temporary license placard or windshield sticker issued after the purchase of a vehicle to temporary motor vehicle license registration.
- Generally requires, rather than authorizes, Ohio motorized bicycle dealers and licensed motor vehicle dealers to issue temporary motor vehicle license registrations by electronic means via computer equipment the dealer must buy and maintain.
- Eliminates both of the following:
 - The requirement that a dealer notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles within 48 hours of issuing a temporary license placard by electronic or other Registrar-approved means; and
 - The \$5 service fee that applies when a dealer notifies the Registrar of the issuance of a placard by nonelectronic means.
- Authorizes, rather than requires, the Registrar to adopt rules specifying procedures for reporting information from temporary license registration applications and for providing that information to law enforcement.

Farm bus registration

- Increases the period of validity of a motor vehicle registration for a farm bus from 210 days to 310 days.

Commercial trailer and semitrailer registration

- Beginning January 1, 2022, requires the owner or lessee of a trailer or semitrailer that is registering it for the first time in Ohio to pay a one-time \$50 registration tax.
- Retains the requirement that an owner or lessee of a trailer or semitrailer that has previously registered the trailer or semitrailer in Ohio prior to 2022, pay the annual \$25 registration tax.

- Requires the Registrar to collect certain information regarding new registrations of trailers and semitrailers that result from the act's changes and provide a report to the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House, and Director of the Legislative Service Commission by March 15, 2023.

Vehicle registration reminder notices: E-Check

- Clarifies that battery electric motor vehicles are excluded from the requirement to undergo an emissions inspection under the motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program (E-Check).
- Specifies that a battery electric motor vehicle is a passenger car powered wholly by a battery cell energy system that can be recharged via an external source of electricity.
- Requires the Registrar to include a statement in vehicle registration renewal notices that battery electric vehicles are not subject to E-Check.

Production of validation and county stickers

- Allows the Registrar to adopt rules permitting third parties to print or produce validation and county identification stickers.
- Retains the authority for the Registrar to adopt rules permitting the Registrar or deputy registrars to produce the stickers, and retains the requirement that Ohio Penal Industries produce the stickers if the Registrar does not adopt the rules.

Issuance of registration certificates and stickers

- Authorizes the Registrar to deliver a certificate of registration for a motor vehicle electronically.
- Removes the requirement that a validation sticker be issued for and displayed on a nonapportioned commercial tractor or any apportioned motor vehicle.
- Allows the Registrar to issue a county identification sticker that identifies the county of registration either by name or number, rather than only by name.

Specialty license plates

- Defines specific license plates created through legislation, and that include a combination of words, markings, logos, or other artwork in addition to the items generally required by law, as "specialty license plates."
- Specifies that the fees for renewing a specialty license plate must be the same as the fees for initial issuance.
- Eliminates a prior intent statement that all applicants for a specialty license plate must pay the standard motor vehicle registration taxes and fees.
- Eliminates the minimum annual sales requirement for continued issuance of a specialty license plate.

- Eliminates the annual report that certain school districts and schools were required to submit to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and to the Registrar regarding the use of the contributions for that district or school's specialty license plate.
- Makes technical changes to the specialty license plate law.

Salvage certificates of title

- Permanently prohibits a clerk of court from issuing a salvage certificate of title if the only basis for issuing the title is information reported from the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System.

Electronic certificates of title

- Specifies that "certificate of title" and "title" include both physical and electronic copies of a motor vehicle certificate of title.
- Authorizes the use of an electronic certificate of title for a casual sale of a motor vehicle.
- Requires the Registrar to develop an assignment form that may be used instead of a physical certificate of title for certain casual sales of a motor vehicle and in certain sales of a motor vehicle to a salvage dealer.
- Authorizes the Registrar and a deputy registrar to confirm proof of ownership electronically when a person first registers a motor vehicle.

Transfer of ownership by law

- Authorizes two persons who wish to establish joint ownership with right of survivorship to an all-purpose vehicle or off-highway motorcycle to make a joint application for the certificate of title.
- Specifies that ownership of an all-purpose vehicle or off-highway motorcycle that is titled between two owners who have joint ownership with right of survivorship passes immediately to the surviving owner upon the death of the other owner.
- Authorizes owners of a motor vehicle, all-purpose vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, watercraft, and outboard motor who have title through joint ownership with right of survivorship to transfer that title through a transfer-on-death designation.

Online renewal of driver's license and identification card

- Authorizes the Registrar to allow online renewal of a driver's license and state identification card (ID) for an eligible applicant.
- Specifies eligibility requirements for online renewal (e.g., the current license or ID was processed in person, the applicant is applying for a four-year license, and the applicant is not applying for a federally compliant Real ID).
- Specifies that the Registrar may require applicants to submit digital copies of any required identification or supporting documents as required by state or federal law.

- Requires all applicants to comply with all other related driver's license and ID laws (e.g., pay any necessary fees).
- Requires applications for other forms of identification issued by the BMV to be submitted in person (e.g., first issuance of a federally compliant Real ID, commercial driver's license, or nonrenewable license).

Sharing digital driver's license photos

- Authorizes the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to release digitalized photographic records to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.
- Specifies that the purpose of this authorization is to allow other state departments of motor vehicles that participate in certain association programs to use the records for identity verification purposes.

Single credential

- Prohibits a person from receiving a temporary instruction permit or ID until a person surrenders any permit or ID issued by another jurisdiction.
- Prohibits a person from possessing more than one valid temporary instruction permit or ID.
- Requires a person who becomes an Ohio resident to surrender any temporary instruction permit or ID issued by another state to the Registrar or a deputy registrar within 30 days of becoming a resident.
- Prohibits a new Ohio resident who fails to obtain a temporary instruction permit (or driver's license) within the 30-day period from operating a motor vehicle.
- Applies the existing criminal penalty to any violation of the prohibitions (a misdemeanor of the first degree).
- Requires the Registrar to report both of the following to an issuing state other than Ohio:
 - The cancellation of any temporary instruction permit or ID; and
 - Information that a temporary instruction permit or ID has now been issued to the person in Ohio.
- Requires the Registrar or a deputy registrar to destroy cancelled permits and IDs if not returned to the other state's issuing authority.
- Specifies that a Registrar or deputy registrar may only issue an ID or temporary identification card to a person who does not hold an ID from another jurisdiction.

Behind-the-wheel driver's training

- Regarding driver training courses, requires the completion of the eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction to occur after completion of all 24 hours of classroom or online instruction.

Remedial driver instruction courses

- Eliminates the requirement that a remedial driver training course approved by the Director of Public Safety be conducted at least 50% in person, and provides instead that courses may be entirely in person, entirely remote, or a combination of the two.
- Requires the Director to approve a course in any of the three instruction methods if it is capable of meeting the instructional standards established by the Director.

Seizure of license plates after OVI offense

- Eliminates the requirement that an arresting law enforcement officer remove the license plates on a vehicle seized as part of an arrest for an OVI offense and, instead, requires the license plates to remain on the vehicle unless ordered by a court.

Personal delivery devices

- Increases the maximum empty-weight limit of personal delivery devices authorized to be used in Ohio from 200 pounds to 550 pounds.
- Authorizes personal delivery devices to transport cargo, in addition to property.

Preschool school zones

- Authorizes the creation of a school zone around a preschool operated by an educational service center that is located on a street or highway with a speed limit of 45 m.p.h. or more, if the service center requests the county engineer to establish the school zone.
- As a result, prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle faster than 20 m.p.h. in the school zone during recess or when children are going to or leaving the preschool during opening or closing hours.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bridge inspections

- Specifies that bridges must be inspected at least once every two years according to a schedule set by the Director of the Department of Transportation (ODOT), rather than at least once every year as in prior law.

Load limits on highways and bridges

- Removes the general vehicle weight exemption for a vehicle that runs on stationary rails or tracks.
- Narrows the vehicle weight exemption that applies to all fire department vehicles (e.g., a fire engine) to certain fire department vehicles under specified conditions.
- Requires the Director or local authority to issue an overweight vehicle permit for a fire department vehicle with a five-year expiration date (rather than the standard one year) and at no cost to the municipal, township, or volunteer fire department.

Outdoor advertising devices

- Limits application of the Outdoor Advertising Law to any type of outdoor sign or billboard to which both of the following apply:
 - It is owned or operated by a person or entity that earns compensation for the placement of a message on it; and
 - It is visible from the main traveled way of any highway on the interstate system or primary system in this state.
- Specifies that compensation is the exchange of anything of value including money, securities, real property interests, goods, services, a promise of future payment, or forbearance of a debt.
- Eliminates all restrictions regarding the placement of noncompensated signs within the vicinity of a highway on the interstate system or primary system.

Scenic byways

- Expands the authority of the Director to designate a scenic byway to include any portion of a state, county, municipal, or township road or highway.

Transportation Review Advisory Council funding for rail lines

- Requires the Director, in the process to select and prioritize major new transportation capacity projects, to include a policy that makes the purchase and replacement of rail lines used for public passenger commuter rail service, in a qualified county, eligible for funding approval by the Transportation Review Advisory Council.
- Specifies that a qualified county is one with a population between 1,100,000 and 1,300,000 (Cuyahoga County) in which an existing public passenger rail service is operated that does not operate in any other county.
- States that Council purchases of rail lines under the policy are other statutory highway purposes for which revenue from motor fuel taxes and other motor vehicle-related taxes may be spent under the Ohio Constitution.

Highway maintenance and snow removal

- States that ODOT has the responsibility to maintain all interstate highways in Ohio.
- Permits the Director to enter into an agreement with a political subdivision to allow it to remove snow and ice from and to maintain, repair, improve, or provide lighting on interstate highways located within the political subdivision or to reimburse the political subdivision for such improvements.
- Continues the Catastrophic Snowfall Program to provide monetary aid for snow removal costs for municipal corporations, counties, and townships that receive 16 or more inches of snow in a 24-hour period.

Commercial motor vehicle parking

- Requires ODOT, in conjunction with the State Highway Patrol, to reopen at least two permanently closed weigh stations per year beginning in 2021 and ending in 2024 to make them available for commercial motor vehicle overnight parking.
- Through June 30, 2023, permits ODOT to close a rest area only if the parking lot remains available for commercial motor vehicles.

Indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts

- Authorizes the Director to enter into IDIQ contracts for up to two projects in FYs 2022 and 2023.
- For IDIQ contracts, requires the Director to prepare bidding documents, establish contract forms, determine contract terms and conditions, develop and implement a work order process, and take any other action necessary to fulfill the Director's duties and obligations related to IDIQ contracts.

TAXATION

Transit authority membership and taxation

- Temporarily reauthorizes a special procedure to allow certain subdivisions to join, with voter approval, a regional transit authority (RTA) that levies property tax and satisfies certain population criteria.
- Authorizes the ballot question to include a proposal to repeal all RTA property taxes and to instead levy an RTA sales and use tax.

Taxpayer information to verify grant or loan eligibility

- Allows the Department of Taxation to disclose to the Ohio Rail Development Commission confidential taxpayer information for the purposes of verifying eligibility for grants or loans administered by the Commission and ensuring compliance with Ohio tax law.

Motor fuel tax allowances and refunds

- Continues the 1% fuel dealer and 0.5% retailer shrinkage allowances in effect biennially since 2008, superseding the 3% and 1% allowances in permanent codified law.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Retail installment contracts

- Allows a retail seller to charge an additional fee (or similar additional expense) as part of an installment contract if the fee or expense is expressly authorized by law.

Force accounts

- Allows an increase to local political subdivision force account limits every two years that is the lesser of either:

- 3%; or
- The percentage increase in ODOT's construction cost index (CCI) as annualized and totaled for the prior two calendar years.
- Requires the ODOT Director to notify the appropriate local engineer or public official about the increased CCI amounts.
- Creates the Joint Committee on Force Accounts, made up of appointed members from the General Assembly and local political subdivision representative organizations, all of whom must be selected by April 2, 2021.
- Requires the Committee to study, take testimony regarding, and discuss issues surrounding force accounts for the local political subdivisions.
- Requires the Committee to submit a report of its findings and a summary of testimony by May 15, 2021, to the President, the Speaker, and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and the House.
- Dissolves the committee after submission of the report.

Transportation improvement district boards

- Removes a requirement that members of the General Assembly serve on a transportation improvement district board of trustees.

Regional transportation improvement projects (RTIPs)

- Authorizes the governing board of an RTIP to negotiate and enter into voluntary agreements that impose assessments on property located within a transportation financing district (TFD) designated by the board.
- Provides that assessments imposed pursuant to such agreements are collected in the same manner as real property taxes and are enforceable against current and future owners of the property.
- Requires all revenue from the assessments be used for transportation improvements described in the cooperative agreement that governs the RTIP.

Fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses

- Allows current and future fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licensees to transfer their licenses from one geographic location to another upon application to, and approval from, the State Fire Marshal.
- Specifies that certain ownership transfers of fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licenses are not subject to the current moratorium on new licenses if the transfer is through inheritance or a sale approved by the State Fire Marshal.

Trade secrets in insurance filings

- Exempts trade secrets contained in filings, and related supporting information, which insurers submit to the Superintendent of Insurance from public inspection, and prohibits their release.

Land conveyance

- Authorizes the Governor to convey state-owned land in Jefferson County to the state for the benefit of the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District.

H.B. 75

(For details of the act's fiscal provisions see, the LSC Budget in Brief, As Enacted, LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted, LSC Appropriation Spreadsheets, and LSC Greenbook, all of which are available on LSC's website, www.lsc.ohio.gov, under "Budget Central")

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Oelslager

Effective date: Appropriations effective June 29, 2021; Sections 6 to 8 effective September 28, 2021

Appropriations

- Appropriates funds for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

Workers' compensation claims

- Shortens the filing time for workers' compensation claims arising on or after September 28, 2021, that are based on the employee's occupational disease, from two years to one year after disability due to the occupational disease or death of the employee.
- Maintains the law allowing a period longer than one year after disability if that time period does not exceed six months after a licensed physician diagnoses the disease as occupational in origin.
- Prohibits, for a claim pending on or arising on or after September 28, 2021, an individual who receives wages in lieu of temporary total disability compensation from filing an application for permanent partial disability compensation until 26 weeks after payment of the wages ends.
- Requires, for a claim pending on or arising on or after September 28, 2021, if the Industrial Commission has denied an application for permanent total disability compensation, an employee to present evidence of new and changed circumstances before the Commission may consider a subsequent application based on the same injury or occupational disease.
- Eliminates the requirement that the Administrator of Workers' Compensation prohibit a power of attorney that allows an attorney or employee to cash or endorse a check on behalf of a claimant.

Alternate employer organizations

- Suspends the prohibition against an alternate employer organization (AEO) holding itself out, advertising, or otherwise identifying itself in any way as a professional employer organization until January 1, 2022.
- Eliminates an AEO's ability to use a bond to satisfy the security requirement for AEO registration with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC).

Disclosure of claimant information

- Adds information identifying a claimant's name to the information about a claimant that is not a public record.
- Retains the changes made by S.B. 4 of the 134th General Assembly that (1) allow for the release of claimants' names to journalists, but (2) exclude dependent information from release to journalists under the journalist exemption, which allows a journalist to obtain claimant information otherwise prohibited from being disclosed.
- Adds to the journalist exemption that a journalist must include in the written request for the claimant information a statement acknowledging that the claimant information is not a public record and that the individual will not disclose it to any other person for any reason unrelated to journalism.
- Prohibits a journalist who obtains claimant information under the journalist exemption from recklessly disclosing the information to any other person for any reason unrelated to journalism.
- Prohibits the Industrial Commission or BWC from disclosing a claimant's name, address, or telephone number to a journalist if disclosure would reveal that the claim is for a condition that arose from sexual conduct in which the claimant was forced by threat of physical harm to engage or participate.

Solicitation prohibition

- Eliminates the prohibition against a person soliciting a claimant or employer to take charge of or represent the claimant or employer in any claim or appeal which is or may be filed with BWC or the Industrial Commission. (The prohibition was declared unconstitutional and is unenforceable.)
- Prohibits, instead, a person who obtains or receives records in violation of the law from recklessly using that information to solicit a claimant or employer to take charge of or represent the claimant or employer in any claim or appeal which is or may be filed with BWC or the Industrial Commission.

H.B. 76

(For details of the act’s fiscal provisions see, the LSC Budget in Brief, As Enacted, LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted, LSC Appropriation Spreadsheets, and LSC Greenbook, all of which are available on LSC’s website, www.lsc.ohio.gov, under “Budget Central.”)

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Oelslager

Effective date: June 2, 2021

- Appropriates funds for the Industrial Commission for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

H.B. 110

(For details of the act’s fiscal provisions see, the LSC Budget in Brief, As Enacted, LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted, LSC Appropriation Spreadsheets, and LSC Greenbooks, all of which are available on LSC’s website, www.lsc.ohio.gov, under “Budget Central”)

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Oelslager

Effective date: Operating appropriations effective June 30, 2021. Other provisions generally effective September 30, 2021. Some provisions subject to other effective dates.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES | 28 |
| DEPARTMENT OF AGING | 31 |
| DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | 32 |
| ATTORNEY GENERAL | 32 |
| AUDITOR OF STATE | 37 |
| OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT | 38 |
| CAPITOL SQUARE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD | 38 |
| DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE | 38 |
| CONTROLLING BOARD | 42 |
| COSMETOLOGY AND BARBER BOARD | 43 |
| COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD | 43 |
| DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT | 43 |
| DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES | 46 |
| DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | 49 |
| BOARD OF EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS | 63 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY | 64 |
| FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION | 66 |
| GENERAL ASSEMBLY | 66 |
| GOVERNOR | 67 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH..... | 67 |
| DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION | 71 |
| OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION..... | 73 |
| DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE | 74 |
| DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES..... | 74 |
| JUDICIARY/SUPREME COURT..... | 83 |
| LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION..... | 84 |
| JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE | 84 |
| JOINT MEDICAID OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE | 90 |
| DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAID..... | 85 |
| MEDICAL BOARD..... | 90 |
| DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES..... | 90 |
| DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES..... | 92 |
| OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES AGENCY..... | 98 |
| OHIO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS BOARD..... | 99 |
| DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY | 100 |
| PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION..... | 101 |
| DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION..... | 101 |
| SECRETARY OF STATE..... | 104 |
| DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION..... | 104 |
| DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | 109 |
| TREASURER OF STATE | 109 |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT | 110 |
| MISCELLANEOUS..... | 113 |

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

State contracts for goods and services

- Prohibits a state contract for goods or services from including certain provisions the state generally does not include in its contracts, such as indemnification clauses or binding arbitration clauses, and voids such terms by operation of law.

Ohio preference scoring in state purchases

- Expands the types of purchases under state purchasing law that are eligible for an Ohio preference in scoring.

Bulk purchasing program

- Allows the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to permit a political subdivision or special district of another state to participate in DAS contracts for the purchase of supplies and services.
- Allows a board of elections to participate in DAS purchase contracts if DAS has authorized the county to participate in those contracts, instead of requiring the board to apply to DAS separately.
- Clarifies that a board of elections may choose to purchase election supplies through DAS, through the Secretary of State's bulk purchasing program, or by other means.

Cooperative purchasing agreements

- Clarifies that DAS can join existing procurement contracts of other state agencies with their own purchasing authority, other states, and the U.S. government.

Pay increase for exempt state employees

- Increases pay for exempt state employees paid in accordance with salary schedule E-1 and increases the maximums in the pay ranges for employees paid in accordance with schedule E-2 by approximately 3% per year for the next three years.

Parental and caregiver leave

- Allows certain state employees to be eligible, on the delivery of a stillborn child, for paid parental leave of absence and parental leave benefits.
- Requires an employee to take parental leave within one year of a child's birth, stillbirth, or adoption placement (rather than beginning on the day of a child's birth or adoption placement as under former law).
- Includes, for paid parental leave eligibility purposes, persons employed in state positions for which the authority to determine compensation is given by law to another individual or entity.
- Increases, from \$2,000 to \$5,000, the adoption expenses benefit an employee may choose to receive in lieu of paid parental leave.
- Makes certain state employees who are foster caregivers and kinship caregivers eligible for up to five days of caregiver leave with full pay in a calendar year on placement of a child with the caregiver.

Fleet management

- Modifies the definition of "operating cost," which is a factor in calculating the minimum number of business miles per year an employee of a state agency must drive in order to qualify for approval by the DAS to receive a motor vehicle for business use.
- Allows proceeds from the disposition of state vehicles to be transferred from the Investment Recovery Fund to the Fleet Management Fund.

Prescription drug advisory council

- Abolishes the Prescription Drug Transparency and Affordability Advisory Council and instead permits the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee to examine any of the topics described in the report previously prepared by the Advisory Council.

DAS insurance program

- Declares the administration of the state's Risk Management Program to be a public duty for purposes of the Sovereign Immunity/Court of Claims Law.
- Authorizes the Office of Risk Management to administer a judicial liability program.
- Replaces the requirement that the state purchase fidelity bonds for state agents and employees with authority to self-insure itself and third parties against loss due to dishonest acts of state officers, employees, and agents.
- Requires public official bonds to be purchased when statutorily required.
- Expands the authority of the state and political subdivisions to insure against liability, from the losses attributable to the operation of specified vehicles during the course of official duties under former law, to any loss that occurs in the course of employment or official responsibilities.
- Specifies that recoveries against the state are to be reduced by other recoveries the claimant is entitled to, as opposed to just those other recoveries the claimant has received.
- Prohibits a claim against the state from being filed in the Court of Claims until the claimant has attempted to have the claim compromised by the Office of Risk Management or satisfied by the state's liability insurance.
- Specifies that the authority to commence an action against an officer or employee of the state does not affect the immunity provided to state officers or employees in law.
- Requires an instrumentality of the state to notify the Office of Risk Management of any settlement or compromise made in a claim against the instrumentality for the purpose of reserving funds.
- Requires a copy of a settlement instrument to be forwarded to the Office of Risk Management for payment from the Risk Management Reserve Fund.
- Specifies that DAS's authority to compromise claims does not extend to compromising claims on behalf of agency programs with direct settlement authority.
- Specifies that all compromises made by the Office of Risk Management are to be paid from the Risk Management Reserve Fund and the conditions of such payment.
- Specifies that information related to claims against the state is to be held in confidence, is not to be released, and is not subject to discovery or introduction in evidence in any federal or state civil action.

- Requires a copy of a judgement against the state to be forwarded to the Office of Risk Management for the judgement to be paid from the Risk Management Reserve Fund.

Public office employee database

- Eliminates the requirement that a public office include birth dates on the required public office employee database.

Real estate and planning

- Transfers from the Auditor of State to the DAS Director the responsibility to prepare deeds for the conveyance of state land.
- Transfers from the Auditor of State to the DAS Director the responsibility to keep documents showing the state's interest in real estate, other than public lands and highway rights-of-way, and to maintain a recording system open for public inspection.
- Authorizes DAS to:
 - Grant perpetual easements to public utilities regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio;
 - Dispose of state-owned real estate worth \$100,000 or less, with Controlling Board approval; and
 - Correct legal descriptions or title defects, or release fractional interests in real property, as necessary to cure clouds on title that are reflected in public records.

Office of Information Technology

- Modifies the responsibility of the Office of Information Technology with respect to the acquisition of common information technology.

Public assistance private sector tools

- Requires DAS to work with the Department of Job and Family Services and the Department of Medicaid to deploy private sector tools for digital identity management, authentication, and verification for individuals receiving public assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

- Permits the Department of Aging to require non-Medicaid providers to be certified by the Department as a condition of payment for services provided under programs the Department administers.
- Applies preexisting certification and payment provisions to providers of any services, not just community-based long-term care services.
- Authorizes the Department to develop and offer training programs to area agencies on aging, long-term care facilities and providers, and other interested parties.
- Authorizes the Department to design a payment method for PASSPORT administrative agency operation that includes a pay-for-performance incentive component.

- Requires the Department to operate in FY 2022 and FY 2023 an At-Home Technology Pilot Program to provide grants for using remote monitoring technologies that assist older adults in staying in their homes, assisted living facilities, and other community-based settings.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Wine tax diversion to Ohio Grape Industries Fund

- Makes permanent the 2¢ per-gallon earmark of wine tax revenue that is credited to the Ohio Grape Industries Fund, which is used to support and promote the Ohio grape and wine industry.

Farmers market registration

- Eliminates the voluntary registration of farmers markets with the Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the corresponding inspection of registered farmers markets by ODA.

Ohio Proud Program merchandise

- Requires all fees assessed for participation in the Ohio Proud Program to be credited to the Ohio Proud, International, and Domestic Market Development (Ohio Proud) Fund, rather than the GRF as under former law.
- Authorizes ODA to sell merchandise that promotes the Program, and requires the Director of Agriculture to deposit proceeds from the merchandise sales in the Ohio Proud Fund.

Liming material sampling and analyzing

- Allows the Director to enter into an agreement with a person to perform inspections, sampling, and analysis of liming material on behalf of ODA.
- Allows the person to enter on property at any reasonable time to conduct the authorized inspections.
- Requires the Director to annually audit the inspection records.

Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation

- Abolishes the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation, effective December 30, 2021.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Collecting debts from gambling winnings

- Reduces the threshold at which the State Lottery Commission must withhold from lottery winnings any amounts a lottery winner owes to the state or a political subdivision to match the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reporting threshold.

- Requires a casino operator to use a data match program created by the Attorney General (AG) to withhold any amounts a patron owes to the state or a political subdivision from the amount of any casino winnings that exceed the IRS reporting threshold.
- Requires the casino operator to remit payment to the Department of Job and Family Services for any past due child or spousal support, as required under continuing law, before giving the remainder to the AG to pay other government debts.

AG's special counsel; collection of debts

- Authorizes the AG to adopt rules as necessary to implement the law governing the AG's special counsel to collect claims.
- Authorizes the AG to adopt rules to aid the implementation of the law governing the collection of debts, and specifically to adopt a rule shortening the time when the AG may cancel a debt deemed uncollectible.

Settlements awarding money to the state (VETOED)

- Would have renamed the Attorney General Court Order Fund as the Attorney General Court Order and Settlement Fund, and changed the fund from a custodial fund to a fund in the state treasury (VETOED).
- Would have required any money the AG receives through a court order, along with any money received under any in-court or out-of-court settlement or compromise, to be deposited in the fund, other than any money the AG receives as part of the AG's debt collection duties (VETOED).
- Would have required the AG, upon receiving \$10,000 or more under a settlement or court order, to notify the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Director of Budget and Management (VETOED).
- Would have required the Controlling Board to determine the appropriate fund or funds to which the money must be transferred (VETOED).
- Would have exempted from those requirements any amounts under \$10,000 (VETOED).

Charitable bingo

- Makes numerous changes to the law governing charitable bingo, including legalizing electronic instant bingo; allowing 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations to conduct raffles; and making other changes regarding bingo licenses.

Raffles

- Allows a nonprofit organization that is tax-exempt under subsection 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code (a business league, chamber of commerce, real estate board, board of trade, or professional football league) to conduct a raffle that is not for profit.
- Requires such an organization to distribute at least 50% of the net profit from the raffle to a charitable purpose or to a government agency.

Electronic instant bingo

- Establishes electronic instant bingo as a separate type of bingo, along with traditional bingo, raffles, and instant bingo, but largely regulates the operation of electronic instant bingo in the same manner as instant bingo.
- Requires the AG to begin to accept applications for licenses to conduct electronic instant bingo on January 1, 2022, and to begin to issue those licenses on April 1, 2022.
- Includes requirements designed to prevent electronic instant bingo from resembling or operating like a slot machine.

Charitable organizations conducting electronic instant bingo

- Allows a veteran's or fraternal organization to offer electronic instant bingo on a maximum of ten single-user terminals at its principal place of business, if it qualified as such an organization on or before June 30, 2021, has an appropriate status under the Internal Revenue Code, and has not conducted a raffle in violation of the Revised Code using an electronic raffle machine at any time after January 1, 2022.
- Requires electronic instant bingo proceeds to be distributed in the same manner as instant bingo proceeds are distributed under continuing law.
- Applies the same recordkeeping and operating requirements to electronic instant bingo as apply to instant bingo under ongoing law.

AG rules

- Requires the AG to adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act to ensure the integrity of electronic instant bingo, and lists several topics that must be covered under those rules.

Distributor and manufacturer licensing

- Requires a licensed distributor or manufacturer of bingo supplies to obtain an electronic instant bingo endorsement to the distributor's or manufacturer's license in order to distribute or manufacture electronic instant bingo systems.
- Requires any individual who installs, maintains, updates, or repairs an electronic instant bingo system to be licensed by the Ohio Casino Control Commission.
- Specifies requirements for a distributor or manufacturer to receive an endorsement, including passing a criminal records check, providing a surety bond, and paying the appropriate fee.
- Allows the AG to suspend or revoke an endorsement for violations of Ohio's gambling laws or rules.

Regulation of electronic instant bingo systems

- Requires a manufacturer of an electronic instant bingo system first to submit the system to an independent testing laboratory and to the AG for approval.

- Requires every electronic instant bingo system in use in Ohio to meet certain monitoring, recordkeeping, and verification requirements.
- Allows the AG to establish by rule an annual fee to be paid by electronic instant bingo system distributors to cover the cost of monitoring and inspecting systems under the act.

Prohibitions regarding electronic instant bingo

- Prohibits several types of conduct related to the operation of electronic instant bingo and the sale of electronic instant bingo systems and imposes a criminal penalty for a violation of the bill or the AG's rules.

Bingo licenses, generally

Denial or suspension

- Allows the AG to deny a bingo license to an organization, or suspend an organization's bingo license for up to five years, if the AG has good cause to believe that any director or officer of the organization has breached the director's or officer's fiduciary duty to the organization.
- Allows the AG to deny, suspend, or limit a bingo distributor or manufacturer license if there is good cause to believe the distributor or manufacturer, or certain partners, officers, or owners, have committed a breach of fiduciary duty, theft, or other misconduct related to a charitable organization that has a bingo license.

Youth athletic park organizations

- Eliminates a requirement that a youth athletic park organization's playing fields have been used for nonprofit youth athletic activities for at least 100 days during a given year in order for the organization to obtain a bingo license.

License type

- Requires a bingo license to indicate whether it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III license.

Punch boards and seal cards

- Clarifies that punch boards and seal cards are types of instant bingo games and may be played under an instant bingo license.

Alcohol sales during traditional bingo

- Allows an organization that has a D-4 liquor permit to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption while it is conducting traditional bingo games.

Minors playing traditional bingo

- Makes a technical correction to clarify the penalty that applies to a charitable organization if it permits a person the organization knows, or should have known, is under 18 to play traditional bingo.

Bingo Law enforcement

Charitable organizations

- Allows the AG or a law enforcement agency to examine the accounts and records of any officer, agent, trustee, member, or employee of a charitable organization with a bingo license.
- Permits the AG to impose a civil fine on an organization for failure to comply with the Bingo Law or related rules.

Manufacturers and distributors

- Permits the AG or a law enforcement agency to investigate a bingo distributor or manufacturer or any officer, agent, trustee, member, or employee of the bingo distributor or manufacturer in relation to violations of the Bingo Law.
- Permits the AG to impose a civil fine on a distributor or manufacturer for failure to comply with the Bingo Law or related rules.

Charitable organizations

- Prohibits state agencies, with certain exemptions, from imposing reporting or filing requirements on charitable organizations that are more stringent than those found in the Revised Code or that are already in existence as of September 30, 2021.

Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy

- Modifies law with respect to various funds in the state treasury associated with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

Pilot program – funding peace officer and trooper training

- Requires the AG to create and administer a one-year pilot program for state funding of the required annual training of peace officers and troopers, and specifies that, with one limited exception, the pilot program is the only state funding that will be provided in calendar year 2022 for the training of such peace officers and troopers.

Law Enforcement Training Funding Study Commission

- Creates the 12-member Law Enforcement Training Funding Study Commission to study possible long-term methods to provide state funding to law enforcement agencies for the required annual training of their peace officers and evaluate the plans for the pilot program described above.
- Requires the Commission to prepare a report of its findings, and recommendations for a permanent method of providing state funding to law enforcement agencies for the required annual training of their peace officers.
- Requires the Commission to submit the report to the Governor, the General Assembly, the AG, and the Legislative Service Commission by March 1, 2022.
- Provides that the Commission ceases to exist when it submits the report.

Delinquent municipal income tax collection

- Requires the AG to participate in the federal Treasury Offset Program for the collection of past due municipal income taxes to the extent that such taxes qualify for the program.

Foreclosure sale reports to the AG

- Specifies that the quarterly reports submitted to the AG by officers conducting residential property foreclosure sales must contain information of whether the officer met certain deadlines related to sale procedures.
- Replaces the requirement that the AG establish and maintain a public database of information included in foreclosure sale reports with a requirement that the information be made publicly available.

Public record exemption for certain telephone numbers

- Modifies the exemption from the Public Records Law for telephone numbers of victims, crime witnesses, and parties to motor vehicle accidents.

AUDITOR OF STATE

Auditor of State authority

- Modifies the statutory description of the Auditor of State's authority to specify that the Auditor is the lead public official responsible for the examination, analysis, inspection, and audits of all public offices, as opposed to the chief inspector and supervisor of all public offices, as under former law.

Employees

- Eliminates certain statutory titles within the office of the Auditor of State.
- Eliminates the entitlement, of Auditor of State employees, to compensation when called to testify in legal proceedings.
- Renames the statutory office, Deputy Auditor of State, to Chief Deputy Auditor of State, and requires that the person appointed to that office be a certified public accountant with an active Ohio permit.

State awards for economic development

- Requires the Auditor of State, rather than the Attorney General, to review state awards for economic development and determine if an entity is in compliance with the terms and conditions of an award it received, and publish a report of the reviews and determinations.
- Requires the Department of Development annually to send the Auditor a list of state awards for economic development.

- Authorizes, rather than requires, the Attorney General to pursue remedies and recoveries available under law against an entity that is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of a state award for economic development.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

- Reduces the time by which the OBM Director must void any unredeemed income tax refund warrant from two years to 90 days, consistent with the time for voiding any other warrant drawn from the state treasury.
- Eliminates the OBM Director's oversight regarding internal agency fund assessments and allocations for certain funds.
- Requires investment earnings of the Budget Stabilization Fund to be credited to the fund.

CAPITOL SQUARE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD

- Authorizes the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board to enter into an indefinite delivery indefinite quantity contract for the services of an architect or engineer on an on call, multi-project basis, to advise and consult with the Board for a defined contract period, not to exceed two years.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

I. Division of Securities

- Creates the Ohio Investor Recovery Fund for victims of securities fraud that have not received restitution from the person that committed the violation.
- Allows a dealer or investment adviser to place a hold on a transaction when the dealer, or investment adviser, or an employee believes the account holder is age 60 or older or eligible for adult protective services and may be the victim of financial exploitation.
- Pushes back, from January 1, 2022, to February 11, 2022, the transition date of regulation of limited liability companies from the existing Limited Liability Company Act (R.C. Chapter 1705) to the new Ohio Revised Limited Liability Company Act (R.C. Chapter 1706).

