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March 2012
INTRODUCTION

The Digest of Enactments 2011 summarizes legislation passed by the General Assembly during 2011, including 20 Senate bills and 50 House bills and one constitutional amendment proposed by joint resolution. Am. Sub. S.B. 5 would have made changes to collective bargaining laws, but, as a result of the referendum vote on November 8, 2011, is void. Governor John R. Kasich vetoed Sub. H.B. 231 that would have established a program for the issuance of permits for the withdrawal and consumptive use of waters from the Lake Erie basin. Am. H.J.R. 1 proposed a constitutional amendment to raise the maximum age at which judges may be elected or appointed, but voters rejected the change at the November election. A second proposed constitutional amendment, approved by the voters at the November election, to "preserve the freedom of Ohioans to choose their health care and health care coverage," was proposed by initiative petition rather than legislative enactment; therefore, it is not described in this publication.

Am. Sub. H.B. 194 is also being challenged through the referendum process. The outcome of the referendum will not be known until after the election of November 6, 2012.

The summaries in this publication are condensed versions of the final analyses prepared by the Legislative Service Commission for the General Assembly. Readers may obtain the full final analyses from the General Assembly’s web site at www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm.

The Digest of Enactments 2011 may be accessed via the Web at www.lsc.state.oh.us, by following the Publications link. A paper copy ($6) or a CD ($4) may be purchased; items to be mailed require an additional $1 for postage. Address orders to:

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Prohibits the owner or keeper of bison, llamas, or alpacas from permitting them to run at large in specified public thoroughfares or on unenclosed land or causing them to be kept for grazing on another's premises.

Repeals the prohibition against the owner or keeper of a stallion, jackass, bull, boar, ram, or buck permitting it to go or be at large out of its own enclosure.

Requires the owner or keeper of horses, mules, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, llamas, alpacas, or geese to have acted negligently in order to be liable for damages caused by the animal in specified public thoroughfares, on unenclosed land, or on another's premises.

Provides that the running at large of specified animals in certain places is prima-facie evidence in a civil action for damages that the owner or keeper negligently permitted the animal to run at large.

Specifically states that recklessness is the required culpable mental state for a violation of the prohibition against the owner or keeper of horses, mules, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, llamas, alpacas, or geese allowing them to run at large in specified public thoroughfares or on unenclosed land or causing them to be kept for grazing on another's premises.
H.B. 89


Sens. Hite, Schaffer, Wilson, Brown, Schiavoni, Bacon, Beagle, Cafaro, Daniels, Gillmor, Hughes, Jordan, Kearney, LaRose, Manning, Niehaus, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Smith, Stewart, Tavares, Turner, Wagoner, Widener, Patton, Cates, Jones

Effective date: June 10, 2011

Designates the second full week of March as "Ohio Agriculture Week" in order to increase public recognition of the vitally important role that agriculture plays both in Ohio and across the nation.

Sub. H.B. 229


Sens. Bacon, Coley, Daniels, Faber, Hite, Jones, Kearney, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Patton, Sawyer, Schaffer, Seitz, Tavares, Turner, Wilson

Effective date: October 17, 2011

Concentrated animal feeding facilities

Requires an applicant for a permit to install to construct or expand a concentrated animal feeding facility to submit a notarized affidavit regarding township and county infrastructure improvements with the application, rather than written statements from the board of township trustees and board of county commissioners regarding those improvements, if either board does not provide the written statement within 75 days of receiving notification from the applicant.
Sales of seed

Authorizes the owner or custodian of a lot of seed to appeal a stop-sale order issued by the Director of Agriculture or the Director’s designee.

Livestock feeds

Excludes drugs and negligible amounts of feed added to drugs to facilitate their administration from regulation under the Livestock Feeds Law.

Authorizes a manufacturer or distributor of commercial feed to appeal an order from the Director to withdraw from distribution any lot of commercial feed that the Director believes is offered or exposed for distribution or distributed in violation of the Livestock Feeds Law.

Ohio Grape Industries Committee

Eliminates the requirement that no less than 30% of the money in the Ohio Grape Industries Fund had to be expended by the Ohio Grape Industries Committee for specified purposes, including the marketing of grapes and grape products, but retains a 70% cap on those expenditures.

Authorizes the Committee, for the purpose of promoting the grape industry, to provide to producers and persons that grow grapes in Ohio grape plants, grape vines, equipment, and material to assist in the production of grapes and grape products.

Disposal of dead animals

Adds dissolution by alkaline hydrolysis to the forms of disposal that an owner must use when disposing of a dead animal.

Small livestock dealers, dealers, and brokers

Exempts an applicant for a license as a poultry dealer or broker from financial responsibility requirements.

Prohibits a licensed livestock dealer or broker from employing a person whose dealer's or broker's license was revoked or is suspended.

Eliminates a provision that required a licensed livestock dealer or broker to appear at a hearing before the Director or the Director's designee before the licensee could employ a person who, as a dealer or broker, previously defaulted on contracts pertaining to the purchase, exchange, or sale of livestock.
Eliminates a similar requirement regarding a licensed small livestock dealer or broker.

Authorizes the Director to refuse to grant or to suspend a small livestock dealer’s, dealer’s, or broker’s license, without prior hearing, after determining that there is reasonable cause to believe that the applicant has had another such license suspended or revoked.

**Disfigurement of horse tails**

Revises the prohibition regarding the pulling out of hairs of the foretop, mane, or wither of a horse, and allows the cutting or amputation of the dock or tail of a horse when necessary to prevent injury.

**Amusement ride safety**

Generally applies the Amusement Rides Law to inflatable devices.

Adds that designees of the Director of Agriculture and the General Manager of the Ohio State Fair may serve on the Council on Amusement Ride Safety, and revises the expiration date of terms of office for Council members.

Exempts rock climbing walls from the Amusement Rides Law, and adds additional exemptions to that Law, including devices that are regulated by other state and federal agencies.

**Retail food establishments**

Revises the exemption from retail food establishment licensure for certain nonprofit organizations that raise funds by selling foods.

**Horse races conducted by agricultural societies**

Requires horse races that are conducted by an agricultural society to be conducted at the society’s fairgrounds or, with the approval of the Director of Agriculture, at a track designated by the agricultural society in the applicable county.

Authorizes the horse races to be transferred to a suitable track with the approval of the Director if the horse races cannot be contested due to unfavorable weather or another cause.

Requires an agricultural society to return money received from the Ohio Fairs Fund for scheduled races that were not conducted.
Division name changes

Changes the names of three divisions and creates a new division, Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting, in the Department of Agriculture.
Am. Sub. H.B. 114
(For details of fiscal provisions of the act, see LSC Budget in Detail, As Enacted; LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted; and LSC Greenbook, all of which are available online at www.lsc.state.oh.us)


Sens. Bacon, Beagle, Brown, Daniels, Gillmor, Hite, Hughes, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Patton, Sawyer, Tavares, Turner, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: June 29, 2011; certain sections effective March 30, 2011

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Authorizes the Department of Transportation (ODOT) to enter into public-private agreements based on solicited and unsolicited proposals from private entities relating to transportation facilities, and establishes the governing terms and procedures applicable to the agreements.

Eliminates the Ohio Transportation Finance Commission, which was a seven-member body required to approve all ODOT tolling projects.

Establishes that ODOT may not permit tolls to be charged on existing nontoll public roads rather than just highways.

Allows ODOT to contract with any person that applies to operate, construct, maintain, or market the Traffic Generator Sign (brown sign) Program, and provides that the contract may allow for a reasonable profit to be earned by the successful applicant.

Requires the state to reimburse cable operators, as well as electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities not subject to the authority of PUCO, for the cost of relocating any of their facilities because of highway construction.

Makes confidential a report by a transit agency or its contractor that results from the investigation of an accident or unacceptable hazardous condition on a rail fixed guideway system that is operated by the transit agency.
Provides that the engineer's estimate of cost of any particular item of work involved in an ODOT construction project and the unit price components of the project are not public records even after the bid opening for the project has occurred.

Makes permanent ODOT's temporary authority to use a value-based selection process for design-build projects, and allows up to $1 billion to be spent each fiscal year on design-build projects rather than $1 billion for the biennium ending June 30, 2011 and $250 million for each following biennium.

Establishes a 5% gross vehicle weight tolerance and a related wheel or axle load exemption for the following vehicles under specified conditions: (1) a surface mining truck transporting minerals, (2) a vehicle transporting hot mix asphalt material, (3) a vehicle transporting concrete, (4) a vehicle transporting manure, turf, sod, or silage, and (5) a vehicle transporting chips, sawdust, mulch, bark, pulpwood, biomass, or firewood.

In regard to the continuing 7.5% vehicle weight limit tolerance on non-interstates, establishes that no wheel or axle limits apply if vehicles to which the weight tolerance applies do not exceed the 7.5% gross vehicle weight tolerance.

Requires the Auditor of State to conduct a performance audit of the Department of Transportation.

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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Eliminates the $20 late fee that was imposed if a driver's or commercial driver's license was renewed more than seven days after its expiration date.

Exempts farm trucks and farm buses from the $20 motor vehicle registration late fee, and requires the waiver of that late fee in any case involving the registration of a motor vehicle that is used on a seasonal basis upon proof of such seasonal use.

Allows the clerk of the court of common pleas to compete for the award of a deputy registrar contract in any county with a population of 40,001 to 50,000 people.

Allows a county auditor who is designated to act as a deputy registrar and the clerk of the court of common pleas to allocate their deputy registrar duties and certificate of title duties and fees between them.

Requires a clerk of the court of common pleas to inform the Registrar of Motor Vehicles if space is available at an office of the clerk that could be occupied by a deputy registrar, and, subject to the approval of the Registrar, permits a clerk and deputy registrar to occupy a common location where neither is an occupant.
Allows a deputy registrar who, subsequent to being awarded a deputy registrar contract, is elected to a local office to continue to be a deputy registrar, and exempts such a deputy registrar from the political contribution limits that generally apply to a deputy registrar.

Requires that a credit of $3.50 be granted to a deputy registrar for each damaged license plate or validation sticker that the deputy registrar replaces as a service to a member of the public.

Requires the Registrar to adopt rules allowing a deputy registrar to collect driver’s license reinstatement fees and a service fee and, not later than January 1, 2012, to ensure that at least one deputy registrar in each county has the necessary equipment and is able to accept the fees.

Allows a deputy registrar, in accordance with guidelines the Director of Public Safety must adopt, to operate or contract for the operation of a vending machine at a deputy registrar location if products of the vending machine are consistent with the functions of a deputy registrar.

Establishes a five-year construction equipment auction license to be administered by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in the same manner as a motor vehicle dealer license, including eligibility standards, application procedures, a $7,500 application fee, standards for a licensee to sell equipment and motor vehicles at auction, and penalties for violating the standards and related prohibitions.

Allows a clerk of a court of common pleas to issue a certificate of title to a motor vehicle applied for by an agent of a licensed motor vehicle dealer when that agent has a properly executed power of attorney from the dealer.

Allows a motor vehicle leasing dealer to sell a motor vehicle: (1) to another licensed motor vehicle dealer that previously was titled to someone else as the ultimate purchaser of the vehicle, or (2) that was titled in the name of the dealer or an entity affiliated with the dealer for a cumulative period of 90 days.

Requires every person who applies for a new or renewal driver’s or commercial driver’s license, temporary instruction permit, motorcycle operator’s license or endorsement, or identification card to be furnished with a form for listing contact persons for inclusion in the next of kin database of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Permits the operator of a motorcycle to back the motorcycle into an angled parking space.
Codifies limitations and restrictions of the Registrar that apply to the operation of a motorcycle by a person who holds a motorcycle temporary instruction permit.

Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, not later than December 31, 2011, to enable all electronic motor vehicle dealers to file applications for certificates of title on behalf of purchasers of motor vehicles electronically directly through the Registrar.

Removes obsolete language relating to the State Highway Safety Fund, the Highway Improvement Bond Retirement Fund, and bonds issued pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2g of the Ohio Constitution.

Authorizes the Director of Public Safety and the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to apply for, allocate, disburse, and account for grants from federal, state, or private sources.

Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to establish a program to permit the registration of apportionable motor vehicles over the Internet no later than December 31, 2011, and requires the program to provide an option for the payment of all registration taxes and fees by use of a financial transaction device.

Creates a "Glen Helen Nature Preserve" special license plate and a "realtor" special license plate.

Requires a $15 contribution for a set of "Prince Hall Freemason" license plates to be used by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio for scholarship purposes.

Allows the $5 contribution that a person pays when obtaining "Share the Road" license plates to be used to create and distribute bicycle safety education materials rather than just to distribute a booklet on proper methods and procedures of riding bicycles on the roads and streets.

Requires the contributions that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles collects from persons who obtain "Teen Driver Education" license plates to be deposited into the License Plate Contribution Fund.

Permits a noncommercial trailer to have a gross weight of not more than 10,000 pounds rather than not more than 3,000 pounds.

Abolishes the Seat Belt Education Fund, and requires that the percentage of fines for seat belt violations that was required to be credited to the Fund be credited to the Trauma and Emergency Medical Services Fund instead.
Increases from $400 to $1,000 the amount of property damage resulting from a motor vehicle accident that triggers the requirement that the local law enforcement agency that investigated the accident forward a written report of the accident to the Director of Public Safety.