II. Division of Industrial Compliance

Sale of second-hand bedding and toys

- Requires any person or entity wishing to sell second-hand bedding or used toys to register with the Superintendent of Industrial Compliance within the Department of Commerce.

Plumbing inspector certification

- Removes certification of plumbing inspectors from the Division of Industrial Compliance's responsibility and authority but retains the Board of Building Standard's plumbing inspector certification responsibility and authority.

- Requires a board of health to employ a Board of Building Standards certified plumbing inspector, as opposed to a Division of Industrial Compliance certified plumbing inspector as under prior law, or to contract with another health district or building department for plumbing inspections in order for a prohibition on Division inspections in the board's district to apply.
- Adds a requirement that a board of health notify the Division of Industrial Compliance of the board's intent to inspect plumbing in its district before the continuing prohibition against duplicative Division plumbing authority will apply.
- Eliminates prohibitions on boards of health that do not employ certified plumbing inspectors from inspecting plumbing, collecting fees for inspecting plumbing, and contracting with other boards of health to inspect plumbing on the other board's behalf.

Building inspection fees

- Transfers authority to establish fees for inspections carried out by the Division of Industrial Compliance from the Board of Building Standards to the Superintendent of Industrial Compliance.

Historical boiler license

- Re-establishes the Historical Boiler Licensing Board and the licensing requirements for operators of historical boilers as they existed prior to the April 12, 2021, effective date of H.B. 442 of the 133rd General Assembly.
- Transfers back to the re-established Board the duties that had been transferred by H.B. 442 to the Division of Industrial Compliance in the Department of Commerce.
- Requires the Board to issue a license to a person who held an active license to operate historical boilers in public when the requirement for a license ended pursuant to H.B. 442.

Manufactured homes

- Makes several technical changes to replace references to the former Manufactured Homes Commission with references to the Division of Industrial Compliance.

III. Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing

- Authorizes the Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing to adopt rules with respect to the regulation of manufactured home dealers, brokers, and salespersons.
- Sets a 30-day deadline for a licensed real estate broker and salesperson to notify the Superintendent of Real Estate and Professional Licensing of a change in personal residence address.
- Requires each licensee to maintain a valid email address on file with the Division and notify the Superintendent of any changes in email address within 30 days of the change.
- Expands the Superintendent's authority to recommend ancillary trustees for brokers.

- Reduces the portion of triennial real estate broker's and salesperson's license fees to be credited to the Real Estate Education and Research Fund from \$3 to \$1.50 per fee.

IV. State Fire Marshal

- Specifies that when authorized fire investigators are investigating a fire that has caused more than \$5,000 of property damage, to determine whether arson was involved, they must do so to the extent practicable and in a manner consistent with accepted standards of investigation.
- Permits the OBM Director, after certification of the Director of Commerce, to transfer funds from the State Fire Marshal's Fund to the Small Government Fire Department Services Revolving Loan Fund, if additional resources are needed.
- Requires a self-service gas station to comply with the most recent version of National Fire Protection Association Standard Number 30A, as incorporated into the State Fire Code, instead of the outdated version 30A-1990.

V. Division of Liquor Control

Direct beer and wine sales

S-1 liquor permit eligibility changes

- Renames the S liquor permit the S-1 permit.
- Revises the eligibility for the S-1 permit, including:
 - Eliminating from eligibility a brand owner or U.S. importer of beer or wine and its designated agent; and
 - Expanding eligibility to a person (inside or outside Ohio) that manufactures beer.

S-2 liquor permit

- Creates the S-2 liquor permit to be issued to a person (inside or outside Ohio) that manufactures 250,000 gallons or more of wine annually.
- Authorizes an S-2 permit holder to sell and ship its wine directly to personal consumers.
- Establishes similar provisions as the S-1 permit regarding payment of wine taxes, shipment of wine, and keeping sales records.
- Establishes an initial permit fee of \$250 and renewal fee of \$100.

Taxes

- Requires S-1 and S-2 permit holders to pay the 30¢ per-gallon tax, and the additional 2¢ per-gallon tax, on wine used to support the Ohio Grape Industries Fund, but exempts permit holders that manufacture 500,000 gallons of wine or less per year from the 30¢ per-gallon tax.
- Replaces the tax credit for A-1c liquor permit holders (small breweries) for the state beer tax, which applies to the first 9.3 million gallons of annual production, with an exemption

for A-1c permit holders that produce up to 9.3 million gallons, and applies the same exemption to S-1 permit holders.

Fulfillment warehouse

- Authorizes a fulfillment warehouse to send an S-2 permit holder's wine to a personal consumer under specified conditions, including when the warehouse is located outside Ohio and has entered into a written agreement with an S-2 permit holder to fulfill orders on behalf of the permit holder.

B-2a liquor permit changes

- Revises the eligibility for the B-2a liquor permit, including eliminating from B-2a permit eligibility the brand owner or U.S. importer of wine and its designated agent.
- Prohibits a B-2a permit holder from selling wine to a retail permit holder that has been assigned an Ohio distribution territory.

Illegal shipment of beer or wine

- Generally prohibits a person from knowingly sending or transporting a shipment of wine to a personal consumer unless the person holds an S-1 or S-2 permit or is a fulfillment warehouse.
- Generally prohibits a person from knowingly sending or transporting a shipment of beer to a personal consumer without an S-1 permit.
- Specifies that a violator may be fined between \$500 and \$5,000, depending on the number of violations.

Retail permit holder prohibition

- Prohibits a person that is not a beer or wine manufacturer, including the holder of any retail permit inside or outside Ohio, from obtaining or attempting to obtain a B-2a, S-1, or S-2 permit.

Repackaging of alcohol

- Authorizes the repackaging of beer, wine, or mixed beverages, which is the rebundling of containers of those products into new configurations.
- Authorizes the Division of Liquor Control to issue an R permit to specified entities to conduct repackaging.
- Establishes a \$750 permit fee for each R permit location.

Other liquor provisions

- Requires qualified liquor permit holders in designated outdoor refreshment areas (DORAs) to serve beer or intoxicating liquor in plastic bottles or other "nonglass" containers, rather than in plastic bottles or other plastic containers as in former law.

- Eliminates the requirement that the following submissions required of a club applying for a D-4 liquor permit be done under oath:
 - A statement of the organization controlling the club certifying that the club is operated in the interests of a reputable organization; and
 - The roster of the club's membership.
- Prohibits a to-go mixed beverage sold by a qualified liquor permit holder from exceeding the amount contained in a standard mixed beverage sold by the qualified permit holder for on-premises consumption.

VI. Division of Financial Institutions

- Increases initial registration, renewal, and late fees for mortgage brokers, lenders, and servicers, and increases original license, renewal, and late fees for mortgage loan originators.
- Authorizes the Superintendent of Financial Institutions to charge an additional assessment for renewal fees for mortgage brokers, lenders, servicers, and mortgage loan originators if the amount billed under the statute is less than the estimated expenditures for the following fiscal year.

VII. Self-service storage facilities

- Allows the sale of personal property in a self-service storage facility for the satisfaction of amounts due the facility owner to take place on the internet.
- Allows notices required to be sent before the sale of personal property kept in self-service storage facilities to be delivered by private delivery service.
- Requires that if a required notice is sent by certified or first-class mail, it also must be sent via email.
- Expands the class of persons who may enforce liens under the Self-Service Storage Facility Law to include the sublessor of an entire self-service storage facility as well as agents of facility owners, lessors, and sublessors.
- Expands the costs to which proceeds from the sale of personal property held in a self-service storage facility may be applied to include late fees and expenses incurred to enforce a lien.
- Grants self-service storage facility owners discretion as to whether to rent previously delinquent self-service storage facility space or allow removal of the personal property following payment by a person other than the occupant.

CONTROLLING BOARD

- Would have increased the number of days that the Controlling Board President must publish the Board's meeting agenda before each meeting, from seven to 14 (VETOED).

COSMETOLOGY AND BARBER BOARD

- Allows an individual who is licensed to provide services under the Cosmetology Law or Barber Law to provide those services on premises other than a licensed salon or a licensed barber shop for limited events, only if the services provided are incidental to the licensee's practice in a salon or barber shop.
- Prohibits the State Cosmetology and Barber Board from requiring an individual who provides incidental services as described above to obtain an additional license or permit to provide those services.
- Changes the requirement that the Board member who was required to be employed as a barber instead hold a current, valid barber or barber teacher license at the time of appointment, but specifies that a Board member's term is not affected if the member is serving on September 30, 2021 (the provision's effective date).
- Eliminates a requirement that an individual who does not pass the barber teacher license examination wait one year and remain employed as an assistant barber teacher before applying to retake the examination.

COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

- Provides a six-month registration extension for master's level counselor, social worker, and marriage and family therapist trainees who have graduated but not yet completed all requirements for licensure.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Rename agency as Department of Development

- Changes the name of the Development Services Agency and the Director of Development Services back to the Department of Development (DEV) and Director of Development, respectively.

Brownfield and demolition programs

- Creates the Brownfield Remediation Program to award grants for the remediation of brownfield sites and appropriates \$350 million to the program;
- Creates the Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program to award grants for the demolition of commercial and residential buildings and revitalization of surrounding properties on sites that are not brownfields and appropriates \$150 million to the program.

Broadband Expansion Program Authority changes

- Limits to the four-year period of 2022 through 2025 the law granting appointed members of the Broadband Expansion Program Authority a monthly stipend that qualifies each

member for one year of retirement service credit (but not health care coverage) under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS).

- Repeals the law that allowed up to two Authority members at a time to attend meetings electronically.

Transfer of minority business enterprise and related programs

- Transfers from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to DEV the administration of the minority business enterprise program (MBE), the encouraging diversity, growth, and equity program (EDGE), the women-owned business enterprise program (WBE), the veteran-friendly business procurement program (VBE), and the contractor compliance program.
- Removes the Equal Opportunity Employment Coordinator from being the head of a division, and instead requires the Coordinator to report to a position designated by the DAS Director.

Minority Development Financing Advisory Board

- Corrects erroneous cross-references to clarify that the Minority Development Financing Advisory Board is not responsible for administering certain tax credit and grant programs administered by DEV.

Job creation and retention tax credits

- Allows any employer that receives the job creation tax credit (JCTC) to count work-from-home employees when computing the employer's credit amount and when verifying its compliance with the JCTC agreement.
- Requires the state to prioritize job retention tax credit (JRTC) applications that meet certain criteria.

Megaproject tax incentives

- Authorizes the following tax incentives for operators and certain suppliers of a "megaproject" (i.e., a development project that includes at least \$1 billion in investment or creates at least \$75 million in Ohio payroll, both indexed to inflation):
 - Lengthens the maximum term of the JCTC from 15 years to 30 years.
 - Permits the assignment of all or a portion of a megaproject supplier's JCTC to the megaproject's operator.
 - Excludes from commercial activity tax (CAT) the gross receipts of a megaproject supplier from sales to a megaproject operator.
 - Lengthens the maximum term of local community reinvestment area (CRA) or enterprise zone (EZ) property tax exemptions to 30 years.

Rural industrial park loan eligibility

- Expands eligibility for loans under the Rural Industrial Park Loan Program to include projects located in any rural area (rather than only economically distressed or labor surplus areas), but specifies that all counties eligible for the program under prior law continue to be eligible.
- Specifies that a rural area is any Ohio county that is not designated as part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area by the U.S. Office of Budget and Management.

Rural growth investment credit

- Authorizes an additional \$45 million in tax credits for insurance companies that make loans to or investments in special purpose rural business growth funds which must loan or invest the funds in certain businesses located in less-populated counties.
- Requires DEV to begin accepting applications from prospective rural business growth funds beginning November 1, 2021.
- Modifies the investment criteria for the new (“program two”) credit allocation as follows:
 - Allows for investment in businesses with fewer Ohio employees or less Ohio payroll if the business is headquartered in a county bordering another state.
 - Increases by one year the time within which a rural business growth fund must fully loan or invest its eligible investment authority and, consequently, decreases by one year the time for which the fund must maintain those loans or investments.
 - Requires 25% of a rural business growth fund’s loans or investments to be in businesses principally located in a county having a population no greater than 75,000, and 75% in businesses principally located in a county having a population no greater than 150,000.
 - Adjusts the amount a rural business growth fund may invest in a single business.
- Stipulates the following for all rural business growth funds, including those certified as part of the original (“program one”) credit allocation:
 - The 10% portion of a rural business growth fund’s eligible investment authority that must consist of contributions of the fund’s affiliates may be derived from either direct or indirect loans or investments.
 - Amounts returned to a rural business growth fund and then reinvested in the same business are considered investments in a new business for the purposes of the investment requirements associated with the tax credit.
 - The aggregate amount invested by all rural business growth funds in the same business, including amounts reinvested following return or repayment, must not exceed \$15 million.

Transformational mixed use development (TMUD) tax credit

- Extends by two years the sunset date after which the Tax Credit Authority (TCA) is prohibited from certifying new TMUD projects, until June 30, 2025.
- Authorizes the TCA to preliminarily approve up to \$100 million in tax credits to property owners and investors in TMUD projects in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 (the same annual cap that applied under prior law to FY 2020 to FY 2022).

Film and theater tax credit

- Revokes eligibility of production contractors (i.e., persons other than a production company that are involved in the production of a motion picture) for the film and theater tax credit.

Meat processing plant grants

- Requires the DEV Director to establish a grant program for meat processing plants, including prescribing the grant application form.
- Specifies that a meat processing plant is a facility that is located in Ohio, was in operation as of July 1, 2021, and provides processing services for livestock and poultry producers.
- Authorizes the owner or operator of a meat processing plant to apply to the Director for a grant and, after receipt of the grant application, requires the Director to review the application and score it based on specified criteria, including project readiness.
- Prohibits the Director from considering certain expenditures for a grant, including improvements to personal residences, nonfarm commercial property, and any other nonfarm structures.
- Prohibits the Director from awarding a grant of more than \$250,000.

Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee

- Requires the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee to select its chairperson from among its legislative members.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Technology first

- Declares that it is the policy of the state to provide individuals with developmental disabilities with access to innovative technology solutions.
- Requires the Department of Developmental Disabilities to coordinate with other state agencies to implement the policy.
- Requires the Director of Developmental Disabilities to establish, in coordination with other state agencies, the Technology First Task Force.

Medicaid rates for services in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID)

- Eliminates a formula for determining an ICF/IID's Medicaid payment rate that expired on July 1, 2021.
- For FY 2022, establishes varying Medicaid rates for ICFs/IID depending on whether an ICF/IID meets certain criteria.
- Provides that the mean FY 2023 Medicaid rates for all ICFs/IID after certain modifications are made cannot exceed \$365.05.
- Requires the Department to reduce the FY 2022 and FY 2023 Medicaid rates for ICFs/IID if the federal government requires that the ICF/IID franchise permit fee be reduced or eliminated.

ICF/IID franchise permit fee

- Requires the Department to adjust the franchise permit fee rate and associated ICF/IID invoices so as not to exceed the indirect guarantee percentage if that percentage is adjusted by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services at any time during a fiscal year.

Medicaid rates for waiver services (VETOED)

- For FY 2022, would have specified that the Medicaid payment rate for adult day services and residential services provided under a Department-administered waiver equal the rates for the services in effect on June 30, 2021, increased by 2% (VETOED).
- For FY 2023, would have specified that the Medicaid payment rate for adult day services and residential services provided under a Department-administered waiver equal the rates for the services in effect on June 30, 2022, increased by 2% (VETOED).

Transfer of residential facility license

- Requires the Director of Developmental Disabilities to issue a residential facility license to an ICF/IID that meets enumerated conditions.
- Prohibits the Director from issuing more than five such licenses.

Developmental centers services and cost recovery

- Permits a developmental center to provide services to (1) individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the community and (2) providers who provide services to such individuals.
- Permits the Department to establish a method for recovering the costs associated with providing these services.

County board waiver allocation plan

- Eliminates a requirement that each county board of developmental disabilities (county DD board) submit an annual plan to the Department for approval.
- Instead, requires county DD boards to annually submit to the Department (1) a waiver allocation projection and (2) assurances that the board employs or contracts with both a business manager and a Medicaid services manager, or has an agreement with another county DD board that employs or contracts with those individuals.

County board business manager

- Eliminates the ability of a county DD board to receive a subsidy from the Department for employing a business manager.

County boards annual cost reports

- Permits, rather than requires, the Department, or an entity designated by it, to audit annual cost reports submitted by a regional council or county DD board.
- Specifies that any audit conducted must utilize methodology approved by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Eliminates a duplicative provision of law requiring county DD boards to submit annual cost reports to the Department.

Release of records and reports by county DD boards

- Permits disclosure of a certificate, application, record, or report that identifies a resident of an institution for persons with intellectual disabilities when needed for a guardianship proceeding.
- Permits the release of a record or report maintained by a county DD board or an entity under contract with a board when requested by a probate court for a guardianship proceeding or by the Department for certain purposes.

County share of nonfederal Medicaid expenditures

- Requires the Director to establish a methodology to estimate in FY 2022 and FY 2023 the quarterly amount each county DD board is to pay of the nonfederal share of the Medicaid expenditures for which the board is responsible.

County subsidies used for nonfederal share

- Requires, under certain circumstances, that the Director pay the nonfederal share of a claim for ICF/IID services using subsidies otherwise allocated to county boards.

Medicaid rates for homemaker/personal care services

- Provides for the Medicaid rate for each 15 minutes of routine homemaker/personal care services provided to a qualifying enrollee in the Individual Options Medicaid waiver

program to be, for 12 months, 52¢ higher than the rate for services to an enrollee who is not a qualifying enrollee.

Innovative pilot projects

- Permits the Director to authorize, in FY 2022 and FY 2023, innovative pilot projects that are likely to assist in promoting the objectives of state law governing the Department and county DD boards.

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

- Updates citations to federal law regarding the creation and operation of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

I. School finance

Direct funding for community and STEM schools, open enrollment students, and state scholarships

- Requires state operating funding to be paid directly to school districts, community schools, and STEM schools for the students they are educating, and requires direct payment of state scholarships.

School financing system for FY 2022 and FY 2023

- Creates a new school financing system for school districts and other public entities that provide primary and secondary education for FY 2022 and FY 2023.
- Calculates a unique base cost and a unique “per-pupil local capacity amount” for each city, local, and exempted village school district, and calculates a unique base cost for each joint vocational school district (JVSD), community school, and STEM school.
- Subtracts a district’s per-pupil local capacity amount from the district’s per-pupil amount of its base cost to determine its per-pupil state share of the base cost.
- Calculates a city, local, or exempted village school district’s state core foundation funding as the sum of the district’s aggregate state share of the base cost plus targeted assistance, special education funds, disadvantaged pupil impact aid, English learner funds, gifted student funds, and career-technical education funds and associated services funds.
- Establishes spending requirements for disadvantaged pupil impact aid and the portion of a district’s state share of the base cost that is attributable to the staffing cost for the student wellness and success component of the base cost.
- Specifies a phase-in for most components of a city, local, or exempted village school district’s state core foundation funding of 16.67% for FY 2022 and 33.33% for FY 2023, but subjects disadvantaged pupil impact aid to a phase-in of 0% for FY 2022 and 14% for FY 2023.

- Guarantees a city, local, and exempted village school district's state core foundation funding (including disadvantaged pupil impact aid) for FY 2022 and FY 2023.
- Eliminates the term "formula amount" and instead, where the act's system relies on a static base cost amount, uses the "statewide average base cost per pupil" or the "statewide average career-technical base cost per pupil," as applicable.
- Pays transportation funding and supplemental targeted assistance to city, local, and exempted village school districts, and specifies these payments are not subject to the phase-in.
- Guarantees transportation funding for city, local, and exempted village school districts for FY 2022 and FY 2023.
- Provides a substantially similar formula for joint vocational school districts (JVSDs), including a phase-in over the same period of time specified for city, local, and exempted village school districts and a guarantee, but makes some JVSD-specific changes to the base cost computation, uses a charge-off, and does not provide targeted assistance, gifted student funding, or transportation.
- Calculates a community school's or STEM school's funding for each student as the sum of its base cost per pupil and the per-pupil amounts of special education funds, disadvantaged pupil impact aid, English learner funds, career-technical education funds, and career-technical associated services funds.
- Specifies a phase-in of community school and STEM funding that is the same as the phase-in for school districts, except that disadvantaged pupil impact aid is subject to the same phase-in as all other components.
- Provides a transportation payment to community schools, and specifies that this payment is not subject to the phase-in.
- Pays career awareness and exploration funds to school districts, community schools, and STEM schools, and specifies that this payment is not subject to the phase-in.
- Pays a formula transition supplement for FYs 2022 and 2023 to guarantee that each school district's state core foundation funding, transportation funding (if any), and supplemental targeted assistance equals its FY 2021 foundation funding, enrollment growth supplement, and student wellness and success funds and enhancement funds.
- Pays a formula transition supplement for FYs 2022 and 2023 to each community school and STEM school similar to that paid to school districts, except the supplement guarantees a per-pupil amount of funding rather than an aggregate amount of funding.
- Establishes a new funding formula for educational service centers (ESCs) for FY 2022 and FY 2023 that is subject to the same phase-in percentage as the phase-in percentage specified for city, local, and exempted village school districts (16.67% for FY 2022 and 33.33% for FY 2023).

- Requires the Department of Education to (1) implement a program to distribute bus purchasing grants of not less than \$45,000 to city, local, and exempted village school districts and (2) award transportation collaboration grants.

School financing after FY 2023

- Specifies that the various components of the school financing system for FY 2022 and FY 2023 described above will be calculated in a manner determined by the General Assembly for FY 2024 and thereafter.
- Specifies that those components of the school financing system for FY 2022 and FY 2023 described above that were not components of the school financing system prior to FY 2022 will be calculated in a manner determined by the General Assembly for FY 2024 and thereafter if the General Assembly authorizes those payments.

Repeal of student wellness and success funding

- Repeals the requirement for the Department to pay student wellness and success funds and enhancement funds to school districts, community schools, and STEM schools.

Payment for districts with decreases in utility TPP value

- Requires the Department to make a payment for FY 2022 and FY 2023 to each city, local, exempted village, or joint vocational school district with more than a 10% decrease in the taxable value of utility tangible personal property (TPP) that has at least one power plant located within its territory.

Payments for districts with nuclear plant in territory – repealed

- Repeals the requirement that the Department, for each of FYs 2019, 2020, and 2021, make an additional payment to a city, local, or exempted village school district with (1) a nuclear power plant in its territory and (2) a total taxable value of public utility personal property for tax year 2017 that is at least 50% less than that value for tax year 2016.

Recommendations for compensating valuation losses – repealed

- Eliminates the requirement that the Department annually recommend to the General Assembly a structure to compensate each school district that experiences at least a 50% decrease in public utility personal property valuation from one year to the next for a percentage of the effect that decrease has on the district's state funding.

Auxiliary Services funds

- Permits a religiously affiliated chartered nonpublic school to receive Auxiliary Services funds directly in the same manner offered to nonreligious chartered nonpublic schools.
- Permits any chartered nonpublic school (secular or religiously affiliated) that elects to receive Auxiliary Services funds directly to designate an organization to receive and distribute those funds on its behalf.

- Clarifies that directly paid Auxiliary Services funds may be used to acquire goods and services under contract with school districts, educational service centers, the Department of Health, city or general health districts or private entities.
- Permits educational service centers to apply to the Department for moneys from the Auxiliary Service Reimbursement Fund.

Chartered nonpublic administrative cost reimbursement

- Removes the maximum annual per-pupil amount for administrative cost reimbursement for chartered nonpublic schools formerly specified in codified law, which was \$360 and, instead, specifies that cost reimbursement payments may not exceed the per-pupil amount prescribed by the General Assembly for each particular school year.
- Prescribes in uncodified law, for each of FY 2022 and FY 2023, a maximum annual per-pupil amount for administrative cost reimbursement of \$475.

II. Graduation requirements and state assessments

High school graduation requirements

- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction's industry-recognized credentials and licenses committee to assign a point value for each credential and to establish the total number of points necessary to satisfy certain high school graduation requirements.
- Permits a student who obtains a state-issued license for practice in a vocation that requires an exam to use that license as a "foundational option" when using an alternative demonstration of competency and to qualify for an industry-recognized credential diploma seal.
- Exempts students enrolled in chartered nonpublic schools from certain graduation requirements if, instead of the end-of-course exams, their schools administer a nationally standardized assessment (ACT or SAT) or an alternative assessment to meet state testing requirements.
- Specifies how a public or chartered nonpublic school must address a locally defined diploma seal earned by a transfer student, or any progress the student made toward earning one, at another public or chartered nonpublic school in Ohio.
- Requires transfer students who, in the prior school year, were homeschooled or attended an out-of-state or nonchartered, nonpublic school to generally comply with the high school graduation requirements subject to certain exemptions.
- Exempts a student with an individualized education program (IEP) from the requirement to demonstrate competency in math and English language arts, if the IEP expressly exempts the student from that requirement subject to other conditions.
- Permits a student to use a remediation-free score on a nationally standardized assessment (ACT or SAT) as an alternative demonstration of competency.

- Clarifies and modifies the “foundational” options a student may use as part of an alternative demonstration of competency.
- Expands the number of conditions a student may satisfy to earn a Citizenship or Science diploma seal.

College admission assessments

- Permits the parent or guardian of a student beginning with the class of 2026 to choose not to have the nationally standardized assessment administered to that student.

Kindergarten assessments

- Requires a district or school to administer the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the kindergarten reading skills assessment by the 20th day of instruction of a school year, instead of by November 1 as under prior law.

III. Educator licensure

Teacher licensure – human trafficking

- Adds human trafficking to the list of offenses for which the State Board of Education must revoke or deny an educator license.

Release of investigative information

- Permits a school district or school in Ohio or another state to request any report of misconduct that the Department has regarding an individual who is under consideration for employment, and requires the Department to provide the report.

Assistance in obtaining school employment

- Prohibits a school representative from knowingly and intentionally assisting another individual in obtaining school employment if the representative knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the individual has committed a sex offense involving a student.

Cheating on assessments

- Prohibits a person from obtaining prior knowledge of a state achievement assessment, using prior knowledge of the assessment’s contents to help students prepare for the assessment, and failing to comply with any rule adopted by the Department regarding security protocols for an assessment.
- Specifies that all of the prohibited actions related to state achievement assessments are grounds for termination of a teacher contract and for termination of a nonteaching employee’s position.

Teach for America licenses

- Requires the state Superintendent (rather than the State Board) to inactivate (rather than revoke) a Teach for America (TFA) participant’s resident educator license if the participant resigns or is dismissed from TFA prior to completing its support program.

- Provides that the inactivation of a participant’s license does not (1) constitute a suspension or revocation of the license or (2) necessitate an opportunity for a hearing.

Pre-employment applications and screening

- Requires each public and chartered nonpublic school to include a written notice on all employment applications explaining that any person knowingly making a false statement on the application is guilty of falsification.
- Requires each public and chartered nonpublic school to consult the Department’s “educator profile” database before making hiring decisions.
- Permits each public or nonpublic school to require an applicant or volunteer to undergo additional criminal records checks.

Career-technical educator licensure

- Qualifies an individual holding a certificate of high school equivalence for a two-year initial career-technical workforce development educator license or a five-year advanced career-technical workforce development educator license.

Educator Standards Board membership

- Adds five members to the Educator Standards Board (ESB):
 - One person who represents community schools, appointed by the State Board of Education; and
 - Four persons, who are active in or retired from the education profession, two each appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Senate President.
- Permits, instead of requiring as under prior law, the State Board to use lists of nominees from the Ohio Federation of Teachers and the Ohio Education Association to appoint teachers to the ESB.

School counselor standards

- Requires the Educator Standards Board to include knowledge of the “Career-Technical Assurance Guide” (CTAG) in the Board’s standards for school counselors.

Computer science education licensure

- Extends through the 2022-2023 school year an exemption that permits public schools to employ an individual who is not licensed to teach computer science, nevertheless to teach computer science courses, if the individual meets other requirements.

IV. Community schools

Requirement to locate in challenged school districts – eliminated

- Eliminates the requirement that new start-up community schools must be located in a “challenged school district.”

- Eliminates the requirement that the Department annually publish a list of challenged school districts.

Automatic closure

- Prohibits the automatic closure of community schools and dropout prevention and recovery schools on the basis of any report card rating issued prior to the 2022-2023 school year.

Disenrollment of e-school students – failure to participate

- Prohibits a student who is disenrolled from an internet- or computer-based community school (e-school) for failure to participate from re-enrolling in that school for the remainder of the year, rather than one year from the date of disenrollment, and permits the student to enroll in a different e-school during that same year.

Community school sponsors

- Specifies that a sponsor rated “exemplary” for the two most recent years the sponsor was evaluated may take advantage of certain sponsor incentives.
- Specifies that a sponsor rated “exemplary” or “effective” for the three most recent years the sponsor was evaluated must be evaluated only once every three years.
- Permits an “exemplary” sponsor to open up two new e-schools that will serve students enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program (not to exceed six in a five-year period) without approval by the state Superintendent.

Low-performing community school sponsors (VETOED)

- Would have permitted community schools in which a majority of the enrolled students are children with disabilities receiving special services to contract with a new sponsor without approval from the Department, notwithstanding the school’s low performance (VETOED).

JCARR review of EMIS, other changes (VETOED)

- Would have subjected to Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review-review any proposed changes to the Education Management Information System (EMIS) or the Department’s business rules and policies that may affect community schools (VETOED).

Montessori preschool payments

- Specifies that a Montessori preschool operated by a community school will no longer receive community school funds for students under age five.

Community School Revolving Loan Fund

- Eliminates the Community School Revolving Loan Fund.

Pilot funding for dropout recovery e-schools

- Extends to FY 2022 and FY 2023 the pilot program providing additional funding for certain e-schools operating dropout prevention and recovery programs on a per-pupil basis for students in grades 8-12.

V. STEM schools

- Permits the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of Higher Education, and the Director of Development to appoint designees to participate in STEM Committee business on their behalf.
- Permits a STEM or STEAM school to submit an amended proposal to the STEM Committee to offer additional grade levels.
- Eliminates the authority for a joint vocational school district (JVSD) or an educational service center (ESC) to apply for designation as a STEM or STEAM school.
- Instead of using the term “career centers,” as under prior law, permits JVSDs and comprehensive and compact career-technical education providers to receive a STEM or STEAM school equivalent designation.
- Revises the required content of the proposal for designation as a STEM or STEAM school or equivalent.
- Eliminates the authority for city, local, and exempted village school districts, community schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to apply for grants to support the operation of STEM programs of excellence.
- Permits a JVSD, comprehensive and compact career-technical education provider, or ESC to apply for distinction as a STEM program of excellence.
- Specifies that STEM and STEAM school designations, STEM and STEAM school equivalent designations, and distinctions as STEM programs of excellence are effective for five years unless revoked and may be renewed upon reapplication.
- Makes other changes regarding STEM and STEAM school or equivalent oversight and operations.

VI. College Credit Plus

Students in state-operated schools

- Permits students enrolled in the State School for the Deaf, State School for the Blind, or in a school operated by the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to participate in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program in the same manner as students in other public schools.
- Requires payments made to an institution of higher education for courses taken by a student enrolled in those schools to be deducted from the operating funds appropriated to the schools.

Academic eligibility for all students

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education, in consultation with the state Superintendent, to adopt rules to define an alternative remediation-free eligibility option for the CCP program.
- Eliminates the eligibility condition for certain students who are not remediation-free if they (1) have at least a 3.0 cumulative high school grade point average or (2) receive a recommendation from a school counselor, principal, or career-technical program advisor, except for those who qualified under that condition prior to September 30, 2021.

Nonpublic school participation (VETOED)

- Would have prohibited applying any requirement of the CCP program to a nonpublic school that chooses not to participate in the program (VETOED).

Course subject matter disclaimer

- Requires the Departments of Education and Higher Education jointly to develop a permission slip regarding the potential for mature subject matter in courses taken through the CCP program and to post it on their CCP websites.
- Requires each student and each student's parent, as a condition of participating in the CCP program, to sign the permission slip and include it in the student's application to participating institutions of higher education.
- Requires the Departments and each participating institution to post on their CCP websites a disclaimer about the potential for mature subject matter in courses taken under CCP.

Cost effectiveness study

- Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Higher Education, to study the results and cost-effectiveness of the CCP program and submit a report of its findings to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, and Director of the Legislative Service Commission by January 1, 2023.

VII. State scholarship programs and educational savings

Scholarship amounts

- Revises the scholarship amounts as follows:
 - For the Educational Choice (Ed Choice) and Cleveland Scholarship Programs, \$5,500 for students in any of grades K-8 and \$7,500 for students in any of grades 9-12.
 - For the Autism Scholarship Program, \$31,500 for FY 2022 and \$32,445 for FY 2023 and thereafter.
 - For the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, specifies that the base amount is \$6,217 for FY 2022 and \$6,414 for FY 2023, and specifies amounts for the disability category for each fiscal year.

Performance-based Ed Choice eligibility

- Changes the performance index rankings used to determine whether a student is eligible for a performance-based Ed Choice scholarship sought for the 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 school year under the performance index score eligibility criteria.
- Expands qualifications for a performance-based Ed Choice scholarship, including qualifying high school students not enrolled in public schools, siblings, students in foster or kinship care or other placement, and students who received but no longer qualify for the Autism or Jon Peterson scholarship.
- Phases out the requirement that, to qualify for a performance-based Ed Choice scholarship, students generally must be enrolled in either a school operated by their resident districts or a community school.
- Eliminates the restriction on the number of performance-based Ed Choice scholarships the Department may award in a school year.
- Maintains a student’s eligibility for a performance-based scholarship if, after the first day of the application period, the Department changes the internal retrieval number (IRN) of the school in which the student is enrolled or otherwise would be assigned.

Ed Choice eligibility for 2021-2022

- Expands qualifications for an Ed Choice scholarship sought for the 2021-2022 school year based on the Ed Choice designation list for the 2019-2020 or 2021-2022 school year.
- Requires the Department, by July 15, 2021, to develop eligibility guidance and provide it to chartered nonpublic schools enrolling Ed Choice scholarship students and to begin accepting and processing applications for students eligible under the provision.
- Requires the Department, for complete applications submitted by August 1, 2021, to provide notice of award or denial by September 15, 2021.
- Prohibits the Department, for the 2021-2022 school year only, from prorating Ed Choice scholarships based on a completed application submitted by October 31, 2021.

Ed Choice operations (PARTIALLY VETOED)

- Requires the Department to make monthly partial payments, rather than “periodic” partial payments, for Ed Choice scholarships.
- Establishes a single application period that opens the February 1 prior to the school year for which a scholarship is sought, and prorates the scholarship amount for applications submitted after the start of the school year.
- Requires the Department, by February 1, 2022, to establish a system under which an applicant may enter a student’s address and receive notification of whether the student is eligible for a performance-based scholarship.