Specifically permits a State Highway Patrol trooper to render emergency assistance to another peace officer if the latter requests it at a particular location and the trooper arrives at the location before the other peace officer.

Requires that a manufacturer’s payment to the Director of Public Safety for certifying its immobilizing or disabling device be credited to the state Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund rather than to the Drivers’ Treatment and Intervention Fund.

Requires the Department of Public Safety to participate in receiving notifications through the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation's Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database of the arrest or conviction of licensed private investigators and security guard providers.

Makes permanent a provision of temporary law requiring 50¢ of a $2 portion of the $5 fee that a motor vehicle dealer pays for a certificate of title to be deposited into the Title Defect Revision Fund rather than requiring the entire $2 portion to be deposited into the Automated Title Processing Fund.

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**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION**

Requires the District One (Cuyahoga County) Public Works Integrating Committee to include two members appointed by either the board of county commissioners or the chief executive officer of Cuyahoga County rather than just by the board.

Revises the formula for allocating, in each year of the State Capital Improvements Program, the proceeds of obligations issued under Article VIII, Section 2p of the Ohio Constitution for public infrastructure capital improvements.

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT**

Prohibits the Department of Development or any other entity from providing certain economic development assistance to businesses conducting gaming activities or for project sites on which gaming activities are or will be conducted.
Expands the list of fuels to which the Department's Alternative Fuel Transportation Grant Program may apply.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Authorizes an S liquor permit to be issued to certain brand owners and importers of beer, in addition to wine as in continuing law, located inside or outside Ohio to allow those owners and importers to sell beer to personal consumers.

Exempts manufacturers that produce and ship beer into Ohio and that hold an S liquor permit from the $300 supplier registration fee charged under continuing law.

Specifies that an S permit holder that does not sell its beer to wholesale distributors of beer in Ohio is not required to submit to the Division of Liquor Control territory designation forms.

Requires an S permit holder who sells wine to pay the tax on wine that is used in part to support Ohio's grape industries.

Allows an Ohio resident or a member of the U.S. armed forces who is 21 years of age or older to bring into the state for personal use not more than four and one-half liters of wine or 288 ounces of beer in any 30-day period.

Exempts such a person from any tax consent fee when the person physically possesses and accompanies the wine or beer into the state.

Revises what constitutes an outdoor performing arts center for purposes of on-premises consumption of wine by reducing the required acreage of such a center.

DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Exempts from the commercial activity tax certain in-kind exchanges of petroleum products between motor fuel dealers.

Extends through the FY 2012-FY 2013 biennium the motor fuel prompt payment and shrinkage allowances for distributors and retail dealers of motor fuel applicable to FY 2008-FY 2011, which are 1% and 0.5%, respectively.

Permits, for a limited time, the abatement of unpaid property taxes, penalties, and interest owed on state-owned property that would have been tax-exempt except for a failure to comply with certain tax exemption procedures.
MISCELLANEOUS

Eliminates fees paid to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for shipments, exceeding a certain quantity, of radioactive materials.

Eliminates a requirement that the carrier of a shipment, exceeding a certain quantity, of radioactive materials notify the Emergency Management Agency within the Department of Public Safety of the shipment.

Permits the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President, respectively, to designate the vice-chairpersons of the finance committees to serve on the Controlling Board instead of the chairpersons.

Eliminates a provision of the Buy Ohio purchasing preference that deemed the existence of sufficient competition to prevent an excessive price or the acquiring of a disproportionately inferior product if there were two or more qualified bids that offered products that were produced or mined in Ohio.

Increases the threshold at which a port authority must open construction work to competitive bidding from $25,000 to the greater of $100,000 or, beginning on January 1, 2012, $100,000 as adjusted for inflation every two years.

Requires a port authority to restore, relocate, duplicate, or pay compensation for any appropriated property or facilities of a cable operator.

Expands the kinds of projects that a transportation improvement district may construct and operate to include: (1) parking facilities, and (2) freight rail tracks and necessarily related freight rail facilities.

Requires that, to the extent possible, federal money received for fiscal stabilization and recovery purposes be used to encourage the purchase of supplies and services from Ohio companies and stimulate job growth and retention.

Allows an antenna, electronic tolling or other transponder, camera, directional navigation device, or other similar electronic device to be located in the front windshield of a passenger car or commercial car as an exception to the general prohibition against the display of material on the front windshield.

Authorizes the conveyance of state-owned land in Stark County to the city of Massillon.

Authorizes the conveyance of state-owned land in Fairfield County to Taylor Chevrolet, Inc.
Authorizes the conveyance of real estate owned by Kent State University to Delta Upsilon KSU Alumni Chapter, Inc.

Authorizes a board of county commissioners, or a joint board of county commissioners, to use specified continuing statutory ditch maintenance procedures and requirements to maintain soil and water conservation district improvements.

Authorizes a board of county commissioners to adjust the permanent base of a ditch improvement that is used to calculate maintenance fund assessments.

Requires notice to be sent to each owner that would be affected by the adjusted permanent base 30 days before the hearing at which the board will consider the new permanent base.

Prohibits the spending of money received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on signs that identify the source of specific project funding.

Makes the Ohio Turnpike Commission responsible for the major maintenance and repair and replacement of grade separations at intersections of the Ohio Turnpike with county and township roads in a county that, as of January 1, 2011, had closed one or more roads as a result of grade separation failure involving the Turnpike.

Prohibits a sheriff or police chief from charging to file an affidavit related to disposing of a vehicle that the sheriff or chief has ordered into storage.

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**Sub. H.B. 123**

(For details of fiscal provisions of the act, see LSC Budget in Detail, As Enacted; LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted; and LSC Greenbook, all of which are available online at www.lsc.state.oh.us)


Sens. Bacon, Beagle, Schaffer, Hite, Hughes, LaRose, Obhof, Stewart, Wilson

Effective date: April 25, 2011; codified provisions effective July 29, 2011

Allows the Administrator of Workers' Compensation to adopt rules establishing criteria that a public employer must satisfy for the Administrator to waive any of the continuing law requirements that certain public employers must satisfy to be granted status as a self-insuring employer.
Allows the Administrator to charge additional security from a public employer for whom the Administrator waives any criteria to become a self-insuring employer under the act.

Requires the Administrator or a self-insuring employer to award payment for medical bills in a claim that is ultimately denied under specified circumstances, and requires those payments to be charged to the Surplus Fund Account.

Reduces the time period for the payment of bills for medical or vocational rehabilitation services from two years to one year from the date of service or the date the payment is otherwise permitted under continuing law, except for reimbursement of conditional payments for Medicaid or Medicare and except as provided in a rule that the Administrator must adopt.

Prohibits a medical or vocational rehabilitation services provider from billing a claimant for any bill that the Administrator or Industrial Commission is prohibited from paying due to the provider's failing to timely submit the bill, except for reimbursement of conditional payments for Medicaid or Medicare.

Removes the requirement that the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) include in the annual actuarial valuation report specified information concerning financial information and methods used in making that valuation.

Reduces the biannual reporting requirement for the Health Care Data Program to once annually to be submitted with the BWC Board's annual report.

Changes the requirements that an individual must satisfy in order to become the member of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Board of Directors who is an actuary.

Revises the membership of the Workers' Compensation Board of Directors Nominating Committee.

Abolishes the BWC Division of Research and Statistics.

Requires an existing disability benefit that is being paid by a public retirement system or an alternative retirement plan to be terminated if, on or after July 29, 2011, the recipient: (1) became disabled in the commission of a felony offense of bribery while engaging in a pattern of corrupt behavior or while committing theft in office, and (2) at that time was serving in a position of honor, trust, or profit.

Requires a public retirement system or alternative retirement plan provider, after receiving notice from the prosecutor that a member or plan participant has been charged with one of the specified felonies, to give notice to the prosecutor of whether
the member or plan participant has been granted a disability benefit and to submit to the court the documents relied on in granting the disability benefit.

Requires the court to hold a hearing regarding the condition for which the offender was granted a disability benefit prior to sentencing the offender to determine whether the offender’s disabling condition arose out of the commission of the felony that the offender was convicted of or pled guilty to.

Authorizes the public retirement system or alternative retirement plan provider to recover the disability benefit paid to the offender if the court orders termination of the benefit.

For purposes of the law that requires forfeiture of the right to receive future retirement benefits for conviction of one of the specified felonies while serving in a "position of honor, trust, or profit," expands the definition of that term to include a position in which, in the course of public employment, an employee has control over the expenditure of public funds of $100,000 or more annually.

**H.B. 124**

*(For details of fiscal provisions of the act, see LSC Budget in Detail, As Enacted; LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted; and LSC Greenbook, all of which are available online at www.lsc.state.oh.us)*

**Reps.** Hottinger, Amstutz, Anielski, Baker, Bubp, Combs, Goyal, Hackett, Johnson, Letson, Luckie, Milkovich, Newbold, Peterson, Sears, Uecker, Batchelder

**Sens.** Bacon, Beagle, Schaffer, Hite, Hughes, LaRose, Manning, Obhof, Stewart, Wilson

**Effective date:** April 25, 2011

Makes appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013, but makes no statutory changes.
Am. Sub. H.B. 153
(For details of fiscal provisions of the act, see LSC Budget in Detail, As Enacted; LSC Comparison Document, As Enacted; and LSC Greenbook, all of which are available online at www.lsc.state.oh.us)


Sens. Bacon, Beagle, Coley, Daniels, Faber, Gillmor, Hite, Jones, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Schaffer, Wagoner, Widener

Effective date: June 30, 2011; certain provisions effective September 29, 2011; certain other provisions effective on other dates; contains item vetoes

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ADJUTANT GENERAL

Modifies the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Abolishes the School Employees Health Care Board, and generally transfers its duties and authority to the Department of Administrative Services.

Requires the Department to design health care plans for employees of political subdivisions, public school districts including educational service centers, and state institutions of higher education.

Specifies, upon completion of a consultant’s report, and once the health care plans the Department is to design are released in final form, that all health care benefits provided to persons employed by political subdivisions, public school districts, and state institutions of higher education may be provided by those plans.

Specifies in certain cases that if the health care plans designed by the Department do not include or address any health care benefits provided under continuing law, the benefits provided under continuing law continue in effect for those benefits.

Specifies also that the act does not prohibit a political subdivision from adopting a delivery system of benefits that is not in accord with the Department's adopted best practices if doing so is considered to be most financially advantageous to the political subdivision.

Requires the Department to set employee and employer health care plan premiums for the Department's designed health care plans.

Would have required the Department to submit a report to the General Assembly on the feasibility of certain health care initiatives regarding health care plans covering persons employed by political subdivisions, public school districts, and state institutions of higher education (VETOED).

Recreates the Public Schools Health Care Advisory Committee as the Public Health Care Advisory Committee under the Department.

Renames the School Employees Health Care Fund the Political Subdivisions and Public Employees Health Care Fund.
Eliminates the requirement that the multiple-prime contracting method be used by public authorities undertaking a public improvement project, but permits its use.

Authorizes public authorities, other than the Ohio Turnpike Commission, to enter into public improvement contracts with construction managers at risk (CMARs) and design-build (D/B) firms and to enter into public improvement contracts with general contracting firms regardless of the size of the project.

Permits the utilization of design-assist firms on CMAR and D/B projects.

Increases from $50,000 to $200,000 the minimum project cost threshold triggering competitive bidding on state public improvement projects, and exempts contracts with CMARs and D/B firms from the competitive bidding requirement.

Requires the Director of Administrative Services to adjust that minimum project cost threshold every five years based on the average rate of inflation.

Prohibits the subdivision of state public improvement projects in order to avoid the competitive bidding threshold.

Exempts contracts with CMARs and D/B firms from the competitive bidding requirement that applies to public improvement projects undertaken by port authorities.

Increases from $25,000 to $50,000 the professional design fee cost threshold under which public authorities contracting for professional design services are exempt from the bidding, evaluation, and ranking requirements that otherwise would apply under ongoing law, provided that certain requirements are met.

Modifies the life-cycle cost analysis and energy consumption analysis requirements for public improvement projects.

Mandates that the release of capital appropriations by the Director of Budget and Management or the Controlling Board for facilities projects contain a contingency reserve for payment of unanticipated project expenses.

Makes various other changes to the law governing public improvements.

Requires the Director of Administrative Services to adopt rules that establish guidelines for the provision of surety bonds by CMARs and D/B firms, and delays the application of the act’s construction reform provisions until the date on which those rules become effective.
Requires public entities generally to submit a report to the Director upon completion of each capital facilities project that is funded wholly or in part using state funds.

Requires the Attorney General to submit an annual report to the Director on any mediation and litigation costs associated with capital facilities projects for which a judgment has been rendered.

Requires the Director to incorporate the information received from the reports submitted by public entities and the Attorney General into the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System.

Temporarily authorizes the Director to implement certain provisions of the civil service law regarding classification plans and appointment incentive programs without adopting rules.

Makes changes to the civil service law with respect to civil service examinations, special examinations, appointments, probationary employees, and promotions.

Requires the Office of Information Technology to establish, operate, and maintain a state public notice web site on which state agencies and political subdivisions may publish notices required by statute or rule.

Authorizes the Office of Information Technology to operate an information technology (IT) purchase program.

Requires the State Chief Information Officer to compute revenue attributable to the amortization of certain IT purchases and deposit the revenue into the Information Technology Fund.

Establishes the Information Technology Governance Fund and Major Information Technology Purchases Fund in codified law.

Creates the State Employee Child Support Fund for the purpose of collecting all money withheld or deducted from the wages and salaries of state officials and employees pursuant to child support orders.

Removes purchases and leases for office space for the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) from the control and jurisdiction of the Department.

Authorizes JLEC and the Department to contract for the Department to perform the same statutory services for JLEC that the Department performs for buildings of certain state agencies under its jurisdiction.
Transfers the building and facility operations and management functions of the Ohio Building Authority (OBA) to the Department, effective January 1, 2012.

Deems references to the OBA in statutes pertaining to OBA’s building and facility operations and management functions to be references to the Department.

Authorizes OBA employees to be transferred to the Department if they are necessary for successful implementation of the transfer, and makes employees of OBA who are designated as building and facility operations and management staff, not later than August 1, 2011, eligible to participate in group health plans offered to state employees.

Removes the State of Ohio Computer Center from the list of buildings whose non-General Revenue Fund supported state agency tenants must reimburse the General Revenue Fund for rent.

Eliminates the requirement for the Department to annually make a report to the General Assembly regarding the acquisition and disposal of surplus federal property.

Permits agencies to assign exempt employees, with their written consent, to duties of a higher classification for up to two years.

Allows the Office of Risk Management to manage risk for the courts as it does for the state for purposes of the Judicial Liability Program.

Allows the Risk Management Reserve Fund to be used for the payment of any liability claim that is filed against the state.

Requires the Department to recommend to the leaders of the General Assembly a state government reorganization plan focused on increased efficiencies in state government operation and a reduced number of state agencies.

Authorizes the Department, in conjunction with the Office of Budget and Management, to update or add functionality to the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS) to support shared services, financial or human resources functions, and enterprise applications that will improve the state’s operational efficiency.

Authorizes the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Taxation, to acquire the StateTaxation Accounting and Revenue System (STARS) to function as an integrated tax collection and audit system that will replace all of the state’s separate tax software and administration systems for the various taxes collected by the state.
Requires the Director of Administrative Services to notify the Controlling Board whenever the Director declares a public exigency.

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

Specifies that long-term acute care hospitals are subject to the authority of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsperson and that they are required to pay an annual fee of $6 per bed to fund the regional long-term care ombudsperson programs.

Authorizes the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) to adopt rules establishing a fee to be charged for certification of community-based long-term care agencies.

Authorizes ODA to suspend a community-based long-term care agency’s certification or require the agency to submit evidence of compliance with requirements identified by ODA after a hearing when required to do so by rules.

Specifies the conditions under which ODA is not required to hold a hearing when it imposes a disciplinary sanction against a community-based long-term care agency.

Requires ODA to promote the development of a statewide aging and disabilities resource network to provide older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers with information on available long-term care service options and streamlined access to public and private long-term care services.

Requires area agencies on aging to establish the network and to collaborate with centers for independent living and other locally funded organizations to establish a cost-effective and consumer-friendly network.

Specifies that the annual fees that ODA charges long-term care facilities relative to its Ohio Long-Term Care Consumer Guide are charged for purposes of publishing the Guide rather than only for purposes of the customer satisfaction surveys that are included in the Guide.

Increases from $400 to $650 the annual fee that may be charged to a nursing home for purposes of the Guide.

Permits ODA to include in the Guide information on adult care facilities and providers of home and community-based services.
Creates the Unified Long-Term Care System Advisory Workgroup for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and requires the Workgroup to prepare two reports regarding a unified system of long-term care services.

Requires the Workgroup to serve in an advisory capacity in the implementation of a unified system of long-term care services that facilitates: (1) providing consumers choices of long-term care services that meet their health-care needs and improve their quality of life, (2) providing a continuum of long-term care services that meets consumers' needs throughout life and promotes independence and autonomy, and (3) assuring that Ohio has a system of long-term care services that is cost effective and connects disparate services across agencies and jurisdictions.

Requires the Workgroup to convene four subcommittees to study, respectively, the following issues pertaining to nursing facilities and their services: (1) capacity, (2) Medicaid quality incentive payments to be paid in fiscal year 2013, (3) Medicaid eligibility determinations for individuals seeking services, and (4) Medicaid reimbursement.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Expands continuing provisions stating that the Director of Agriculture has sole and exclusive authority to regulate the provision of food nutrition information to include in that information allergens and the designation of food as healthy or unhealthy.

States that the Director has sole and exclusive authority in Ohio to regulate the provision of consumer incentive items at food service operations, and defines "consumer incentive item."

States that the regulation of the provision of consumer incentive items at food service operations and how those operations are characterized are matters of general statewide interest that require statewide regulation.

Modifies and expands prohibitions against political subdivisions’ taking specified actions with regard to food nutrition information and consumer incentive items, including enacting, adopting, or continuing in effect local legislation relating to the provision of consumer incentive items at food service operations.

Revises specified fees for phytosanitary certificates issued by the Director of Agriculture, including eliminating a $25 fee for collectors or dealers that are licensed
under the Nursery Stock and Plant Pests Law and adding a $25 fee for shipments comprised exclusively of nursery stock.

Allows the Director to contract with individuals or entities to perform gypsy moth trapping in lieu of employing seasonal gypsy moth tenders as authorized in continuing law.

Extends through June 30, 2013, the extra 2¢ per-gallon earmark of wine tax revenue that is credited to the Ohio Grape Industries Fund.

Eliminates the requirement that no less than 30% of the money in the Ohio Grape Industries Fund be expended by the Ohio Grape Industries Committee for specified purposes, including the marketing of grapes and grape products, but retains a 70% cap on those expenditures.

Extends statutory rights, privileges, and protections associated with the ownership or use of assistance dogs by mobility impaired persons to persons diagnosed with autism or assistance dogs used by those persons.

Requires a person proposing to operate a commercially used weighing and measuring device that provides the final quantity and final cost of a transaction and that is a livestock scale, vehicle scale, railway scale, vehicle tank meter, bulk rack meter, or LPG meter to obtain a permit for its operation from the Director of Agriculture.

Specifies that a commercially used weighing and measuring device operation permit may be renewed annually.

Establishes a permit application fee of $75 for a commercially used weighing and measuring device operation permit and an annual permit renewal fee of the same amount.

Requires the proceeds of fees associated with the issuance of permits for commercially used weighing and measuring devices to be credited to the renamed Metrology and Scale Certification and Device Permitting Fund, which provides funding for the administration of the weights and measures program.

Alters the specified provisions of the weights and measures program a violation of which triggers a civil or criminal penalty.
AIR QUALITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Transfers the Ohio Coal Development Office from within the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority to within the Department of Development.

As a result of the transfer, removes provisions that required the Office or the Office Director to obtain the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Authority to perform certain actions.

Removes the Director of Development as an ex officio member from the technical advisory committee that assists the Office Director.

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION SERVICES

Excludes funds for community alcohol and drug addiction services that the General Assembly appropriates to the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) and are transferred to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) for the Medicaid program from the funds that ODADAS allocates and distributes to the alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services (ADAMHS) boards for such services.

Eliminates the responsibility of ODADAS and ADAMHS boards to pay the nonfederal share for services provided under a component of the Medicaid program that ODADAS administers, and makes ODJFS responsible for paying for such services effective July 1, 2012.

Requires ODADAS, notwithstanding ODJFS's new responsibility, to allocate to ADAMHS boards alcohol and drug addiction Medicaid match funds and a portion of statewide treatment and prevention funds appropriated to ODADAS for fiscal year 2012, requires the boards to use the funds to pay claims for community alcohol and drug addiction services provided during that fiscal year under the ODADAS-administered Medicaid component, and requires the boards also to use all federal financial participation that ODADAS receives for claims for such services as the first payment source to pay such claims.

Requires ODADAS to enter into an agreement with each ADAMHS board regarding the issue of paying claims that are for community alcohol and drug addiction services provided before July 1, 2011, and submitted for payment on or after that date, and requires that such claims be paid in accordance with the agreements.
Provides for an ADAMHS board to receive the federal financial participation received for claims for community alcohol and drug addiction services that were provided before July 1, 2011, and paid by the board.

Requires ODADAS to accept from an alcohol and drug addiction program its accreditation from specified national accrediting organizations as evidence that the program satisfies Ohio's standards for state certification of the program if ODADAS determines that the program's accreditation is current and appropriate for the services for which the program is seeking certification, and specifies that the program is generally not subject to further evaluation.

Requires the ODADAS Director and Director of Mental Health, with respect to residential facilities and community behavioral health services, to coordinate documentation requirements, streamline standards, and promote the integration of behavioral and physical health services.

Requires that the portion of the fee persons pay to have a driver's or commercial driver's license or permit reinstated that is credited to the Statewide Treatment and Prevention Fund be used for purposes identified in ODADAS's comprehensive statewide alcohol and drug addiction services plan rather than to pay the costs of driver treatment and intervention programs.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Authorizes a political subdivision to certify past due receivables to the Attorney General for collection.

Authorizes the Attorney General to file a claim to recover unclaimed funds held by the state for an obligor in default of child support.

Extends the period of time applicable to providing a reasonable number of repair attempts before a consumer has the option of a replacement vehicle or a refund under Ohio's Lemon Law under specified circumstances.

Requires the manufacturer to arrange for the use of a vehicle for the consumer if an extension of time is necessary.
AUDITOR OF STATE

Removes the requirement that the Director of Budget and Management approve assessments from the Uniform Accounting Network Fund for the Auditor of State's administrative costs for the Uniform Accounting Network.

Repeals, for audits of local public offices, authority to recover costs from the GRF for State Auditor employees' annual vacation and sick leave and, from the state treasury, necessary travel and hotel costs of local deputy inspectors and supervisors.

Requires the State Auditor to establish cost-recovery rates for local public office audits.

BARBER BOARD

Prohibits the Barber Board from disqualifying a person from being issued an initial license on the grounds that the person was previously convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

Requires a state agency or official to obtain additional approval from the General Assembly or Controlling Board to enter into or commit to enter into a public obligation offering fractionalized interests in payments drawn from appropriations.

Requires a state agency or official to obtain additional approval from the General Assembly or Controlling Board to agree or commit to provide from future appropriations financial assistance or other payments of charges and costs regarding capital facilities.

Permits transfers of statewide indirect costs of debt service paid for the enterprise resource planning system (OAKS) to the OAKS Support Organization Fund to support costs of system development and upgrades.

Changes the funding sources of the OAKS Support Organization Fund to: (1) transfers from statewide indirect costs attributable to debt service paid for the system, and (2) agency payroll charge revenues.
Modifies the definition of "statewide indirect costs" to include disbursements from other funds, not just the GRF, and thus permits those disbursements to be recovered according to the statewide indirect cost allocation plan.

Authorizes the Director of Budget and Management to transfer cash between funds other than the GRF in order to correct an erroneous payment or deposit.

Authorizes the Director to transfer up to $60 million in cash to the GRF from non-GRF funds that are not constitutionally restricted to ensure that GRF receipts and balances are sufficient to support GRF appropriations.

Provides that the Director must not make transfers from a non-GRF fund if more than 30% of the total fund value consists of cash from donations.

Eliminates requirements that state agencies submit biennial spending plans to the General Assembly and the Director of Budget and Management and that the Director of Administrative Services oversee implementation.

Eliminates an outdated requirement for the submission of state agency spending reduction plans.

Requires state agency employees to use the state-contracted, preferred rental vehicle provider for all vehicle rentals over 100 miles.

Allows the Director of Budget and Management and the Director of Transportation, in accordance with provisions of the act, to enter into contracts outsourcing to private sector entities or local or regional public entities the provision of highway services.

Requires the Director of Budget and Management, before releasing any invitation for qualifications or for proposals, to submit to the General Assembly the material terms of any invitation for qualifications or proposals, which must include a draft of the invitation document, and authorizes the Director to proceed with the release of that invitation if within 90 days of the receipt of the Director's submission the General Assembly acts by concurrent resolution to approve the invitation.

Allows the Director of Budget and Management to provide compensation to unsuccessful bidders for a proposal to lease the turnpike up to the value of the proposal.

Makes any transfer of money or appropriations that are necessary to support highway services subject to the approval of the Controlling Board.
Establishes a proposal selection process that requires the Director of Budget and Management to evaluate proposals and proposer qualifications, rank the proposers, and conduct negotiations to procure an outsourcing contract for the provision of highway services.

Exempts from Ohio's collective bargaining laws any employees on a project involving real or personal property, or both, and related construction and other improvements to them used to provide highway services.

Allows the Director of Transportation to exercise the powers of the Ohio Turnpike Commission to work with the Director of Budget and Management regarding Turnpike-related outsourcing contracts.

Requires that all money received by the Director of Budget and Management under a contract for the provision of highway services be deposited into the state treasury and credited to the Highway Services Fund, which is created by the act.

Exempts from state and local taxation all: (1) projects involving real or personal property, or both, and related construction and other improvements to them, used to provide highway services, (2) outsourcing contracts, and (3) gross receipts and income generated by them.

Exempts from the sales and use tax any transfer or lease of a project involving real or personal property, or both, and related construction and other improvements to them, used to provide highway services, if the state retains any part of ownership.

Permits the Director to issue guidelines to agencies applying for federal money made available to the state for fiscal stabilization and recovery purposes.

Requires the Office of Internal Auditing to monitor, measure, and report on the effectiveness of federal stimulus funds allocated to Ohio under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to certain members of the General Assembly.