- Prohibits a school district from objecting to a student’s scholarship eligibility if the Department’s system determines the student is eligible.
- Requires each school district with an Ed Choice designated building to provide the Department with the attendance zone of such a building by January 1 of each year.
- Requires the Department to accept applications for conditional approval.
- Would have required the Department to award a scholarship to a student who had conditional approval, if the student enrolled in a chartered nonpublic school within one year of receiving conditional approval and did not change addresses prior to enrolling in the school (VETOED).
- Requires the Department, if it determines an Ed Choice scholarship application contains an error or deficiency, to notify the applicant within 14 days of the application’s submission.
- Requires the Departments of Education, Job and Family Services, and Taxation to enter into a data sharing agreement to assist the Department of Education in determining student eligibility for Ed Choice scholarships.

Autism Scholarship Program providers

- Subjects registered private providers approved for the Autism Scholarship Program and their employees to certain criminal records checks.
- Requires the Department to use the submitted information to enroll individuals in the Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database in the same manner as licensed educators.
- Includes “registered behavior technician” and “certified Ohio behavior analyst” in the list of qualified, credentialed providers who may offer intervention services under the program.

Cleveland Scholarship Program

- Establishes a single application period that opens February 1 prior to the school year for which a scholarship is sought, including prorating the scholarship amount for applications submitted after the start of the school year.
- Qualifies a private school located outside of the Cleveland City School District boundaries to accept Cleveland scholarship students if the school (1) is located in a qualifying neighboring municipality (as under continuing law) and (2) offers any of grades K-12 (instead of grades 9-12 as under prior law).

ACE Educational Savings Account Program

- Establishes the Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account Program to provide eligible students with an educational savings account for FY 2022 or FY 2023 containing \$500 to be used for prescribed secular or nonsecular purposes.
- Finances the program with federal coronavirus relief funds.

- Qualifies a student for an account if the student is at least 6 years old and under 18 years old, has a family income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level, and is enrolled in a public or nonpublic school or is being homeschooled.
- Requires the Department to prescribe emergency rules for the establishment of accounts by October 30, 2021, create an online form for parents or guardians to request an account by January 28, 2022, and select a vendor that meets prescribed criteria to administer the program.
- Requires the Department, by December 31, 2022, to submit a report to the General Assembly regarding the administration of the program.

VIII. Other

Student transportation – pick-up and drop-off times

- Requires school districts, educational service centers, and private school transportation contractors to “deliver” students to their respective public and nonpublic schools no sooner than 30 minutes prior to the beginning of school and to be available to pick them up no later than 30 minutes after the close of the day.

Community and nonpublic school transportation

- Prescribes procedures for school district transportation plans for community and chartered nonpublic school students whom a district is required to transport.
- Prohibits a school district from transporting community or chartered nonpublic school students in grades K-8 using vehicles operated by a mass transit system, unless the district enters an agreement with the students’ school to do so.
- Requires a school district that transports community or chartered nonpublic school students in grades 9-12 via a mass transit system to ensure that a student’s route does not require more than one transfer.
- Adjusts the deadline for an existing community school to unilaterally accept responsibility to provide transportation for its students to August 1, rather than January 1 of the previous school year as under prior law.

Deduction for district noncompliance with transportation law

- Requires the Department to deduct a prescribed portion of a school district’s state transportation funding if the Department determines the district has consistently, or for a prolonged period, been noncompliant with its obligations regarding student transportation.

Payment in lieu of transportation

- Requires school districts, and community schools that accept responsibility to transport students, to make a determination regarding providing payment in lieu of transportation not later than 30 calendar days prior to the first day of instruction, or within 14 calendar days if the student enrolls after that deadline.

- Specifies that the annual payment in lieu amount must be at least 50% but not more than the average cost of pupil transportation for the previous school year, as determined by the Department.
- If a district or school fails to provide transportation (under the payment in lieu provision), requires the Department to order it to make a payment equal to 50% of the cost of providing transportation, as determined by the district board or school governing authority, but not more than \$2,500.

Transportation contracts

- Authorizes a school district to contract with federal or state agencies, municipal corporations, political subdivisions, and other public and private organizations to assist those entities in the fulfillment of their legitimate activities and in times of emergency.

Online school bus driver training

- Requires the Department to develop a permanent online training program to satisfy the classroom portion of pre-service and annual in-service training for school bus driver certification.

Withdrawal of students for failure to take assessments

- Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, creates a new starting point for automatic withdrawal of students enrolled in internet- or computer-based schools who fail to take the required state assessments for two consecutive school years.

Online learning

- Permits school districts, with the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to operate a school using an online learning model and prescribes requirements for them.
- Requires the State Board to revise operating standards for school districts to include prescribed standards for the operation of online learning models.
- Requires districts and schools using a blended learning model operate an annual calendar of at least 910 hours.
- Requires the Department to include information on the use of online learning in the delivery of standards or curricula to students, whenever the State Board adopts standards or model curricula.

FAFSA data system

- Requires each public and chartered nonpublic high school to enter a data sharing agreement with the Chancellor of Higher Education to operate the data system to track the FAFSA completion rate of students.

Computer science education

- Requires the Department, in consultation with the Chancellor, to establish a committee to develop a state plan for K-12 computer science education.

- Requires the committee to complete the state plan by September 30, 2022, and the Department to post it in a prominent location on its website.
- Requires the State Board to update its standards and curriculum for computer science education by September 30, 2022.

Effects of vaping – health curriculum

- Requires a school district to include instruction on the harmful effects and legal restrictions against the use of electronic smoking devices (vaping) in its health education curriculum.

Venereal disease instruction

- Requires a school district or school to notify all parents and guardians if the district or school chooses to offer additional instruction in venereal disease or sexual education not specified under law, including the name of instructors, vendor, and the name of the curriculum being used.
- Prohibits a district or school from offering such additional instruction to a student unless a parent or guardian has submitted written permission for that student to receive that instruction.
- Requires the Department to conduct and publish on its website an annual audit at the beginning of each school year of school districts to ensure compliance with requirements regarding venereal disease education.

Victim counseling

- Permits public and chartered nonpublic schools to provide counseling to victims of sexual harassment or sexually related conduct.

Academic distress commissions

- Prohibits the state Superintendent from establishing any new academic distress commissions (ADCs) for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.
- Establishes a process by which school districts currently subject to an ADC may be relieved from the oversight of its ADC prior to meeting the conditions prescribed by law.
- Requires the Auditor of State, one time between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2025, to complete a performance audit of school districts subject to an ADC.

Educational service centers

- Permits an educational service center (ESC) governing board to delay reorganizing its subdistricts, if its territory is divided into subdistricts, until July 1, 2022.
- Specifies that an ESC must be considered a “local education agency,” for the purposes of eligibility in applying for competitive federal grants.

Adult Diploma Program minimum age

- Expands eligibility to participate in the Adult Diploma Program by lowering the minimum age from 22 to 20 years old.

Ohio Code-Scholar Pilot Program

- Requires Southern State Community College to establish and maintain a five-year Ohio Code-Scholar Pilot Program and appoint a program coordinator.
- Requires the College, in collaboration with the program coordinator, to submit a report to the General Assembly at the end of the pilot program.

Career Promise Academy Pilot Program

- Requires the Department to establish the Career Promise Academy Summer Demonstration Pilot Program to operate in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

Advanced standing programs

- Requires public and chartered nonpublic high schools to inform students in grades 6 through 11 at least annually about advanced standing programs.

Interscholastic athletics transfers

- Repeals the requirement that school districts, interscholastic conferences, and interscholastic athletic regulating organizations have uniform transfer rules for public and nonpublic schools.

Nonpublic school administration of drugs

- Requires chartered nonpublic schools to adopt a policy addressing the administration of prescription drugs to students.

Sale or lease of school district property

- For purposes of the involuntary sale or lease of “unused” school district real property, adds to the definition of an “unused school facility” any school building that has been used for direct academic instruction but less than 60% of the building was used for that purpose in the preceding school year.
- Delays the effective date of the provision until July 1, 2022.

Obsolete reports, plans, or recommendations

- Eliminates various education-related reports, plans, and recommendations that are out-of-date, expired, or no longer have data available.

BOARD OF EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

- Exempts, from disclosure under Ohio Public Records Law, preneed funeral contracts, and contract terms and personally identifiable information of a preneed funeral contract,

contained in mandatory reports submitted to the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Fees

- Extends all of the following for two years:
 - The sunset of the annual emissions fees for synthetic minor facilities;
 - The levying of higher fees, and the decrease of those fees at the end of the two years, for applications for plan approvals for wastewater treatment works;
 - The sunset of the annual discharge fees for holders of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits under the Water Pollution Control Law;
 - The sunset of license fees for public water system licenses;
 - A higher cap on the total fee due for plan approval for a public water supply system and the decrease of that cap at the end of the two years;
 - The levying of higher fees, and the decrease of those fees at the end of the two years, for state certification of laboratories and laboratory personnel for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water Law;
 - The levying of higher fees, and the decrease of those fees at the end of the two years, for applications to take examinations for certification as operators of water supply systems or wastewater systems;
 - The levying of higher fees, and the decrease of those fees at the end of the two years, for applications for permits, variances, and plan approvals under the Water Pollution Control and Safe Drinking Water Laws;
 - The sunset of the fees levied on the transfer or disposal of solid wastes; and
 - The sunset of the fees levied on the sale of tires.
- Eliminates the following fees:
 - A \$15 application fee for a registration certificate necessary for certain scrap tire collection facilities;
 - A \$15 application fee for a permit, or variance, or plan approval under the Solid and Hazardous Waste Law; and
 - The \$100 fee for renewal of coverage under an NPDES general permit for a household sewage treatment system.
- Eliminates a non-Title V air contaminant source fee schedule that only applied from 1994 through 2003.

- Reduces, from \$1,800 to \$500, the additional survey fee that laboratories must pay to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to add analysts or additional accepted analytical techniques between triennial renewal surveys.
- Corrects the definition of “MF” that is associated with lab fees by changing it from “microfiltration” to “membrane filtration.”

Scrap tires removed from “no fault” sites

- Increases, from 5,000 to 10,000, the number of scrap tires that can be removed from a person’s property by OEPA at no cost to the property owner if placement of scrap tires was not the property owner’s fault.
- Authorizes the OEPA Director to increase the 10,000 scrap tire threshold.

Lead and copper notification rules

- Eliminates a requirement that the Director adopt rules setting specific administrative penalties that apply to community or nontransient noncommunity water systems for violating notice requirements regarding lead and copper laboratory results.
- Authorizes the Director instead to assess the administrative penalties under existing statutory guidelines that apply to other violations of the Safe Drinking Water Law.
- Generally shifts reporting and other requirements regarding lead and copper contamination from statute to a rules-based system administered by the Director.
- Increases the timeframe (from two business days to not more than 30 business days after the receipt of lab results) within which the owner or operator of a community or nontransient noncommunity water system must notify residents when a tap sample does not exceed the applicable lead threshold.
- Requires the owner or operator of those systems to update and resubmit maps according to a schedule determined by the Director but no less frequently than required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, rather than every five years as in prior law.
- Eliminates a requirement that the Director provide financial assistance from the Drinking Water Assistance Fund to community and nontransient noncommunity water systems for the purpose of fulfilling the notice and mapping requirements.

Certified and accredited laboratories under the VAP

- Eliminates the Director’s authority to certify laboratories for purposes of performing analyses under the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) and instead requires that a laboratory hold a valid accreditation from a specified outside accreditation body.
- Generally requires a person participating in the VAP to use the services of an accredited laboratory to perform analyses, but specifies that data analyzed by a certified laboratory before the act’s September 30, 2021, effective date may still be used.

- Retains the Director’s authority to enter the property of a certified laboratory and conduct audits for investigation and extends this authority to accredited laboratories.
- Prohibits the Director from contracting with an accredited laboratory to perform an audit if the laboratory performed any analyses that formed the basis for the issuance of a no further action letter in connection with the audit.
- Eliminates outdated provisions governing the VAP.

Water pollution control: practical qualification level

- Specifies that for purposes of determining compliance with a pollutant discharge limit set below (instead of “at or below”) the practical quantification level (PQL), any reported value below PQL constitutes compliance.

Isolated wetland mitigation ratio table reference

- Corrects an incorrect division reference to the Ohio Administrative Code.

FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION

- Requires a school district, instead of the Facilities Construction Commission, to notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction if the district will exceed the limit on net indebtedness.
- Revises the water bottle filling station and drinking fountain requirements for classroom facility construction projects.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly intervention in lawsuits (VETOED)

- Would have allowed the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to intervene to defend a statute in any court case in which the statute is challenged as unconstitutional or invalid under federal law, or in which the statute’s construction or validity is otherwise challenged (VETOED).
- Would have permitted those leaders similarly to intervene in court to defend a General Assembly or congressional district plan, or any such districts, adopted by the Ohio Redistricting Commission (VETOED).
- Would have allowed the leaders to obtain legal counsel independent of the Attorney General and to use public funds appropriated for that purpose (VETOED).
- Would have prohibited any other individual member, or group of members, of the General Assembly or the Ohio Redistricting Commission from intervening in such a case in an official capacity or obtaining independent legal counsel at public expense (VETOED).
- Would have specified that the participation of the Speaker or the President in a case, as described above, does not waive the legislative privilege or immunity of any member, officer, or staff of the General Assembly (VETOED).

Protection and advocacy system and client assistance program

- Requires the President and the Speaker, every two years, to establish a joint committee to examine the activities of the state's protection and advocacy system and client assistance program.
- Requires the joint committee, every two years, to submit a report containing any recommendations to the President, the Speaker, the Governor, and the members of the Joint Committee on Medicaid Oversight.

Evaluation of publicly funded child care and Step Up to Quality

- Establishes a study committee to evaluate publicly funded child care and the Step Up to Quality Program and requires the committee to issue a final report of its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2022.

Joint committee on career pathways and workforce training

- Establishes a joint legislative study committee on career pathways and post-secondary workforce training programs, which must issue a report by November 1, 2022.

H2Ohio testimony to the General Assembly

- Requires the directors who contribute to the required annual report that addresses H2Ohio projects, and the Executive Director of the Lake Erie Commission, to appear before both the House and Senate Finance committees within 45 days after the report is filed with the General Assembly and the Governor.

GOVERNOR

- Requires the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to submit an annual report detailing its spending and distribution of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Summary orders at nursing homes and assisted living facilities

- Permits the Director of Health to issue orders, take corrective action, and impose fines without providing a nursing home, residential care (assisted living) facility, or other home with notice and an opportunity for a hearing if the Director determines immediate action is necessary to protect resident health or safety.
- Permits a home to request a hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act after a summary order is issued.

Inspections of assisted living facilities

- Authorizes the Director to inspect an assisted living facility every 30 (instead of 15) months, once the facility has had two consecutive 15-month inspections without any substantiated violations and other related conditions are met.

Hospital licensure

- By September 30, 2024, requires a hospital operating in Ohio to be licensed by the Director rather than registered as under current law.
- Specifies that any reference to a hospital in an existing law that is not included in the act is to be construed as a reference to a hospital licensed under the act's licensure requirements.

Variations from written transfer agreements

- Regarding variations from the written transfer agreement requirement that applies to ambulatory surgical facilities (ASFs), requires:
 - The local hospital at which a consulting physician has admitting privileges to be within a 25-mile radius of the ASF;
 - The consulting physician to actively practice clinical medicine within a 25-mile radius of the ASF;
 - An ASF with an existing variance to demonstrate compliance with the act's requirements within 90 days or the variance must be rescinded.

Home health service provider licensing

- Requires home health agencies and independent (nonagency) providers of skilled home health services and nonmedical home health services to be licensed by the Department of Health (ODH).

Expedited licensing inspections

- Specifies that an existing home, such as a nursing home or assisted living facility may request an expedited licensing inspection from the Director when seeking approval to increase or decrease its licensed capacity or make any other change for which the Director requires a licensing inspection to be conducted.

Frontline Health Care Worker Pilot Program

- Requires ODH to establish and operate, during FYs 2022 and 2023, a Frontline Health Care Worker Education, Training, and Certification Pilot Program to reimburse adult education institutions for the cost of education-related expenses and wraparound services provided to students enrolled in certain health care training programs.

Technological resources

- Removes a requirement that providers conducting home visits under the Help Me Grow Program, WIC clinics, and Medicaid managed care organizations promote the use of technological resources that provide information on having a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby.

Newborn screening

- Requires newborns to be screened for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy and spinal muscular atrophy beginning May 28, 2022.
- Requires the state’s Newborn Screening Advisory Council, within six months after a disorder is added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel, to determine whether or not to recommend that Ohio newborns be screened for the disorder.
- Requires the Director, within six months after receiving the recommendation, to specify the disorder for screening in rule, with screening to begin within one year.
- Provides that screening for any disorder is not required if appropriate laboratory equipment is not available.

Smoking and tobacco

Dispensing nicotine replacement therapy without a prescription

- Authorizes pharmacists to dispense nicotine replacement therapy without a prescription in accordance with physician-established protocols.

Moms Quit for Two grant program

- Continues the Moms Quit for Two grant program for the delivery of tobacco cessation interventions to women who are pregnant or living with children and reside in communities with the highest incidence of infant mortality.

Smoke-Free Workplace Law

- Expands the Smoke-Free Workplace Law to include electronic smoking devices and vapor products.
- Exempts retail vapor establishments from the smoking ban with regard to smoking via vapor products and electronic smoking devices.
- Specifies that the smoking ban applies to retail vapor establishments with regard to all other forms of smoking.
- Requires entities to certify that they are eligible for the retail vapor store smoking ban exemption.
- Defines “retail vapor store” as a retail establishment that derives more than 80% of its gross revenue from the sale of vapor products, electronic smoking devices, or other electronic smoking product accessories and for which the sale of other products is merely incidental.

Retail tobacco store definition

- Revises the definition of “retail tobacco store” to apply to stores that sell “lighted or heated tobacco products,” conforming the definition to the act’s revised definition of “smoking.”

Certificate of need capital expenditure threshold

- Increases to \$4 million the maximum amount of a capital expenditure that may be made in renovating or adding to a long-term care facility without being subject to review under the Certificate of Need Law.

Children with Medical Handicaps Program eligibility

- Extends the Children with Medical Handicaps Program age limit from 21 to 23 by July 1, 2022, by increasing the age limit by one year in 2021 and 2022.

Home visiting services

- Allows families with children up to age five (instead of age three) to receive home visits through the Help Me Grow Program.
- Changes the frequency of the ODH summit on home visiting services to once every two years, instead of twice a year.

Help Me Grow report

- Requires the Director to submit a report regarding the Help Me Grow program that includes recommendations for using funds associated with Medicaid and TANF to provide services through Help Me Grow.

Rare Disease Advisory Council membership

- Increases to 31 (from 25) the number of members on the Rare Disease Advisory Council by permitting the appointment of public members by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

Drug overdose fatality review committees

- Authorizes the establishment of county or regional drug overdose fatality review committees.
- Requires each committee to submit to ODH an annual report containing specified information related to the drug overdose or opioid-involved deaths reviewed by it.

Suicide fatality review committees

- Authorizes the establishment of county or regional suicide fatality review committees.
- Requires each committee to submit to ODH an annual report containing specified information related to the suicide deaths reviewed by it.

Ohio breast and cervical cancer project

- Requires the Director, as part of the Ohio Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP), to ensure that a woman who was screened for breast or cervical cancer by a provider outside of the BCCP receives cancer treatment.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Restriction on instructional fee increases

- For the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years, limits increases by state universities, the Northeast Ohio Medical University, and university branch campuses in their instructional and general fees to not more than 2% over the previous academic year.
- For the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years, limits increases by community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges in their instructional and general fees to not more than \$5 per credit hour over the previous academic year.
- Excludes from the fee increase restrictions: student health insurance, auxiliary goods or services fees provided to students at cost, pass-through fees for licensure and certification exams, study abroad fees, elective service charges, fines, and voluntary sales transactions.

In-state graduate tuition

- Qualifies for in-state tuition a nonresident living in Ohio who, after completing a bachelor's degree at an institution of higher education in the state, immediately enrolls in an eligible graduate program offered at any state institution of higher education.

Athlete compensation for name, image, or likeness

- Allows intercollegiate athletes to earn compensation from their name, image, or likeness (NIL).
- Prohibits an institution of higher education, athletic association, conference, or other group or organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics from taking specified actions regarding an intercollegiate athlete who earns, or obtains representation in relation to earning, compensation from the athlete's NIL.
- Includes limitations with respect to contracts that provide compensation to an intercollegiate athlete for the use of the athlete's NIL.

Textbook auto-adoption

- Requires each state institution of higher education to consider a textbook auto-adoption policy prior to academic year 2022-2023.

Nursing bachelor's degrees at community colleges

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to approve any nursing bachelor's degree program proposed by community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges that meet certain continuing law requirements.

Ohio Innovative Partnership – Choose Ohio First Scholarship

- Eliminates the Ohio Research Scholars Program component of the Ohio Innovative Partnership, but retains the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program.

- Removes medicine, dentistry, and medical and dental education from the list of academic fields in which students may receive Choose Ohio First scholarships.
- Repeals the primary care medical student, primary care nursing student, and primary care dental student components of the scholarship program.
- Specifically includes “health professions” in the scholarship program’s purpose statement.
- Makes other changes regarding the scholarship program’s administration and requirements.

Commercial truck driver student aid

- Establishes the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program to provide a combination of a grant and a loan to eligible students enrolled in certified commercial truck driver’s license schools.
- Requires each participant to commit to residing and being employed in Ohio for at least one year upon completing a certified commercial driver’s license program.

Ohio National Guard Scholarship eligibility

- Qualifies for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship full-time and part-time students who are enrolled for at least three credit hours of coursework in prescribed programs for an in-demand occupation.

FAFSA data system

- Requires the Chancellor and the Ohio Education Computer Network to establish a data system to track the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rate of Ohio’s public and chartered nonpublic school students.
- Permits the Chancellor to publish and share aggregate FAFSA data, including completion counts and rates for Ohio and each district or school.

Withholding student transcripts

- Prohibits state institutions of higher education from withholding a student’s official transcripts from a potential employer under certain conditions.

OhioCorps pilot

- Prohibits the addition of new students to the OhioCorps Pilot Program after the 2020-2021 academic year and discontinues it at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Requires each student who otherwise is eligible to receive a scholarship under the program to receive \$1,000 upon conclusion of the 2021-2022 academic year.

Computer science

- Requires each state university, beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year, to recognize a student's successful completion of certain advanced computer science courses as meeting general admissions requirements.
- Requires each educator preparation program to require each candidate for an educator license who enters the program after the 2021-2022 academic year to receive instruction in computer science and computational thinking.

Farm Financial Management Institute

- Expands content and priority enrollment specifications for the Ohio State University's Farm Financial Management Institute.
- Renames the Institute as the "Farm Production, Policy, and Financial Management Institute."

Electronic attendance of board of trustees' meetings

- Permits a state institution of higher education to establish a policy allowing its trustees to attend board meetings via electronic communication.
- Permits a trustee attending a meeting via electronic communication to be considered present at the meeting, to be counted for a quorum, and to vote.

Wright State Lake Campus Task Force

- Creates the Wright State University's Lake Campus Task Force to evaluate current campus operational structures and procedures.

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

- Establishes the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, consisting of 29 appointed members and one ex officio, nonvoting member.
- Authorizes the Commission to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. in 2026 and the impact of Ohioans on the nation's past, present, and future.
- Requires the Commission to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a comprehensive report that includes specific recommendations to commemorate the anniversary, and to submit annual reports.
- Permits the Commission chairperson to appoint an executive director, who may in turn hire other personnel.
- Terminates the Commission on June 30, 2027.

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Drug data disclosure

- Effective January 1, 2022, requires health plan issuers, including pharmacy benefit managers, to release specified cost-sharing and other information related to drugs covered under a health benefit plan.
- Specifies the format in which the information must be provided.

Hospital admission notification to health plan issuers

- Requires a hospital, when a patient covered by a health benefit plan is admitted, to notify the health plan issuer of the admission within 48 hours.

Insurance agent pre-licensing education

- Authorizes the Superintendent of Insurance, when determining criteria for pre-licensing education for insurance agents, to include classroom, online, and self-study options.

Joint venture title insurance companies

- Requires, for a title company that is a joint venture, the company's annual review to assess whether or not all members of the joint venture received revenue from the title company commensurate to their ownership interest in the title company.
- Requires, for title companies that are joint ventures, all members of the joint venture to be allowed or invited to join any successor joint ventures formed upon dissolution or termination of the original joint venture.

Long-term care insurance tax credit study

- Requires the Departments of Insurance and Medicaid to complete a joint study by July 1, 2022, analyzing whether offering tax credits or other incentives for the purchase of long-term care insurance would increase the number of Ohioans with such insurance.

DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

TANF spending plan

- Requires the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) to submit a spending plan for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to the Governor describing anticipated TANF spending for the upcoming fiscal biennium.
- Requires the Governor to submit the TANF spending plan to the General Assembly as an appendix to the Governor's budget.
- Requires JFS to submit an updated TANF spending plan to the chairpersons of certain standing committees of the House and Senate and the minority leaders of the House and Senate at the conclusion of each fiscal year, and permits the chairpersons to call the JFS Director to testify about the plan.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) debit cards

- Requires JFS to collect information on suspicious electronic benefit transfer card transactions and provide the information to each impacted county department of job and family services for analysis and investigation.

Elderly Simplified Application Project

- Requires the JFS Director to submit an application for participation in the federal Elderly Simplified Application Project within SNAP.

Data matching agreements

- Requires the JFS Director to enter into several data matching agreements for determining eligibility for certain public assistance recipients.

Third-party commercial consumer reporting agency

- Permits JFS to contract with a third-party commercial consumer reporting agency to assist with improving the timeliness of benefit deliveries, maximizing operational efficiencies, increasing cost savings, and minimizing fraud within public assistance programs.
- Requires county departments of job and family services to participate in a no-cost, 90-day pilot program under which they must contract with a third-party commercial consumer reporting agency.
- Following the conclusion of the pilot program, permits JFS to contract with a vendor to provide the services described above.
- Requires both JFS and county departments to undertake efforts to incorporate real-time employment and income information into their verification and eligibility determination procedures.

Public Assistance Benefits Accountability Task Force

- Establishes the Public Assistance Benefits Accountability Task Force, and requires it to study various aspects of Ohio's public assistance programs and to submit a report to the General Assembly.

JFS subgrant

- Requires JFS to enter into a subgrant agreement with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to do the following:
 - Provide food distribution via the statewide charitable emergency food provider network;
 - Support transportation of meals for the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Innovative Summer Meals programs; and
 - Provide capacity building equipment for food pantries and soup kitchens.
- Requires the Association to do the following:

- Purchase food for the Agriculture Clearance and Ohio Food programs;
- Provide the cost of transportation of food already purchased in FY 2021 to the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Summer and Rural Meals program sites;
- Support the Capacity Building Grant program and purchase equipment for partner agencies to increase their capacity to serve more TANF-eligible families; and
- Submit quarterly and annual reports to JFS that include performance details.

Individual development account reports

- Eliminates a requirement that county departments of job and family services file semi-annual reports with JFS regarding their Individual Development Account Programs.
- Eliminates a requirement that JFS prepare an annual report regarding these programs.

Family and Children First

- Transfers fiscal and administrative agent duties for the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to JFS, including transferring the Council’s office location and employees.
- Permits a county family and children first council to create a flexible funding pool to assure access to services by families, children, and seniors in need of protective services.

Case plans and family service plans

- Beginning January 1, 2023, makes it mandatory for a public children services agency (PCSA) or private child placing agency (PCPA) to include in its case plan for a child in temporary custody (unless it is not in the child’s best interest) a permanency plan that describes agency-provided services to achieve permanency for the child if reasonable efforts at family reunification are unsuccessful.
- Requires permanency plan services to be provided concurrently with efforts at family reunification.
- Requires the JFS Director to adopt, according to R.C. Chapter 119, case plan rules for the concurrent provision of permanency plan services for a child in temporary custody.
- Repeals the option that allowed a PCSA to maintain a family service plan for any child for whom it provides in-home services under an alternative response to a child abuse or neglect report, and thereby requires the PCSA to maintain a case plan for such a child.

Caseworker in-service training

- Requires the JFS Director to adopt rules to establish circumstances under which a PCSA executive director may waive portions of caseworker in-service training requirements.

Kinship caregiver placement efforts

- Requires a PCSA or PCPA with temporary custody of a child or a child placed in a planned permanent living arrangement (TC/PPLA child) to make intensive efforts to identify potential kinship caregivers using certain search technology.
- Requires a court to review a PCSA's or PCPA's efforts to locate appropriate and willing kinship caregivers for a TC/PPLA child at every hearing concerning that child.
- Requires a PCSA or PCPA to include a summary of its efforts to find a kinship caregiver for a TC/PPLA child as part of the semiannual administrative review of the child's case plan, unless a court has deemed such efforts unnecessary.
- Allows a court to issue, under certain circumstances, an order determining that a TC/PPLA child's current placement is in the child's best interest and that further intensive efforts at finding kinship caregivers are unnecessary.
- Provides that a TC/PPLA child's current caregivers must be considered the child's kin with equal standing with relatives regarding permanency, if the court determines the current placement is in the child's best interest and intensive efforts to find kinship caregivers are unnecessary.
- Excuses a PCSA or PCPA from considering a TC/PPLA child's relative as a permanent placement option if the relative has failed to show interest within six months of receiving notice of the child's placement in the temporary care of the PCSA or PCPA.
- Provides that nothing in the act's kinship caregiver placement efforts provisions prevents a PCSA or PCPA from continuing to search for an appropriate kinship caregiver.

Kinship caregiver program

- Requires each county department of job and family services to incorporate a kinship caregiver program, which includes a family stabilization service and caregiving service, into its prevention, retention, and contingency plan.
- Earmarks \$10 million in each of FYs 2022 and 2023 for the program, and requires the JFS Director to allocate funds to county departments via a formula.
- Requires each PCSA to use the allocated funds to provide reasonable and necessary relief of child caring functions so kinship caregivers can provide and maintain a home for the child in place of the child's parents.
- Requires the county department to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the PCSA for authorization to spend the allocation.
- Specifies that the program will end if funding is no longer available and any county department or PCSA cannot be held responsible for payment of services.

Kinship guardianship assistance and Kinship Support Program

- Requires the JFS Director, by June 30, 2022, to submit amendments to the state Title IV-E plan to implement Title IV-E kinship guardianship assistance (federal KGA) available (1) on behalf of an eligible child to relatives, and (2) to any relative on behalf of a kinship guardianship (KG) young adult.
- Requires implementation of the state plan amendments to begin December 30, 2022, if the Secretary of Health and Human Services approves the plan and the General Assembly has appropriated funds sufficient to operate the program required by the amended plan.
- Allows a PCSA to enter into an agreement with a child’s relative to provide state kinship guardianship assistance (state KGA), if state funds are available and certain conditions are met.
- Requires implementation of state KGA no later than December 30, 2022, if the amended state plan for federal KGA is approved.
- Provides that any JFS decision terminating federal KGA for a KG young adult or kinship support program (KSP) payments is subject to a state hearing.
- Allows kinship caregivers to participate in the kinship permanency incentive program if they are not receiving federal assistance payments for KGA or for adopted or emancipated young adults or state adoption maintenance subsidy payments.
- Allows for specified relatives receiving federal KGA, state KGA, or KSP payments to participate in Ohio Works First if other conditions are also met.
- Excludes federal KGA, state KGA, and KSP payments from the definition of gross income for child support purposes.
- Provides that benefits and services provided under the following are inalienable and therefore not subject to attachment or garnishment:
 - Kinship guardianship assistance program;
 - Extended kinship guardianship assistance program;
 - Kinship support program;
 - Kinship permanency incentive program;
 - State adoption maintenance subsidy.
- Repeals requirements governing PCSA placement of children with special needs determined impossible to adopt and the duty to periodically redetermine and report the child’s status to JFS.

Online training for foster caregivers

- Repeals the law permitting up to 20% of a prospective foster caregiver’s preplacement training to be provided online.

- Requires JFS to adopt rules, in accordance with R.C. Chapter 119, regarding the amount of preplacement and continuing training hours that may be completed online for prospective and existing foster caregivers.

PASSS program

- Recodifies and transfers, from PCSAs to JFS, complete administration of the post-adoption special services subsidy (PASSS) program, under which payments are made on behalf of an adopted child with a physical or developmental disability or mental or emotional condition.
- Permits JFS to contract with any person to carry out PASSS duties.
- Prohibits PASSS payments to any person:
 - 18 years or older beyond the end of the school year during which the person attains that age; or
 - A mentally or physically disabled person who is 21 or older.
- Requires JFS to adopt rules necessary to implement, and to actually implement, the recodified PASSS by July 1, 2022.

Bills of rights for foster youth and resource families

- Requires JFS to adopt by rule, in accordance with R.C. Chapter 119, a Foster Youth Bill of Rights and a Resource Family Bill of Rights.
- Provides that if a right in the Foster Youth Bill of Rights conflicts with a right in the Resource Family Bill of Rights, the Foster Youth Bill of Rights prevails.
- Provides that the rights created for foster youth and resource families do not create grounds for a civil action against JFS, the recommending agency, or the custodial agency.

Notification for sibling of adopted person

- Provides that an adopted person's legal parents may be notified that an adopted person's sibling has been placed into out-of-home care after an adoption has been finalized.
- Defines "sibling," for notification purposes only, as a former biological sibling, former legal sibling, or any person who would have been considered a sibling if not for a termination or other disruption of parental rights.

Criminal records check

- Adds, as a result of an LSC error, certain crimes to the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation criminal background check for:
 - Persons whose identities are required to be disclosed for the issuance or transfer of a permit, license, certificate of registration, or certification by the Department of Commerce;

- Persons employed to be responsible for the care, custody, or control of a child at a Head start agency or preschool program; and
- Any school district, educational service center, or school employment applicant.
- Failed, due to the error, to apply the additional crimes to the background check for persons responsible for out-of-home child care and members of a household for a host family hosting a child under a host family agreement.

Background checks for institutions and associations

- Requires an institution or association to obtain certain background information before employing a person or engaging a subcontractor, intern, or volunteer if:
 - The institution or association is a residential facility; or
 - The institution or association is not a residential facility and the person, subcontractor, intern, or volunteer will have contact with children.
- Requires the institution or association, regarding the background information, to:
 - “Obtain” (instead of “conduct”) a search of the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Sex Offender Public Website; and
 - “Obtain” (instead of “conduct”) a summary report of a search of the uniform statewide automated child welfare information system.
- Allows an institution or association to refuse to employ a person or engage a subcontractor, intern, or volunteer based solely on the search and summary report obtained.
- Requires an institution or association to obtain the search and summary report for a person, subcontractor, intern, or volunteer if that information has not been obtained by September 30, 2021.