Requires the Office of Budget and Management, with respect to the quarterly reports required to be made to the federal government under the ARRA regarding the effectiveness of allocated funds, to send those same reports to certain members of the General Assembly.

Makes the Ohio Board of Regents subject to internal audit under internal audit programs conducted by the Office of Internal Auditing.
Requires that all members of the State Audit Committee be external to the management structure of state government.

Requires all Committee member terms, in the year that they expire, to do so on June 30, and alters the terms of members serving on the provision’s effective date.

Permits a Committee member to continue to serve past the end of the member's term until a successor is appointed or until a period of 90 days elapses, whichever occurs first.

Repeals the requirement that the Governor's appointee to the Committee be a person who was external to the management structure associated with preparing financial statements of state government.

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**CAPITOL SQUARE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD**

Designates the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) as being in the legislative branch of government.

Generally designates all employees of CSRAB as being in the unclassified service and serving at the pleasure of the board, and treats such employees who are not subject to a collective bargaining agreement as employees of the General Assembly for purposes of the Collective Bargaining Law.

Upon the expiration of any existing collective bargaining agreement, designates those employees of CSRAB who were formerly covered by the agreement to be employees of the General Assembly for purposes of the Collective Bargaining Law.

Exempts CSRAB from the state agencies for which the Department of Administrative Services may contract for telecommunication and computer services.

Exempts CSRAB from the policies and oversight of the Office of Information Technology in the Department of Administrative Services.

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**CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION**

Requires that the chairperson of the Joint Committee on Gaming and Wagering, who is a legislator, be from the opposite house of the chairperson of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, who also is a legislator, rather than from the opposite party.
Requires the establishment of an in-state hotline that Ohio residents may call at any time to obtain problem gambling information.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Removes the requirement that a person not organized under Ohio law, not licensed as a foreign corporation, or not having a principal place of business in Ohio submit a consent to service of process when filing for an exemption for a security offered or sold in reliance on Regulation D of the Securities Act of 1933.

Permits the Division of Securities to waive, in part or in whole, certain license, renewal, and notice filing fees for certain professionals involved in securities investment if, in the same calendar year, they are required to pay an additional fee as a result of federal law changes bringing them under state regulation.

Requires that assessments for video service providers be deposited into the Video Service Authorization Fund rather than the Division of Administration Fund.

Increases the maximum annual fee placed on credit union share guaranty corporations from $5,000 to $25,000.

Removes certain public improvements from the Prevailing Wage Law.

Prohibits a public authority from applying prevailing wage requirements to a public improvement that is undertaken by, or under contract for, a school district or an educational service center.

Permits contractors, subcontractors, and public authorities to temporarily exceed continuing law’s permissible apprentice-to-skilled-worker ratio.

Requires labor organizations to file with the Director of Commerce any portion of a collective bargaining agreement, contract, or understanding that governs wages paid to persons and the apprentice-to-skilled-worker ratio under the agreement, contract, or understanding.

Specifies that any change in the prevailing wage rate on an ongoing project takes effect two weeks after the Director becomes aware of the change.

Makes changes regarding interested party complaints and the procedure for investigating those complaints.
Exempts contractors and subcontractors from liability for prevailing wage violations in certain circumstances.

Abolishes the Penalty Enforcement Fund, and directs the Director of Budget and Management to transfer the Fund's cash balance to the Labor Operating Fund.

Requires the Director to deposit moneys received from prevailing wage penalties into the Labor Operating Fund.

Requires the Director and the Treasurer of State to transfer from the Prevailing Wage Custodial Fund to the Labor Operating Fund funds that the Director determines are not returnable to employees.

Modifies the Real Estate Brokers Law as follows:

--Prohibits a member of the Ohio Real Estate Commission from holding office for more than two consecutive full terms;

--Limits or changes the exclusion of persons from the definitions of "real estate broker," "real estate salesperson," "foreign real estate dealer," and "foreign real estate salesperson";

--Allows the Commission to adopt rules for the clarification of the activities that require a license, for specifying standards for the approval of the post-licensure courses required for new licensees, and for the termination of an agency relationship for a licensee to become a principal in the transaction;

--Requires the Superintendent of Real Estate and Professional Licensing to mail a notice of license renewal for licensed business entities to the business address;

--Requires the Superintendent to make notice of successful license renewal electronically;

--Permits the Superintendent to issue advisory letters in lieu of initiating disciplinary action or issuing a citation;

--Revises the disciplinary procedures;

--Provides for an initial licensing time period;

--Makes various licensing fees nonrefundable;

--Makes changes to the provisions regarding returned checks and draft instruments;
--Requires any civil penalties collected for operating as a real estate broker or salesperson without a license to be deposited into the Division of Real Estate Operating Fund instead of the Real Estate Recovery Fund;

--Permits, instead of requires as in former law, the transfer of excess funds from the Division of Real Estate Operating Fund to the Real Estate Education and Research Fund;

--Increases the limit for Real Estate Education and Research Fund moneys that may be used to advance loans;

--Makes changes to the education requirements for licensees;

--Makes changes to the provisions regarding brokers and salespersons who place their licenses on deposit to participate in the armed forces;

--Permits a licensee to disclose confidential information if the disclosure is to a registered appraiser for specified reasons;

--Makes changes to the regulation of advertisements of salespersons and brokers;

--Changes the procedure that the Ohio Real Estate Commission uses regarding the reversal, vacation, or modification of its orders;

--Prohibits a salesperson from selling, assigning, or otherwise transferring the salesperson’s interest in a commission;

--Prohibits a salesperson or broker from participating in a dual agency relationship in which the licensee is a party to the transaction or an officer in an entity that has an interest in the property that is the subject of the transaction;

--Makes changes to the provisions regarding complaints against licensees and complaints against unlicensed individuals;

--Permits the Commission to take disciplinary action that relates to unlicensed persons and entities;

--Requires a licensee to notify the Superintendent of Real Estate in writing, within 15 days, if the licensee is the subject of certain types of administrative orders;

--Prohibits a cause of action against a licensee on imputed knowledge and for releasing information requested by a registered appraiser assistant or by a licensed or certified appraiser;
--Changes all occurrences in the Real Estate Brokers Law of "physically handicapped" to "disabled"; and

--Makes various other changes to the Real Estate Brokers Law.

Authorizes revenue resulting from any contracts with the Department pertaining to the responsibilities and operations described in the Liquor Control Law to be credited to the Liquor Control Fund.

Allows the Director of Budget and Management to transfer money from the General Revenue Fund to the Liquor Control Fund if the Director determines that the amount in the Liquor Control Fund is insufficient.

Authorizes the state to transfer to JobsOhio all or a portion of the enterprise acquisition project, that is, the spirituous liquor distribution system, for a transfer price payable by JobsOhio to the state, and requires any such transfer to be treated as an absolute conveyance and true sale of the interest in the enterprise acquisition project.

Defines "enterprise acquisition project" as all or any portion of the capital or other assets of the spirituous liquor distribution and merchandising operations of the Division of Liquor Control, including inventory, warehouses, the exclusive right to manage and control spirituous liquor distribution and merchandising in the state and to sell spirituous liquor in the state, and the assets and liabilities of the continuing Facilities Establishment Fund.

Requires any transfer of the enterprise acquisition project that is a lease or grant of a franchise to be for a term not to exceed 25 years or that is an assignment and sale, conveyance, or other transfer to contain a provision that the state has the option to have conveyed or transferred back to it, at no cost, the enterprise acquisition project no later than 25 years after the original transfer was authorized.

Exempts from specified taxes the gross receipts and income of JobsOhio derived from the enterprise acquisition project.

States that the proceeds of any transfer may be expended as provided in the transfer agreement for specified purposes.

Requires the transfer agreement to include a requirement that JobsOhio pay for the operations of the Division of Liquor Control with regard to the Division's spirituous liquor merchandising operations.
Establishes other provisions governing the transfer, including allowing JobsOhio, in the ordinary course of doing business, to dispose of any regular inventory or tangible personal property.

Staggers the terms of the nine members of the Residential Construction Advisory Committee so that only three of the members' terms expire in any given year.

Requires the Director of Commerce to decide which members of the Residential Construction Advisory Committee will serve shortened terms for terms beginning July 1, 2011, for the purpose of commencing the staggered-term format, after which all members will serve full three-year terms.

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

Prohibits the Office of the Consumers’ Counsel (OCC) from operating a call center for consumer complaints.

Requires the OCC to follow the policies of the state in continuing law that involve supporting retail natural gas competition.

CONTROLLING BOARD

Creates the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes Fund in the state treasury to provide disaster and emergency aid to state agencies and political subdivisions and for other purposes approved by the Controlling Board.

Permits the Controlling Board to approve a state agency’s purchase if the agency: (1) substantially complied with one of four specified purchasing requirements, and (2) gives the Board a detailed explanation of the agency’s competitive selection or evaluation and selection process.

Prohibits a state agency or state institution of higher education from entering into a contract for a legislative agent with a cost exceeding $50,000 per year unless the contract is approved by the Controlling Board.

Requires a state agency director to request that the Controlling Board increase the agency’s capital appropriations if the director and the Controlling Board determine such an increase is needed for the agency to receive and use funds under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

Requires the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board to establish fees for approving continuing education programs, approving providers of continuing education programs, and replacement copies of wall certificates.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Eliminates the prevailing wage requirements that apply to certain economic development projects.

Removes the requirement that an applicant had to have at least 30% funding from one or more financial institutions or other governmental entities as a requisite criterion for receipt of a loan from the Director of Development to minority business enterprises and others.

Clarifies that JobsOhio must comply with Ohio's Nonprofit Corporation Law unless the corporation is specifically exempted from a particular provision of that Law.

Removes a requirement that the Governor serve as a member and chairperson of the nine-member JobsOhio board of directors, and instead requires the Governor to appoint all nine directors and designate one of those directors to serve as chairperson.

Removes a provision that allowed the Governor to specify other types of experience that would qualify an individual for appointment to the JobsOhio board of directors as an alternative to the types of experience specifically enumerated in law.

Requires that any claim alleging the unconstitutionality of the JobsOhio authorizing legislation or of any statute governing the proposed sale of the liquor distribution system must be brought in the Franklin County Common Pleas Court within 90 days after September 29, 2011, unless the claim is within the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals.

Requires that any claim alleging the unconstitutionality of an action taken by JobsOhio must be brought in the Franklin County Common Pleas Court within 60 days after the action taken unless the claim is within the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals.
Prohibits any business from using "JobsOhio" or "Jobs Ohio" as part of the business’s name without the written consent of JobsOhio.

Removes law that allowed the Governor to remove a director for misconduct, and instead provides that only a majority of disinterested directors may remove a director.

Provides that the JobsOhio chief investment officer may be removed from office only by the board of directors instead of by the Governor as in prior law.

Establishes the Local Government Innovation Program, to be administered by the Department of Development and the Local Government Innovation Council, to make loans and grants to political subdivisions for qualified innovation projects.

Establishes the 15-member Local Government Innovation Council to determine criteria for evaluating proposals and to make awards to political subdivisions.

Establishes the Local Government Innovation Fund to fund awards made by the Council, consisting of moneys appropriated to it and any grants or donations received from nonpublic entities.

Provides that award funding under the Local Government Innovation Program is to be divided between smaller and larger political subdivisions.

Requires the Council to submit an annual report to the Governor, President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives regarding the Council’s activities.

Provides that the Council ceases to exist on December 31, 2015.

Repeals the limit on payments of the Third Frontier Commission’s administrative expenses from the Biomedical Research and Technology Transfer Trust Fund, but allows payments for award administration expenses through June 30, 2013, for awards made before September 29, 2011.

Expresses the intent of the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Directors of Development and Budget and Management to provide comprehensive state support for the biomedical industry.

Delays implementation of the Department of Development’s Sports Incentive Grant Program from July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2013.
Temporarily authorizes the Director of Development to seek and use available federal economic stimulus funds to secure and guarantee loans made for historic rehabilitation projects that are approved for Ohio historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Establishes the Ohio Housing Study Committee (OHSC) to review the policies, programs, and working relationships of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA).

Requires the OHSC to produce a quantitative report measuring the economic benefits of the OHFA and to evaluate the possible efficiencies of combining Department of Development housing-related programming with programs of the OHFA.

Requires the OHSC to provide a report expressing its findings about the OHFA on or before March 31, 2012.

Specifies the duties and objectives of the Ohio Film Office.

Authorizes interagency agreements between the Departments of Development and Job and Family Services to further integrate workforce development into a larger economic development strategy and to implement the recommendations of the Workforce Policy Board.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Increases from 21 to 22 the age at which an individual ceases to qualify for programs established by the Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (ODODD) for individuals with intensive behavioral needs.

Specifies additional purposes for which the ODODD Director may use ODODD's funds, and requires money in the Community Developmental Disabilities Trust Fund to be used for those purposes.

Permits the Director to establish priorities for using funds appropriated to ODODD.

Repeals a provision that required funds appropriated for purposes of fulfilling the state's obligations under the consent order filed in Martin v. Strickland, which required the state to make a good faith effort to expand home and community-based services for persons with disabilities, to be in an appropriation item that authorized expenditures only for purposes of fulfilling those obligations.

Authorizes the ODODD Director to establish an Interagency Workgroup on Autism.
Eliminates obsolete laws governing ODODD’s former Purchase of Service Program for residential services.