Federal foster care assistance for emancipated young adults

- Expands the juvenile courts that may exercise jurisdiction over an emancipated young adult (EYA) receiving federal foster care payments to include the court of the county where the EYA resided when his or her custody, planned permanent living arrangement, or care and placement terminated.
- Revises the timing for JFS or its representative to petition for a judicial determination that the EYA’s best interest is served by continuing care and placement with JFS or its representative after the EYA enters a voluntary participation agreement for placement and care.
- Explicitly associates seeking and obtaining the determination with maintaining the EYA’s eligibility for Title IV-E assistance.
- Eliminates the remedy that an EYA loses eligibility for continued care and placement with JFS or its representative under a voluntary participation agreement (VPA) if a court,

180 days after the VPA becomes effective, determines the continued care and placement does not serve the EYA's best interest.

- Requires a court to make a permanency plan determination regarding an EYA:
 - 12 months after the VPA's effective date;
 - At least once every 12 months after the first determination; and
 - That JFS or its representative made reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan to prepare the EYA for independence.
- Requires federal payments for foster care to be suspended if the best interest and reasonable efforts determinations (described above) are not timely made.

Foster caregiver certification extension

- Requires JFS to extend the certification deadline to December 31, 2021, for foster caregivers and prospective foster caregivers who began training or preplacement training between 2019 and 2021, unless their certification deadline is after December 31, 2021.
- Prohibits JFS from requiring foster caregivers and prospective foster caregivers from repeating training or certification requirements that have been previously completed, except JFS may require a new background check and home inspection.

Court order to interview and examine a child

- Allows a juvenile court, if it determines probable cause exists, to issue an order, without a hearing, authorizing a PCSA to interview or examine a child who may be abused, neglected, or dependent if the child's parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker refuses the PCSA reasonable access to the child.
- Requires that a PCSA request the order and to submit a sworn affidavit detailing the facts that would support the order.
- Specifies that the order is not a final, appealable order, which means that the order may not be reviewed, affirmed, modified, or reversed, with or without trial.

Reimbursement for federal juvenile court programs

- Adds prevention services costs under the federal Family First Prevention Services Act to the expenses for which a juvenile court may receive reimbursement upon agreement with JFS on behalf of a child in certain circumstances.
- Adds a child who is at imminent risk of removal from the home and is a sibling of a child in the temporary or permanent custody of the court as a child on whose behalf reimbursement may be sought.

Streamlining County Level-Information Access Task Force

- Creates the Task Force on Streamlining County Level-Information Access to make recommendations on streamlining information access across information technology

systems for (1) county departments of job and family services, (2) child support enforcement agencies, (3) PCSAs, and (4) county OhioMeansJobs centers.

- Requires the Task Force to do the following:
 - Identify barriers to efficient operations between information technology systems that affect operations and client services;
 - For each identified barrier, explore the feasibility of allowing county employees access to more than one information technology system;
 - Prioritize which barriers should be addressed first;
 - Submit a report to the General Assembly by February 1, 2022.

Publicly funded child care

- Revises the law governing eligibility determinations for publicly funded child care, including by specifying that the eligibility period is to be at least 12 months.
- Revises the income eligibility for publicly funded child care, specifying that the maximum amount of family income for initial eligibility cannot exceed 142% of the federal poverty line, but only until June 30, 2023.
- Repeals the law requiring JFS to ensure that specified percentages of publicly funded child care providers are rated in the Step Up to Quality Program’s third highest tier or above by specified dates, including the provision requiring all of these providers to be rated in the third highest tier or above by June 30, 2025.

Type A family day-care homes

- Eliminates the requirement that JFS include in the rules governing Type A family day-care homes standards for preparing and distributing parent rosters.

Child care resource and referral services

- Eliminates the requirement that the JFS Director adopt rules for funding child care resource and referral service organizations.

Head Start program definition

- Revises the definition of “head start program” for the law governing the licensure and regulation of child care providers, including by specifying that it is a school-readiness program.

Elder Abuse Commission reporting

- Removes a requirement that the Elder Abuse Commission review current funding of adult protective services and submit a separate report on the cost of implementing its recommendations.
- Requires instead that the Commission’s biennial report include estimates of the funding necessary to implement its specific recommendations.

Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

- Extends the timeline of appointing the chairperson of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood from every year to every other year, occurring in odd-numbered years.

Unemployment compensation

Applications for unemployment benefits

- For benefit years beginning on or after July 1, 2022, eliminates from consideration in the first phase of the unemployment eligibility process whether a claimant is disqualified from unemployment benefits for reasons relating to why the claimant is unemployed (this phase examines whether the claimant worked enough and earned enough to qualify for benefits).
- Requires the JFS Director to check the Ohio New Hire Reporting Center, the National Directory of New Hires, and the Integrity Data Hub when determining whether an initial application is valid or whether a first claim or additional claim qualifies an individual for benefits.

Other provisions

- Makes information maintained by or furnished to the Unemployment Compensation Review Commission confidential and, with one exception, inadmissible in cases unrelated to the Unemployment Compensation Law (similar to continuing law regarding information maintained by, or furnished to, JFS).
- Prohibits disclosure of information maintained by the Commission unless an exception applies.
- Reduces from 30 days to ten days the time for the JFS Director to approve or deny a shared work plan and notify the employer of the determination.
- Increases the maximum percentage an individual's workweek can be reduced for purposes of participating in the SharedWork Ohio Program from 50% to 60%.
- Requires, if permitted by federal law, any portion of compensation paid under the SharedWork Ohio Program to be charged to the mutualized account and not to a participating employer's experience during any period the compensation is being reimbursed under federal law.

JUDICIARY/SUPREME COURT

Lima Municipal Court clerk

- Specifies that the Lima Municipal Court clerk is an elected position.
- Includes the Lima Municipal Court clerk within the procedure for filling a vacancy.

Jefferson County Court

- Effective January 1, 2022, removes the requirement that the presiding judge of the Jefferson County Court determine areas of separate jurisdiction for the judges of that court and that the judges hold court in Wintersville or Cross Creek, Dillonvale, and Toronto.

Indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund

- Expands how a court may use surplus money in an indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund by allowing expenditures for the costs of staffing, equipment, training, drug testing, supplies, and other expenses of any specialized docket program established within the court and certified by the Supreme Court.

Probation Workload Study Committee

- Creates the Probation Workload Study Committee within the Ohio Supreme Court to study and discuss probation caseload principles, education standards for probation officers, workload capacity principles, and any other additional subject determined by the Study Committee to be relevant.
- Requires the Study Committee to provide its recommendations to the Governor and legislative leaders by December 31, 2021.

Clerks of court deputy appointments

- Requires that the appointments of deputies to a clerk of a court of common pleas be “endorsed” by the clerk.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

- Codifies the traditional practice that in even-numbered general assemblies, the Senate President serves as chairperson of the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) and the Speaker of the House serves as vice-chairperson, and vice-versa in odd-numbered general assemblies.
- Eliminates the requirement that LSC meet at least quarterly.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

- Specifies that the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) and the Office of Legislative Inspector General are not occupational licensing boards.
- Specifies that a registration to be a legislative agent, retirement system lobbyist, or executive agency lobbyist is not a license.
- Prevents occupational licensing provisions of H.B. 263 of the 133rd General Assembly from applying to these registrations, thereby allowing JLEC to continue to prohibit registration of persons convicted of specified offenses and automatically ban a person from serving as a legislative agent, retirement system lobbyist, or executive agency lobbyist if convicted of specified offenses.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAID

Medicaid managed care contracting entities (VETOED)

- Would have required the Department of Medicaid to contract with Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) that (1) are domiciled in Ohio, (2) are currently Medicaid MCOs, and (3) have a proven history of providing quality services and customer satisfaction (VETOED).
- Would have required any Medicaid MCO to participate, at minimum, in the geographic regions of Ohio where it is already providing services (VETOED).
- Would have required the Department to establish an appeals process under which applicants can appeal the Department's award of Medicaid MCO contracts (VETOED).

Duties of area agencies on aging

- Requires the Department, if it adds to the Medicaid managed care system during FY 2022 and FY 2023 more Medicaid recipients who are aged, blind, disabled, or also enrolled in Medicare, to take certain actions regarding the duties of area agencies on aging relative to home and community-based waiver services.

Medicaid coverage of women postpartum

- Expands Medicaid coverage for pregnant women to include the maximum period permitted under federal law, instead of for 60 days after giving birth.

Medicaid eligibility

- Requires the Department to take certain actions in the event that it receives federal funding for the Medicaid program that is contingent upon a restriction that limits the Department's ability to disenroll ineligible Medicaid recipients.

Post-COVID Medicaid redetermination

- Requires the Department to seek Controlling Board approval to permit it to use third-party data to conduct an eligibility redetermination of all Ohio Medicaid recipients within 90 days after the conclusion of the COVID-19 emergency period.
- Requires the Department to conduct an expedited eligibility review of recipients identified as likely ineligible for the program based on that verification and (to the extent permitted under federal law) to disenroll those who are no longer eligible.
- Requires the Department to conduct an expedited eligibility review of recipients who were newly enrolled in Medicaid for three or more months during the COVID-19 emergency period and (to the extent permitted under federal law) to disenroll those who are no longer eligible.
- Requires the Department to complete a report containing its findings from the verification and submit it to various state agencies.

- Provides that any third-party vendor expenses incurred by the verification is entirely contingent on the Department realizing cost savings, and limits vendor expenses to 20% of those savings.

Medicaid waiver component definition

- Specifies that the definition of a “Medicaid waiver component” does not include services delivered under a prepaid inpatient health plan.

Voluntary community engagement program

- Requires the Medicaid Director to establish a voluntary community engagement program for medical assistance recipients.
- Requires the program to encourage work among able-bodied medical assistance recipients of working age, including providing information about the benefits of work on physical and mental health.
- Provides that the program is in effect through FY 2023, or until Ohio is able to implement the waiver component establishing work requirements and community engagement as a condition of enrolling in the Medicaid expansion eligibility group.

Medicaid Cost Assurance pilot

- Establishes the Medicaid Cost Assurance Pilot Program to be available to the Medicaid expansion eligibility group population during the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium.
- Requires the Department to implement the pilot program initially to the expansion eligibility group population, with future expansion to be determined based on success criteria.
- By December 31, 2022, requires the Department to submit a report to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC) outlining clinical outcome data and cost impacts of the program.

Care Innovation and Community Improvement Program

- Requires the Medicaid Director to continue the Care Innovation and Community Improvement Program for the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium.

Ohio Invests in Improvements for Priority Populations

- Establishes the Ohio Invests in Improvements for Priority Populations Program as a directed payment program for inpatient and outpatient hospital services provided to Medicaid managed care recipients.
- Provides that, under the program, state university-owned hospitals with fewer than 300 beds can directly receive payment for program services.
- Requires participating hospitals to remit to the Department, through intergovernmental transfer, the nonfederal share of payment for those services.

Hospital Care Assurance Program, franchise permit fee

- Continues, until October 2023, the Hospital Care Assurance Program and the franchise permit fee imposed on hospitals under Medicaid.

Medicaid rates for community behavioral health services

- Permits the Department to establish Medicaid rates for community behavioral health services provided during FY 2022 and FY 2023 that exceed the Medicare rates paid for the services.

Home and community-based services payment rates (VETOED)

- Would have earmarked \$5 million to increase the payment rates during FY 2022 and FY 2023 for adult day care services provided under the PASSPORT, Ohio Home Care, MyCare Ohio, and Assisted Living waivers (VETOED).
- Would have increased the payment rates for providers of certain services under the PASSPORT, the Ohio Home Care waiver, the MyCare Ohio waiver, and the Assisted Living waiver programs by 4% in FY 2022 and another 2% in FY 2023 (VETOED).

Value-based purchasing supplemental rebate

- Requires the Department to submit a Medicaid state plan amendment to allow it to enter into value-based purchasing supplemental rebate agreements with pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Medicaid reports

- Requires the Director to notify JMOC and be available to testify to JMOC before making any Medicaid payment rate increases greater than 10%.
- Requires the Director to report quarterly to JMOC the fee rates and the aggregate total of certain Medicaid program fees and if there is a rate increase pending before CMS for any of those fees.

Pharmacy supplemental dispensing fee (PARTIALLY VETOED)

- Requires the Department to establish for the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium a supplemental dispensing fee with three payment levels for retail pharmacies under the care management system.
- Would have required the payment levels to be based on (1) the ratio of Medicaid prescriptions filled compared to total prescriptions filled for each pharmacy and (2) the number of retail pharmacies participating in the care management system (VETOED).
- Would have prohibited the supplemental dispensing fee from causing a reduction in other payments made to the pharmacy (VETOED).

Nursing facilities

Critical access nursing facilities

- For calculating the occupancy and utilization rates to determine if a nursing facility is a critical access nursing facility, provides that “as of the last day of the calendar year” refers to the rates during the calendar year identified in the nursing facility’s cost report.

Medicaid payment formula

- Removes provisions that require the Department to include in a nursing facility’s occupancy rate any beds that the facility removes from its Medicaid certified capacity, unless the beds are also removed from the facility’s licensed capacity.

Resident assessment data

- Requires rules relating to the resident assessment data that nursing facilities must compile quarterly to specify any resident assessment data that is excluded from the facility’s case mix score calculated quarterly by the Department.

Special Focus Facility Program

- Modifies the nursing facility Special Focus Facility (SFF) Program, which requires the Department to terminate a nursing facility’s Medicaid participation if the facility is placed on the federal SFF list and fails to make improvements or graduate from the program within certain periods of time.
- As part of the modifications, requires a nursing facility to take all necessary steps to improve its quality of care to avoid having its license terminated under the SFF Program, and permits appeals relating to the amount of time a facility has been on an SFF list.

Quality payments – repealed

- Repeals the quality payments nursing facilities received under former law for meeting at least one of five quality indicators.

Quality incentive payments (PARTIALLY VETOED)

- Extends the nursing facility quality incentive payments from FY 2021 through the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium.
- Clarifies that the data used to calculate a nursing facility’s quality score is based on CMS data from the most recent month of the calendar year during which the fiscal year for the rate begins, instead of May of the calendar year during which the fiscal year begins.
- Provides that a nursing facility receives zero quality points if its total number of points for FY 2022 or FY 2023 for the quality metrics is less than the number equal to the bottom 25% of all nursing facilities.
- Replaces the previous disqualifications from the quality incentive payments with a new disqualification for a nursing facility that is on CMS’s SFF list in that fiscal year.

- Would have defined SFF Table A, Table B, and Table C, for purposes of the above disqualification (VETOED).
- Suspends, after FY 2023, a provision of law that disqualifies a nursing facility from receiving a quality incentive payment if its licensed occupancy percentage is below 80% for the fiscal year, unless certain exceptions are met.
- Subtracts \$1.79 from the nursing facility's base rate calculation, which is used to determine the total amount to be spent on quality incentive payments.
- Modifies the calculation used to determine the total amount to be spent on quality incentive payments in a fiscal year by (1) adding \$1.79 to the step of the calculation using the number that is 5.2% of each nursing facility's base rate and (2) including a \$25 million add-on in FY 2022 and \$125 million in FY 2023 to the total in each fiscal year.
- Clarifies that if a nursing facility is new or undergoes a change of operator during FY 2022 or FY 2023, it receives no quality incentive payment for that fiscal year.

Nursing facility rebasing

- Requires the Department to rebase only the direct care, ancillary and support, and tax cost centers when conducting a rebasing.
- Requires a nursing facility to spend money received from the rebasing conducted in FY 2022 on those cost centers only.
- Requires a nursing facility operator to spend 70% of additional dollars received as a result of a rebasing on direct care costs, including employee salaries, and permits the Department to recover any amounts that do not comply with this requirement.
- Requires the Medicaid Director to adopt rules to ensure that nursing facility operators comply with this requirement.
- Requires the Department to conduct its next nursing facility rebasing on June 30, 2021, using nursing facility calendar year 2019 data.
- Earmarks \$125 million in each of FYs 2022 and 2023 for that rebasing and requires the rebasing determinations to be paid in the following order: (1) direct care costs, (2) ancillary and support costs, and (3) tax costs.
- Requires nursing facility payments based on the rebasing calculations to be prorated in order to stay within that earmark.
- Requires nursing facility operators to submit quarterly reports to the Department identifying the amounts spent on each cost center.
- Permits the Department to review the quarterly reports and requires an operator to reimburse to the Department any amounts, plus interest, not spent in accordance with these requirements.

Nursing Facility Payment Commission

- Requires the Department to establish the Nursing Facility Payment Commission to analyze the efficacy of the current nursing facility quality incentive payment formula, base rate calculation, and cost centers and submit a report of its findings to the General Assembly by August 31, 2022.

JOINT MEDICAID OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- Requires appointment of a Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee vice-chairperson.

MEDICAL BOARD

- Permits a physician assistant to personally furnish supplies of specified drugs and therapeutic devices at an employer-based health care clinic.
- Recognizes the authority of a medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payer to decline to perform, participate in, or pay for any health care service that violates the practitioner's, institution's, or payer's conscience.
- Allows a physician to delegate the use of light-based medical devices for hair removal to specified persons, including cosmetic therapists, under certain circumstances.
- Creates the Massage Therapy Advisory Council to make recommendations to the State Medical Board regarding issues affecting the practice of massage therapy.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

Suspending admissions, action against license

- Authorizes the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) Director to suspend admissions at the following facilities without a hearing if there is a pattern of serious noncompliance or a violation creates a substantial health and safety risk: residential facilities, certain community addiction services providers, and hospitals for mentally ill persons.
- Specifies a process for appeals when admissions are suspended without a prior hearing.
- Regarding suspending admissions, denying an application, or refusing to renew or revoking a license or certification, (1) authorizes OhioMHAS to take action regardless of whether deficiencies have been corrected at the time of the hearing and (2) prohibits it from permitting an opportunity for submitting a plan of correction.

Certifiable services and supports

- Specifies reasons the OhioMHAS Director may refuse to certify, renew, or revoke certifiable services and supports provided by a community mental health or addiction services provider.

- Eliminates requirements that the Director (1) identify areas of noncompliance for an applicant who does not satisfy certification standards and (2) provide applicants with reasonable time to demonstrate compliance.

Licensing boards treatment and monitoring programs

- Supports new or existing confidential treatment and monitoring programs offered by occupational licensing boards for healthcare workers with mental health or substance use disorders, including by allowing boards to contract with organizations to administer the programs.

Confidentiality of substance use disorder records

- Modifies existing requirements for maintaining confidentiality of records regarding drug treatment programs and services that are licensed or certified by OhioMHAS.
- Establishes confidentiality requirements based on federal law and applies them to federally assisted programs for substance use disorder treatment.
- Requires that the disclosure of any confidential information comply with the federal requirements.

Opioid treatment programs

- Lengthens the term of a license to operate an opioid treatment program (OTP) to two years, except that the Director may require annual licensure for an OTP if the Director has concerns about its compliance record.
- Requires OhioMHAS to inspect all community addiction services providers licensed to operate OTPs at least biennially, as opposed to annually.
- Permits a community addiction services provider to employ an individual who receives medication-assisted treatment from the provider.

Substance use disorder treatment in drug courts

- Continues an OhioMHAS program to provide addiction treatment to persons with substance use disorders through drug courts with programs using medication-assisted treatment.
- Modifies the program by authorizing services to be included for withdrawal management or detoxification, including drugs used in providing those services.
- Requires community addiction services providers to provide specified treatment to the participants in the program based on the individual needs of each participant.

County jails reimbursed for substance use treatment drugs

- Establishes a program to reimburse counties for the cost of drugs used in providing county jail inmates with medication-assisted treatment and withdrawal management or detoxification services related to drug or alcohol use.

Pilot – controlled substances in lockable containers

- Requires OhioMHAS to operate a two-year pilot program to dispense schedule II controlled substances in lockable or tamper-evident containers.

ADAMHS board composition and appointment (PARTIALLY VETOED)

- Establishes options for the size of an alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services (ADAMHS) board that results from the OhioMHAS Director granting approval in calendar year 2021 or 2022 for a county with a population between 70,000 and 80,000 to withdraw from a joint-county alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district.
- Provides that an ADAMHS board established from that withdrawal must consist of 18 members or 14 members.
- Would have permitted the ADAMHS board that is established to consist of seven to nine members (VETOED).
- Would have permitted an ADAMHS board that already was formed to continue as an 18-member or 14-member board, or, within six months, choose to reduce to between seven and nine members (VETOED).
- Would have specified the number of members to be appointed by the OhioMHAS Director and the board of county commissioners for the ADAMHS boards described above (VETOED).
- Provides that if a county with a population between 35,000 and 45,000 joins an existing alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district during the two-year period beginning June 30, 2021, the ADAMHS board serving that district may expand from 14 to 18 members.
- Permits the ADAMHS board to make such an election for one year from the date the county joins the joint-county district.

Stabilization centers

- Continues the requirement that ADAMHS boards establish and administer, in collaboration with the other ADAMHS boards that serve the same state psychiatric hospital region, six mental health crisis stabilization centers.
- Requires the establishment and administration, in collaboration with the other ADAMHS boards that serve the same state psychiatric hospital region, acute substance use disorder stabilization centers.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

I. Division of Wildlife

- Eliminates the nonresident Lake Erie Sport Fishing District permit.

- Removes the \$500,000 cap on annual expenditures from the Wildlife Boater Angler Fund that the Division of Wildlife may make to pay for equipment and personnel costs associated with boating access improvements.
- Reduces, from \$11.50 to \$11.00, the fees for a senior deer permit and senior wild turkey permit, available to Ohio residents 66 and older.
- Removes superfluous definitions of “resident” and “nonresident” in the law governing deer and wild turkey permits.
- Reduces multi-year hunting license fees and senior multi-year fishing license fees.
- Increases adult multi-year fishing license fees.

II. Division of Mineral Resources Management

Performance security for coal mining operations

- Requires a coal mining and reclamation permittee to submit full performance security instead of using partial security and money from the existing Reclamation Forfeiture Fund for land reclamation if:
 - Ownership and operational control of the permittee has been transferred, assigned, or sold; and
 - The transferee has not held a mining permit in Ohio for at least five years.
- Specifies that this restriction applies even if the status and name of the permittee otherwise remain the same.

Deputy mine inspector eligibility

- Allows an applicant for the position of deputy mine inspector of underground coal mines or underground noncoal mines to have experience in any underground mine located anywhere as long as the total experience equals six years.
- Allows an applicant for the position of deputy mine inspector of surface mines to have experience in surface mines located anywhere as long as the total experience equals six years.

Reciprocity for mine personnel

- Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management to issue a certificate to work as a mine foreperson, foreperson, or mine electrician to an out-of-state applicant if:
 - The applicant holds a valid certification or other authorization from a state with which the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a reciprocal agreement; and
 - The applicant passes an examination on Ohio mining law or other topics determined by the Chief.

- Allows an out-of-state mine foreperson, foreperson, or mine electrician (working under a reciprocal agreement) who was issued a temporary certificate to act as a foreperson or mine electrician in Ohio prior to September 30, 2021, to continue to work under that temporary certificate until it expires.

III. Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management

Oil and gas well plugging

- Authorizes the holder of a valid well drilling permit to obtain approval from the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management to plug that well without obtaining a permit to plug and abandon if an oil and gas inspector approves it and either:
 - The well was drilled to total depth and the well cannot or will not be completed; or
 - The well is a lost hole or a dry hole.
- Requires a well drilled to total depth that cannot or will not be completed to be plugged within 30 days of the inspector's approval.
- Requires the plugging of a lost hole or dry hole to be completed immediately after determining that the well is a lost hole or dry hole in accordance with rules.
- Clarifies that the Chief of the Division may plug and abandon wells without a permit to do so.
- Specifies that the \$250 application fee for a permit to plug and abandon a well is nonrefundable and applies even if oil or gas has not been produced from it.
- Requires any person undertaking plugging, other than a well owner already required to maintain an insurance policy, to obtain \$1 million in bodily injury and property damage insurance coverage (or \$3 million if the well is in an urbanized area).
- Requires a person to electronically submit proof of that insurance to the Chief on the Chief's request.

Defective well casing and plugging requirements

- Prohibits any person (rather than only the well owner, as in prior law) from constructing a well that causes damage to other permeable strata, underground sources of drinking water, or the surface of the land or that threatens the public health and safety or the environment.
- Prohibits any person or well owner from operating a well in a way that causes the damage specified above or threatens the public health and safety or the environment.
- Retains law prohibiting a well owner from allowing a well to leak fluid or gases, but eliminates the requirement that the leak must be due to defective casing and either:
 - Cause the damages specified above; or
 - Threaten the public health and safety or the environment.

- Requires either a person that owns a well or that is responsible for the well to notify the Chief of well or casing defects within 24 hours of discovering the defect, rather than only requiring the well owner to do so, as in prior law.
- Requires either the person that owns a well or that is responsible for the well to immediately repair any defects or to plug it, rather than only requiring the well owner to do so, as in prior law.
- Requires the Chief to issue a plugging order to either the person that owns the well or the person that is responsible for the well when the Chief determines the well should be plugged.

IV. Oil and Gas Leasing Commission

- Renames the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission the Oil and Gas Land Management Commission.
- Specifies that the state's policy is to promote exploration for, development of, and production of oil and natural gas resources owned or controlled by the state, rather than to provide access and support for those activities, as in prior law.
- Revises the Commission's membership.
- Requires the Commission to hire at least one person to provide clerical and other services.
- Requires money received by a state agency in exchange for the lease of a formation under state agency-owned land for oil and gas development to be deposited into State Land Royalty Fund.
- Authorizes a state agency to use distributions from that fund for any purpose the agency deems necessary, rather than for capital costs and land acquisition as in prior law.
- Eliminates the Forestry Minerals Royalty Fund and the Parks Minerals Royalty Fund used by the Division of Forestry and the Division of Parks and Watercraft, respectively, for capital expenditures and land acquisition (the divisions will continue to receive distributions from the State Land Royalty Fund).
- Eliminates signing fees, rentals, and royalty payments received by the Division of Wildlife for leases of its land as a source of revenue for the Wildlife Habitat Fund, and instead requires distributions to the Division to be made from the State Land Royalty Fund.
- Retains a requirement that 30% of proceeds from a lease for oil and gas development under a state park be deposited into the fund that supports that state park.
- Allows a state agency to lease state agency-owned land (until the Commission adopts rules specifying a standard lease agreement and any other necessary procedures or requirements) for oil and gas development on terms that are just and reasonable, as determined by the custom and practice of the oil and gas industry.
- Specifies that the lease must at least include the elements required to be included in the standard lease agreement.

- Adds new elements to the required standard lease form that must be used by a state agency when leasing state agency-owned land for oil and gas development.
- Requires the Commission to establish a standard surface use agreement form that must be used by a state agency to authorize the use of the surface of a parcel of leased land.
- Revises requirements and procedures concerning the nomination of state agency-owned formations to the Commission for lease and bidding on such leases.
- Revises requirements concerning the notification of nomination decisions and advertisement of bids.
- Specifies that certain information included in a nomination or a bid for a lease is confidential, may not be disclosed by the Commission, and is not a public record.
- Specifies that the Commission is not subject to certain administrative rulemaking requirements.

V. Division of Water Resources

- Revises the amount of the surety bond that an applicant for a dam or levee construction permit must obtain and bases the amount on the estimated costs of construction.
- Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Water Resources to reduce the required surety amount for specified reasons.
- Authorizes the Chief to assess a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per day for each day of each violation of the laws governing dams and levees and water diversions and withdrawals.
- Disburses money derived from costs and civil penalties to either the Dam Safety Fund or the Water Management Fund, depending on whether violations are committed under the law governing dam safety or the law governing water diversions and withdrawals.
- Requires criminal fines collected from violators of laws governing water well constructions logs and water diversions and withdrawals to be credited to the Water Management Fund, rather than the Dam Safety Fund as under prior law.

VI. Division of Parks and Watercraft

- Prohibits a person from operating a watercraft in Ohio if it displays an identification number or registration decal that: (1) is fictitious, (2) is counterfeit or an unlawfully made copy, or (3) belongs to another watercraft.
- Increases the damage threshold that triggers a required watercraft accident report from \$500 to \$1,000.

VII. Division of Forestry

Forestry projects on federal land

- Allows the Chief of the Division of Forestry to enter into agreements with the federal government for forest management projects, including timber sales, pursuant to federal law.
- Allows the Chief to sell timber and other forest products from federal lands in accordance with the terms of an agreement with the federal government.
- Requires the Chief to deposit money received from timber sales from federal lands into the existing State Forest Fund.
- Allows the money derived from those timber sales to be used for forest management projects associated with federal lands.

Wildfire reimbursement to firefighting agencies

- Allows the DNR Director to reimburse firefighting agencies and private fire companies for costs associated with certain fire assistance activities if those costs are eligible in accordance with an agreement between the Division and the federal government.

State employees aid in out-of-state wildfires

- Specifies that all DNR and Department of Commerce employees whom the Chief sends to another state to assist with forest fires are eligible for regular employment benefits and are immune from civil liability when performing duties within the scope of employment, rather than solely DNR's Division of Forestry employees as in prior law.

VIII. Division of Geological Survey

- Eliminates the Ohio Geology license plate.
- Correspondingly, eliminates the \$15 contribution for each license plate, which was deposited in the Geological Mapping Fund to be used for grants to graduate-level educational institutions for geology-related research activities and providing geology kits to primary and secondary schools.
- Instead, allows the Chief of the Division of Geological Survey to spend any money deposited in the Geological Mapping Fund (not just money from license plate proceeds) for the grants and kits.
- Adds to the purposes for which money in the fund may be used by allowing the Chief to issue grants to collegiate geology departments for undergraduate geological research.

IX. Other provisions

Malabar Farm State Park

- Designates 120 contiguous acres of Malabar Farm State Park's (Richland County) most mature hardwood forest located between Bromfield Road and State Route 95 as the "Doris Duke Woods" at Malabar Farm State Park.
- Specifies that DNR may not remove or allow any person or governmental entity to remove timber from the Woods, except for normal maintenance.
- Requires the DNR Director to meet with the Malabar Farm Foundation by October 30, 2021, to discuss entering into agreements to mutually support and advance the shared objectives of protecting, conserving, and educating the public concerning Malabar Farm State Park and the legacy of Louis Bromfield.
- Requires DNR and the Foundation to meet every other month until June 30, 2022.
- After the June 30, 2022, meeting, requires DNR and the Foundation to jointly provide a report detailing the meetings and any resulting agreements to each member of the General Assembly who represents all or part of Richland County.

Local payments for DNR land

- Requires DNR to reimburse school districts and other taxing authorities for forgone property tax revenue resulting from the state's acquisition of certain DNR land after 2017.

Geneva Lodge and Conference Center

- Requires the DNR Director to assume ownership and operation of the Geneva Lodge and Conference Center from Ashtabula County by December 31, 2021.
- Appropriates \$13,950,000 for the purchase and operation of Geneva Lodge and Conference Center.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES AGENCY

- Requires the Governor to present an award each October, during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, to employers who meet the criteria for having a workplace inclusive of individuals with disabilities.
- Requires the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency to determine the criteria to be used to recommend employers for the award.

OHIO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS BOARD

Board vacancies

- Extends from 60 to 90 days the maximum transition period that may occur between an expired term of office and the Governor’s appointment of a person to fill a vacancy on the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board.

Occupational therapy licensing procedures

- Eliminates limited permits for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.
- Eliminates the option of having a license placed in escrow when an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant is not in active practice.

Physical therapy licensing procedures

- Eliminates the requirement that an applicant applying for a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license submit a physical description and photograph.
- Specifies that a license applicant must graduate from a professional program and that the program be accredited by an agency acceptable to the Board’s Physical Therapy Section.

Orthotists, prosthetists, and pedorthists – enforcement

- Authorizes the Board to discipline orthotists, prosthetists, and pedorthists for denial, revocation, suspension, or restriction of authority to practice any health care occupation in any jurisdiction.
- Allows the Board to impose a fine or a requirement to take corrective action courses.
- Requires a person who is sanctioned to pay the actual cost of the administrative hearing.
- Transfers the duty to investigate violations to the full Board, in place of the Board’s secretary.
- Permits the Board to share confidential investigatory information with any relevant law enforcement, prosecutorial, or regulatory agency.

Discipline based on sexual interactions with patients

- Includes sexual conduct with a patient among the other sex-related behaviors for which the Board may take disciplinary action against a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.
- Allows the Board, in its regulation of all other professionals under its jurisdiction, to take disciplinary action due to sexual conduct, sexual contact, and sexually demeaning verbal behavior with a patient.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Towing law changes

Law enforcement tows

- Establishes procedures that allow a towing service or a storage facility to obtain title to another's motor vehicle (regardless of value) after it was towed by law enforcement, certain conditions are met, and it remains unclaimed 60 days after the service or facility sends the proper notice to the owner and any lienholder.
- Requires a clerk of court to issue a certificate of title for a motor vehicle to a service or facility that presents an affidavit affirming compliance with all necessary procedures.
- Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to create the form of the affidavit (to be used by the service or facility) by December 29, 2021.

Motor vehicle dealership and repair facility tows

- Allows a motor vehicle dealership or repair facility to request a towing service to remove a motor vehicle from its property as long as certain conditions are met.
- Establishes procedures for the owner or any lienholder to reclaim the vehicle.
- Establishes procedures for the towing service or a storage facility to take title to the vehicle (regardless of value) if it remains unclaimed for an additional 60 days after the service or facility sends the proper notice to the owner and any lienholder.

Notice requirements for private tow-away zones

- Reduces from three to two the number of notices that must be sent to an owner and any lienholder of a motor vehicle after the vehicle has been towed from a private tow-away zone and before a towing service or storage facility may take title to the vehicle.

Certificate of title fee allocation

- Reallocates 10¢ of the \$15 motor vehicle certificate of title fee that previously was deposited in the Motor Vehicle Sales Audit Fund to the Highway Operating Fund.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact immunity

- Specifies that a political subdivision employee who renders aid in another state in accordance with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact is considered a state employee for immunity purposes.

U.S. Power Squadron license plate distribution

- Regarding U.S. Power Squadron license plates, requires U.S. Power Squadron District 7 (rather than the Registrar) to equally distribute the contributions for the plates to all Ohio Power Squadron Districts in Ohio.

Emergency medical services in additional settings

- Until October 1, 2022, authorizes a first responder and each type of emergency medical technician to perform emergency medical services in any setting, including in any area of a hospital, subject to direction and supervision requirements.
- Provides immunity from damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from performing the authorized emergency medical services, unless they are performed in a manner that constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

Vehicle registration waiver for amusement ride owners

- Waives one year of vehicle and trailer registration taxes and fees for amusement ride owners that were unable to operate their amusement rides in 2020.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

- Removes the requirement that the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) office be open during specific business hours.
- Allows the Power Siting Board, subject to Controlling Board approval, to contract for the services of outside experts and analysts, and fund the expense through certificate or amendment application fees imposed under continuing law.
- Changes the requirement that basic local exchange service provide for a telephone directory in any reasonable format to include, at the telephone company's option, an internet-accessible database of directory listings.
- Requires a telephone company that no longer offers a printed directory to provide reasonable customer notice of available options to obtain directory information.
- Requires PUCO to amend its rules by December 29, 2021, as necessary to conform them with that new format option.

DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION

Local confinement for fourth, fifth degree felony prison terms

- Expands the voluntary Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison (T-CAP) Program to include fourth degree felonies, instead of only fifth degree felonies.

Post-release control sanctions

- Modifies the law regarding post-release control (PRC) by:
 - Changing the duration of mandatory PRC to “up to five years, but not less than two years” for a first degree felony that is not a felony sex offense; “up to three years, but not less than 18 months” for a second degree felony that is not a felony sex offense; and “up to three years, but not less than one year” for a third degree felony that is an offense of violence and is not a felony sex offense;

- Changing the duration of discretionary PRC to “up to two years” for a third, fourth, or fifth degree felony that is not subject to mandatory PRC;
- Removing juvenile court delinquent child adjudications as factors that must be considered by the Parole Board or court in determining PRC sanctions;
- Changing from mandatory to discretionary the use of active GPS monitoring for the first 14 days of a prisoner on PRC who is released before the expiration of the prisoner’s term and who earned over 60 days of earned credit;
- Modifying the mechanism for shortening or terminating PRC of an offender who is complying with the PRC sanctions;
- Specifying that if, during the PRC period, the offender serves as a sanction for violating PRC conditions the maximum prison sanction time available as a PRC sanction, the PRC terminates;
- Providing rules for determining the manner in which PRC operates when an offender is simultaneously subject to a period of parole and a period of PRC or is subject to two simultaneous PRC periods; and
- Specifying that a PRC period must not be imposed consecutively to any other PRC period.

Sacramental wine in governmental facility

- Exempts small amounts of sacramental wine from the offense of “illegal conveyance of intoxicating liquor onto the grounds of a specified governmental facility” when the person conveying, delivering, or attempting to convey or deliver the wine is a cleric.

Notification of possible prison term for community control violation

- Specifies that the notice a court must give to an offender it sentences to a community control sanction for a felony regarding a possible prison term as a violation sanction must indicate “the range from which the term may be imposed.”

Prison term penalty for certain conduct by a felony offender serving a community control sanction

- Modifies provisions regarding a court’s imposition of a prison term as a penalty for a convicted felon who is sentenced to a community control sanction and who violates the conditions of the sanction, violates a law, or leaves the state without the permission of the court or probation officer.

Community-based substance use disorder treatment

- Extends eligibility for the community-based substance use disorder treatment program.
- Removes a restriction that prevented those with certain prior offense of violence convictions from participating in the program.

Subsidies for community-based corrections programs

- Modifies the requirements for the program of subsidies for community-based corrections programs.

Administrative releases

- Expands the Adult Parole Authority's ability to grant an administrative release to include: (1) a "releasee" who is serving another felony sentence in a prison within or outside Ohio for the purpose of consolidating the records or if justice would best be served, or (2) a "releasee" who has been deported from the U.S.

Certificate of qualification for employment (CQE)

Sealing of CQE records

- Specifies that when a criminal record is sealed, records related to a certificate of qualification for employment (CQE) are also sealed.

Consideration of sealed CQE records

- Requires that a petition for a CQE include the individual's criminal history, except for information contained in any record that has been sealed.
- Requires a court, upon receiving a petition for a CQE, to review the individual's criminal history, except for information contained in any record that has been sealed.
- Authorizes a court to order any report, investigation, or disclosure by the individual, except about any record that has been sealed.
- Specifies that in any application for a CQE, a person may be questioned only with respect to convictions and bail forfeitures not sealed.

Sealing of records related to unconditional pardon

- Allows the Governor to include as a condition of an unconditional pardon that the records related to the conviction or convictions be sealed, and generally provides that the records are not subject to public inspection unless directed by the Governor.

Internet access for prisoners

- Provides greater flexibility for prisons to provide internet access to prisoners in state owned and private prison facilities.

Outdated law – Ohio River Valley Facility

- Removes outdated provisions that allowed Lawrence County to place inmates in the Ohio River Valley Facility.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Private funding for elections

- Prohibits a public official responsible for administering or conducting an election from collaborating with, or accepting or expending any money from, a nongovernmental person or entity for any costs or activities related to elections.
- Changes the purposes for which the Secretary of State may use the Boards of Elections Reimbursement and Education Fund, and prohibits the fund from receiving revenues from fees, gifts, grants, or donations.
- Abolishes the Citizen Education Fund, which was to receive gifts, grants, fees, and donations from private individuals and entities for voter education purposes, and specifies the process to dispose of the remaining money in the fund.

Federal grants

- Requires grants the Secretary of State receives from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, other than through the Help America Vote Act, to be deposited in the Miscellaneous Federal Grants Fund and spent in accordance with the grant agreement.

Foreign nonprofit corporations

- Eliminates a requirement that a foreign nonprofit corporation provide to the Secretary of State the location of its principal office in Ohio in order to obtain a certificate of authority to exercise its corporate privileges in Ohio.

Service of process fees

- Specifies that the \$5 fee the Secretary of State charges for service of process is per address served.

Copies of laws

- Eliminates a requirement that the Secretary of State forward a copy of each new law to the clerk of each court of common pleas within 60 days after it was filed with the Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Income tax

- Reduces nonbusiness income tax rates by 3%.
- Eliminates the highest income tax bracket – reducing the number of brackets from five to four – and further lowers the rate of the new highest bracket to 3.99%.
- Increases the income level at which the first tax bracket begins, from \$22,150 to \$25,000.
- Suspends the annual inflation indexing adjustment of income tax brackets for taxable years beginning in 2021 and of personal exemption amounts for both 2021 and 2022.

- Authorizes a full or partial income tax deduction for capital gains received by investors in certain Ohio-based venture capital operating companies (VCOs) for taxable years beginning after 2025, provided the VCO is certified by the Director of Development.
- Beginning with the 2026 taxable year, allows an income tax deduction for taxpayers with capital gains from the sale of an ownership interest in a business equal to the lesser of the capital gain or a percentage of the business's payroll over a specified period based on the taxpayer's proportionate interest in the business.
- Explicitly authorizes an income tax deduction for all railroad retirement benefits that are exempt from state taxation under federal law.
- Clarifies that nonresident income not subject to personal income tax based on a reciprocity agreement between Ohio and another state may be deducted on a taxpayer's Ohio return.
- Clarifies that a taxpayer may claim a credit for any income tax withheld on behalf of the taxpayer, including from a taxpayer's wages, retirement income, unemployment compensation, or lottery and casino winnings.
- Extends the amount of time within which a taxpayer must report to the Tax Commissioner a change in the amount of the taxpayer's resident credit for income that is taxed in another state or the District of Columbia.
- Declares that the state does not intend to impose income tax on unemployment compensation reported to a person whose identity was fraudulently used by a third party to collect unemployment compensation.
- Authorizes a nonrefundable tax credit of up to \$750 for taxpayers who donate to a nonprofit organization that awards scholarships to primary and secondary school students and that prioritizes low-income students.
- Authorizes a nonrefundable income tax credit of up to \$250 for certain home school education expenses incurred by a taxpayer for one or more of their dependents.
- Authorizes a means-tested, nonrefundable income tax credit for tuition paid to a nonchartered, nonpublic school.
- Delays by one year, from 2022 to 2023, the date by which the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) must begin to accept state income tax withholding requests from unemployment compensation recipients.
- Requires JFS to report and remit state income tax withholding on unemployment compensation benefits on a monthly basis.
- Eliminates the requirement that, if claiming the business income deduction, each business or professional activity generating income for a taxpayer be reported on their annual income tax returns.

- Increases, from \$1 million to \$2 million, the limit on the amount of Ohio opportunity zone investment income tax credits that may be awarded to an individual during a fiscal biennium.

Municipal income tax

- Reinstates, until December 31, 2021, and modifies a temporary municipal income taxation rule for employees who are working from home due to COVID-19.
- States that, beginning on January 1, 2021, the temporary rule applies only for the purposes of municipal income tax withholding and the siting of an employer's net profits, and not for the purpose of determining an employee's actual tax liability.
- Temporarily shields employers from certain penalties associated with withholding municipal income tax as long as the employer withholds such tax for an employee's principal place of work.
- Makes several changes to the general procedure for creating a joint economic development district (JEDD).

Sales and use taxes

- Exempts employment services and employment placement services from sales and use tax.
- Exempts the sale or use of investment bullion and coins from state and local sales and use taxes.
- Allows certain county sales and use taxes to be levied for the operation of jail facilities, in addition to the construction, acquisition, equipping, or repair of the facilities.
- Repeals several inoperable provisions of use tax law that would have applied only in the event that an act of Congress authorized states to compel sellers that do not have a physical presence in the state ("remote sellers") to collect and remit use tax.

Lodging taxes

- Authorizes the convention facilities authority (CFA) of a county with a 2000 population between 130,000 and 150,000, and that includes a city with a 2000 population of more than 50,000 (Clark County) to increase the rate of a previously authorized lodging tax from 3% to 4%.
- Authorizes a county with a population between 300,000 and 350,000, and that already levies a 3% lodging tax (Lorain County) to levy an additional lodging tax of up to 3% for purposes of constructing, maintaining, operating, and promoting a convention facility.

Commercial activity tax (PARTIALLY VETOED)

- Requires that a taxpayer's preceding year's taxable gross receipts be used to calculate the commercial activity tax (CAT) owed on its first \$1 million in gross receipts, instead of its current year's receipts.

- Makes permanent a temporary CAT exemption for Bureau of Workers' Compensation dividends paid to employers.
- Would have reduced the percentage of CAT revenue devoted to offset the Department of Taxation's administrative expenses from 0.65% to 0.5% (VETOED).

Kilowatt-hour tax

- Clarifies eligibility criteria for a kilowatt-hour tax exemption available under continuing law to certain end users that generate their own electricity.

Estate tax

- Makes several administrative changes regarding the state's repealed estate tax.

Property tax

- Authorizes a municipal corporation or township to permanently impose, with voter approval, a combined levy for fire, emergency medical, and police services.
- Modifies an existing property tax exemption for property used as housing for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Extends, by two years, the deadline by which an owner or lessee of a renewable energy facility may apply for a property tax exemption for such facilities.
- Temporarily extends the charitable use property tax exemption to any parking garage owned and operated by a qualifying tax-exempt nonprofit arts institution.
- Temporarily exempts property owned by certain nonprofit arts institutions from special assessments levied by a municipality, special improvement district, or conservancy district.
- Expands an existing property tax exemption for fraternal organizations to include the property of such organizations with national governing bodies.
- Imposes a charge against any property that improperly received the homestead exemption if the property owner or occupant fails to notify the county auditor that the owner or occupant no longer qualifies for the exemption.
- Requires the owner of tax-exempt property to notify the county auditor if the property ceases to qualify for an exemption.
- Imposes a charge on property whose owner fails to give such notice equal to the tax savings for up to the five preceding years that the property did not qualify for the exemption.
- Establishes a temporary procedure by which a 501(c)(3) organization may apply for tax exemption and abatement of more than three years of unpaid property taxes, penalties, and interest due on certain property.

- Allows political subdivisions to use tax increment financing (TIF) district or downtown redevelopment district (DRD) service payments for off-street parking facilities.
- Allows municipalities that create certain types of TIFs the discretion to designate the beginning date of the TIF exemption, rather than the exemption automatically beginning on the effective date of the designating ordinance.
- Creates the Federally Subsidized Housing Study Committee and requires it to submit a report to the General Assembly, making recommendations about the property tax valuation and valuation process of federally subsidized residential rental property.

TPP supplement payments

- Between FY 2022 and FY 2026, requires that the tangible personal property (TPP) supplement payment to joint fire districts and school districts that have a nuclear power plant in their territory be no less than the amount that was paid to them in FY 2017.

Tax administration

- Extends the time allowed for the Tax Commissioner to approve or deny a political subdivision's request to transfer money between certain funds of the subdivision.
- Allows the Department of Taxation to disclose to the State Racing Commission confidential taxpayer information to assist the Commission with administering horse racing permits and taxes on horse racing.
- Explicitly authorizes the Tax Commissioner to review additional information provided by an applicant for a state tax refund and to adjust the amount of the refund multiple times before issuing a final refund determination.
- Adds resort area and tourism development gross receipts taxes to the tax obligations respecting which the Tax Commissioner must periodically verify the compliance of liquor permit holders.
- Requires the monthly disbursements made by the Tax Commissioner from the Wireless 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund to county treasurers to be made in the same proportion distributed to that county in the corresponding calendar month of the previous year, instead of basing them on 2013 distributions made by the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO).
- Requires any shortfall in distributions resulting from the timing of funds received in a previous month to be distributed in the following month, instead of calculating the county's share of the fund by proportionally reducing the distributions to be equivalent to the amount available in the fund.
- Eliminates the Tax Expenditure Review Committee.
- Repeals a provision recommending that any bill proposing to enact or modify a tax expenditure include a statement of the bill's intent.

- Reduces, from \$1 million to \$250,000, the amount a nonprofit corporation must spend granting wishes of minors with life-threatening illnesses to qualify for funds from the Wishes for Sick Children Income Tax Contribution Fund.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Traffic safety study

- Requires the Director of Transportation, in conjunction with the relevant chief executive officers and legislative authorities, to conduct a traffic safety study and issue a report by December 31, 2022, regarding the roads and highways through Strongsville, North Royalton, and Brunswick.
- Appropriates up to \$100,000 from the Highway Operating Fund for the study.

Intersection traffic study

- Requires the Director to conduct a traffic study for the intersection of U.S. Route 36 and State Route 721.

TREASURER OF STATE

Government expenditure database

- Requires the Treasurer of State, in collaboration with the OBM and DAS Directors, to establish and maintain the Ohio State and Local Government Expenditure Database that includes information about state entities' expenditures.
- Allows a political subdivision or state retirement system to agree to have information on its expenditures included in the database.
- Requires that the database be free to access by the public and available on the Treasurer's and OBM's websites and by a prominent internet link on each state entity's website.
- Requires the Treasurer to enter an annual agreement with the OBM and DAS Directors to ensure proper maintenance and operation of the database.
- Requires the database to include certain expenditure information and a searchable database of state and school district employee salary and employment information.
- Requires the Treasurer to coordinate with the OBM Director to allow for public comment regarding the database's utility.
- Prohibits the database from including information that is confidential or that is not a public record under state law, but provides that the Treasurer, a state entity, and the Treasurer's and state entity's employees are not liable for disclosure of a record that is confidential or not a public record.

Negotiable certificates of deposit

- Authorizes the Treasurer to invest in or execute transactions for interim funds in negotiable certificates of deposit.

- Limits investment in negotiable certificates of deposit to not more than 25% of the state's total average portfolio.
- Expands the limit on investment in debt interests of a single issuer, such that when the amount of such an investment, when added to the amount invested in commercial paper (continuing law) and negotiable certificates of deposit (added by the act), it may not exceed in the aggregate 5% of the state's portfolio.

State Board of Deposit secretary

- Requires an employee of the Treasurer's department appointed by the Treasurer, rather than the Cashier of the State Treasury, to serve as secretary of the State Board of Deposit.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City health districts

- Generally requires each city with a population under 50,000 served by an unaccredited board of health of a city health district to complete a study evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of merging with the general health district that includes the city.
- Exempts a city with a population under 50,000 whose unaccredited city health district is in the process of applying for accreditation.
- Requires the Director of Health to develop criteria for determining whether a merger is advisable and requires the city to conduct its evaluation using the criteria.
- Requires the city's chief executive, if the study indicates that a merger is advisable, to contract with the District Advisory Council for the general health district that includes the city for the administration of health affairs in the merged district, unless the Advisory Council delays the merger for good cause.

Auxiliary containers

- Makes permanent all of the following provisions enacted in H.B. 242 of the 133rd General Assembly, which otherwise would have expired on January 15, 2022:
 - Prohibits local governments from imposing a tax, fee, assessment, or other charge on auxiliary containers (for example, a plastic or paper bag), the sale, use, or consumption of auxiliary containers, or on the basis of receipts received from the sale of auxiliary containers;
 - Authorizes a person to use an auxiliary container for commerce purposes or otherwise;
 - Clarifies that continuing law prohibiting the improper deposit of litter applies to auxiliary containers under the state anti-littering law.

Tourism development districts (TDDs)

- Clarifies that a municipality or township may enlarge the territory of an existing tourism development district (TDD) after December 31, 2020 – the deadline under continuing law for creating a new TDD.

Local workforce development board meetings

- Allows local workforce development boards to hold meetings by interactive video conference or teleconference (states a preference for interactive video conference).
- Requires a board that wishes to do so to adopt rules requiring the meetings to be conducted in a certain manner and establishing a minimum number of members who must be physically present at the primary meeting location.

Municipal fiscal officer continuing education

- Requires appointed municipal fiscal officers (as well as elected fiscal officers under pre-existing law) to complete 18 hours of continuing education during the first term of office and 12 hours in each subsequent term of office.

Unpaid municipal trash charges

- Allows a municipal corporation to place as a lien on property unpaid garbage/trash collection charges when the unpaid amount equals or exceeds the annual charge for the services.

Township fiscal officer assistant compensation

- Allows township fiscal officers to set the compensation of their hired assistants without prior approval from the board of township trustees.

New community authorities

- Specifies that a person controlling land pursuant to certain 99-year renewable leases qualifies as a developer eligible to form a new community authority.

Medical marijuana businesses

- Prohibits local governments from imposing a tax or fee on medical marijuana businesses that is based on the business's gross receipts or is the same as or similar to a state tax or fee.

Agreements with animal shelters

- Expands the facilities with which a board of county commissioners may enter into an agreement to operate as a dog pound on behalf of the county to include any animal shelter for dogs.

Shoreline improvement district projects

- Allows a special improvement district to fund projects, including by assessing property within the district, to abate erosion along waters within a watershed district.

- Specifies that an existing qualified nonprofit corporation may create a special improvement district to implement a shoreline improvement project even if the corporation (1) does not have an established police department and (2) is not organized for purposes that include the acquisition of real property.

Discriminatory restrictive covenants – void

- Declares void discriminatory restrictive covenants in deeds limiting the transfer or lease of real property to individuals against whom discrimination is prohibited under the Ohio Civil Rights Law.
- Allows attorneys preparing new deeds to omit discriminatory restrictive covenants contained in prior deeds.
- Provides that omission of a discriminatory restrictive covenant from a new deed does not affect the deed's validity and prohibits county recorders from refusing to record a deed due to the omission.

Free library photocopies of identification

- Requires public libraries to provide an individual with a photocopy of that individual's driver's license, driver's permit, or state identification free of charge upon request.

Park district eminent domain for recreational trails

- Until July 1, 2026, prohibits park districts in counties with 220,000 to 240,000 residents (Lake and Mahoning counties) from using eminent domain to appropriate property for recreational trails.

Soil and water conservation districts – credit cards

- Establishes procedures by which a soil and water conservation district may accept credit cards for payment of certain goods and services.

Regional councils of governments

- Authorizes a regional council of governments, having an educational service center as its fiscal agent and established to provide health care benefits, to acquire, establish, manage, or operate a separate business entity, and utilize its unencumbered reserve funds in the acquisition, establishment, or operation, to cover costs of those benefits.
- Specifies if a business entity described above operates or provides services that is engaging in the business of insurance or is subject to Ohio insurance laws, it must comply with and is not exempt from laws that apply to self-insurance programs for health care benefits provided by political subdivisions and county boards.

Transportation improvement district board

- Reauthorizes the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to appoint a nonvoting member to serve on a transportation improvement district board of trustees.

MISCELLANEOUS

Juneteenth as a paid legal holiday

- Establishes June 19, known as Juneteenth, as a legal holiday for which certain government employees receive paid leave and for which school districts may dismiss school.
- Excludes Juneteenth Day from the definition of “business day,” similar to other legal holidays, for purposes of the law governing how long a buyer has to cancel a home solicitation sale contract and the minimum time that must pass before a home solicitation seller may transfer any note in connection with a home solicitation sale to a finance company.

COVID violations: expunge, refund fines, reinstate permits (VETOED)

- Would have vacated violations or sanctions imposed against businesses under certain COVID-related orders or rules (VETOED).
- Would have required state agencies and boards of health to expunge any record of a violation, and to treat any finding of a violation as a nullity (VETOED).
- Would have returned to businesses money collected by a state agency or board of health in civil or administrative penalties for violations (VETOED).
- Would have required state agencies and boards of health to cease any disciplinary action against a business for violations occurring before the act’s effective date (VETOED).
- Would have required state agencies and boards of health to restore rights and privileges of a business lost as a result of a violation (VETOED).
- Would have required the Liquor Control Commission to reinstate a liquor permit that was revoked as a result of a violation of certain rules governing COVID-19 and disorderly conduct, if the permit holder paid a fine of \$2,500 (VETOED).

Buy Ohio preference for personal protective equipment

- Requires state agencies to give preference to U.S. and Ohio products through the “competitive sealed bid process” when purchasing personal protective equipment with a purchase cost under \$50,000.

Open Meetings Law violations (VETOED)

- Would have created a procedure within the Court of Claims to hear complaints alleging a violation of the Open Meetings Law (VETOED).
- Would have provided for the assignment of a special master to refer the case to mediation or to proceed with the case and submit a report and recommendation to the Court of Claims (VETOED).

- Would have required that any appeal from an order of the Court of Claims be taken to the court of appeals of the appellate district where the principal place of business of the public body that is alleged to have violated the Open Meetings Law is located (VETOED).
- Would have allowed a court of appeals to award reasonable attorney's fees to an aggrieved person if the court determines that the public body violated the Open Meetings Law and obviously filed the appeal with the intent to delay compliance with the Court of Claims' order or to unduly harass the aggrieved person (VETOED).
- Would have provided that all filing fees collected by a clerk of the common pleas court are to be paid to the county treasurer for deposit into the county general revenue fund (VETOED).
- Would have provided that all filing fees collected by the clerk of the Court of Claims are to be kept by the Court of Claims to assist in paying for its costs to implement the above provisions (VETOED).

Vax-A-Million database not a public record

- Specifies the information in the Vax-A-Million database is confidential and not public record.

Use of medical marijuana in violation of employer's policy

- Provides that an employer does not violate the Ohio Civil Rights Law if the employer takes an adverse employment action against a person who uses medical marijuana in violation of the employer's policy regulating medical marijuana use.

Post-Traumatic Stress Fund actuarial study

- Permits the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund Board of Trustees to use its own actuary or, as under continuing law, a disinterested third-party actuary to perform an actuarial valuation and prepare a report required by continuing law related to the funding requirements of the State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund.
- Extends the due date for the actuarial study and report from October 1, 2021, to December 15, 2021.

Court settlements that conflict with the Revised Code

- Prohibits a public official, in the course of a lawsuit, from entering into an agreement not to enforce a provision of the Revised Code or to act contrary to the Revised Code.
- States that this provision must not be construed to limit or otherwise restrict a court's authority under the Ohio Constitution.

Land conveyances

- Authorizes the conveyance of two tracts of state-owned land, currently under DRC, in Madison and Warren counties.

Perpetual easement at Rhodes Tower

- Authorizes the Director of Administrative Services to grant the owner of 60 E. Broad St. in Columbus a perpetual easement over state-owned property at the Rhodes Tower complex, which had been subject to a 40-year easement granted in 1974.

EEG Combined Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation pilot

- Renames the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Pilot Program to the Electroencephalogram (EEG) Combined Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Pilot Program.
- Eliminates the specification that the pilot program be operated for three years.
- Expands the program to include first responders and law enforcement officers.
- Expands the list of disorders and conditions that establish eligibility for treatment under the program.
- Authorizes the program to have up to ten branch sites, and specifies that a branch site may be a mobile unit or an EEG combined neuromodulation portable unit.
- Requires the supplier to create and conduct a clinical trial and to establish and operate a clinical practice, and establishes criteria that the supplier must follow.

JobsOhio annual report

- Changes the date by which the Chief Investment Officer of JobsOhio must deliver an annual report of JobsOhio's activities from March 1 to July 1.

State Teachers Retirement Board meetings

- Authorizes the State Teachers Retirement Board to adopt a policy that allows Board members to attend Board meetings by means of teleconference or video conference.
- Requires that the policy, if adopted, stipulate that at least 1/3 of the Board members must attend in person where the meeting is being held and the number of meetings each Board member must attend in person.
- Permits a Board member attending a meeting via teleconference or video conference to be considered present at the meeting, to be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, and to vote.

Postpartum Cardiomyopathy Awareness Week

- Designates the fourth week of June as "Postpartum Cardiomyopathy Awareness Week."

Maternal Mortality Awareness Month

- Designates the month of May as "Maternal Mortality Awareness Month."

H.B. 167

(For details of the act's fiscal provisions see, the [LSC Fiscal Note \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website, legislature.ohio.gov)

Primary Sponsor: Rep Oelslager

Effective date: May 11, 2021

- Appropriates \$465 million of federal funds to the Development Services Agency (since renamed the Department of Development) to fund an emergency rental assistance program.
- Appropriates \$100 million of federal funds to the Department of Public Safety for COVID-19 relief purposes.

H.B. 168

(For details of the act's fiscal provisions see, the [LSC Fiscal Note \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website, legislature.ohio.gov)

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Fraizer and Loychik

Effective date: June 29, 2021

Unemployment compensation advance repayment

- Requires, on August 31, 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter, and again on December 27, 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of Job and Family Services (JFS Director) to certify to the Director of Budget and Management (OBM Director), the Governor, the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House, the balance of amounts loaned to Ohio by the federal government for paying unemployment benefits.
- Requires the OBM Director to remit the amounts certified, but not to exceed the available balance, from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Unemployment Compensation Fund to the credit of the Mutualized Account.
- Specifies that the amounts remitted are appropriated.
- Requires the JFS Director to deposit the amounts remitted as cash with the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury to reduce or eliminate the balance of amounts advanced to Ohio.

Appropriations from federal American Rescue Plan Act funds

- Appropriates \$250 million in FY 2022 for the Water and Sewer Quality Program, to be established and administered by the Department of Development, to provide grants to political subdivisions for water and sewer quality projects.
- Appropriates \$84 million in FY 2022 to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for pediatric behavioral health care facilities.

- Appropriates \$422 million in FY 2022 to the Office of Budget and Management to disburse to certain local governments in accordance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

H.B. 169

(For details of the act’s fiscal provisions see, the [LSC Fiscal Note \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly’s website, legislature.ohio.gov)

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Cutrona and Swearingen

Effective date: December 23, 2021; sections related to commercial driver’s license training effective March 24, 2022; one item vetoed

COVID-19 recovery appropriations

- Appropriates approximately \$4.19 billion in additional funding provided to Ohio for FY 2022 under various federal acts to support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Medicaid provider relief and workforce incentive payments

- Appropriates a portion of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage under the federal “Families First Coronavirus Response Act” to the Department of Medicaid for health care provider relief payments for nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, hospice care programs, and certain hospitals.
- Appropriates a portion of those funds to the Department of Developmental Disabilities to be used for Medicaid payments during FY 2022, including payments to intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICFs/IID) exclusively for workforce incentive payments.
- Permits the Medicaid Director to make provider relief payments to certain home and community-based service providers, assisted living facilities, hospice care programs, and hospitals.
- Permits the Director to make workforce incentive payments to nursing facilities; nonstate ICFs/IID; and critical access, rural, or distressed hospitals.

Commercial driver’s license training

- Requires an applicant to complete new federal mandatory training requirements before taking the skills test or knowledge test related to an initial application for certain commercial driver’s licenses (CDLs) or endorsements.
- Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to verify that an applicant has completed the required training before the applicant takes the skills test or knowledge test and before issuing the applicant the CDL or endorsement.
- Authorizes the Registrar to use the Trainer Provider Registry, available through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, to verify completion of the required training.
- Requires all authorized driver training schools that teach CDL students to incorporate the new federal training requirements.

- Clarifies that the Registrar must determine both of the following prior to issuing, renewing, transferring, or upgrading a CDL:
 - Whether the applicant was previously issued a CDL in another state; and
 - Whether the applicant is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle.

Suspension of Step Up to Quality requirement (VETOED)

- Would have suspended through December 31, 2022, the requirement that licensed child care centers, homes, and programs be rated in the Step Up to Quality Program to be eligible to provide publicly funded child care (VETOED).

H.B. 170

(For details of the act's fiscal provisions see, the [LSC Fiscal Note \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website, legislature.ohio.gov)

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Bird and Richardson

Effective date: June 2, 2021; Section 733.20, authorizing audits, effective September 1, 2021

- Appropriates \$967.3 million of federal funds to assist schools, the Department of Health, and the Adjutant General in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Requires the Department of Education to obtain Controlling Board approval prior to spending certain funds, including certain funds it receives from the federal CARES Act, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and the federal American Rescue Plan Act.
- Permits the Auditor of State to audit spending by the Department and each school district of the amounts appropriated for FY 2021 and any other federal funds received by the Department under the federal CARES Act, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

S.B. 108

(For details of the act's fiscal provisions see, the [LSC Fiscal Note \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website, legislature.ohio.gov)

Primary Sponsors: Sens. S. Huffman and Romanchuk

Effective date: May 17, 2021

- Appropriates \$125 million of federal funds to the Department of Development to provide grants to bars, restaurants, and lodging businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

S.B. 109

(For details of the act's fiscal provisions see, the [LSC Fiscal Note \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website, legislature.ohio.gov)

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Manning and Rulli

Effective date: May 17, 2021

- Appropriates a total of \$556.9 million of federal funds for grants to businesses and child care providers impacted by COVID-19, for food assistance and other assistance programs, and for local fairs and Ohio Veterans Homes.
- Reappropriates for FY 2022 amounts remaining in the Coronavirus Relief Fund at the end of FY 2021.

Commerce

H.B. 172

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Baldrige and O'Brien

Effective date: Emergency: certain provisions effective November 4, 2021; other provisions effective February 7, 2022, or July 1, 2022

Effective November 4, 2021

- Extends the general moratorium on the issuance of new, and geographic transfer of existing, fireworks manufacturer or wholesaler licenses from December 31, 2021, to December 31, 2022.
- Establishes a one-time license application and issuance date, outside of the normal fireworks manufacturer and wholesaler licensing timeline, at the end of the new license moratorium.

Effective February 7, 2022

- Establishes the Ohio Fire Code Rule Recommendation Committee to review the Fireworks Law and make recommendations to the State Fire Marshal.
- Requires the State Fire Marshal to adopt rules regulating the time, manner, and location of consumer fireworks use.
- Imposes a 4% fee on the retail sale of consumer grade fireworks, beginning May 18, 2022.
- Credits revenue from the new fee to fund firefighter training programs and the State Fire Marshal's administration of the Fireworks Law.
- Creates a new license allowing retailers to sell ground-based or hand-held sparklers called "fountain devices."
- Requires the State Fire Marshal to enforce the new provisions for fountain device retailers and to adopt related rules.
- Increases from 5,000 to 7,500 square feet the maximum floor area of a retail sales showroom, to which the public has access, that a licensed fireworks manufacturer or wholesaler uses to sell consumer grade fireworks, but requires expanded showrooms to be equipped with sprinkler systems meeting a specific standard.
- Establishes that the "state militia" for purposes of an existing exemption from the Fireworks Law is the state militia as recognized by the Adjutant General of Ohio.

Effective July 1, 2022

- Allows individuals to possess consumer-grade fireworks in Ohio, eliminating the requirement that purchasers transport consumer-grade fireworks out of the state within 48 hours of purchase.

- Allows any person authorized to possess consumer grade fireworks to discharge them on their own property or on another person's property with permission on the following days:
 - New Year's Day;
 - Chinese New Year;
 - Cinco de Mayo;
 - Memorial Day weekend;
 - Juneteenth;
 - July 3, 4, and 5, and the Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays preceding and following;
 - Labor Day weekend;
 - Diwali;
 - New Year's Eve.
- Permits local governments to restrict the dates and times that individuals may discharge consumer-grade fireworks or to impose a complete ban on the use of consumer-grade fireworks.
- Requires licensed retailers, manufacturers, and wholesalers selling consumer grade fireworks to the general public to offer safety glasses at the point of sale, for free or a nominal charge.
- Requires licensed retailers, manufacturers, and wholesalers selling consumer grade fireworks to the general public to also provide purchasers with a safety pamphlet that contains, at a minimum, specified information.
- Prohibits discharging fireworks (1) while in possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol or a controlled substance, or (2) on the property of another without the property owner's permission.
- Allows the State Fire Marshal to suspend a fireworks manufacturer or wholesaler license if the licensee has violated the Fireworks Law or the State Fire Marshal's rules.
- Prohibits the State Fire Marshal from unreasonably withholding a variance that would allow hobbyists to manufacture, possess, and use individual display-grade and consumer-grade fireworks and requires cause for revocation of a hobbyist variance.
- Requires hobbyists seeking variances to demonstrate that they can engage in the hobby safely and legally, and limits hobbyists to possession of five pounds of raw materials and finished fireworks produced through the hobby.

S.B. 40

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schaffer

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Qualifies the manner in which cigarettes' wholesale minimum sale price is calculated by referring to the manufacturer's gross invoice cost as the basis of a wholesaler's cost.
- Prescribes the manner by which a wholesaler must obtain the Tax Commissioner's approval before using its actual cost of doing business, instead of a default statutory cost, in pricing cigarettes.
- Explicitly permits one wholesaler to sell cigarettes to another wholesaler without having to recover the minimum wholesale cost as is required when selling to a retailer.
- Explicitly requires a competitor's price to be approved by the Commissioner before another wholesaler may match the competitor's price.
- Requires a retailer or wholesaler to obtain the Commissioner's approval before conducting cigarette sales exempt from the minimum pricing law.
- Clarifies an offense prohibiting a wholesaler from selling cigarettes at less than the minimum sale price.

S.B. 49

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Hottinger and Sykes

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Allows an architect, landscape architect, professional engineer, or professional surveyor (collectively "professional") who enters into a contract for services relating to commercial real estate to obtain a lien on the property.
- Establishes the process to perfect, enforce, and release the professional's lien.
- Prescribes the circumstances under which a lien is extinguished.
- Allows a person with an interest in commercial real estate to substitute financial security for a professional's perfected lien.

S.B. 113

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Rulli and Johnson

Effective date: Vetoed

- Governor DeWine vetoed S.B. 113 on July 9, 2021. The act addressed the regulation of consumer-grade fireworks. The General Assembly subsequently passed comparable legislation in H.B. 172, which the Governor approved. See the Digest entry for H.B. 172, above.