Permits ODODD to enter into a contract with a person or government agency to provide residential services to individuals with mental retardation or developmental disabilities in need of residential services.

Permits the ODODD Director to authorize, in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, innovative pilot projects that are likely to assist in promoting the objectives of state law governing ODODD and county boards of developmental disabilities (county DD boards).

Repeals an obsolete law that permitted, under certain circumstances, a residential facility for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities to obtain a license without providing ODODD a copy of a development plan for the proposed residential facility that had been approved by a county DD board.

Repeals a provision that required ODODD to provide or arrange for the provision of residential services for: (1) former residents of institutions under ODODD’s jurisdiction who ceased to be residents because of an institution’s closure or significant reduction in occupancy, and (2) an equal number of individuals, from each county represented by the former residents, who needed residential services but were not receiving them.

Permits a developmental center to provide services to persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities living in the community or to providers of services to those persons.

Revises the conditions under which personnel of a residential facility with 17 or more resident beds may perform certain medical tasks for residents with mental retardation and developmental disabilities when the residents are on a field trip.

Reduces from ten to eight the number of times a county DD board that shares a superintendent or other administrative staff with one or more other county DD boards is to meet each year following its annual organizational meeting.

Revises the law governing waiting lists for county DD board services by establishing requirements that apply separately to waiting lists for: (1) non-Medicaid services, and (2) home and community-based services provided under ODODD-administered Medicaid waiver programs.

Reduces the annual fee that a county DD board pays regarding home and community-based services provided under an ODODD-administered Medicaid waiver
program from 1.5% to 1.25% of the total value of all Medicaid-paid claims for the services provided during the year to an individual eligible for services from the board.

Requires a county DD board to ensure that at least a certain number of individuals are enrolled in any of ODODD’s Medicaid waiver programs rather than each of the waiver programs.

Eliminates a requirement that the ODODD Director’s rules regarding programs and services that county DD boards offer include standards for providing: (1) environmental modifications, and (2) specialized medical, adaptive, and assistive equipment, supplies, and supports.

Eliminates a requirement that county DD boards annually certify to the ODODD Director the average daily membership in various programs and the number of children enrolled in approved preschool units.

Eliminates a requirement that the ODODD Director adopt rules establishing a formula for the distribution of Family Support Services funds to county DD boards of developmental disabilities, and instead provides, for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, that the Director is to consult with county DD boards to establish the formula.

Provides that, in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the ODODD Director may provide funds to county DD boards for the purpose of addressing economic hardships and to promote efficiency of operations.

Prescribes new formulas for allocating among county DD boards tax equity payments, which under the new formulas are to be used to pay the nonfederal share of Medicaid expenditures for home and community-based services and care management.

Requires the ODODD Director to establish a methodology to be used in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 to estimate the quarterly amount that each county DD board is to pay of the nonfederal share of the Medicaid expenditures for which the board is responsible.

Authorizes the ODODD Director to withhold amounts from a county DD board that fails to pay fully any amount owed to ODODD by the time it is due.

Authorizes the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to establish a two-year pilot program to allow Council members to remotely attend meetings by teleconference or video conference.
COMMISSION ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION & CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Repeals the Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Law.

Abolishes the 12-member Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management, and terminates the positions of Executive Director and personnel of the Commission.

Abolishes the Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Commission Gifts, Grants, and Reimbursements Fund in the state treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

I. School Financing

State school funding

Repeals the school funding model known as the Evidence Based Model or EBM.

To fund school districts for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, requires the Department of Education to compute and pay each city, exempted village, and local school district an amount based on the district’s per pupil funding paid for fiscal year 2011, adjusted and indexed by the district’s relative tax valuation per pupil.

Requires the Department to pay a supplement to guarantee all districts, for each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013, at least as much state operating funding as they received for fiscal year 2011 less the federal stimulus amount for fiscal year 2011.

Requires the Department to pay an additional subsidy of $17 per student to school districts and community schools that are rated excellent with distinction or excellent.

Sets the formula amount at $5,653 for transfer payments for students attending community schools, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) schools, other districts through open enrollment, and colleges and universities through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

Discontinues the practice of using the prior year’s October student count unless the current year’s October count is 2% greater, and instead requires use of the current-year October count to derive a district’s formula ADM.
Retains the EBM’s feature of counting each kindergarten student as one full-time equivalent student.

Retains and recodifies the special education funding weights and categories from the EBM.

For fiscal years 2012 and 2013, requires use of the former weights and categories for computing special education transfer payments to community schools, STEM schools, and other school districts for excess special education cost and for state payments for catastrophic costs.

Repeals the changes to the gifted education maintenance of effort requirements enacted by Am. Sub. H.B. 30 of the 129th General Assembly, but establishes a similar maintenance of effort requirement, based on fiscal year 2009 gifted education funding, in appropriations language for each year of the fiscal biennium.

Retains and recodifies the transportation funding formula enacted at the same time as the EBM, but suspends its operation for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

Retains the fiscal year 2009 per pupil level of payments for community schools and STEM schools for special education, vocational education, poverty-based assistance, and parity aid.

Eliminates the School Funding Advisory Council.

Makes other miscellaneous school funding changes.

**School expenditure and performance data**

Requires the Department of Education to develop, by January 1, 2012, and the State Board of Education to adopt, by July 1, 2012, standards for determining the amount of operating expenditures for classroom instruction and for nonclassroom purposes spent by a school district, community school, e-school, or STEM school.

Requires the Department to use the expenditure reporting standards and existing data to rank each district, community school, e-school, and STEM school according to percentage of operating expenditures for classroom instruction.

Requires the Department to denote, within the classroom expenditure rankings, districts and schools that are: (1) among the lowest 20% statewide in total operating expenditures per pupil, or (2) among the highest 20% statewide in academic performance index or career-technical performance measures.
Requires the Department, annually, to report each district's, community school's, e-school's, and STEM school's rank according to: (1) performance index score, (2) student performance growth, (3) career-technical performance measures, (4) expenditures per pupil, (5) percentage of expenditures for classroom instruction, and (6) performance of, and opportunities for, identified gifted students.

Requires the Department to report annually each separate school building's rank according to performance index score among all public school buildings.

Requires the Department to report annually to each school district the ratio of its operating spending for instructional purposes to its spending for administrative purposes, its per pupil amount for each purpose, its percentage of district funds spent for operating purposes, and the statewide average of each of those items.

Requires each district to post the expenditure information reported to it by the Department on the district’s web site and to make it available to parents and taxpayers in some other fashion.

Other school financing provisions

Permits a fiscal emergency school district, with the approval of the Director of Budget and Management and the state Superintendent, up to ten years to reimburse the state for a payment from the School District Solvency Assistance Fund in lieu of the standard two-year repayment period.

Authorizes a school district to enter into a contract without attaching the certificate of adequate resources otherwise required by law if an alternative certificate is attached certifying that the contract is a multi-year contract for essential non-payroll items and the contract is more cost effective than single-year contracts.

Specifically permits a school district board to transfer any unencumbered money remaining in the district’s textbook and instructional materials fund on July 1, 2011, the date on which the requirement to have that set-aside fund was repealed, to the district’s general fund to be used for any general fund purpose.

Updates statutory language regarding the kinds of education technology hardware and software and digital content that may be purchased with Auxiliary Services funds for loan to students enrolled in chartered nonpublic schools.

Allows Auxiliary Services funds to be used to purchase or maintain life-saving medical or other emergency equipment for chartered nonpublic schools.
Specifically exempts from taxation real property used by a school district, STEM school, community school, educational service center, or chartered nonpublic school for primary or secondary educational purposes.

Eliminates the Harmon Commission.

II. Community Schools

Moratoriums on opening new community schools

Eliminates the requirement that a new start-up brick and mortar community school, as a condition of opening, must contract with an operator that either manages schools in other states that perform at a level higher than academic watch or, if the operator already manages Ohio schools, manages at least one Ohio school rated higher than academic watch.

Terminates the moratorium on the establishment of new Internet- or computer-based community schools (e-schools) on January 1, 2013, but limits the number of new e-schools that may open to five per year.

Specifies that if more than five new e-schools have sponsorship contracts to open in a particular year, the Department of Education must hold a lottery to select the schools that may open.

E-school standards

Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Director of the Governor’s Office of 21st Century Education, by July 1, 2012, to develop operational standards for e-schools for possible enactment by the General Assembly.

Requires e-schools to comply with the legislative standards if they are enacted by January 1, 2013, or the operational standards of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning if legislative standards are not enacted by that date.

Requires e-schools established after January 1, 2013, to comply with the applicable standards when they open, and requires existing e-schools to comply by July 1, 2013.

Direct authorization of community schools

Creates the Ohio School Sponsorship Program, under which the Department of Education may directly authorize the operation of a limited number of both new and existing community schools rather than those schools being subject to the oversight of other public or private sponsors.
Requires the Department to establish the Office of School Sponsorship to perform the Department’s duties under the Ohio School Sponsorship Program.

Permits the contract between the Department and a directly authorized community school to provide for an oversight and monitoring fee of up to 3% of the school’s state operating funds.

Permits the Department to take any of the same actions that other sponsoring entities may take to enforce a directly authorized community school’s compliance with the law and its contract with the Department.

Requires the Department to issue annual reports about the community schools participating in the Ohio School Sponsorship Program, and requires the fifth report to include a complete evaluation of the program and recommendations about its continuation.

**Collective bargaining at Cleveland conversion schools**

Exempts the employees of a conversion community school sponsored by a municipal school district, that is, Cleveland, from collective bargaining, after expiration of their current agreement, if the mayor who appoints the district’s board submits a statement to the board and the State Employment Relations Board requesting that the employees be removed from collective bargaining.

**Conversion community schools opening in 2011-2012**

Waives the adoption (March 15) and signing (May 15) contract deadlines for new conversion community schools that open in the 2011-2012 school year, but requires that a copy of the adopted and signed contract be filed with the Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to the school’s opening.

**Location of start-up community schools**

Expands school districts where start-up community schools may be located to include school districts that are ranked by performance index score in the lowest 5% of all districts.

**Restrictions on sponsoring additional community schools**

Prohibits community school sponsors from sponsoring additional schools if they: (1) are not in compliance with sponsor reporting requirements, or (2) are ranked in the lowest 20% on an annual ranking of sponsors by their composite performance index scores.
Increases to 100 schools, from 50 to 75 schools under prior law depending on the sponsor, the number of community schools that an entity may sponsor.

Repeals the requirement that the cap on the number of schools an entity may sponsor had to be reduced by one for each school sponsored by the entity that permanently closed.

Other provisions regarding community school sponsors

Revises procedural deadlines for notification, hearing, and appeal associated with a sponsor’s decision to terminate or not renew its contract with a community school.

Requires a community school whose contract is terminated to close at the end of the current school year.

Grants civil immunity to community school sponsors and their officers, directors, and employees for any action authorized by the Community School Law or the sponsorship contract that is taken to fulfill the sponsor’s responsibility to oversee a community school.

Repeals the requirement that a community school sponsor had to have a representative located within 50 miles of each school that it sponsors.

Revises the requirement for the sponsor's representative to meet regularly with the community school's governing authority by: (1) requiring the meetings to occur monthly rather than every two years, (2) allowing the meeting to be with the school’s fiscal officer instead of the governing authority, and (3) requiring the representative to review the school’s enrollment records in addition to its financial records.

Governing authority membership

Prohibits a community school governing authority member, or immediate relative, from being an owner, employee, or consultant of a community school sponsor until one year after the conclusion of the member's term.

Increases the maximum compensation for governing authority members of start-up community schools from $125 per meeting per month to $425 per meeting or a total of $5,000 per year.

Closure of poorly performing community schools

Beginning July 1, 2011, replaces the performance criteria that trigger automatic closure of a community school with new criteria for schools that do not offer a grade
higher than 3 and for schools that offer any of grades 10-12 by requiring those schools to close if they have been in academic emergency for two of the three most recent school years.

**Community school employees**

Allows layoffs with respect to teachers returning after a leave of absence due to being employed at a conversion community school to occur only in accordance with procedures in the administrative personnel suspension policy.

**Taxes**

Repeals the law stating the intent of the General Assembly that no state funds paid to a community school be used to pay taxes owed by the school.

**E-school funding and expenditures**

Specifies that, for state funding purposes, an e-school student is considered automatically re-enrolled the following school year until the student’s enrollment in the school is formally terminated or the student fails to participate in the first 105 hours of learning opportunities offered that year.

Repeals the requirement that e-schools spend a specified minimum amount per pupil on instruction.

**Community school facilities**

Allows a community school to be located in multiple facilities under the same sponsorship contract and to assign students of the same grade to different facilities if: (1) the facilities are all located in the same county, and (2) the school is managed by an operator.

Requires the Department of Education, in the case of a community school with multiple facilities, to assign a unique identification number to the school and to each facility beginning July 1, 2012.

Permits two or more community schools to be located in the same facility.

**Access to school district property**

Applies the law granting community schools a right of first refusal to purchase school district property to all real property owned by the district instead of just real property suitable for use as classroom space.
Requires school district boards with real property that has been used for classroom operations since July 1, 1998, but has not been in use for two years, to offer to community schools located within the district the opportunity to purchase or lease the property.

**Community school participation in joint educational programs**

Permits a community school to enter into an agreement with one or more school districts or other community schools for the joint operation of an educational program in the same manner as school districts may do under continuing law.