Courts

H.B. 7

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Grendell and Stewart

Effective date: August 17, 2021

Selection of automobiles by surviving spouse

- Modifies the law by providing that if the surviving spouse selected “more than one automobile,” instead of “one or more automobiles” under prior law, the allowance for support is reduced by the value of the automobile having the lowest value “of the automobiles” so selected.
- Modifies the law by providing that if the surviving spouse selected “more than one automobile,” the probate court, in considering the needs of the spouse and the minor children when allocating a support allowance, must consider the benefit derived from the transfer of the automobile having the lowest value “of the automobiles so selected.”

Guardianship Law changes

- Expands the powers of a guardian to include:
 - Disclaiming the present, contingent, or expectant interests in the ward’s property;
 - Creating, amending, or revoking revocable trusts of property of the ward’s estate that may extend beyond the ward’s minority, disability, or life; and
 - Changing beneficiaries of insurance policies, retirement plans, IRAs, and annuities.
- Expands the factors the court must consider to determine that a guardian’s exercise of a particular power must not impair the financial ability of the ward’s estate to provide for the ward’s maintenance needs, to include the disposition of property by the ward’s revocable trust, and if there is no knowledge of such trust, the ward’s prospective heirs.
- Modifies the law requiring the probate court to cause notice to be given and a hearing to be conducted prior to exercising or directing the exercise of certain powers, such as the power to create, amend, or revoke a revocable trust and to exercise rights to elect options under annuities and insurance policies.
- Expands the types of persons to whom the notice is to be given to include the ward’s heirs at law and next of kin and certain beneficiaries, such as those under the ward’s existing will, revocable trust, or last known will; beneficiaries of insurance policies, retirement plans, IRAs, and annuities owned by the ward; and others.

Nonprofit corporation as guardian of person of an incompetent

- Provides that certain nonprofit corporations may be appointed guardian of the person of an incompetent upon being certified by the probate court.

- Requires the probate court to certify the nonprofit corporation and an individual acting as guardian on its behalf upon meeting the requirements for serving as guardian in the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio and the rules of the probate court of the county exercising jurisdiction over the incompetent person.
- Prohibits a nonprofit corporation appointed as guardian of the person of an incompetent from being the incompetent's residential caregiver, health care provider, or employer.

Anatomical gifts

- Eliminates the following as manners to make an anatomical gift: (a) specifying in the donor's will an intent to make a gift, or (b) specifying an intent to make the gift in the donor's "living will" (declaration governing use or continuation, or withholding or withdrawal, of life-sustaining treatment).
- Removes law regarding amendment or revocation of an anatomical gift made in a will.
- Eliminates the provision for indicating in a will a refusal to make a gift of the body or part.
- Removes law dealing with the effects of a conflict between an anatomical gift and a "living will" (declaration governing the use or continuation, or the withholding or withdrawal, of life-sustaining treatment).

Ohio Trust Code changes

- Repeals law providing that upon the lapse, release, or waiver of the power of withdrawal, the holder is treated as the settlor of the trust only to the extent the value of the property affected by the lapse, release, or waiver exceeds the greater of specified amounts determined under the Internal Revenue Code.

Ohio Legacy Trust Act (OLTA) changes

- Modifies the definitions of "disposition" and "qualified trustee" in the OLTA.
- Expands the definition of "qualified trustee" to include a "family trust company" (FTC) as defined in the Ohio Family Trust Company Act and which may or may not be licensed under that Act, if all of specified requirements apply regarding the FTC's licensing status.
- Specifies that the records required to be maintained by a qualified trustee for the legacy trust be electronic or physical records.
- Expands a transferor's powers to include a power allowing the transferor, while acting in a nonfiduciary capacity, to substitute property of equivalent value for any property that is part of the principal of the legacy trust.
- Changes the reference to a court taking an action in the procedure for the determination or selection of a successor or replacement trustee of a legacy trust, to a reference to a court "entering or issuing an order."

- Specifies that when determining whether a provision of law is similar to any provision of the Ohio Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act if there is a conflict between that Act and the OLTA, a court must be liberal in finding that such similarity exists.
- Adds new provisions that apply if any disposition is made by a trustee of a first legacy trust to a trustee of a second legacy trust, including:
 - A provision that generally the disposition is considered a qualified disposition for the benefit of all the beneficiaries of both the first and second legacy trusts;
 - The specification of dates to apply when an item of property is to be treated as having been transferred to a trustee of the second legacy trust;
 - A provision that specifies that a qualified trustee of the first legacy trust may serve as the qualified trustee of the second legacy trust.
- States that the OLTA and its provisions reflect and embody the strong public policy of Ohio.

Cemetery endowment care trusts

- Establishes two different distribution methods for cemetery endowment care trusts in order to pay for cemetery expenses.
- Expands the list of allowable trust expenses to which a trust distribution can be directed to include investment expenses.
- Requires cemetery operators to report unitrust distribution percentages to the Department of Commerce's Division of Real Estate.
- Requires that the distribution method and, if a unitrust disbursement, the disbursement percentage selected, remain in effect unless the cemetery notifies the trustees and the Division.
- Establishes requirements and restrictions that the trustee must follow regarding distribution and disbursement from a cemetery endowment care trust.

Referrals of civil actions to retired judge

- Modifies the law pertaining to referrals for adjudication of civil actions to retired judges by providing that the parties' written referral agreement must also include a procedure for terminating the agreement, and authorizing, instead of requiring, the judge before whom the action is pending to order the referral.

Probate judge's account of fees

- Modifies the due date for the probate judge to file with the county auditor an itemized account of fees received or charged by the judge in each case, examination, or proceeding.

Involuntary mental health treatment

- Specifies that the diagnosis and prognosis of a respondent subject to involuntary mental health treatment, made by a clinical nurse specialist or advanced practice registered nurse with certain psychiatric training, may be considered when determining the most appropriate treatment placement for the respondent.

Conformity of a legal name

- Permits a person desiring to conform the person's legal name on an official identity document to file an application in the probate court of the county where the person resides.
- Requires a name conformity application to set forth (1) that the applicant has been a resident of the county for at least 60 days, (2) an explanation of the misspelling, inconsistency, or other error in the name, and (3) a description of the correction.
- Requires a name conformity application to be supported by an affidavit verifying information on the applicant's residency, purpose, debtor status, the truth, accuracy, and completeness of submitted documentary evidence, and any other information the court may require.
- Permits the probate court to issue an order to conform the applicant's name on proof that (1) the facts set forth in the application show that a misspelling, inconsistency, or other error exists and (2) reasonable and proper cause exists for issuing an order that resolves the discrepancy and conforms the applicant's name.
- Permits an application to conform a legal name to be made on behalf of a minor by the minor's parents, a legal guardian, a legal custodian, or a guardian ad litem.
- Applies the notice/consent requirements for minor name changes, as modified under the act, to the name conformity requirements for minors.
- Prohibits an action to conform the legal name of a person or on behalf of a minor in lieu of either (1) correction of a birth record or (2) changing a legal name to a name that is not used in any existing official identity documents.

Change of legal name

- Specifies requirements for a change of name application and for the applicant's affidavit to support the application.
- Requires name change application to set forth (1) that the applicant has been a resident of the county for at least 60 days (rather than one year as in prior law), (2) the reason for the name change, and (3) the requested new name.
- Requires a name change application to be supported by an affidavit verifying information on the applicant's residency, purpose, debtor status, the truth, accuracy, and completeness of submitted documentary evidence, and any other information the court may require.

- Requires the affidavit to also verify that the applicant has not been convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or been adjudicated a delinquent child for identity fraud or does not have a duty to register as a sex offender for having committed a sexually oriented offense or a child-victim oriented offense.
- Permits the court to order the applicant's change of name upon proof (1) that the facts set forth in the application show that reasonable and proper cause exists for changing the applicant's name and (2) if applicable, that proper notice was served.
- Permits an application to change a legal name to be made on behalf of a minor by the minor's parents, a legal guardian, a legal custodian, or a guardian ad litem.
- Modifies the consent/notice requirements for the name change of a minor with the result that the minor name change requirements are the same as the minor name conformity requirements.
- Recodifies the law governing the change of legal name process.

General name change/conformity provisions

- Permits the court to hold a hearing on a name change or conformity application and, if a hearing is ordered, requires the court to set the manner, scope, and content of the hearing (former law required, for a name change application, a hearing and service of a hearing notice in a local newspaper 30 days prior to the hearing).
- Permits the court to grant an exception to a hearing notice with satisfactory proof that publication of the service of hearing notice or open records of the name change or conformity would jeopardize the applicant's personal safety.
- Permits the court, by local rule or order, to require a name conformity or name change applicant to submit a copy of the applicant's official identity documents or other documentary evidence the court deems relevant.
- Permits the court, on receipt of an application to conform or change a legal name, to require the applicant to submit to a criminal records check at the applicant's expense.

S.B. 2

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Effective date: August 3, 2021

Procedure for court-ordered competency examinations

- Prohibits a court from ordering a criminal defendant to undergo inpatient competency evaluations at certain facilities operated or certified by the state, unless the defendant is charged with a felony or offense of violence, immediate hospitalization is deemed necessary, or the order is based on a request from the examiner according to law.
- Allows evaluation of the defendant's mental condition at the time of the offense to be conducted through electronic means.

- Requires the examiner's written report to be filed with the court under seal and allows inspection of the report by the defendant, the defendant's guardian, probate courts, ADAMHS boards, and mental health professionals involved in the defendant's treatment.
- Allows others to inspect the report under certain circumstances and prescribes a mechanism for determining whether disclosure should be allowed.
- Provides that intellectual disability reports must be filed under seal in the same manner as competency evaluations.
- Requires the examiner to consider housing needs and availability of mental health treatment in the community when giving a recommendation as to the least restrictive placement or commitment alternative for the defendant due to the defendant's condition.

Finding of incompetence to stand trial

- Modifies and expands the provisions governing a court's issuance of a treatment order for a defendant found incompetent to stand trial (IST).
- Requires the court, when determining the place of commitment for a defendant found IST, to consider the availability of housing and supportive services, including outpatient mental health services.
- Requires a criminal court to send to the probate court copies of all previously prepared written reports regarding a defendant's mental condition for a defendant who cannot be restored to competency and for whom an Affidavit of Mental Illness has been filed.

Misdemeanor defendants undergoing competency restoration

- Enacts a procedure that a hospital chief clinical officer must follow before discharging a mental health patient found IST for one or more specified misdemeanor offenses and who consequently becomes the subject of an Affidavit of Mental Illness initiated by a criminal court or prosecutor.
- Prohibits a described patient from being discharged from hospitalization before the hospital's chief clinical officer has notified the trial court or prosecutor of the intent to discharge.
- Requires that the Affidavit of Mental Illness, used to initiate involuntary mental health treatment using the process of judicial hospitalization, include a space for the affiant to indicate that the person for whom involuntary mental health treatment is sought is a described patient.

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)

- Enters Ohio in the multi-jurisdictional psychology compact, known as PSYPACT.
- Regulates the practice of telepsychology and temporary in-person psychology across state boundaries for participating states.

- Establishes the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission.
- Creates the Coordinated Licensure Information System.
- Outlines the procedure for implementing and withdrawing from PSYPACT.

Substance abuse civil commitment

- Eliminates a provision that authorized a court to order the hospitalization on an immediate, emergency basis of a respondent found to present an imminent danger or imminent threat of danger to self, family, or others as a result of alcohol or other drug abuse.

S.B. 13

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Lang

Effective date: June 16, 2021

Statute of limitations of actions on a contract

- Shortens from eight to six years the period of limitations of actions on a contract in writing, and expands the exceptions to that period of limitations.
- Shortens from six to four years the period of limitations of actions on a contract not in writing.

Actions arising out of consumer transaction

- Generally requires an action arising out of a consumer transaction primarily incurred for personal, family, or household purposes, based upon an express or implied agreement, be commenced within six years after the cause of action accrues, and provides the circumstances when such cause of action accrues.
- Excludes from the applicability of the period of limitations the limitation periods under Ohio's Commercial Paper Law, of an action to recover title to or possession of real property, or violations of the Consumer Sales Practices Act.
- Provides that the limitation period of an action arising out of a consumer transaction is notwithstanding certain other periods of limitation.

Changes to the “borrowing statute”

- Narrows the law regarding the “borrowing statute” by providing that no tort action, instead of civil action, based upon a cause of action that accrued in another state or foreign jurisdiction, may be commenced in Ohio if the limitation period under the other jurisdiction's law or Ohio law has expired.
- Generally prevents an action on a contract in writing that seeks post-default interest at a rate governed by another state's or foreign jurisdiction's law, and in excess of the federal short-term rate, from being commenced in Ohio if the limitation period under the other jurisdiction's law or Ohio law has expired.

- Prevents an action arising out of a consumer transaction as described above, that seeks post charge-off interest at a rate governed by another jurisdiction's law and in excess of the federal short-term rate, from being commenced in Ohio if the limitation period under the other jurisdiction's law or Ohio law has expired.

Application

- Generally provides that the limitation periods that apply in actions described above apply to actions in which the cause of action accrues on or after June 16, 2021, the act's effective date.
- Specifies the limitation periods that apply if the cause of action accrues prior to that date.

Statutes of limitation and repose for legal malpractice action

- Provides that a legal malpractice action against an attorney, law firm, or legal professional association must be commenced within one year after the cause of action accrues.
- Generally provides that a legal malpractice action against an attorney, law firm, or legal professional association cannot commence more than four years after the act or omission constituting the alleged basis of the legal malpractice claim occurs.
- Provides that if a legal malpractice action is not commenced within four years after the act or omission occurs, any action upon that claim is barred.
- Allows a person seeking a legal malpractice claim to commence an action on the claim not later than one year after the person discovers the injury resulting from an act or omission if certain requirements are met.

Crimes, Corrections, and Law Enforcement

H.B. 8

Primary Sponsors: Reps. West and Plummer

Effective date: Emergency: sections related to restraining or confining pregnant inmates effective May 17, 2021; section related to electronic recording of custodial interrogations effective August 15, 2021

Electronic recording of custodial interrogations

- Replaces law that addressed, but did not require, electronic recording of statements made by a suspect of any of several specified criminal offenses during a custodial interrogation with law that, except in limited circumstances, requires recording all such statements made.
- Eliminates a ban against penalizing a law enforcement agency that employs a law enforcement officer who failed to electronically record statements, when required.
- Replaces law that specified that a failure to electronically record a statement, when required, did not provide the basis to exclude or suppress a statement in any legal proceeding with law specifying that if a law enforcement agency fails to record a custodial interrogation, when required by the act:
 - If the prosecution establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that one or more of the act's limited exceptions applies, the court must admit the evidence without a cautionary instruction;
 - If the prosecution does not meet that burden of proof, the court must provide a cautionary instruction to the jury that it may consider the failure in determining the reliability of the evidence.
- Expands the law specifying that a law enforcement officer's failure to electronically record a custodial interrogation does not create a private cause of action against the officer to specify that the failure does not create a private cause of action against any person or agency.

Restraining or confining pregnant inmates

- In law that prohibits under specified circumstances the restraining or confining of charged or convicted criminal offenders and charged or adjudicated delinquent children who are, or were, pregnant:
 - Modifies the provisions with respect to the types of restraint covered, the onset of the restraint prohibition, an exception to the restraint prohibition, and possible sanctions for violations of the restraint prohibition.
 - Repeals the prohibition with respect to confinement.

S.B. 36

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Manning and S. Huffman

Effective date: March 2, 2022

- Modifies the time limitation to file an application for an award of reparations to three years after the criminally injurious conduct.
- Provides exceptions to the time limitation if any of the following apply:
 - The claimant was under 21 at the time of the criminally injurious conduct (the claim is not barred until after the claimant’s 24th birthday).
 - The claim is based on criminally injurious conduct that occurred prior to March 2, 2022 (the act’s effective date) and was denied under the law as it existed prior to that date (the claim is not barred, and the claimant is eligible to reapply for relief until more than three years have passed since the criminally injurious conduct).
 - The Attorney General makes an award of reparations for good cause shown.
- Modifies the information that the Attorney General must include in the finding of fact and decision when making an award of reparations.
- Modifies the information that the Attorney General must include in the finding of fact and decision when denying an award of reparations.
- Modifies the disqualifying conditions for an award of reparations.
- Modifies whether the Attorney General or Court of Claims may consider contributory misconduct by a victim for an award of reparations.
- Provides that an award of reparations is not payable to the victim during any period that the victim is incarcerated.
- Imposes limits on the award of reparations payable to two types of victims.
- Modifies the definitions of “allowable expense” and “contributory misconduct.”

S.B. 54

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Effective date: March 2, 2022

- Prohibits a person, entity, or merchant from engaging in any act or practice in violation of any provision of a specified federal act or rule addressing telemarketing or consumer fraud.
- Prohibits a person from providing substantial assistance or support to any person, entity, merchant, seller, or telemarketer when that person knows or consciously avoids knowing that the other person, entity, merchant, seller, or telemarketer is engaged in any act or practice that violates any provision of the federal act or rule.

- Allows the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations of those prohibitions and allows for civil penalties for those violations.
- Requires the Attorney General to deposit civil penalties to the credit of the Telemarketing Fraud Enforcement Fund and specifies how those funds must be used.
- Specifies that the Attorney General cannot bring an action for damages or a civil penalty more than five years after a violation occurs.
- Designates a violation of the prohibitions that involve a consumer transaction as an unfair or deceptive act or practice.
- Allows the Attorney General to prosecute a case involving the unauthorized use of property, unauthorized use of computer, cable, or telecommunication property, or telecommunications fraud if certain conditions are met.
- Prohibits a person, having devised a scheme to defraud, from knowingly disseminating, transmitting, or causing to be disseminated or transmitted by means of a voice over internet protocol service any writing, data, sign, signal, picture, sound, or image with purpose to execute or otherwise further the scheme to defraud.
- Generally prohibits a person, with intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value, from knowingly causing, directly or indirectly, any caller identification service to transmit or display misleading or inaccurate caller identification information in connection with any telecommunication service or voice over internet protocol service.
- Specifies that if the victim of telecommunications fraud is an elderly person, disabled adult, active duty service member, or spouse of an active duty service member, telecommunications fraud is a fourth degree felony.

S.B. 126

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Kunze and Gavarone

Effective date: October 7, 2021

- Entitles the act “Collin’s Law: The Ohio Anti-Hazing Act.”

Criminal offense of “hazing”

- Includes in the criminal definition of “hazing” an act to continue or reinstate membership in a specified organization that creates a substantial risk of harm.
- Expressly includes in the criminal definition of “hazing” coercing individuals to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse.
- Increases the penalty for the existing prohibitions against hazing to a second degree misdemeanor.
- Expands the list of specified officials who are prohibited from recklessly permitting hazing and limits that prohibition to offenses committed against an individual associated with the official’s organization.

- Prohibits an individual from recklessly participating in hazing that includes forced consumption of alcohol or drugs of abuse resulting in serious physical harm to another.
- Prohibits a specified institution, school, or organization official from recklessly permitting hazing that includes forced consumption of alcohol or drugs of abuse resulting in serious physical harm to an individual associated with the official's organization.
- Specifies that a violation of either of the two new prohibitions regarding hazing that includes forced consumption resulting in serious physical harm is a third degree felony.

Criminal offense of failure to report hazing

- Requires specified officials to immediately report to law enforcement their knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that an individual has suffered or faces a threat of hazing.
- Makes the reckless failure to fulfill that reporting requirement a fourth degree misdemeanor or, if the hazing causes serious physical harm, a first degree misdemeanor.

Anti-hazing plan and policies

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to adopt a statewide educational plan for preventing hazing at institutions of higher education that includes both a model anti-hazing policy and guidelines for anti-hazing education and training.
- Requires each public and private institution of higher education to adopt an anti-hazing policy, to report hazing incidents, and to provide student and faculty educational training.

Economic Development

H.B. 2

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Carfagna and Stewart

Effective date: Emergency: May 17, 2021

Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program

- Creates the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program (grant program) within the Department of Development (DEV).
- Requires DEV to receive and review applications for grants and send completed applications to the Broadband Expansion Program Authority for review and award of grants for eligible projects.
- Defines grant program terms, such as:
 - “Eligible project” – a project to provide tier two broadband service access to residences in an unserved area or tier one area of a municipal corporation or township that is eligible for funding under the act;
 - “Tier one service” and “tier two service” – retail wireline or wireless broadband service delivering internet access at speeds of (1) at least 10 but less than 25 megabits downstream and 1 but less than 3 megabits upstream for tier one service and (2) at least 25 megabits per second downstream and 3 megabits per second upstream for tier two service;
 - “Tier one area” – an area that has access to tier one but not tier two broadband service, including an area where tier one service is being constructed and is scheduled to be completed within two years.
 - “Unserved area” – an area without access to tier one or tier two broadband service.
- Requires a broadband provider to construct last mile broadband infrastructure after receiving a grant.

Broadband Expansion Program Authority

- Creates the Authority within DEV and exempts it from the Sunset Review Law.
- Names as Authority members the Director of Development (DEV Director) and the Director of InnovateOhio or their designees and three appointed members, to serve four-year terms with reappointment permitted, with the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and the Governor each making one appointment.
- Specifies that appointed Authority members must have broadband infrastructure and technology expertise, but may not be affiliated with or employed by the broadband industry or be in a position to benefit from a program grant.

- Requires appointed members to receive compensation in the form of reimbursement of necessary and actual expenses and a monthly stipend, except that an appointed member who also serves as a state administrative department head will not receive the stipend.
- Calculates the monthly stipend such that it qualifies each appointed member for one year of service credit with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) for each year of the appointed member's four-year term, but specifies that the service credit may not be considered for determining health care coverage if offered by OPERS.
- Requires the Authority to conduct hearings and to do several tasks, including for example, to monitor the grant program by tracking details for annual applications and annual grants and to continually examine, and propose updates to, any broadband plan enacted by the General Assembly or issued in an Executive Order of the Governor.
- Requires the Authority to make an annual report by December 1 to the Governor and General Assembly regarding its hearings, monitoring, examination, review, and other duties regarding broadband service and to make the report available on DEV's website.

Application process for grants

- Permits a broadband provider to apply to DEV for a grant for an eligible project in person, by certified mail or email, or via a designated DEV website.
- Requires the application form to include a statement informing the applicant that failure to comply with the grant program or to meet required tier two service proposed in the application may require the refund of all or part of the grant.
- Requires applications to include several items including, for example, the location and a description of the project, a letter of intent that a broadband provider will provide access to tier two service, the amount of the broadband funding gap and the state funds requested, and the broadband speeds planned for the project.
- Disqualifies an application for a grant if:
 - It proposes to provide tier two service where already available; or
 - In the proposed area, construction of tier two service is in progress and (1) is being constructed without program funding by the broadband provider that submitted the application or (2) is scheduled to be completed by another provider within two years after the date of a challenge to the application.
- Requires DEV to accept grant applications each fiscal year and to fund grants until funds for the fiscal year are no longer available.
- Requires that applications be accepted during up to two 60- to 90-day submission periods each fiscal year, as specified by the Authority.
- After receiving notice from DEV that an application is incomplete, permits the provider to complete and refile the application before the end of the submission period, or not more than 14 days after the period ends if DEV grants an extension for good cause shown.

Proprietary and trade secret information

- Requires DEV to review information and documents submitted (in an application or project challenge) by a broadband provider to determine whether it is proprietary or a trade secret and to keep the information and documents confidential unless DEV finds that it is not proprietary or a trade secret and therefore is not confidential.

Financial assurance

- Permits the Authority to require a broadband provider that is awarded a grant to provide a performance bond, letter of credit, or other financial assurance acceptable to the Authority before construction begins.

DEV application website

- Requires certain grant program and application information, except for denied applications, to be published on DEV's website, including, for example, the residential addresses included with completed applications, all other information included with applications that is not confidential, and status updates regarding Authority decisions regarding project challenges.

County-requested solicitations for broadband providers

- Permits a board of county commissioners, by resolution, to request DEV to solicit applications from broadband providers for grants for eligible projects in the county's municipal corporations and townships.
- Requires a solicitation request to identify, to the extent possible, the residential addresses in unserved or tier one areas, provide a point of contact for the county, municipal corporations, and townships where the addresses are located, and include any helpful relevant information, documents, or materials for the application.
- Requires DEV to solicit applications for grants if a county makes a request and, within seven days after receiving it, to make it and the accompanying information available for review on DEV's website for up to two years.
- Specifies that a grant application made in response to a county request must fully comply with all grant program requirements and that nothing in the county request provides relief from compliance with any program requirement.
- Specifies that DEV is not responsible for a broadband provider's failure to respond to a county-requested solicitation made by DEV or to submit an application.

Project application challenge process

- After a completed application is published on the DEV website, permits a challenging provider to challenge, in writing, all or part of a completed grant application not later than 65 days after the close of the submission period or 14-day extension period if one is granted.

- Defines “challenging provider” as a (1) broadband provider that provides tier two service within or directly adjacent to an eligible project or (2) municipal electric utility that provides tier two service to an area within the eligible project that is within the geographic area served by the utility.
- Requires the challenging provider to submit, by certified mail, a written copy of the challenge to the applicant provider and the Authority.
- Specifies that for a challenge to succeed, a challenging provider must submit sufficient evidence to DEV demonstrating that all or part of a project under the application is ineligible for a grant by:
 - Disputing that the eligible project contains unserved or tier one areas; and
 - Attesting to the challenging provider’s existing or planned offering of tier two service to all or part of the eligible project.
- Permits a challenging provider to demonstrate that all or part of a project under an application is ineligible for a grant, by presenting shapefile data, residential addresses, maps, or similar geographic details, but not census block or census tract level data.
- Permits the Authority to suspend all or part of a challenged application or reject the challenge and approve the application, and requires the Authority to notify the applicant provider and the challenging provider of its decisions by providing a copy of the decision by certified mail or email.
- Requires the Authority to allow an applicant provider 14 days (unless another 14-day extension is granted for good cause shown) to revise and resubmit its application, if the Authority upholds all or part of a challenge, and to submit the revised application to the Authority and challenging provider by certified mail or email or via DEV’s website.
- Specifies that an application is considered to be withdrawn if the applicant provider fails to respond to an Authority notification or to revise an application to the Authority’s satisfaction.
- Requires the Authority to review and decide whether to accept the revised application or uphold the challenge within 14 days of receiving the revised application.

Scoring system for application review

- Requires DEV, in consultation with the Authority, to establish a weighted scoring system to evaluate and select grant applications and make it available on DEV’s website at least 30 days before the application submission period begins.
- Specifies that the scoring system must prioritize applications according to certain factors, listed in order from highest to lowest and, as an example, lists the highest two factors as (1) eligible projects for unserved areas, rather than tier one areas and (2) eligible projects located in distressed areas.

- Allows the Authority to consider, after the weighted factors, any other factors it determines reasonable, appropriate, and consistent with facilitating the economic deployment of tier two service to unserved or tier one areas.
- Prohibits the Authority, when awarding grants, from considering:
 - Proposed project conditions that require open access networks or that establish a specific rate, service, or other obligation not specified in the grant program; or
 - Factors that would constrain the broadband provider from offering or providing tier two service as it is offered by other broadband providers in Ohio without grant program funding.

Grant awards

- Requires the Authority to award grants after reviewing applications sent by DEV, considering all regulatory obligations under the law and basing the awards on the scoring system, and to notify the broadband providers that submitted applications upon making the awards.

Funding

- Creates the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Fund in the state treasury to be used exclusively for grants awarded by the Authority.
- Requires the Authority to award grants using money from the fund and other appropriations made by the General Assembly.
- Requires the transfer of \$20 million from the Facilities Establishment Fund to the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Fund on May 17, 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter, and appropriates the transferred amount for FY 2021.

Funding from video service providers (VSPs)

- Permits a broadband provider to enter into an arrangement to designate video service provider (VSP) fees remitted by the provider for contribution towards an eligible project's broadband funding gap if:
 - The provider is a VSP that collects and remits VSP fees to one or more legislative authorities in which an eligible project is located; and
 - The arrangement is entered into by mutual consent with the legislative authorities.
- Specifies that, under the alternate payment term arrangements with a VSP, unless otherwise negotiated, the participating legislative authorities in which the eligible project is located must assume all financial responsibility for all project costs incurred by the broadband provider prior to completion of the project or award of a grant.

Funding from special assessments

- Permits a municipal corporation, county, or township to fund a portion of the broadband funding gap for an eligible project through a property tax assessment made by the

municipal corporation, county, or township, and permits the taxing district to issue securities in anticipation of the levy or collection of the assessment.

Distribution of grant funds

- Requires up to 30% of a grant to be disbursed before project construction begins, up to 60% to be disbursed periodically over the course of the project construction according to DEV rules, and the remainder to be disbursed not later than 60 days after notification that construction is complete.

Speed verification

- Permits DEV, through an independent third party, to conduct speed verification tests of an eligible project that receives a grant.
- Requires speed verification tests to occur after project construction is complete but prior to the final grant disbursement, and at any time during the four-year reporting period (see “**Grant award reports,**” below), after receiving a complaint concerning a residence that is part of the eligible project.
- Requires the speed verification tests to be conducted on at least two days at two different times each day.
- If a project fails to meet the minimum broadband service speeds required, permits DEV to withhold payments until the speeds are achieved.

Program noncompliance

- Requires DEV to (1) notify a broadband provider if the provider, after receiving a grant, has not complied with program requirements and (2) provide the provider the opportunity to explain or cure the noncompliance.
- Permits DEV to require the broadband provider to refund (1) an amount of the grant award as DEV determines and (2) to the appropriate municipal corporation, county, or township, the entire amount they contributed toward the broadband funding gap.
- Requires the broadband provider to pay the refund for noncompliance, or failure to explain or cure the noncompliance, not more than 30 days after DEV determines that a refund must be paid.

Grant award reports

- Requires each broadband provider that receives a grant to submit:
 - An annual progress report on the status of the deployment of the broadband network for which the grant was awarded; and
 - An operational report with DEV not later than 60 days after the project’s completion and annually for another four years.

- Requires broadband provider reports to include an account of how grant funds have been used and the progress toward fulfilling the objectives for which the grant was awarded, and specifies minimum requirements for the report.

Authority grant program report

- Requires the Authority to complete an annual report that evaluates the grant program's success, includes certain program information and the findings and recommendations agreed to by a majority of Authority members, and to include the evaluation, findings, and recommendations in its annual report required by law of all state departments.
- Requires the Authority to publish the report on DEV's website and to provide the report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 each year.

Broadband infrastructure ownership rights

- Specifies that nothing in the act:
 - Entitles the state, DEV, Authority, or any other governmental entity to any ownership or other rights to broadband infrastructure constructed by a broadband provider with a grant for an eligible project; or
 - Prevents an assignment, sale, change in ownership, or similar transaction for that infrastructure and specifies that no such transaction relieves the successor of obligations under the act.

Rules

- Requires DEV to adopt rules for the grant program, including rules for an application form and application procedures and procedures for periodic grant disbursements.
- Specifies that DEV rules are not subject to certain provisions of Ohio law governing review of agency rules regarding regulatory restrictions.

Use of electric cooperative easements for broadband

- Allows an easement granted to an electric cooperative for transmitting, delivering, or otherwise providing electric power to be used, apportioned, or subleased to provide broadband service without the use, apportionment, or sublease being considered an additional burden on the servient estate (which is the land burdened by the easement).

Easement action

- Allows for servient estate owners to bring an action for damages regarding the use, apportionment, or sublease of the easement.
- Prohibits a servient estate owner from bringing the action if:
 - The owner, directly or through membership in an electric cooperative or otherwise, authorized the cooperative's electric delivery system for broadband services;
 - The owner, or any previous owners, has agreed to, or granted permission for, the easement's use for broadband service; or

- The broadband service facilities are used or could be used to assist in the transmission, delivery, or use of electric service.
- Requires an action for damages to be brought within one year of any alleged damages or else the claim is forfeited.
- Limits damages to the difference between the fair market value (as determined by a qualified real estate appraiser) of the owner's interest in the property of the servient estate immediately before and after the provision of broadband service and requires any damages awarded to be a fixed amount that cannot continue, accumulate, or accrue.
- Prohibits past, current, or future revenues or profits derived or to be derived from the use, apportionment, or sublease of an easement for broadband service from being admissible for any purpose in the action for damages.
- Prohibits the court from granting injunctive relief or any other equitable relief for the action for damages.

Court determination

- Requires any court determination regarding an easement subject to the action for damages to be considered a finding that the provision of broadband service is an allowable use or purpose under the easement as if specifically stated in the terms of the easement.
- Requires a court determination in the action for damages to be filed by the defendant with the county recorder of the servient estate's county and requires the recorder to make a notation in the official record linking the determination to the servient estate and easement.

State power not expanded

- States that the act's electric cooperative easement provisions do not expand the powers of the state, its agencies, or any political subdivision beyond the authority under federal or state law.

Appropriation of property laws not applicable

- States that Ohio law governing the appropriation of property does not apply to the act's electric cooperative easement provisions.

Electric cooperative pole attachments

- Requires that, on request from a broadband, telecommunications service, video service, or wireless service provider, an electric cooperative must grant nondiscriminatory access to the cooperative's poles under just and reasonable rates, terms, and conditions for their attachments, as specified in the act.
- Establishes a process for a provider to request and for an electric cooperative to consider, and to grant or deny, the provider's attachments to the cooperative's poles, including decision-making standards and time frames established by the Federal Communications

Commission (FCC), unless a court of common pleas determines a different time frame for granting or denying access.

- Requires a provider and electric cooperative to (1) comply with make-ready work processes under federal law and FCC orders and regulations, unless a court of common pleas establishes a different process and (2) provide good-faith estimates for any make-ready work regarding provider attachments to cooperative poles.
- For any annual recurring provider attachment fee, requires the electric cooperative to establish the fee in accordance with the federal law formula for cable pole attachment rates and FCC orders and regulations implementing the formula, unless a court of common pleas establishes a different process.
- Requires a provider's attachments to an electric cooperative's poles to meet: (1) the most recent, applicable, nondiscriminatory safety and reliability standards adopted by the cooperative and (2) the National Electric Safety Code.
- Establishes provisions for pole modification and requirements for sharing costs for a modification.
- Establishes procedures, requirements, and remedies for an electric cooperative or provider to settle pole attachment disputes in a court of common pleas and requires the court's determination to be a final appealable order.
- Designates a pole attachment complaint hearing as a special statutory proceeding under the Rules of Civil Procedure.
- Requires pole attachment complaint venues to lie (1) in the county of the cooperative's Ohio headquarters, if at least some portion of the attachment will occur in that county or (2) in the county where the largest physical portion of the attachment will occur, if no portion of the attachment is in the headquarters' county or more than one cooperative is a party to the complaint.
- Specifies that court orders relative to venue are final orders that may be reviewed, affirmed, modified, or reversed as specified in Ohio appellate procedure law and that orders not specifically related to venue are reviewable on appeal just as judgments in any civil action.
- Specifies that land acquisitions under Ohio law governing the appropriation of property are not affected by the act and are heard in a venue pursuant to that law or the Rules of Civil Procedure.