Prohibits community schools from charging tuition or fees for their students participating in the joint program unlike school districts under continuing law.

**Standards for dropout recovery programs**

Requires the State Board of Education, by July 1, 2012, to review its previous legislative recommendations for performance standards for community schools serving dropouts and to issue new recommendations.

**III. Public College-Preparatory Boarding Schools**

**Creation**

Permits the establishment of public college-preparatory boarding schools operated by private nonprofit entities for the benefit of qualifying at-risk middle or high school students, beginning no earlier than the 2013-2014 school year.

Requires the State Board of Education to issue a request for proposals from nonprofit organizations interested in operating a college-preparatory boarding school and to enter into a contract with each approved operator.

Declares each college-preparatory boarding school issued a charter by the State Board a public school and a part of the state's program of education.

Provides for the governance of a college-preparatory boarding school by a board of trustees consisting of up to 25 members, with five members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the remaining members appointed pursuant to the school's bylaws.

**Student enrollment**

Qualifies a student to attend a college-preparatory boarding school if the student is at risk of academic failure, is from a family with income below 200% of the federal
poverty guidelines, and meets at least two other criteria involving academic performance, behavior history, disability status, or family status.

Further limits enrollment to residents of the school district in which the school is located and residents of any other school district that agrees to be a participating school district.

Limits a college-preparatory boarding school to admitting up to 80 students in grade 6 in its first year of operation.

Allows a college-preparatory boarding school to offer additional grades in subsequent years, provided that its total enrollment never exceeds 400.

Requires each participating school district to provide weekly transportation to and from the college-preparatory boarding school for its resident students enrolled in the school.

**Operating funding**

Requires that a boarding school receive for each student enrolled in the school both: (1) a per-pupil amount deducted from the state aid account of the student's resident school district as set forth in an agreement between the district and the boarding school, and (2) a per-pupil boarding amount paid directly to the school by the Department of Education.

Requires that the per-pupil amount deducted from a district's account for payment to a boarding school equal 85% of the operating expenditure per pupil of the district for the previous fiscal year, including both state and district revenues.

Sets the per-pupil boarding amount at $25,000 per pupil during a college-preparatory boarding school's first fiscal year of operation with adjustments for inflation in following fiscal years.

Allows for reductions to the per-pupil boarding amount in any fiscal year in which the college-preparatory boarding school receives funds from the federal government or other outside funding sources.

**College-Preparatory Boarding School Facilities Program**

Establishes the College-Preparatory Boarding School Facilities Program, under which the Ohio School Facilities Commission must provide assistance for the acquisition of classroom facilities to the boards of trustees of college-preparatory boarding schools.
Specifies that, to be eligible for the assistance, a board of trustees must secure at least $20 million of private money to satisfy its share of facilities acquisition and that the acquisition of residential boarding facilities and any other non-classroom facilities must be funded through private means.

IV. Scholarship Programs

Ed Choice

Increases the number of Educational Choice scholarships from 14,000 to 30,000 for the 2011-2012 school year and 60,000 thereafter.

Qualifies students who attend, or would otherwise be assigned to, a district-operated school that, for at least two of the three preceding years, ranked in the lowest 10% of all public school buildings by performance index score and was not rated excellent or effective in the third year.

Assigns a lower priority to students who qualify for the Educational Choice scholarship because their district school is ranked in the lowest 10% of all school buildings by performance index score.

Reduces the amount deducted from school districts' state aid accounts for an Educational Choice scholarship from $5,200 to the actual amount of the scholarship.

Cleveland Scholarship Program

Increases the base amounts of the Cleveland scholarship to equal the maximum amounts allowed for Educational Choice scholarships, that is, $4,250 for grades K-8 and $5,000 for grades 9-12.

Allows new students to enter the Cleveland Scholarship Program during high school.

Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program

Creates the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program to provide scholarships for children with disabilities in grades K-12 to attend alternative public or private special education programs.

Requires the Department of Education to develop a document that compares rights under state and federal special education law and rights under the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, and requires school districts to distribute that document to the parents of all special education students.
Requires the Department to conduct a formative evaluation of the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program by December 31, 2014.

**Autism Scholarship Program**

Specifies that the services provided under the Autism Scholarship Program must include an educational component.

**V. Educational Service Centers (ESCs)**

Requires every city, exempted village, and local school district with a student count of 16,000 or less to enter into an agreement with an ESC for services.

Permits, but does not require, every school district with a student count greater than 16,000 to enter into an agreement with an ESC for services.

Permits a school district to terminate its agreement with its current ESC, effective June 30, by notifying the ESC governing board by January 1, 2012, or by January 1 of an odd-numbered year thereafter.

Repeals prior law specifying steps that a local school district had to follow to leave the territory of its current ESC and annex to an adjacent ESC, including approval of the State Board of Education and referendum by petition of the district's voters.

Provides procedures for dissolving an ESC if all of its local school districts have severed from the ESC's territory.

Permits an ESC governing board to delay reorganizing its subdistricts, if its territory is divided into subdistricts, until July 1, 2012.

Permits an ESC governing board to appoint an executive committee to initially organize the territory into subdistricts, rather than the board doing it, when an ESC is formed by the merger of two or more smaller ESCs.

Permits an ESC governing board to appoint additional members to the board who are representative of the city and exempted village school districts having service agreements with the ESC rather than only those who are voters of local school districts of the ESC's territory.

Generally limits an ESC's payments, in fiscal year 2012, to 90% of the amount it received for fiscal year 2011 and, in fiscal year 2013, to 85% of the amount it received for fiscal year 2012.
Authorizes ESCs to enter into service contracts with other political subdivisions besides school districts.

Eliminates ESCs’ roles regarding local school districts’ textbook selection, age and schooling certificates, and filing and receipt of student membership records.

Requires the Governor's Director of 21st Century Education to develop plans for: (1) the integration and consolidation of the publicly supported regional shared services organizations, and (2) encouraging communities and school districts to create regional P-16 councils and to submit legislative recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2012.

VI. Teachers and School Employees

Teacher and principal evaluations

Repeals the requirement that the State Board of Education establish guidelines for the evaluation of teachers and principals for optional use by school districts and ESCs.

Requires the State Board, by December 31, 2011, to develop a standards-based framework for the evaluation of teachers that includes criteria that distinguish between performance levels of accomplished, proficient, developing, and ineffective.

Directs each school district and ESC, by July 1, 2013, to adopt a teacher evaluation policy that conforms with the framework, and applies that requirement to each community school and STEM school receiving federal Race to the Top funds.

Specifies that an employer’s evaluation policy must be implemented at the expiration of the teachers' collective bargaining agreement in effect on September 29, 2011.

Requires employers to evaluate each teacher annually, except that an employer may evaluate teachers who were rated as accomplished on their most recent evaluations every two years.

Requires 50% of each teacher evaluation to be based on student academic growth as measured by value-added data derived from the state achievement assessments when applicable and by other assessments identified by the State Board when not applicable.

Requires employers to use teacher evaluations to inform decisions about retention, promotion, and removal of poorly performing teachers.
Prohibits an employer from considering seniority when deciding whether to retain a teacher, except when deciding between teachers with comparable evaluations.

Requires each school district’s evaluation procedures for principals, required under continuing law, to be based on principles comparable to the teacher evaluation policy, but tailored to the duties and responsibilities of principals.

**Teacher salaries**

Requires school districts, community schools, and STEM schools that receive federal Race to the Top funds annually to adopt a performance-based salary schedule for teachers.

Requires a teacher’s performance for salary purposes to be measured by: (1) the level of the teacher’s license, (2) whether the teacher is highly qualified under federal law, and (3) evaluation ratings.

Requires the salary schedule to provide for annual adjustments based on teacher evaluations.

Permits payment of additional compensation to teachers who agree to perform duties that the employer determines warrant extra pay, such as teaching in a school that is hard-to-staff, is underperforming, or has a large proportion of low-income or at-risk students.

Requires school districts not receiving Race to the Top funds and ESCs to comply either with: (1) the act’s requirements for a performance-based salary schedule, or (2) continuing law requiring teachers to be paid a minimum salary based on years of service and educational training.

Repeals the requirement that each school district and ESC file a copy of its teacher salary schedule with the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Teacher layoffs**

Prohibits a school district from giving preference based on seniority in determining the order of layoffs or in rehiring teachers when positions become available again, except when choosing between teachers with comparable evaluations.

Specifies that the provisions regarding teacher layoffs prevail over collective bargaining agreements entered into on or after September 29, 2011.

Repeals the requirement for an ESC to give preference in retention during layoffs first to tenured teachers and then to teachers with greater seniority.
Retesting teachers

Requires each teacher of a core subject area in a building that is ranked in the lowest 10% of all public school buildings according to performance index score to retake all exams needed for licensure in the teacher's subject area and grade level.

Permits a school district, community school, or STEM school to use the exam results in decisions regarding employment and professional development, but prohibits using the results as the sole factor in employment decisions unless the teacher has failed the same exam three consecutive times.

Specifies that the teacher is not responsible for the cost of retaking an exam.

Specifies that a teacher who retakes an exam and provides proof of passage to the teacher's employer is not required to retake the exam again for three years.

Alternative and out-of-state licensure

Expands the alternative resident educator license to cover teaching in grades K-12 instead of grades 4-12.

Changes the qualifications for obtaining and holding the alternative resident educator license by: (1) prohibiting any requirement that applicants have a college major in the teaching area, (2) permitting applicants to complete a summer training institute provided by a nonprofit teacher preparation program that has been approved by the Chancellor of the Board of Regents instead of the pedagogical training institute otherwise required, and (3) allowing license holders to satisfy continuing education requirements with professional development provided through the Chancellor-approved program.

Prohibits the State Board of Education from establishing qualifications for a resident educator license for Teach for America participants beyond those enacted in Sub. H.B. 21 of the 129th General Assembly.

Requires the State Board of Education, by July 1, 2013, to approve a list of states with licensure standards that are inadequate to ensure that a person with five years of licensure and teaching experience in that state is qualified for a professional educator license in Ohio.

Directs the State Board to automatically issue a five-year professional educator license to a teacher with at least five years of licensure and teaching experience in a state that is not on the list.
Requires generally that, until the list is approved, the State Board must issue a one-year provisional educator license to a teacher with at least five years of licensure and teaching experience in another state.

Prohibits the State Board or Department of Education from having a reciprocity agreement with a state on the list requiring the issuance of a professional educator license to a teacher based on licensure and teaching experience in that state.

**Other school employee provisions**

Requires the State Board of Education’s rules on the issuance and renewal of a professional career-technical teaching license to include requirements relating to life experience, professional certification, and practical ability, and prohibits the State Board from requiring a person who meets those requirements to complete a degree as a condition for the license.

Requires the Chancellor of the Board of Regents annually to report value-added data for graduates of Ohio teacher preparation programs who teach English language arts or math in grades 4-8 in a public school in Ohio.

Eliminates the requirement that an adult education instructor undergo a criminal records check prior to hiring by a school district, community school, STEM school, educational service center, or chartered nonpublic school if the person had a records check within the previous two years as a condition of being hired for short-term employment with that district, school, or service center.

Requires the State Board of Education to issue a person a certificate to teach foreign language, music, religion, computer technology, or fine arts in a chartered nonpublic school upon receipt of an affidavit from the person's potential employer stating that the person has previous instructional training or experience or has specialized expertise that qualifies the person to teach.

Re-enacts a former law that permits local and exempted village school districts, that is, non-civil service school districts, to terminate the positions of transportation employees for reasons of economy and efficiency and to contract with an agent to provide student transportation services if certain conditions are satisfied.

Exempts substitutes, adult education instructors who are scheduled to work less than the full-time equivalent of 120 days per school year, or persons employed on an as-needed, seasonal, or intermittent basis from the 15 days sick leave with pay provided to each person who is employed by a school district or ESC.
VII. School Restructuring

Restructuring low-performing schools

Specifies that if a school is ranked in the lowest 5% of all public school buildings according to performance index score for three consecutive years and is in academic watch or academic emergency, the school district must close the school or take one of several other specified actions to restructure the school.

Parent petitions for school reforms

Establishes a pilot project in the Columbus City School District under which, upon petition from the parents of at least 50% of the students enrolled in a school that is ranked in the lowest 5% of all public school buildings according to performance index score for three or more years, the district must implement the reform requested by the petitioners, except in certain circumstances.

Innovation schools and innovation school zones

Allows a school district to designate a single school as an innovation school, or a group of schools as an innovation school zone, for the purpose of implementing an innovation plan designed to improve student performance.

Requires the State Board of Education to waive, with certain exceptions, any education laws or administrative rules necessary to implement the innovation plan.

Allows any provisions of a collective bargaining agreement to be waived to implement an innovation plan if at least 60% of the members of the bargaining unit working in each participating school approve the waiver.

Requires a school district to review the performance of each innovation school and innovation school zone every three years, and permits the district to revoke the designation if the participating schools are not making sufficient improvements in student achievement.

Directs the Department of Education to issue an annual report on school districts implementing innovation plans.

School district operating standards

Makes permissive, rather than mandatory as in prior law, the State Board of Education's adoption of certain operating standards for school districts.
Governor’s recognition program

Creates the Governor's Effective and Efficient Schools Program to annually recognize the top 10% of all public schools, i.e. school districts, community schools, and STEM schools, based on student performance and cost effectiveness.

VIII. Other Education Provisions

Statewide academic standards

Requires the State Board of Education to revise its academic standards in English language arts, math, science, and social studies periodically instead of every five years.

Repeals the requirement that the State Board’s academic standards specify development of skill sets that: (1) relate to creativity, innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, and communication and collaboration, and (2) promote personal management, productivity and accountability, and leadership and responsibility.

Removes the senior project from the high school graduation requirements under the college and work-ready assessment system.

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, when selecting end-of-course exams as part of the new high school graduation assessment system, to choose multiple assessments for each subject area and that those assessments must include nationally recognized subject area tests.

Changes the terminology for the nationally standardized test portion of the new high school graduation assessment system from a national test that measures competencies in science, math, and English to a national test that measures college and career readiness.

Eliminates development of a composite score system for the college and work-ready assessment system.

Competency-based high school credit

Exempts chartered nonpublic schools from having to comply with a State Board of Education plan for competency-based high school credit.

Approval to take GED

Requires a person 16 to 18 years old to obtain approval to take the General Educational Development (GED) tests from the superintendent of the school district in
which the person was last enrolled or, if the person was last enrolled in a community school or STEM school, from the school principal.

Permits the Department of Education to require a person younger than 18 also to obtain approval to take the GED from the person's parent or a court official.

Specifies that, for the purpose of calculating graduation rates for the school district and building report cards, a person who obtains approval to take the GED must be counted as a dropout from the district or school in which the person was last enrolled.

**Public records status of elementary achievement assessments**

Specifies that the achievement assessments administered in grades 3-8 in the 2011-2012 school year and later are not public records.

**Testing of students with disabilities**

Requires the individualized education program (IEP) developed for a disabled student to specify the manner in which the student will participate in the state achievement assessments.

**Fees for career-technical education materials**

Permits school districts to charge low-income students for tools, equipment, and materials that are necessary for workforce-readiness training and that may be retained by the students after course completion.

**Calamity day make-up**

Allows school districts, chartered nonpublic schools, community schools, and STEM schools to make up a maximum of three calamity days either via lessons posted online or blizzard bags, i.e. paper lesson plans distributed to students that correspond to online lessons.

Requires a school district to obtain the written consent of its teachers' union to implement the plan.

**Miscellaneous**

Requires the Department of Education, by December 31, 2011, to submit to the Governor and General Assembly a plan and legislative recommendations for providing two years of tuition-free education for individuals age 22 or older through dropout prevention and recovery programs.
Repeals restrictions on the maximum serving size, fat content, and calorie content of milk sold in school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools.

Would have repealed the requirement that school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools conduct body mass index (BMI) and weight status category screenings for students in certain grades (VETOED).

Specifically permits a school district, under its intra-district open enrollment policy, to grant a student permanent permission to attend a district school outside of the student’s attendance area so that the student does not need to re-apply annually for permission to attend the school.

Prohibits disqualification of a student from interscholastic athletics solely because the student's parents do not reside in Ohio if the student attends school in Ohio and lives in Ohio with a grandparent, uncle, aunt, or sibling who has temporary or legal custody or guardianship of the student.

Allows a school principal or any other school employee to also serve as the school district's gifted education coordinator if qualified to do so.

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a pilot project in Columbiana County under which one or more school districts must offer a multiple-track high school curriculum for students with differing career plans, but authorizes postponement of the pilot project if sufficient funds are not available.

Specifically states that school districts may rent or lease facilities to public or nonpublic institutions of higher education for use in providing evening and summer classes.

Repeals laws requiring the Department of Education to establish the State Office of Community Schools, the State Office of School Options, and the State Office of Educator Standards and permitting the Department to establish the Center for Creativity and Innovation.

Removes an obsolete reference to the Ohio Sailors' and Soldiers' Home in the school district tuition law.
BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

Requires that the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors renew registrations biennially rather than annually, and accordingly changes the renewal fee from $20 to $40, to be paid biennially.

Allows professional engineers and surveyors to complete continuing professional development hours during a two-year period rather than annually, but doubles the 15 annual hours required to 30 hours for the two-year period.

Increases from three to four the number of years that records that demonstrate completion of the continuing professional development requirements must be retained.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Increases from $750,000 to $1.5 million the cap on the amount of money credited to the Air Pollution Control Administration Fund that the Director of Environmental Protection may spend in any fiscal year for the administration and enforcement of the Air Pollution Control Law.

Authorizes the extension of the motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program through June 30, 2017, and provides authority for the implementation of a decentralized program rather than a centralized program as in law revised by the act.

Authorizes the Director to exempt a person generating, collecting, storing, treating, disposing of, or transporting infectious wastes from requirements of the Solid, Hazardous, and Infectious Wastes Law under specified circumstances.

Extends the time period for conducting a public meeting regarding an application for a permit for a new or modified solid waste facility from 35 to 45 days after the submission of the application.

Revises the license fee schedule for solid waste compost facilities by establishing additional fee categories based on authorized maximum annual daily waste receipts.

Eliminates the requirement that hazardous waste disposal and treatment fees be deposited into minority banks as defined in state law.

Authorizes the use of money in the Hazardous Waste Facility Management Fund specifically for the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties by the Director of Environmental Protection and for grants for the cleanup of such properties.
Requires natural resource damage assessment costs recovered by the state under federal law to be credited to the continuing Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Fund, thus distinguishing the assessment costs from other money collected for natural resources damages that must be credited to the continuing Natural Resource Damages Fund.

Extends from June 30, 2012, to June 30, 2014, the expiration date of the following fees on the transfer or disposal of solid wastes:

--$1 per ton the proceeds of which must be divided equally between the Hazardous Waste Facility Management Fund and the Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Fund, which are used for purposes of Ohio’s hazardous waste management program;

--$1 per ton the proceeds of which must be credited to the Solid Waste Fund, which is used for the solid and infectious waste and construction and demolition debris management programs; and

--$2.50 per ton the proceeds of which must be credited to the Environmental Protection Fund, which is used for administering and enforcing environmental protection programs.

Extends from June 30, 2012, to June 30, 2013, the expiration date of the 25¢ per-ton fee on the transfer or disposal of solid wastes the proceeds of which must be credited to the Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance Fund.

Exempts from state and local solid waste disposal fees coal combustion wastes regardless of whether the disposal facility is located on the premises where the wastes were generated rather than specifying as in prior law that the wastes had to be disposed of at facilities that exclusively disposed of coal combustion wastes and that were owned by the generator.

Prohibits a solid waste management district from exempting a public sector commercial licensed hauler from a fee that is charged to private sector commercial licensed haulers by the district.

Eliminates the requirement that the Director contract only with owners or operators of scrap tire storage, monocell, monofill, or recovery facilities for the storage, disposal, or processing of scrap tires removed through removal operations.

Eliminates the requirement that the Director give preference to owners or operators of scrap tire recovery facilities when entering into such contracts.

Extends for two years the sunset of the 50¢ per-tire fee on the sale of tires the proceeds of which are used to fund the scrap tire management program.
Extends for two years the sunset of an additional 50¢ per-tire fee on the sale of tires, and requires all money from the fee to continue to be credited to the Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance Fund.

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 under the Water Pollution Control Law;

--The sunset of the annual discharge fees for holders of national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permits issued under the Water Pollution Control Law;

--The sunset of license fees for public water system licenses issued under the Safe Drinking Water Law;

--A higher cap on the total fee due for plan approval for a public water supply system under the Safe Drinking Water Law 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 and examinations for certification as operators of water supply systems or wastewater systems under the Safe Drinking Water Law or the Water Pollution Control Law, as applicable; and

--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 Law and the Safe Drinking Water Law.

Revises the definition of "population served" for purposes of license fees for public water systems that are not community water systems and that serve nontransient populations to mean the total number of individuals having access to, rather than receiving water from, the water supply during a 24-hour period for at least 60 days during a calendar year.
Provides that license fees for public water systems that are not community water systems and that serve transient populations are based on the number of wells or sources, other than surface water, supplying such a system rather than just wells.

Establishes a $200 application fee for coverage under an NPDES general permit for a household sewage treatment system that discharges off the site where the system is located and a $100 fee for a renewal of permit coverage.

Authorizes voluntary actions with respect to class C releases from underground storage tank systems to be conducted under the Voluntary Action Program Law.

Defines "class C release" to mean a release of petroleum from an underground storage tank system for which the responsible person for the release is specifically determined by the Fire Marshal not to be a viable person capable of undertaking or completing corrective actions for the release and to include any release so designated in rules by the Fire Marshal.

Creates the Federally Supported Cleanup and Response Fund to support the investigation and remediation of contaminated property, and requires the EPA to use money in the Fund for those purposes.

Allows money in the Surface Water Protection Fund to be used to meet state matching requirements that are necessary to obtain federal grants by removing a statutory prohibition against that use.

Transfers the authority to administer diesel emissions reduction grant and loan programs to the Director of Environmental Protection from the Department of Development.

eTECH OHIO COMMISSION

Creates the Information Technology Service Fund, consisting of money paid to the eTech Ohio Commission for the provision of information technology services to support initiatives to align education from preschool through college.

ETHICS COMMISSION

Requires the Ohio Ethics Commission to deposit funds received as a result of court orders into the Ohio Ethics Commission Fund.
Authorize the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to establish a drug and nutritional formula discount program for its Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps under which manufacturers of drugs or nutritional formulas may enter into discount agreements with ODH.

Authorizes ODH, in lieu of establishing a discount program, and a drug or nutritional formula manufacturer to discuss donations of drugs, nutritional formulas, or money by the manufacturer to ODH.

Requires the ODH Director to annually apply for federal funds that are made available for abstinence education.

Specifies, in addition to the Help Me Grow Program’s continuing purpose of encouraging prenatal and well-baby care, that the Program’s purposes are to: (1) provide parenting education to promote the comprehensive health and development of children, and (2) provide early intervention services in accordance with federal law.

Provides that home visiting services under the Help Me Grow Program are provided to eligible families with a pregnant woman or a child under age three rather than newborn infants and their families.

Eliminates a requirement that a request for home visiting services be made by a parent before the services could be provided.

Requires providers of home visiting services, as a condition of receiving payment, to report data on Program performance indicators, and requires the ODH Director to prepare an annual report on the data received.

Provides that federally funded Part C early intervention services are included in the Help Me Grow Program for infants and toddlers under age three.

Specifies that a family enrolled in the former At Risk Program remains eligible for at-risk services until December 31, 2013, or until the eligible child reaches three years of age, whichever occurs first.

Permits the ODH Director to: (1) enter into interagency agreements with state agencies to implement the Help Me Grow Program, and (2) distribute Program funds through contracts, grants, or subsidies to entities providing Program services.

Eliminates a requirement that the Help Me Grow Program include distribution of subsidies to counties to provide services.
Requires, to the extent funds are available, that ODH establish a system of payment to providers of Help Me Grow Program services.

 Specifies certain rules that must be adopted to implement the Help Me Grow Program, including rules regarding eligibility for services, providers of services, complaint procedures, and criteria for payment.

 Requires ODH to convene an early intervention workgroup to develop recommendations for eligibility criteria for federally funded Part C early intervention services to be provided to infants and toddlers who have developmental delays.

 Permits an applicant for a certificate of need (CON) to revise a pending application by changing the site of the proposed project unless the ODH Director has mailed a written notice that the application is complete or the application is subject to a comparative review.

 Provides, in the case of a nursing home that under the terms of its CON could admit as residents only members of certain religious orders, that: (1) the nursing home may also provide care to specified relatives of the members, and (2) the nursing home's beds cannot be relocated to another long-term care facility.

 Requires the ODH Director to accept a CON application for a new nursing home if: (1) the application is submitted not later than December 27, 2011, (2) the nursing home will be located in a county that had a population in 2000 between 30,000 and 41,000, (3) the nursing home will be located on a campus that has been in operation for at least 12 years and the campus has other specified types of facilities, and (4) the nursing home will have not more than 30 beds.

 Permits a county home to obtain Medicaid or Medicare certification for existing beds without obtaining a CON if: (1) the county home is located in a county that has a bed need shortage, (2) no county that borders that county has a bed need excess or bed need shortage, (3) the number of existing beds for which Medicaid or Medicare certification is sought does not exceed the bed need shortage of the county, and (4) the county home obtains the certification not later than December 31, 2013.

 Authorizes a residential care facility to admit or retain any individual who requires skilled nursing care for more than 120 days in a 12-month period if the facility enters into a written agreement with: (1) the individual or individual's sponsor, (2) the individual's personal physician, (3) unless the individual's personal physician oversees the skilled nursing care, the provider of the skilled nursing care, and (4) if the individual is a hospice patient, a hospice care program.
Provides for the agreement to include the same provisions that prior law required an agreement between a residential care facility and hospice care program to include, except that an agreement regarding an individual who is not a hospice patient must also include a provision that the individual's personal physician has determined that the skilled nursing care the individual needs is routine.

Prohibits Public Health Council rules governing nursing homes and residential care facilities from requiring that each resident sleeping room, or a percentage of the sleeping rooms, have a bathtub or shower directly accessible from or exclusively for the room, but requires that the rules ensure that the privacy and dignity of residents be protected when they are transported to and from bathing facilities, prepare for bathing, and bathe.

Requires that the Council's rules ensure that each nursing home has sufficient direct care staff on each shift to meet the needs of the residents in an appropriate and timely manner and that registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nurse aides provide a minimum daily average of 2.5 hours of direct care per resident.