Education

H.B. 67

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Koehler and Bird

Effective date: Emergency: March 20, 2021

Assessment related provisions

- Exempts public and chartered nonpublic schools from administering the state required American history end-of-course exam in the 2020-2021 school year.
- Specifies dates for spring achievement testing windows for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Requires the Department of Education, or any entity with which the Department contracts for scoring the third-grade English language arts assessments, to send to each school district or school a list of individual scores by June 28, 2021.

High school graduation

- For the 2020-2021 school year, permits an 11th or 12th grade student who takes or retakes or who is unable to take or retake an end-of-course exam to use the final course grade in a course associated with the exam in lieu of a score on that exam to satisfy conditions for a high school diploma.
- Permits school districts, other public schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to grant a high school diploma in the 2020-2021 school year to any student on track to graduate and for whom the principal, in consultation with teachers and counselors, determines has successfully completed the high school curriculum or individualized education program.
- Permits a district or school that has previously adopted a resolution to exceed the state minimum high school curriculum requirements to elect to require only the minimum curriculum in determining high school graduation for the 2020-2021 school year.
- For the 2020-2021 school year, permits a student to qualify for a high school diploma by both successfully completing the school's curriculum requirements and earning the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal.

Data reporting

- Requires the Department to report any data that it has regarding the performance of school districts and buildings for the 2020-2021 school year by October 14, 2021.

Community school sponsor ratings

- For the 2020-2021 school year, prohibits the Department from issuing a rating to a community school sponsor for the academic performance component.

- Requires that a sponsor’s rating for the 2020-2021 school year be based on only the adherence to quality practices and compliance with laws and rules components, and not the academic performance component.
- States that a sponsor’s rating for the 2020-2021 school year does not qualify the sponsor for any incentive for which the sponsor was not previously eligible.

Home-instructed students

- Exempts parents of home-instructed students from the administrative rule requirement to submit an academic assessment record for the 2020-2021 school year as a condition of allowing the student to continue home instruction in the 2021-2022 school year.

Federal waiver

- Requires the Department to seek a waiver from the U.S. Secretary of Education from federal accountability and school identification requirements.

H.B. 82

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Cross and Jones

Effective date: September 30, 2021

State report card system

- Revises the state report card system for school districts and other public schools, beginning with the report card issued for the 2021-2022 school year, replacing the A to F letter grade system with a “star” performance rating system.
- Requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with stakeholders and advocates, to adopt rules by March 31, 2022, to establish the performance criteria, benchmarks, and rating systems to implement the new state report card.
- Revises the six components used to determine an overall rating, including how they are rated individually, how they are used to calculate the overall rating, and, in some instances, renames them.
- Revises the performance measures used to determine component ratings and eliminates separate performance ratings for those measures.
- Requires performance ratings to be presented on the state report card with rating descriptions and prescribed graphics depicting rating scales and trends.
- Requires end-of-course exams in science, American history, and American government, as well as certain substitute exams in those subject areas, be included in the calculations of the performance index score for a district or school.
- Requires the Department of Education to explore the feasibility of the value-added progress dimension using the gain index and effect size to improve differentiation and interpretation of the measure.

- Eliminates students in the lowest quintile for achievement statewide as a report card subgroup.
- Requires the Department, by September 30, 2023, to conduct a study regarding the effectiveness and necessity of the value-added progress dimension ranking of public schools.
- Requires the Department, by December 31, 2024, to issue a report regarding the effectiveness of the state report card.
- Establishes a 12-member state report card committee, which must issue a report about state report cards by June 30, 2024.

High school diplomas

Industry recognized credentials

- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction’s industry-recognized credentials and licenses committee to assign a point value for each credential and establish the total number of points necessary to satisfy certain high school graduation requirements.
- Requires the Department, when calculating the students who earned an industry-recognized credential for the state report card, to include only students who earned a credential, or group of credentials, at least equal to that total number of points.

State-issued licenses

- Permits students who obtain a state-issued license for practice in a vocation that requires an exam to use that license to qualify for an Industry-recognized Credential diploma seal or as a “foundational” option when using an alternative demonstration of competency.

College admissions assessments

- Permits the parent or guardian of a student, beginning with the class of 2026, to choose not to have the nationally standardized college admission assessment administered to the student.

Other provisions

- Requires districts and schools to report through the Education Management Information System (EMIS) the number of students enrolled in all-day kindergarten.
- Renames the “accelerated level of skill” range of scores on state assessments to the “accomplished level of skill.”
- Requires that the promotion score used to determine whether a student may be promoted to fourth grade under the third grade reading guarantee be the “proficient level of skill” by July 1, 2024.
- Delays the deadline for the Department to post on its website the community school sponsor evaluation system for the 2021-2022 school year.

S.B. 1

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Wilson and McColley

Effective date: January 27, 2022; Section 4 (educational requirements of substitute teachers), emergency, effective October 28, 2021

Financial literacy curriculum

- Requires students who enter 9th grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2022, to complete one-half unit of financial literacy instruction as part of the required high school curriculum, either as an elective course or in lieu of one-half unit of math.
- Exempts from the requirement students who attend chartered nonpublic schools without a state scholarship.

Financial literacy validation for educator licenses

- Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, requires individuals to have an educator license validation in financial literacy to provide high school instruction in that subject.
- Exempts classroom teachers from the license validation requirement if they hold a valid educator license or endorsement in social studies, family and consumer sciences, or business education.
- Requires school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to cover any costs necessary for their employees to receive a financial literacy license validation.
- Exempts chartered nonpublic schools that do not enroll state scholarship students from the license validation requirement and the requirement to cover costs for their teachers to receive a license validation.
- Permits a district, school, or educational service center (ESC) to seek reimbursement of the license validation costs from the Department of Education.
- Requires the Department to reimburse a district, school, or ESC for a teacher's license validation costs, generally by the lesser of the total cost the teacher incurred or \$500.

High School Financial Literacy Fund

- Creates the High School Financial Literacy Fund for reimbursement of license validation costs as a custodial fund outside the state treasury.
- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to request the Director of Commerce to remit up to \$1.5 million of unclaimed funds to the High School Financial Literacy Fund during the FY 2022-FY 2023 fiscal biennium.
- Requires the state Superintendent and the Director to enter into an agreement for repayment, including interest, of the unclaimed funds remitted to the High School Financial Literacy Fund.

Educational requirements of substitute teachers

- Permits a public or chartered nonpublic school, for the 2021-2022 school year, to employ a substitute teacher according its own education requirements.

S.B. 166

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Reineke

Effective date: March 23, 2022; changes to the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program, emergency, effective December 22, 2021

Student Pathways for Career Success Grant Program

- Requires the Department of Education to establish the Student Pathways for Career Success Grant Program to provide grants to career-technical planning district (CTPD) lead districts and Ohio technical centers to improve or expand career-technical programs that meet workforce needs.

Career awareness and exploration funds

- Requires the Department to pay career awareness and explorations funds directly to each CTPD lead district, rather than deducting and transferring them from the CTPD member districts and schools to the lead district, as under former law.
- Requires each CTPD lead district to use the funds to deliver career awareness and exploration programs to students within the CTPD, rather than disbursing the funds to member districts and schools upon receiving a plan for the use of the funds from them, as under prior law.

Career-technical digital learning

- Permits approved career-technical education programs to provide remote or digital learning opportunities to students on a full-time or hybrid basis to the extent practicable.

State report card – post-secondary readiness

- Permits a student to demonstrate post-secondary readiness on the state report card by earning an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal and completing 250 hours of a work-based learning experience aligned to the student’s approved career-technical pathway.

Financial incentives for work-based learning experiences

- Requires the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation, the Department, the Chancellor of Higher Education, and JobsOhio to create a program that establishes financial incentives for Ohio businesses to provide work-based learning experiences to students in approved career-technical programs.

Pilot program

- Creates the Employers Providing Work-Based Learning Pilot Program, which requires the Administrator of Workers’ Compensation to adopt a rule to prohibit charging any amount against an employer’s experience for a workers’ compensation claim if the employer

provides work-based learning experiences for career-technical education students and the claim is based on a student's injury.

- Exempts from Ohio's Minor Labor Law a student who is participating in an employer's work-based learning experience under the program.
- Ends the program March 23, 2024 (two years after the program's effective date).

Income tax credit: career-technical program employers

- Authorizes a nonrefundable income tax credit for employers equal to 15% of the wages paid to a student participating in a career-technical education program.
- Limits the total amount of credits that may be issued in any fiscal biennium to \$5 million and the total amount that may be issued per year to any employer to \$5,000 per student.

Compensation of JVSDs in community reinvestment areas

- Requires a joint vocational school district (JVSD) to receive similar compensation as a city, local, or exempted village school district when the latter negotiates such an agreement with respect to a commercial or industrial project subject to a community reinvestment area tax exemption.

Driver's education courses and licenses

- Eliminates the prohibition against a student receiving course credit toward graduation for completing a driver's education course conducted by a school district.
- Permits a student who completes a driver's education course offered by the student's district of attendance, or an agency or organization the district contracts with, to earn up to one-half unit of high school elective course credit or up to two points toward an industry-recognized credential.
- Permits a CTPD to use a portion of its state career-technical funds to make a driver's education course available to students in the district.

Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program

- Requires a student to be enrolled in either of the following to participate in the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program:
 - A commercial driver training school licensed by the Director of Public Safety; or
 - A program operated by an institution of higher education or a career-technical center that is exempted from licensure, but is approved by the Director and Chancellor for the program's purposes.
- Revises the Chancellor's duties in operating the program.

American Medical Technologists

- Allows a dental assistant who is certified by the American Medical Technologists, in addition to meeting other continuing law requirements, to perform additional dental services.
- Makes an individual who is certified by the American Medical Technologists eligible to receive a dental x-ray machine operator certificate and, if the individual is a dental assistant, eligible to take the examination to practice as an expanded function dental auxiliary.

Northeast Ohio Medical University

- Permits the Northeast Ohio Medical University's treasurer to provide insurance for faithful performance of duties, in lieu of a bond.
- Adds the University to the definition of "state university," as used in several provisions of continuing law.

H.C.R. 35

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Callender

Adopted: October 20, 2021

- Invalidates proposed amendments to Ohio Administrative Code 3301-35-04.

Elections

S.B. 80

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Gavarone and Cirino

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Requires a candidate for chief justice or justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, or a candidate for judge of a court of appeals, who was nominated at a primary election, to appear on the ballot at the general election with a political party designation.
- Changes the placement of those offices on the ballot.

S.B. 258

Primary Sponsor: Sen. McColley

Effective date: February 19, 2022²

- Establishes new congressional district boundaries for Ohio based on the results of the 2020 federal census.
- States several legislative findings concerning the congressional district plan.
- Delays certain election deadlines for the congressional primary election to be held on May 3, 2022.

² The congressional district map enacted in S.B. 258 has been ruled unconstitutional and is to be replaced with a new map. *Adams v. DeWine*, Slip Opinion No. 2022-Ohio-89 (Ohio 2022).

Employment, Labor, and Professional Regulation

H.B. 5

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Manning

Effective date: September 30, 2021; conforming amendments by Sections 3 and 4 effective October 9, 2021

- Revises the requirements to qualify for a chemical dependency counselor II license issued by the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board.
- Eliminates the authority of certain chemical dependency licensees to supervise prevention specialist assistants and registered applicants.

H.B. 176

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Carfagna and Hall

Effective date: January 27, 2022

- Grants athletic trainers the option of entering into a collaboration agreement with a physician or podiatrist and authorizes athletic trainers with an agreement to perform additional services and activities.
- Makes other changes regarding the practice of athletic training, including by allowing referrals from additional practitioners.

H.B. 252

Primary Sponsors: Reps. White and Plummer

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Enters Ohio as a party to the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, the purpose of which is to facilitate the interstate practice of audiology and speech-language pathology and improve public access to audiology and speech-language pathology services.
- As a member of the Compact, requires Ohio to allow an audiologist or speech-language pathologist licensed in another member state to practice in Ohio, subject to Ohio laws and rules governing the practice.
- Requires the State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board to select two individuals to serve as delegates to the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission.

S.B. 3

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Effective date: September 30, 2021; most Nurse Licensure Compact provisions effective January 1, 2023

- Enters Ohio as a party to the Nurse Licensure Compact on January 1, 2023, which allows a nurse to practice across participating states under a multistate license issued by the nurse's home state.
- Exempts certain certificates issued by the Department of Developmental Disabilities from the Fresh Start Act (H.B. 263 of the 133rd General Assembly), the law prohibiting a state licensing authority from refusing to issue an initial license or other authorization based on an applicant's criminal background.

S.B. 5

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Roegner and Blessing

Effective date: June 30, 2021

- Enters Ohio as a party to the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, the purpose of which is to facilitate the interstate practice of physical therapy and improve public access to physical therapy services.
- As a member of the Compact, requires Ohio to extend the privilege to practice to a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who is licensed in another member state, subject to Ohio's laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy.
- Requires appointment of a member of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board to the Physical Therapy Compact Commission, a joint public agency created by the Compact to enforce its provisions and rules.
- Requires Ohio to submit data regarding physical therapy licensees to the Commission's data system, including information related to identification, examination, licensure, investigations, compact privilege, and adverse action.

S.B. 6

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Roegner and S. Huffman

Effective date: September 30, 2021; appropriation effective July 1, 2021

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

- Enters Ohio as a party to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which enables a physician seeking to practice in multiple states to have certain qualifications verified, and a background check conducted, by the physician's state of principal license, and thereafter to apply for an expedited license to practice in other member states.
- Appropriates \$140,000 for FY 2022 to the State Medical Board for operating expenses.

Nurse aide training

- Allows a nurse aide to satisfy the requirement to complete a training and competency evaluation program by completing at least 75 hours of training in a long-term care setting during the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Requires that a nurse aide using this new training pathway successfully complete a competency evaluation conducted by the Director of Health.

S.B. 7

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Effective date: June 30, 2021

Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact

- Enters Ohio as a party to the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact, the purpose of which is to facilitate the interstate practice of occupational therapy and improve public access to occupational therapy services.
- As a member of the Compact, requires Ohio to allow an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant licensed in another member state to practice in Ohio, subject to Ohio's laws and rules governing the practice of occupational therapy.
- Requires the Occupational Therapy Section of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board to appoint a member to the Occupational Therapy Compact Commission, a joint public agency created by the Compact to enforce its provisions and rules.
- Requires Ohio to submit data regarding occupational therapy licensees to the Commission's data system, including information related to identification, examination, licensure, investigations, compact privilege, and adverse action.

Contracting for continuing education assistance

- Permits the Board's Occupational Therapy Section to contract with the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association for assistance in performing duties related to continuing education.

S.B. 217

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schaffer

Effective date: Emergency: December 22, 2021

- Narrows circumstances under which criminal records check reports of various long-term care job applicants and contractors may be released to certain individuals involved in specified legal matters by stipulating that the release must be pursuant to a lawful subpoena or court order.
- Prohibits a private individual or entity that administers municipal income taxes from having access to an employee's, prospective employee's, or contractor's criminal history records.

Environment and Natural Resources

S.B. 28

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hoagland

Effective date: August 10, 2021

- Allows owls to be used in the sport of falconry.

Financial Institutions and Consumer Finance

H.B. 133

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Hillyer

Effective date: Emergency: amendment of R.C. 2305.117 (regarding legal malpractice claims) effective June 2, 2022; all other provisions effective September 1, 2021

Commercial credit reports

- Requires a commercial credit reporting agency to provide a credit report to a business that is the subject of the report, when requested by a representative, at no greater cost than what is charged to third parties.
- Establishes a procedure through which such a business may dispute a statement on the report.

Debt collection – written notice to debtor

- Modifies the requirement that a person collecting on certain debts secured by residential real property send a written notice to the debtor.

Residential Mortgage Lending Act (RMLA)

- Specifies that only a mortgage lender, broker, servicer (collectively, registrant), or originator making more than five residential mortgage loans annually is subject to the RMLA.
- Clarifies and revises several exemptions to the mortgage loan originator license requirements.
- Repeals the temporary mortgage loan originator license.
- Eliminates the requirement that a mortgage lender, servicer, or broker maintain an office location in Ohio and instead requires the office to be located in any U.S. state.
- Requires a mortgage lender, servicer, or broker application to include the names and addresses of the owners, officers, or partners having control of the applicant.
- Requires the applicant to provide the identity information for any individual with control of the applicant.
- Authorizes the Superintendent of Financial Institutions to alter the requirements for any registration and license under the RMLA.
- Permits an operations manager to be the operations manager for more than one location.
- Permits the Superintendent to consider other experiences related to the business of residential mortgage lending that the Superintendent determines is sufficient to qualify as an operations manager to a registrant or entity that holds a valid letter of exemption.

- Removes the continuing education requirement for operations managers of entities seeking to renew their certificate of registration.
- Establishes procedures a registrant must follow when the operations manager ceases to be the operations manager.
- Requires a registrant to cease operations if it is without an operations manager approved by the Superintendent for more than 180 days, unless authorized in writing by the Superintendent.
- Eliminates the requirement that a mortgage loan originator maintain and display a copy of a license at the office where the originator principally transacts business, if the originator is employed by or associated with a person or entity holding a valid letter of exemption.
- Clarifies the application of certain RMLA requirements to exempt entities.
- Requires, when the documents of a registrant or exempt entity are held out of state and an in-person examination is necessary, the registrant or exempt entity must pay the estimated costs of the examination.
- Prohibits registrants and exempt entities from receiving a premium on the fees charged for services performed by a third party and from paying or receiving a referral fee or kickback.
- Alters the minimum bond requirements for registrants, from \$50,000 for all registrants to \$50,000 for mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers and \$150,000 for registrants engaging solely in mortgage servicing.
- Amends definitions and standardizes terms in the RMLA.
- Expands the authority of the Superintendent to amend definitions in the RMLA.
- Authorizes the Superintendent to alter the requirements for registration and licensure under the RMLA.

General Loan Law

- Permits the Superintendent to require applicants or registrants under the General Loan Law to use the National Multistate Licensing System for registration and compliance of the General Loan Law.

Consumer Installment Loan Act

- Revises the conditions by which a transaction between a Consumer Installment Loan Act licensee and a borrower is considered to not be a condition of the consumer installment loan.

Personal checking account information

- Eliminates requirements that (1) a financial institution require a person opening a personal checking account to provide the financial institution specified identifying

information and (2) a person that issues or prints a check, print on the check the date on which the checking account was opened.

Credit services organization contracts

- Replaces the 60-day limit on the performance of certain credit service organization contracts with a 12-month limit if certain criteria are met.

Business linked deposits

- Changes specific interest rate requirements for loans made to small businesses by credit unions from specific percentage rates to a more general standard of being below market rates.

Acquisition and charter of Ohio banks

- Expands the types of financial entities authorized to charter or acquire an Ohio bank, from only banks and bank holding companies to banks, bank holding companies, federal savings associations, and savings and loan holding companies.

Legal malpractice claims relating to opinions of title

- Establishes that the statute of limitations for legal malpractice claims relating to an opinion of title issued prior to June 16, 2021, is one year after the cause of action accrued without regard to when the alleged basis of the claim occurred.

S.B. 115

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schuring

Effective date: March 2, 2022

- Gives a public depository participating in the Ohio Pooled Collateral Program two business days to pledge additional securities to satisfy the minimum collateral requirement if the value of its existing pledged securities falls below that minimum.
- Exempts a public depositor, treasurer, or the public depositor's or treasurer's bonders or surety from liability for the loss of funds due to a public depository's failure to maintain sufficient pledged collateral.

Gambling

H.B. 29

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wiggam and A. Miller

Effective date: March 23, 2022

Sports gaming

- Legalizes and regulates sports gaming (betting) in Ohio through sports gaming proprietors licensed and regulated by the Ohio Casino Control Commission (OCCC) to offer sports gaming online, at sports gaming facilities, and in the form of lottery sports gaming at bars and restaurants.
- Requires participants to be at least 21 and to be physically present in Ohio.
- Requires the Executive Director of OCCC to set an initial licensing schedule and a universal start date for sports gaming that is not later than January 1, 2023.

Permitted sporting events for betting

- Allows betting on any professional sport or athletic event, any collegiate sport or athletic event, any Olympic or international sports competition event, any motor race event, any esports event, or any other special event OCCC authorizes for sports gaming.
- Prohibits betting on any sport or athletic event for primary or secondary school students.
- Prohibits betting on an event that involves athletes or participants who are under 18, unless OCCC authorizes the event for sports gaming.

Permitted and prohibited wagers

- Provides that for purposes of wagering online or in a sports gaming facility, “sports gaming” includes exchange wagering, parlays, spreads, over-under, moneyline, in-game wagering, single-game bets, teaser bets, in-play bets, proposition bets, pools, pari-mutuel sports wagering pools, straight bets, or any other type of wagering on sporting events approved by OCCC.
- Limits lottery sports gaming to spread, over-under, and moneyline wagering and certain types of parlay wagering on sporting events, as approved by OCCC.
- Allows OCCC, independently or at the request of any person, including a sports governing body, to prohibit or restrict wagers on a particular sporting event or to prohibit or restrict a particular type of wager.
- Provides a process for a sports governing body to formally request OCCC to prohibit or restrict wagers on a particular sporting event or to prohibit or restrict a particular type of wager.

Online sports gaming

- Allows a type A sports gaming proprietor to operate one or more online sports pool websites and accompanying mobile applications.
- Requires the proprietor to accept wagers only from individuals who are at least 21 and who are physically located in Ohio, and to use location based technology to prohibit individuals who are not physically present in Ohio from participating in sports gaming through the online sports pool.
- Requires that the server responsible for accepting wagers through the online sports pool be located in a secure facility in Ohio.
- Allows a proprietor to accept a wager through an online sports pool only using a sports gaming account tied to the individual's legal name.

Sports gaming facilities

- Allows a type B sports gaming proprietor to operate one sports gaming facility per license, at which the proprietor accepts wagers on sporting events from individuals who are at least 21 and who are physically present in the facility, either in person or using self-service sports gaming terminals.
- Requires the proprietor to accept a wager only using a registration tied to the individual's legal name, unless the wager does not exceed a dollar limit determined by OCCC rule.
- Prohibits any person under 21 from entering a sports gaming facility, with certain exceptions for employees and for persons who are passing through to another area.

Lottery sports gaming

- Requires the State Lottery Commission (LOT) to operate lottery sports gaming as part of the statewide lottery, and requires each type C sports gaming proprietor to contract with LOT to operate lottery sports gaming on behalf of LOT in exchange for a portion of the state's proceeds from lottery sports gaming.
- Allows a type C sports gaming proprietor, acting on behalf of LOT, to accept wagers on sporting events only at type C sports gaming hosts' facilities on self-service or clerk-operated terminals, and only from individuals who are at least 21 and who are physically present in the facility.
- Specifies requirements for lottery sports gaming, including limits on the type and amount of wagers and the accepted methods of payment.
- Allows LOT to adopt rules in consultation with OCCC to implement the act, so long as those rules do not conflict with OCCC rules.

Sports gaming licenses

- Requires OCCC to license sports gaming proprietors to offer sports gaming in Ohio under type A, type B, and type C licenses.

- Requires OCCC also to license management services providers, who may contract with a type A or type B sports gaming proprietor to operate sports gaming; type C sports gaming hosts; employees who are involved in the operation of sports gaming; and sports gaming suppliers.

Sports gaming proprietors

- Initially sets a maximum of 25 licensed type A sports gaming proprietors, who offer sports gaming through online sports pools and accompanying mobile applications, with an option for OCCC to issue additional type A licenses under certain circumstances.
- Requires OCCC to license not more than 40 type B sports gaming proprietors to offer sports gaming at sports gaming facilities.
- Sets a maximum number of sports gaming facilities that may be located in a county based on the county's population.
- Requires OCCC to license at least two, and not more than 20, type C sports gaming proprietors to contract with LOT to offer lottery sports gaming at type C sports gaming hosts' facilities.
- Specifies the process to apply for sports gaming proprietor licenses and the criteria OCCC must use in awarding licenses.

Management services providers

- Creates two categories: "mobile management services providers," which may contract with type A sports gaming proprietors, and "management services providers," which may contract with type B sports gaming proprietors, to operate sports gaming on behalf of the proprietors.
- Allows a type A sports gaming proprietor, in general, to contract with only one mobile management services provider, but allows for a second contract under certain circumstances.
- Allows a type B sports gaming proprietor to contract with one management services provider.
- Requires a separate mobile management services provider or management services provider license for each contract, and requires OCCC to set a maximum number of licenses a person may hold.
- Provides processes to obtain and renew those licenses.
- Specifies a process for a professional sports organization that is prohibited by a league, association, or organization from operating sports gaming to appoint a mobile management services provider or management services provider and to establish a firewall between the professional sports organization and the provider in order to ensure the integrity of sporting events and of sports gaming.
- Requires OCCC to approve the contract between a sports gaming proprietor and a mobile management services provider or a management services provider.

Type C sports gaming hosts

- Allows the owner of a facility with a D-1, D-2, or D-5 liquor permit to apply to OCCC for a type C sports gaming host license to offer lottery sports gaming at the facility through a type C sports gaming proprietor.
- Specifies the process to obtain and renew such a license.
- Provides requirements concerning agreements between type C sports gaming proprietors and their hosts.

Sports gaming occupational licenses

- Requires an individual with sports gaming related duties with a sports gaming proprietor to receive a sports gaming occupational license.
- Exempts a type C sports gaming host and its employees from the requirement to obtain a sports gaming occupational license.
- Specifies the process to apply for an initial or renewed sports gaming occupational license.

Sports gaming suppliers

- Requires a person or entity that provides sports gaming equipment or related services to a sports gaming proprietor or management services provider to have a sports gaming supplier license.
- Specifies the process to apply for an initial or renewed sports gaming supplier license.

License preferences and suitability factors

- Requires OCCC, in issuing initial and renewed type A and B sports gaming proprietor licenses, to give preference to applicants that are professional sports organizations, casino operators, or racino operators.
- Prohibits OCCC from giving preference to an applicant for a sports gaming proprietor license on the basis that the applicant, or the applicant's parent company or subsidiary, currently contract, or have contracted, with LOT or any other state agency.
- Requires OCCC to consider certain factors in issuing sports gaming proprietor, management services provider, and sports gaming supplier licenses.

Denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses

- Requires all applicants for sports gaming related licenses, other than type C sports gaming hosts, to establish their suitability by clear and convincing evidence and to meet certain criteria.
- Specifies additional criteria for sports gaming proprietors, management services providers, and their parent companies.
- Allows OCCC to deny, suspend, or revoke a license if the criteria are not met.

Equity in licensing

- Requires an independent study to determine whether, and the extent to which, qualified persons experience discrimination or disadvantage in the sports gaming industry on the basis of their membership in a racial minority group, their color or ethnicity, their gender, or their disability.
- Requires OCCC, if it determines that the study results so warrant, to establish goals to ensure that sports gaming licenses are issued to disadvantaged applicants on an equitable basis with other applicants.

Display of license; information changes

- Requires sports gaming licensees to display their licenses or make them available for inspection.
- Requires licensees to report any material change in their information to OCCC, and requires OCCC to determine what it considers to be material.

Persons who may not participate in sports gaming

- Specifies several categories of individuals who are not permitted to participate in sports gaming, including individuals who are on an exclusion list, who are associated with a sports gaming proprietor or with OCCC, or who are involved in a sporting event.
- Requires OCCC to maintain an involuntary exclusion list for purposes of sports gaming, as well as a voluntary exclusion program.
- Requires a sports gaming proprietor to employ commercially reasonable methods to prevent those individuals from placing bets with the proprietor.

Sports gaming proprietor operating requirements

- Lists several requirements concerning sports gaming proprietors' operations, including financial controls, integrity monitoring, recordkeeping, and requirements regarding promotional gaming credits and unclaimed winnings.

OCCC oversight

- Gives OCCC jurisdiction over all persons conducting or participating in the conduct of sports gaming authorized by the act.
- Requires OCCC to adopt all rules regarding sports gaming in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.
- Exempts OCCC and LOT sports gaming rules from the law limiting agency rules imposing regulatory restrictions.
- Specifies several types of rules that OCCC must adopt governing sports gaming proprietors' operations, including financial requirements, consumer protections, advertising guidelines, and the necessary capital investments in sports gaming facilities.
- Subjects to OCCC approval all sports gaming equipment and each form, variation, or composite of sports gaming to be used by sports gaming proprietors.

- Requires OCCC to monitor all sports gaming conducted in Ohio, or contract with an independent integrity monitoring provider for that purpose, to identify unusual betting activities or patterns that may indicate a need for further investigation.
- Requires OCCC to prescribe rules requiring sports gaming proprietors to share anonymized sports gaming data with sports governing bodies and state universities for certain purposes.
- Requires OCCC to keep confidential certain categories of information provided to it by an applicant for a sports gaming license.
- Specifies certain information regarding sports gaming proprietors that is subject to disclosure under the Public Records Law.
- Allows OCCC to conduct adjudications under the Administrative Procedure Act to regulate sports gaming, and allows OCCC's Executive Director to issue emergency orders for that purpose.
- Requires OCCC to levy and collect fines for noncriminal violations of the act and of its rules adopted under the act.
- Requires OCCC, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and sports governing bodies to cooperate in investigating potential violations of the act or OCCC's rules.
- Gives the Attorney General a civil cause of action to restrain any violation of the act or rules adopted under it.

Withholding amounts from sports gaming winnings

- Requires sports gaming proprietors and LOT to withhold state and certain municipal income taxes from patrons' winnings whenever federal income tax withholding is required.
- Requires sports gaming proprietors and LOT also to withhold any past due child or spousal support and any debts owed to the state or a political subdivision from any sports gaming winnings that meet or exceed the federal income tax withholding threshold.

State revenue from sports gaming

Lottery sports gaming revenue

- Treats the proceeds of lottery sports gaming the same as the state's other lottery proceeds, and requires the state's profits to be used to support public education.

Tax on sports gaming

- Imposes a 10% tax on a type A or type B sports gaming proprietor's net revenue from sports gaming.
- Requires that the sports gaming tax be administered in much the same way as the state's existing tax on casino revenue.
- Applies the sports gaming tax to any unlicensed person who operates a sports gaming facility.

Distribution of state sports gaming revenue

- Creates the Sports Gaming Revenue Fund in the state treasury and requires that revenue from the tax imposed on sports gaming receipts, most sports gaming proprietor and management services provider license fees, and certain fines collected by OCCC be deposited in the fund.
- Requires that 98% of the money in the Sports Gaming Revenue Fund, after deductions for tax refunds and administrative costs, be transferred to the Sports Gaming Profits Education Fund and 2% be transferred to the Problem Sports Gaming and Addiction Fund.
- Requires that the money in the Sports Gaming Profits Education Fund be used for the support of public and nonpublic K-12 education, with one-half used to support K-12 interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular activities.
- Allocates 0.5% of sports gaming proprietor and management services provider license fees to the Sports Gaming Profits Veterans Fund, which the Director of Veterans Services must use to fund certain programs.

Commercial activity tax

- Specifies that type A and B sports gaming proprietors must pay commercial activity tax only on their net receipts from sports gaming, not on gross receipts.

Sharing of confidential tax information

- Allows the Department of Taxation to share sports gaming tax information with OCCC.

Criminal prohibitions

- Sets out a number of criminal prohibitions related to the operation of sports gaming.

Shipments of gambling devices

- States that all shipments of gambling devices, including any sports gaming equipment, to sports gaming licensees in Ohio are legal shipments of gambling devices into Ohio, as long as the supplier registers, records, and labels the equipment in accordance with the federal Gambling Devices Act of 1962.

Implementation process

- Requires the OCCC Executive Director to designate a universal start date for sports gaming that is not later than January 1, 2023, and prohibits sports gaming in Ohio before that date.
- Requires the Executive Director to set a series of deadlines for issuing sports gaming licenses in anticipation of the universal start date.
- Allows the Executive Director to issue provisional sports gaming licenses through June 30, 2023.

Joint Committee on Sports Gaming

- Establishes the Joint Committee on Sports Gaming, which must monitor the implementation of sports gaming under the act and report its recommendations, if any, to the General Assembly.
- Specifies the process for appointing House and Senate members to the Joint Committee and requirements for its operation.
- Abolishes the Joint Committee on March 23, 2024.

Select Committee on Sports Gaming and Problem Gambling

- Creates the Select Committee on Sports Gaming and Problem Gambling, which must study issues related to the distribution of the money in the Sports Gaming Revenue Fund and compulsive and problem gambling prevention.
- Specifies the process for appointing the members of the Select Committee and requirements for its operation.
- Requires the Select Committee to submit a report of its findings to the General Assembly not later than January 1, 2022,³ and to cease to exist after it submits the report.

Casinos

OCCC procedures

- Clarifies that OCCC must use the same administrative procedures to fine or penalize an applicant, licensee, or other person as it uses under continuing law to limit, condition, restrict, suspend, revoke, deny, or refuse to renew a license.
- Modifies the procedures that apply when OCCC adds a person's name to the casino involuntary exclusion list.
- Adds language to the law to explicitly allow OCCC to share information about the participants in the casino voluntary exclusion program with LOT.
- Expands the Revised Code's general definition of "peace officer" to include OCCC's gaming agents.

Casino operations

- Changes the definition of an institutional investor to include a listed type of person or entity, such as a bank or investment firm, that owns 5% or more, but less than 25%, instead of 15%, of an ownership interest in a casino facility, casino operator, management company, or holding company.
- Eliminates a requirement that a casino operator obtain OCCC's approval before acquiring certain types of debt.
- Applies the gross casino revenue tax to any unlicensed person who operates a casino.

³ This date appears to be a drafting error in the act.

- Makes technical corrections to several sections of the Casino Law in order to accommodate the requirements of the Fresh Start Act (H.B. 263 of the 133rd General Assembly).

Electronic instant bingo

- Eliminates a requirement in law that any individual who installs, maintains, updates, or repairs an electronic instant bingo system hold an occupational license issued by OCCC.

Horse racing

- Adjusts the permitted uses of the Ohio State Racing Commission Fund.

Health

H.B. 9

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Koehler

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Prohibits a retailer from selling or otherwise providing a drug containing dextromethorphan to a person under 18 without a prescription.
- Makes violation of that prohibition a minor misdemeanor.

H.B. 21

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Koehler

Effective date: October 1, 2022

Organ Donor Registry

- Allows a person to become an organ donor when the person registers or renews registration of a motor vehicle.
- Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and any deputy registrar to ask a person applying for or renewing a registration if the person wishes to be an organ donor.
- Requires the Registrar to add a person who certifies a willingness to be an organ donor at the time of motor vehicle registration to the organ donor registry maintained by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.
- Prohibits the Registrar or a deputy registrar from asking a person to be an organ donor if the person is already listed on the donor registry.

Second Chance Trust Fund

- Increases from \$1 to \$2 the amount the Registrar and each deputy registrar must request as a voluntary contribution for the Second Chance Trust Fund during specified transactions.
- Increases the annual contribution for the “Donate Life” license plate from \$5 to \$15.

H.B. 122

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Fraizer and Holmes

Effective date: March 23, 2022

Insurance coverage of telehealth services

- Expands Ohio insurance law on telemedicine services (renamed as telehealth services) to apply to numerous specified health care professionals rather than only physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses.

- Prohibits a health benefit plan from imposing cost sharing for telehealth services that exceeds the cost sharing for comparable in-person services and prohibits cost sharing for communications that meet specified criteria.
- Requires a health benefit plan to reimburse a health care professional for a covered telehealth service, but does not require the reimbursement to be a specific amount.
- Allows the Superintendent of Insurance to adopt rules as necessary to carry out the above provisions.

Provision of telehealth services by health care professionals

- Permits specified health care professionals to provide telehealth services.
- Requires telehealth services to be provided according to specified conditions and standards.
- Permits certain health care licensing boards to adopt rules as necessary to carry out the above provisions, subject to specified parameters.
- Provides that a health care professional is not liable in damages under a claim that telehealth services provided do not meet the standard of care that would apply if services were provided in-person.
- Permits a health care professional to negotiate with a health plan issuer to establish a reimbursement rate for fees associated with the administrative costs of providing telehealth services.
- Declares that it is the intent of the General Assembly to expand access to and investment in telehealth services.
- Permits a physician authorized to recommend medical marijuana to use telehealth services to conduct a patient examination required before medical marijuana may be recommended.
- Specifies that the act's provisions are not to be interpreted as altering any law or rule related to the practice of dentistry.

Medicaid coverage of telehealth services

- Provides that specified health care practitioners may provide telehealth services to Medicaid recipients and are eligible to submit claims to the Department of Medicaid for payment for telehealth services rendered.
- Establishes requirements that must be satisfied when providing telehealth services to a Medicaid recipient.
- Requires the Medicaid Director to adopt rules authorizing the directors of other state agencies that administer portions of the Medicaid program to adopt rules regarding the provision of telehealth services.

Mental health, addiction services providers

- Permits community mental health services providers and community addiction services providers certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide services through telehealth.
- Specifies requirements and standards that must be satisfied when telehealth services are provided.
- Permits the Department to adopt rules necessary to carry out the above provisions.

Video-conference visitation in long-term care facilities

- Specifies that during a declared disaster, epidemic, pandemic, public health emergency, or public safety emergency, long-term care facilities must provide residents and their families with video-conference visitation options.

Assistance at health care appointments

- Provides that during a declared disaster, epidemic, pandemic, public health emergency, or public safety emergency, an individual with a developmental disability or other permanent disability may have a parent or guardian present during a health care procedure, test, or other care visit.

Medicaid credentialing program

- Requires the Department of Medicaid to establish a credentialing program to review the competence, professional conduct, and quality of care provided by Medicaid providers.

Medical Board One-Bite Program

- Allows certain licensure applicants to participate in the State Medical Board's One-Bite Program.

Suspension of open enrollment and other insurance programs

- Extends to January 1, 2026 (from January 1, 2022), the suspension of certain programs operated under the state's insurance laws that are duplicative of the federal Affordable Care Act.

S.B. 21

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Antonio and Manning

Effective date: September 21, 2021

- Requires the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to develop guidelines for the assessment, triage, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients.
- Directs each emergency medical service organization to base its stroke patient protocols, required by continuing law, on the State Board's guidelines.

- Requires the State Board to make available to the public copies of stroke patient protocols established by emergency medical service organizations.
- Requires each emergency medical service organization to provide to its emergency medical service personnel training in the assessment and treatment of stroke patients.

S.B. 58

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Antonio and Brenner

Effective date: March 23, 2022

- Designates the act as “Esther’s Law.”
- Permits a resident of a long-term care facility (nursing home, skilled nursing facility, or nursing facility) or the resident’s guardian or attorney in fact to authorize the installation and use of an electronic monitoring device in the resident’s room under certain conditions.
- Makes the authorization subject to the consent of the resident’s roommate.
- Requires a long-term care facility to make a reasonable attempt to accommodate a resident wishing to use electronic monitoring when the resident’s roommate refuses consent by moving either the resident or the roommate to an available room.
- Permits a long-term care facility to post a notice stating that an electronic monitoring device is in use in a particular room.
- Prohibits discrimination or retaliation against a resident who authorizes electronic monitoring, tampering with a device or a recording, and unauthorized viewing or listening to a recording.

S.B. 157

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Johnson and S. Huffman

Effective date: March 23, 2022

Abortion manslaughter

- Expands the crime of abortion manslaughter to include failure to take measures to preserve the health of a child born alive after abortion.
- Authorizes an affected woman to sue a person guilty of abortion manslaughter.

Children born alive after abortion or attempted abortion in nonhospital settings

- Requires a physician who performs or attempts an abortion in a nonhospital setting to immediately provide specified newborn care if a child is born alive.

Child survival reporting requirements

- Requires the Director of Health to develop a child survival form that an attending physician must complete each time a child is born alive after an abortion or attempted abortion.
- Specifies that a completed child survival form becomes part of the medical record an abortion facility maintains on the woman who is the subject of the form, and is not a public record.
- Requires each facility in which a child was born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion to submit monthly and annual reports to the Department of Health.
- Requires the Department to issue annual reports summarizing the data in the facility reports.

Criminal penalties and civil action

- Specifies criminal penalties for failure to comply with the child survival form and reporting requirements.
- Authorizes an affected woman to sue a physician or facility for failure to comply with the child survival form and reporting requirements.

Variations from written transfer agreements

- Regarding variations from the written transfer agreement requirement that applies to ambulatory surgical facilities, requires each consulting physician to attest that:
 - The physician does not teach or provide instruction at a medical school affiliated with a state university or college, a state hospital, or other public institution;
 - The physician is not employed by, compensated by, and does not provide instruction or consultation to, those institutions.
- Prohibits a consulting physician from engaging in the above activities while serving as a consulting physician for a facility with an approved variance.
- Requires the Director of Health to rescind a facility's variance if the consulting physician engages in the above activities.
- Requires each facility with an existing variance to demonstrate compliance with the act's requirements by June 21, 2022, or the Director must rescind the variance.

Highways and Transportation

H.B. 191

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Cutrona

Effective date: October 11, 2021

- Designates the bridge spanning I-680, located in Mahoning County and being a part of State Route 164, as the “Don Manning Memorial Bridge.”

S.B. 162

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Reineke

Effective date: March 23, 2022

Procedures for invoice payment of a toll

- Authorizes the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission to expand its rules by establishing the following:
 - Procedures for issuing invoices to persons who evade or otherwise do not pay a toll or fee;
 - Procedures by which a person may dispute an invoice via an administrative hearing with the Commission; and
 - Procedures by which a person may appeal Commission decisions to the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas.
- Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and any deputy registrar to refuse to accept an application to register or transfer registration of a motor vehicle when the Registrar receives notice from the Commission that either:
 - A person has not (1) remitted payment of the toll or fee due or (2) disputed the invoice with the Commission within a specified time; or
 - A person has appealed an invoice or citation, lost on appeal, and has not paid any remaining balance.
- Authorizes the Commission to adopt rules establishing joint and strict liability for the payment of tolls, fees, and fines on the owner or lessee and the operator of a motor vehicle.

Disclosure of personal information

- Generally, specifies that the Commission or its employees and contractors cannot disclose personal information in connection with a toll, fine, fee, or electronic toll record (such as a Social Security number, contact information, and financial information).
- Establishes exceptions that allow for the disclosure of personal information.

- Requires the Commission to adopt rules governing the management of personal information.

Licensed professional services contracts

- Exempts Commission contracts for licensed professional services from the requirement that a contractor obtain a performance bond worth at least 50% of the contract price.

Towing law changes

- Authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to select vendors that can provide real-time access to motor vehicle owner and lienholder information to a towing service, storage facility, or law enforcement agency after a vehicle is towed.
- Adds certified mail with electronic tracking as an option to send notice to a towed vehicle's owner and lienholders, regardless of the location from which the vehicle is towed.
- Makes conforming changes to address inconsistencies regarding notice in the Towing Law.

Liquor Control

S.B. 102

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Effective date: March 23, 2022

Home brewers

- Allows a home brewer to brew or ferment homemade beer or wine without obtaining a liquor permit if specific conditions apply.
- Allows a home brewer to serve homemade beer or wine for personal consumption on private property, to the home brewer's family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends on private property, and at certain events without a liquor permit.
- Allows a person to conduct, sponsor, or host (host) a home brewing event if the person:
 - Is a home brewer or fraternal organization that does not hold a valid liquor permit and hosts the event on private property or the premises of the fraternal organization; or
 - Is a small brewery, winery, microdistillery, club, or a restaurant associated with a winery, microdistillery, or small brewery and the person hosts the event on the permitted premises.
- Prohibits a person who is hosting the event from taking certain actions, including selling any homemade beer or wine.
- Exempts a liquor permit holder that hosts an event for home brewers from the restrictions on the interrelationship between alcoholic beverage manufacturers, distributors, and retailers.
- Exempts a person with an opened container of homemade beer or wine that is served on private property or at a home brewing event from the Open Container Law.

Sunday sales

- Authorizes a retail liquor permit holder or a liquor agency store to sell beer or intoxicating liquor on Sunday during the same hours that the permit holder or agency store may sell those products on Monday through Saturday.
- States that Sunday sales under an F class (temporary) liquor permit are not affected by whether Sunday sales are authorized for other liquor permit holders in the precinct, provided the F class permit is issued for other days of the week.
- For a Sunday sales question that is the sole local option question on a ballot for a particular location or in part or all of a precinct, requires 50 people to sign the petition, rather than 35% of the people who voted in the last gubernatorial election.

Special elections for local option

- Allows a local option election on the sale of beer and intoxicating liquor to be held at a special election on a day on which a primary election may be held, even if no primary election is held that day.

Outdoor refreshment areas (DORAs)

- Recategorizes local communities (municipal corporations and townships), with respect to regulating outdoor refreshment areas (DORAs), into two categories, those with a population of 50,000 or less and those above 50,000, instead of three (35,000 or less; 35,001 to 50,000; and above 50,000).
- Increases the acreage allowed for a DORA.
- Increases the number of DORAs allowed in a community.
- Reduces from four to two the number of qualified liquor permit holders that must be included in a DORA created in a community with a population of 50,000 or less.

Age of alcohol servers

- Reduces from 19 to 18 the minimum age to handle beer and intoxicating liquor in open containers as a waiter or waitress in a hotel, bar, or restaurant.

Cider growlers

Allows a D-2, D-5, or D-5a through p liquor permit holder to sell cider in growlers of up to one gallon for on- or off-premises consumption.

Use of social media to advertise

- Allows a distributor, manufacturer, trade marketing professional, solicitor, or broker of alcoholic beverages to use free services provided by social media to advertise an on-premises brand promotion or a product location communication.
- Prohibits them from using free services provided by social media to advertise to persons under 21.

Charitable organization fundraising prizes

- Allows a political organization or 501(c)(3) charitable organization to give away beer or intoxicating liquor, without a permit, as a prize in a raffle or silent auction or as a door prize (fundraiser).
- Requires beer or intoxicating liquor used in the fundraiser to be purchased from a person issued an Ohio liquor permit or from an Ohio-based agency store.
- Requires a donor of spirituous liquor to a political or charitable organization for a fundraiser to submit receipts to the organization showing that the donor purchased it from an Ohio-based agency store.

Use of gift card for alcohol purchases

- Eliminates the law that prohibited a person from using more than 30% of a food and beverage gift certificate (e.g., a restaurant gift card) to purchase beer or intoxicating liquor for on-premises consumption.

Expansion of sales area of liquor permit premises

- Extends law set to expire on December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2023, that allows a qualified permit holder to expand the outdoor area in which it may sell alcoholic beverages under certain circumstances.
- Modifies aspects of that law, including removing A-3a liquor permit holders (microdistilleries) from eligibility to expand outdoor areas and requiring all alcoholic beverages sold in an expanded outdoor area to be delivered by the qualified permit holder or their employees.

D-5 permit – hours of alcohol sales

- Codifies the authorized hours of alcohol sales for certain types of D-5 liquor permits by stating that a bar or restaurant may sell beer and intoxicating liquor from 5:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. the following day, but not between 2:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. on any day.
- Extends the authorized hours of alcohol sales for a D-5h (sales of beer and intoxicating liquor for on-premises consumption at an art museum or center or community) and D-5k (sales of beer and intoxicating liquor for on-premises consumption at specified botanical gardens) from 1:00 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.

F-10 permit

- Corrects a drafting error in the F-10 liquor permit (temporary permit to allow wineries to sell wine at a farmers market) by eliminating the authorization for large out-of-state wineries to sell at a farmers market.
- Allows farm wineries to sell their wine at a farmers market.

Local Government

H.B. 87

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stephens and John

Effective date: Emergency: May 17, 2021

- Exempts county utility supply contracts entered into under a joint purchasing program from the ten-year maximum period for such contracts.

H.B. 222

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wilkin and Upchurch

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Specifies that a nonprofit corporation, limited liability company, enterprise, or venture, which a board of county hospital trustees of a county hospital or a joint township district hospital board forms, acquires, or becomes involved with, is a separate entity for all purposes from the hospital, county, township, or other public entity.

Military and Veterans

H.B. 92

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Abrams and Loychik

Effective date: Emergency: September 29, 2021

Child abuse or neglect investigation relating to armed forces

- Requires a public children services agency (PCSA) to determine if a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child subject to a child abuse or neglect investigation is in the armed forces and, if so, to notify the appropriate authority of that armed force in which the parent, guardian, or custodian serves that an investigation is being made.
- Requires PCSAs to disclose confidential information discovered during a child abuse or neglect investigation to any appropriate military authority that is a federal, state, or local government entity.
- Changes the law governing child abuse and neglect report confidentiality by permitting PCSA:
 - Notification of the appropriate military authority that a child abuse or neglect investigation is being made relating to an armed forces member; and
 - Disclosure of confidential information discovered during a child abuse or neglect investigation to any appropriate federal, state, or local government entity, including any appropriate military authority.

Congressional redistricting – public submissions

- Requires the Ohio Redistricting Commission to create a website for the public to submit proposed congressional district plans, access census data, and view other submitted plans.
- Allows members of the public to mail proposed congressional district plans to the Commission by mailing it to the Ohio Statehouse.
- Requires the co-chairpersons of the Commission to notify other Commission members whenever a member of the public submits a proposed congressional district plan, and post the plan on the website.

Judiciary/Supreme Court earmark

- Revises an FY 2022 and FY 2023 earmark in the Judiciary/Supreme Court appropriations for promoting information about judicial candidates.

S.B. 59

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schaffer

Effective date: March 23, 2022

- Designates the act as the Ohio Veterans' Heritage Protection Act.
- Prohibits a war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association from being sold, purchased, or otherwise disposed of by any person.
- Prohibits a war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association from being destroyed, altered, or otherwise disturbed by any person, except under certain circumstances.
- Allows the owner of a war relic to permanently move the war relic, as long as it remains on public property or the property of the cemetery association.
- Exempts the state and political subdivisions from the act's prohibitions if it can clearly prove ownership of a war relic by written documentation.
- Exempts a governmental agency, the state, or a political subdivision from being fined for destroying, altering, or otherwise disturbing a war relic.
- Generally, establishes that a violation of the act is an unclassified misdemeanor, and authorizes the court to order offenders to pay proceeds from a sale, or fines assessed by the court, to the Ohio History Connection.
- Requires that fines paid to the Ohio History Connection be expended only for the preservation of war relics.
- Authorizes the Ohio History Connection, with the help of local historical societies, to compile and maintain a registry of war relics.

Public Officials and Employees

S.B. 4

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Effective date: September 7, 2021

- Expands “designated public service worker” status to emergency service telecommunicators, certain Ohio National Guard members, protective service workers, forensic mental health providers, mental health evaluation providers, and regional psychiatric hospital employees, making these individuals eligible for the following protections:
 - Residential and familial information is exempted from disclosure under the Public Records Law.
 - May request the individual’s address be redacted from any record of a public office that is publicly available on the internet in which the individual’s residential and familial information appears, except for the records of a county auditor.
 - May request that the county auditor replace the designated public service worker’s or the worker’s spouse’s name with their initials on records publicly available on the internet or in a publicly accessible database.
- Requires the Adjutant General to designate Ohio National Guard members, who are participating in duties related to remotely piloted aircraft as designated public service workers under the Public Records Law.
- Requires the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation or Industrial Commission to disclose a workers’ compensation claimant’s name to a journalist on written request, and eliminates their duty to disclose the address and telephone number of a claimant’s dependent on a journalist’s request.

Public Retirement

S.B. 27

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hottinger

Effective date: September 7, 2021

- Authorizes state government employers to automatically enroll new state employees in the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program and prescribes procedures for an employer to elect or cease automatic enrollment.
- Requires the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board to establish the deferral amounts from the compensation of employees automatically enrolled in the program and specify the investment options into which those amounts will be invested.

Special Designations

H.B. 106

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Cross

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Designates January as “Radon Awareness Month,” and names the act the “Annie Cacciato Act.”

H.B. 137

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Upchurch and Blackshear

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Designates March 29 as “Ohio Tuskegee Airmen Day.”

S.B. 30

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Dolan

Effective date: September 7, 2021

- Designates August 31 as “Ohio Overdose Awareness Day.”

S.B. 42

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schaffer

Effective date: September 21, 2021

- Designates the second week of November as “Ohio Diabetes Awareness-Heart Connection Week.”

State Government

H.B. 177

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Carfagna and Fraizer

Effective date: March 2, 2022

- Allows governmental entities to use distributed ledger technology, including blockchain technology.

Taxation

H.B. 228

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Roemer

Effective date: February 7, 2022

State administration of municipal net profits taxes

- Requires the Department of Taxation to develop and maintain a web portal to securely exchange information with municipalities for the Department's administering municipal net profits taxes.
- Extends the annual deadline for a taxpayer to opt into or out of remitting those taxes to the state.
- Requires the Tax Commissioner to notify municipalities of the taxpayers that have opted into or out of remitting those taxes to the state.
- Requires a municipality to report certain information about the affiliates of taxpayers opting into remitting those taxes to the state if the taxpayer and affiliates file consolidated returns.
- Modifies the deadline for a municipality to provide taxpayer information to the Department when a taxpayer opts into remitting those taxes to the state.
- Gives the Commissioner discretion on whether to withhold municipal net profits tax collections from a municipality that fails to comply with reporting requirements.
- Requires those taxes, if withheld by the Commissioner, to be paid to the municipality when it complies with reporting requirements.
- Authorizes the Commissioner to refund or carry forward any overpaid municipal net profits taxes without the filing of an application for refund.
- Limits a taxpayer's municipal net profits tax refund to be offset only by outstanding debt or liabilities related to those taxes.
- Repeals a provision invalidated by the Ohio Supreme Court authorizing the Commissioner to retain 0.5% of all municipal net profits taxes the Commissioner collects.
- Expressly authorizes the Attorney General to charge the costs of collecting municipal net profits taxes, interest, and penalties to a taxpayer that owes such amounts.

Municipal income tax retirement deduction

- Authorizes a municipal income tax deduction for pension or retirement benefits paid by a pass-through entity to a retired partner, retired shareholder, or retired member.

Land conveyance

- Authorizes the conveyance of 1.13 acres of state-owned land in Cincinnati, currently held for the benefit of the University of Cincinnati, for \$1.6 million, with the proceeds to be directed to the University.

S.B. 18

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Roegner and Schaffer

Effective date: Emergency: March 31, 2021

- Incorporates into Ohio income tax law changes to federal tax law taking effect since March 27, 2020.
- Exempts the following from the commercial activity tax:
 - “Second draw” Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan amounts forgiven under the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021; and
 - Bureau of Workers’ Compensation dividends paid to employers in 2020 and 2021.
- Authorizes the Tax Commissioner to temporarily abate any interest or penalties for the underpayment of state and school district income taxes due on unemployment benefits received in 2020.
- Allows individuals to elect to have state income tax withheld from their unemployment benefits.
- Sets the rate of a withholding tax paid by certain pass-through entities on a percentage of its nonresident investors’ distributive income equal to the income tax rate on taxable business income, effectively reducing those withholding rates.

S.B. 57

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Hackett and Antonio

Effective date: August 3, 2021

- Authorizes a property tax exemption for certain housing used by individuals diagnosed with mental illness or substance use disorder.
- Authorizes commercial or industrial tenants to file a property valuation complaint if their lease requires them to pay the property taxes charged against the property and the lease or their landlord authorizes them to file the complaint.
- Authorizes a county board of revision, pursuant to a valuation complaint filed for tax year 2020, to value a property for tax purposes as of October 1, 2020, instead of January 1, 2020, if its value is reduced due to COVID-19-related circumstances or state orders.
- Waives the rule barring multiple valuation complaints from being filed in the same triennial valuation period for these tax year 2020 COVID-19-related complaints and

complaints filed for tax year 2021 or 2022 that only allege a value reduction due to COVID-19-related circumstances or orders.

- Specifies that tax increment financing (TIF) service payment obligation agreements between a property owner and a local government are enforceable against subsequent property owners.

Utilities

H.B. 128

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hoops and Stein

Effective date: June 30, 2021

Repeal of nuclear provisions of H.B. 6

- Repeals the following provisions enacted in 2019 by H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly:
 - The requirement that an electric distribution utility (EDU) collect a per-customer monthly charge on all ratepayers in Ohio to subsidize credits for nuclear resources; and
 - The provision that disallows future reductions in the taxable value of tangible personal property of certain electric companies.

Renewable energy credit changes to H.B. 6

- Changes the term “renewable” to “solar” in the provisions governing the renewable energy credit program enacted by H.B. 6.
- Lowers the charges that an EDU may impose on retail electric customers in Ohio for solar resource credits, reflecting the elimination of the nuclear resource credit program and related customer charges.
- Makes changes regarding the Solar Generation Fund’s (SGF’s) administration and the deposit of charges collected from retail customers.
- Permits the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority, subject to Controlling Board approval, to use up to \$300,000 per fiscal year from the SGF for program administrative costs, beginning January 1, 2021 (FY 2022), and ending June 30, 2029 (FY 2029).
- Permits the Authority, subject to Controlling Board approval, to use up to \$300,000 in SGF funds in FY 2022 for program administrative costs incurred in FYs 2020 and 2021.
- Requires the Authority to re-review and approve applications for qualifying solar resources that applied to receive payments for solar energy credits, so long as the application was made before March 1, 2020.
- Relieves the re-reviewed and approved qualifying solar resources from meeting the deadlines for quarterly reports of the megawatt hours produced by the resource that passed before the act’s June 30, 2021, effective date.

Decoupling changes to H.B. 6

Repeals the ability of an EDU to file an application with the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) to implement a decoupling mechanism for calendar year 2019 and thereafter regarding energy efficiency and peak demand reduction (EE/PDR) programs.

- Terminates any H.B. 6 decoupling mechanism for EE/PDR approved prior to the act's June 30, 2021, repeal of the decoupling mechanism provision, and prohibits any related amount, charge, mechanism, or rider from being assessed or collected from customers.

Electric distribution utility excessive earnings test

- Repeals the requirement established by H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly that PUCO consider total earned return on common equity for affiliated Ohio EDUs operating under a joint electric security plan when conducting the quadrennial and annual significantly excessive earnings test (SEET) reviews for those EDUs.
- Repeals the H.B. 166 provision that allows PUCO to consider the revenue, expenses, or earnings of any EDU affiliate that is an Ohio EDU in its annual SEET review of electric security plan adjustments.

Customer refunds

- Requires the following to be promptly refunded to customers and allocated to customer classes in the same proportion as originally collected:
 - The full amount of revenues collected from customers under the decoupling mechanism established under H.B. 6 for calendar year 2019, and thereafter, regarding EE/PDR programs (repealed as described above);
 - The amounts of money collected from customers resulting from, or attributable to, amendments made to the law by H.B. 166 regarding quadrennial and annual SEET reviews.

Reconsideration of PUCO orders

- Requires PUCO to reconsider any order or determination it made under the law as amended by H.B. 166 regarding quadrennial and annual SEET reviews, and to issue new orders or determinations in compliance with this act's provisions.

Power Siting Board

- Requires the Power Siting Board to submit to the General Assembly, by December 1, 2021, a report, and any legislative recommendations, on whether current requirements for the planning of the power transmission system and associated facilities investment in Ohio are cost effective and in the interest of consumers.
- To complete the report, requires the Board to consult with JobsOhio and permits it to consult with, or be assisted by, PJM Interconnection Regional Transmission Organization L.L.C., PJM's independent market monitor, and other interested stakeholders, such as transmission owners.

H.B. 201

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Stephens

Effective date: September 30, 2021

- Guarantees that every person has the right to obtain:
 - Distribution service or retail natural gas service from a natural gas company capable of providing service to the person;
 - Competitive retail natural gas service from any competitive retail natural gas service supplier certified to provide that service to the person in that location; or
 - Propane from any energy dealer willing to provide propane to that customer in that location.
- Provides that the natural gas guarantees are:
 - Limited by public utilities law governing natural gas utilities and any regulations adopted under that law by the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) and tariffs approved by PUCO; and
 - Subject to municipal corporation utility home rule authority granted under the Ohio Constitution.
- Provides that the propane guarantee is:
 - Limited by Ohio law governing propane, the Propane Council, and propane marketing, and any regulations adopted under that law by the Department of Agriculture; and
 - Subject to municipal corporation utility home rule authority granted under the Ohio Constitution.
- Bars any political subdivision, by ordinance, resolution, building code, contractual provision, or other requirement, from limiting, preventing, or prohibiting any consumer within its boundaries from using distribution services, retail natural gas service, or propane.
- Provides that, other than the limitations described above, a municipality's right to enter into and administer franchise agreements is not inhibited or restricted.
- States that the provisions establishing the guarantees and delineating political subdivision authority cannot prevent or limit a municipal corporation from exercising its authority regarding electric aggregation, securitization of electric distribution utility costs, and the PUCO's Federal Energy Advocate and the Advocate's duties.
- States that the provisions establishing the guarantees and delineating political subdivision authority cannot limit a natural gas company's ability to provide service to new customers or to require free extensions of service.

- Provides that the act promotes state policy to increase utilization of Ohio’s indigenous energy resources, promote the availability of natural gas goods and services, and encourage the utilization of propane.

S.B. 52

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Reineke and McColley

Effective date: October 11, 2021

County designations of restricted areas for utility facilities

- Allows a board of county commissioners to designate all or part of an unincorporated area of the county as a restricted area, prohibiting the construction of any or all of the following (collectively, known as “utility facilities”):
 - Economically significant wind farms;
 - Large wind farms;
 - Large solar facilities.
- Establishes a procedure for adopting a resolution establishing a restricted area, including notice requirements for a meeting at which the resolution will be discussed.
- Prohibits applications for a certificate, or material amendment, for a utility facility from the Power Siting Board (PSB) in a restricted area prohibiting the construction of that type of facility.
- Establishes a referendum and related requirements for the approval or rejection of a resolution of a board of county commissioners designating a restricted area.
- Defines “material amendment” as an amendment to an existing PSB certificate for a utility facility that does any of the following:
 - For a utility facility:
 - ❖ Changes the facility’s generation type from one type of utility facility to another;
 - ❖ Increases the facility’s nameplate capacity;
 - ❖ Changes the boundaries of the facility, unless the new boundaries are completely within the previous boundaries or the facility components outside the previous boundaries are underground.
 - For a large wind farm or economically significant wind farm:
 - ❖ Increases the number of wind turbines;
 - ❖ Increases the height of a wind turbine.
- Specifies the addition of a battery storage system to a utility facility does not constitute a material amendment.

County approval regarding utility facilities

- Requires a person, before applying for a PSB certificate, or material amendment to an existing certificate, for placement of a utility facility in the unincorporated area of a county, to hold a public meeting in each county where the facility is to be located.
- Requires the prospective applicant to provide certain information at the public meeting and to the board of county commissioners regarding the utility facility.
- Allows a board of county commissioners, no later than 90 days after receiving information about the utility facility at the public meeting, to adopt a resolution prohibiting its construction or limiting its geographic size.

PSB membership regarding utility facilities

- Requires that, for all applications pertaining to a certificate, or a material amendment to an existing certificate, for a utility facility, PSB must include two voting ad hoc members to represent the interests of the residents of the counties and townships where the utility facility is to be located.
- Requires the voting ad hoc members to be the chairperson of the board of township trustees and the president of the board of county commissioners of the township and county where the utility facility is to be located, or their designees.
- Stipulates that, if the utility facility is to be located in multiple townships or counties, a single voting ad hoc member will be chosen by a majority vote the boards of township trustees to represent all of those townships, and a single voting ad hoc member will be chosen by a majority vote of all the boards of county commissioners to represent all of those counties.
- Requires that a board of county commissioners and a board of township trustees designate one voting ad hoc PSB member each, not later than 30 days after receiving notice that an application to PSB for a certificate or amendment for a utility facility has been determined to be complete and accepted.

Ad hoc PSB member restrictions

- Prohibits, if a board of township trustees or board of county commissioners seeks to adopt a resolution to intervene in a power siting board case for which it is entitled to have a voting ad hoc member, the member who will serve as an ad hoc member from voting on the resolution to intervene unless they designate another as the ad hoc member.
- Prohibits present and former voting ad hoc PSB members from disclosing or using confidential information acquired in the course of official duties without appropriate authorization.
- Exempts voting ad hoc PSB members from limits on ex parte communications with any party to a PSB proceeding, but requires the ad hoc member and the party to disclose the date of the conversation and all participants in the conversation who are parties.

PSB certification process

- Requires PSB to notify boards of township trustees and boards of county commissioners that an application has been filed for a certificate, or a material amendment to an existing certificate, to construct a utility facility in their township or county.
- Prohibits PSB from granting a certificate, or material amendment, for a utility facility if the prospective applicant provided different information to the board of county commissioners for the public meeting regarding nameplate capacity, geographic area, and generation type than what PSB possesses.
- Prohibits PSB from granting a certificate, or a material amendment to an existing certificate, if the utility facility exceeds the limited boundaries set by the board of county commissioners by resolution.

Decommissioning requirements for wind and solar facilities

- Requires an applicant for a certificate, or a material amendment to an existing certificate, for a utility facility to submit a comprehensive decommissioning plan for the facility for PSB to review and approval 60 days before beginning construction.
- Requires the plan to be prepared by a professional engineer, designate the responsible parties for decommissioning, a schedule of decommissioning, and cost estimates.
- Requires the posting of a performance bond that meets certain requirements imposed by the act before construction may begin.

Pending certificates for utility facilities

- States that, for an application for a certificate, or a material amendment to an existing certificate, for a utility facility that has been filed with PSB, but has not been found to be in compliance with the application requirements and accepted, as of the act's effective date (October 11, 2021), the PSB must include voting ad hoc members.

Pending certificates for wind farms

- States that the act applies to any application for an economically significant wind farm or large wind farm that has been filed with PSB, but has not has been found to be in compliance with the application requirements and has not been accepted, by November 10, 2021 (30 days after the act's effective date).
- States that any application for such a wind farm is subject to review and approval by the board of county commissioners and the board has until January 10, 2022, to prohibit its construction or limit its size.

Pending certificates for large solar facilities

- States that applications for a certificate or material amendment to an existing certificate for a large solar facility are not subject to the act's provisions if, as of October 11, 2021:

- The facility is in the PJM Interconnection and Regional Transmission Organization, L.L.C. (PJM), New Services Queue;
- The application has been found to be in compliance with the application requirements by the PSB Chairperson (or the Chairperson's designee) and has been accepted by PSB; and
- The applicant has received a completed system impact study from PJM and has paid the filing fee for the facilities study to PJM.
- States that if a large solar facility meets the above requirements and has multiple positions in the New Services Queue under the same legal entity as an applicant, all the queue positions in effect on October 11, 2021, are exempt from the act.
- States that if, after October 11, 2021, the applicant files an additional new service request with PJM pertaining to the facility, the application is subject to review by the board of county commissioners of the county.
- States that if a large solar facility submits a new queue position for an increase in capacity interconnection rights after October 11, 2021, in order to participate in PJM's capacity market which does not increase the facility's nameplate capacity, the change does not subject the facility to the act.

INDEX

HOUSE BILLS

| <u>Bill</u> | <u>Page</u> | <u>Bill</u> | <u>Page</u> | <u>Bill</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| H.B. 2 | 135 | H.B. 82 | 145 | H.B. 170 | 118 |
| H.B. 5 | 152 | H.B. 87 | 178 | H.B. 172 | 120 |
| H.B. 6 | 10 | H.B. 92 | 179 | H.B. 176 | 152 |
| H.B. 7 | 123 | H.B. 106 | 183 | H.B. 177 | 184 |
| H.B. 8 | 131 | H.B. 110 | 27 | H.B. 191 | 179 |
| H.B. 9 | 168 | H.B. 122 | 168 | H.B. 201 | 190 |
| H.B. 21 | 168 | H.B. 128 | 188 | H.B. 215 | 16 |
| H.B. 29 | 159 | H.B. 133 | 156 | H.B. 222 | 178 |
| H.B. 67 | 144 | H.B. 137 | 183 | H.B. 228 | 185 |
| H.B. 74 | 17 | H.B. 167 | 116 | H.B. 244 | 13 |
| H.B. 75 | 25 | H.B. 168 | 116 | H.B. 252 | 152 |
| H.B. 76 | 27 | H.B. 169 | 117 | H.C.R. 35 | 150 |

SENATE BILLS

| <u>Bill</u> | <u>Page</u> | <u>Bill</u> | <u>Page</u> | <u>Bill</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| S.B. 1 | 147 | S.B. 28 | 155 | S.B. 102 | 175 |
| S.B. 2 | 127 | S.B. 30 | 183 | S.B. 108 | 118 |
| S.B. 3 | 153 | S.B. 36 | 132 | S.B. 109 | 119 |
| S.B. 4 | 181 | S.B. 40 | 122 | S.B. 113 | 122 |
| S.B. 5 | 153 | S.B. 42 | 183 | S.B. 115 | 158 |
| S.B. 6 | 153 | S.B. 49 | 122 | S.B. 126..... | 133 |
| S.B. 7 | 154 | S.B. 52 | 191 | S.B. 157..... | 171 |
| S.B. 13 | 129 | S.B. 54 | 132 | S.B. 162..... | 173 |
| S.B. 18 | 186 | S.B. 57 | 186 | S.B. 166..... | 148 |
| S.B. 21..... | 170 | S.B. 58 | 171 | S.B. 217..... | 154 |
| S.B. 22 | 11 | S.B. 59 | 180 | S.B. 229..... | 14 |
| S.B. 27 | 182 | S.B. 80 | 151 | S.B. 258..... | 151 |