Revises the requirements regarding the notice of a proposed transfer or discharge that a long-term care facility is to provide a resident and resident's sponsor by: (1) providing that the notice is to include a proposed location, rather than the location, to which the resident may relocate and a notice that the resident and resident's sponsor may choose another location, (2) requiring that the proposed relocation site be capable of meeting the resident's healthcare and safety needs, and (3) providing that the proposed relocation site need not have accepted the resident at the time the notice is issued.

Permits a nursing facility and skilled nursing facility to obtain up to two informal reviews, with a fee charged for a second review, of any deficiencies that are cited under federal regulations governing surveys and cause the facility to be out of compliance with federal Medicare or Medicaid requirements.

Requires that the first informal review be conducted by an ODH employee who was not involved with the survey under which the deficiencies were discovered and that the second review be conducted by either a hearing officer employed by ODH or a hearing officer included on a list ODH is to provide the facility.

Permits the ODH Director to define a "health home" for purposes of any entity authorized to provide care coordination services.

Adds a representative of the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice to the Patient Centered Medical Home Education Advisory Group.
Requires $1 of each $4 of the minimum $12 base fee for a certified copy of a vital record or a certification of birth that is transferred by a local board of health to the State Office of Vital Statistics to be distributed to the boards of health in accordance with the same formula that is used to distribute state subsidy funds to boards of health and local health departments.

Requires a local registrar of vital statistics, who is not a salaried employee of a city or general health district, to transfer all $4 of each minimum $12 base fee for a certified copy of a vital record or a certification of birth to the State Office of Vital Statistics, and requires it to be used to support public health systems.

Requires such a local registrar of vital statistics to charge the same additional $5 fee charged by the State Office of Vital Statistics and local boards of health for certified copies of vital records and certifications of birth, and requires the money to be similarly used for operating, modernizing, and automating the state’s vital records program.

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**DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

Abolishes the Health Care Coverage and Quality Council.

Allows life insurers and health insurers to offer wellness or health improvement programs that include rewards and incentives to encourage or reward participation.

Prohibits any contracting entity from offering, entering into, amending, or renewing any contract with a health care provider, including a hospital, that contains a most favored nation clause.

Permits contracts existing on June 25, 2008, to retain a most favored nation clause for the duration of the contract unless the contract is amended, extended, or renewed after September 29, 2011.

Protects rights related to netting agreements and qualified financial contracts under Ohio’s Insurer Rehabilitation and Liquidation Law.

Establishes guidelines for termination, liquidation, acceleration, close out, transfer, and disaffirmance or repudiation of netting agreements or qualified financial contracts.
DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

I. General

Authorizes the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), a county department of job and family services (CDJFS), and a child support enforcement agency (CSEA) to conduct audits, in addition to investigations, as necessary in furtherance of their duties.

Specifies that until an audit report is formally released by ODJFS, the audit report and any related documents or records are not public records.

Specifies that an audit conference conducted by the audit staff of ODJFS with the officials of the public office that is the subject of the audit is not a public meeting for the purpose of the Open Meetings Law.

Authorizes a board of county commissioners to transfer money from the Public Assistance Fund to the Children Services Fund or Child Support Enforcement Administrative Fund as long as the money may be spent for the purposes of the receiving fund.

Reduces from 110% to 105% the maximum amount that a county may be required to pay, in comparison to the amount paid in the preceding fiscal year, for its share of public assistance expenditures.

Expands to CSEAs the authority to recover costs of services provided to persons who secured them through fraud or misrepresentation or who intentionally diverted services to ineligible persons.

Permits county family services agencies to recover: (1) costs of benefits, rather than only services, secured through fraud or misrepresentation or that were intentionally diverted to ineligible persons, and (2) any other costs of benefits and services provided by the agencies if recovery is required or permitted by federal law.

Permits ODJFS to take either or both of the following actions to collect excess amounts from a county entity performing family services duties: (1) enter into an agreement with the county entity for repayment of the excess amount plus, at ODJFS’s discretion, interest, and (2) certify a claim to the Attorney General for collection.

Replaces the 14% limit on the amount of a local agency’s Title XX, i.e. the federal Social Services Block Grant, appropriation that may be used for administrative costs with a requirement that the maximum percentage be established by state agency rules that comply with federal law.
Requires the Governor to appoint an executive director for the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

Requires the Commission to include with its annual report a description, prepared in collaboration with the ODJFS Director, of: (1) its expectations for the outcomes of fatherhood-related programs and initiatives, and (2) its methods for annually measuring those outcomes.

Authorizes the ODJFS Director to refer to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as the Food Stamp Program or Food Assistance Program in ODJFS rules and documents.

II. Child Care

Eliminates provisions under which CDJFSs could contract with and reimburse providers of publicly funded child care, and provides instead that purchases of such care are made pursuant to contracts between providers and ODJFS.

Permits the ODJFS Director to adopt rules specifying exceptions to the eligibility requirements for a family that previously received publicly funded child care, but whose eligibility was terminated and that is seeking reinstatement.

Permits ODJFS, when it determines that expenditures for publicly funded child care will exceed available federal and state funds, to change the schedule of fees to be paid by eligible caretaker parents and the rate of payment to child care providers.

Requires the ODJFS Director to establish enhanced reimbursement ceilings for child care centers that participate in the Step Up to Quality Program and maintain quality ratings and to weigh any reduction in reimbursement ceilings more heavily against centers that do not participate or do not maintain quality ratings.

Prohibits an eligible caretaker parent from receiving full-time publicly funded child care from more than one provider per child.

Provides, if ODJFS implements a swipe card program for tracking attendance and submitting invoices for publicly funded child care, that misuse of the program by child care providers or parents may result in license or certification revocation or loss of eligibility for publicly funded child care.

Eliminates the requirement to renew every two years a license for a child day-care center or type A family day-care home.

Requires a child care center or type A home for which a license was revoked to wait five years rather than two before applying for another license.
Increases from six months to one year the period during which a provisional license is valid.

Eliminates the requirement that ODJFS had to notify a child day-care center or type A family day-care home that it was out of compliance with the laws governing centers and homes.

Eliminates, except for purposes of issuing a provisional license, the requirement that the ODJFS Director consider the number of available child-care staff members when determining the license capacity of a child day-care center or type A family day-care home.

Increases from 1.5 to 2 the number of hours during a 24-hour day that the number of napping toddlers or preschool children per child-care staff member may be twice the number of children per staff member otherwise allowed.

Permits a person seeking to be a child day-care center administrator to meet educational requirements by showing the ODJFS Director evidence that the administrator holds a designation as an early childhood professional level three under the Step Up to Quality Program.

Exempts students who are being home schooled during their last year of instruction or who have graduated from a charter school from the educational requirements for employment at a child day-care center.

Eliminates the requirement that the ODJFS Director had to adopt rules to be used for checking the references of child day-care center and type A family day-care home license applicants and potential employees.

Permits a child day-care center to have on the center premises and readily available a separate staff member who has completed a course in prevention, recognition, and management of communicable diseases approved by the Department of Health.

Specifies that, when adopting rules establishing procedures for screening children and employees of child day-care centers, the ODJFS Director is permitted, rather than required, to include requirements for physical examinations and immunizations.

Permits the ODJFS Director, when providing copies of child care licensing requirements and rules to license applicants, to provide the copies in either paper or electronic form.
Permits ODJFS to publish a guide on certification of type B family day-care homes either electronically or otherwise, and eliminates the requirement to distribute the guide to CDJFSs.

Eliminates the requirement that each child day-care center administrator had to prepare and distribute an annual roster and telephone contact list of the parents, guardians, or custodians of the children attending the center.

Permits the ODJFS Director to adopt rules, rather than requiring the Director to recommend standards to the Governor and General Assembly as in former law, regarding sanctions to be imposed on persons violating the law governing child care, and specifies when the Director is to impose the sanctions.

Requires the ODJFS Director to make a dispute resolution process available for implementing sanctions.

III. Child Support

Requires ODJFS's Office of Child Support to administer a fund for the deposit of support payments that it receives.

Prohibits a CSEA from sending a notice to an occupational or professional licensing board, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), or the Division of Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources regarding a child support default unless: (1) at least 90 days have elapsed since the final and enforceable determination of default, and (2) the obligor has not paid at least 50% of the monthly obligation due for that period by means other than state or federal tax intercept.

Alters the requirements concerning when a CSEA is required to reinstate a license that has been suspended due to child support default.

Requires a CSEA to remove license restrictions if the obligor demonstrates an inability to work due to circumstances beyond the obligor's control.

Permits a CSEA to direct the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to eliminate from the abstract maintained by the BMV any reference to the suspension of an individual's license due to child support default.

IV. Child Welfare and Adoption

Requires each public children services agency (PCSA) to prepare and maintain a case plan or family service plan for any child receiving in-home services from the agency pursuant to an alternative response.
Requires ODJFS to include in its rules requiring PCSAs to maintain case plans or family service case plans for children and their families who are receiving services in their homes requirements for case plans or family service plans for such children and families receiving services from PCSAs pursuant to an alternative response.

Requires that the differential response approach pursued by a PCSA include the traditional response pathway and the alternative response pathway.

Details when PCSAs must use the traditional response.

Requires ODJFS, in accordance with the evaluation of the Ohio Alternative Response Pilot Program, to plan the statewide expansion of the pilot program on a county-by-county basis through a schedule that ODJFS is to determine.

Provides that the act’s provisions regarding differential response, traditional response, and alternative response are to become effective for a county in accordance with ODJFS’s schedule.

Authorizes the Children's Trust Fund Board to solicit gifts, money, and other donations from any public or private source and to develop public-private partnerships.

Permits the Children's Trust Fund Board to request that ODJFS adopt rules that the Board considers necessary to carry out its responsibilities, and permits ODJFS to adopt the requested rules or any other rules.

V. Health Programs (including Medicaid)

Health Care Special Activities Fund

Creates the Health Care Special Activities Fund, requires ODJFS to deposit all funds that it receives pursuant to the administration of the Medicaid program into the Fund, and requires ODJFS to use the money in the Fund to pay for Medicaid-related expenses.

Eligibility

Permits ODJFS to enter into agreements with other state agencies, local government entities, or political subdivisions to accept applications and make eligibility determinations on ODJFS's behalf for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Provides that an institutionalized individual may be granted a waiver of the Medicaid penalty imposed when assets are transferred for less than fair market value if the ineligibility would cause an undue hardship for the individual.
Requires that a waiver of the penalty be granted if a nursing facility has notified an institutionalized individual of a proposed transfer or discharge from the facility due to failure to pay, the individual or the individual's sponsor requests a hearing, and the proposed transfer or discharge is upheld on final appeal.

Requires the ODJFS Director to adopt rules establishing additional reasons for which waivers of the penalty may be granted.

Requires the ODJFS Director to retain in the Medicaid state plan a federal option under which children during presumptive eligibility periods.

Requires the ODJFS Director to amend the Medicaid state plan to implement a federal option under which ambulatory prenatal care is made available to pregnant women during presumptive eligibility periods.

Requires the ODJFS Director to provide for children's hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and federally qualified health center look-alikes, if they are eligible under federal law and request to serve as qualified providers or entities that make presumptive eligibility determinations, to serve as such for purposes of the presumptive eligibility for children and pregnant women options.

Permits the ODJFS Director to provide for other types of providers and entities, if they are eligible under federal law and request to serve as qualified providers and entities that make presumptive eligibility determinations, to serve as such for purposes of the presumptive eligibility for children and pregnant women options.

Specifies that a provision of law governing how a trust must be treated in making Medicaid eligibility determinations may be used only for an initial Medicaid eligibility determination or an appeal of an initial Medicaid eligibility determination, and prohibits a court from using the provision to determine a trust's effect on an individual's initial Medicaid eligibility determination.

Replaces the terms countable resource and countable income for purposes of the law governing how a trust must be treated in making Medicaid eligibility determinations.

Except as otherwise authorized by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, requires ODJFS to comply with the federal maintenance of effort requirement regarding Medicaid eligibility standards, methodologies, and procedures while the requirement is in effect.
Requires ODJFS, on receipt of any necessary federal approval, to reduce the complexity of the Medicaid eligibility determination processes caused by the different income and resource standards for the numerous Medicaid eligibility categories.

**Audits**

Repeals provisions that required the State Auditor to determine whether overpayments were made on behalf of every medical assistance recipient, and, in place of those provisions, authorizes the State Auditor to conduct an audit of an individual medical assistance recipient on the request of the ODJFS Director.

Requires the State Auditor to enter into an interagency agreement with ODJFS governing the confidentiality of information that the Auditor receives from ODJFS pursuant to an audit of a medical assistance recipient.

**Recipient information**

Revises the laws governing disclosure of information about medical assistance recipients.

Eliminates the authority of ODJFS or a CDJFS to request from a law enforcement agency information that could be used to determine whether a medical assistance recipient or a member of the recipient’s assistance group was a fugitive felon or was violating a condition of probation, a community control sanction, parole, or a post-release control sanction.

**Third-party liability**

Extends from three to six years after the date of service the period during which a third party: (1) must respond to an inquiry by ODJFS regarding a Medicaid claim, and (2) cannot deny a Medicaid claim solely on the basis of the date of submission of the claim, type or format of the claim form, or failure by the Medicaid recipient to present proper documentation at the time of service.

Prohibits a third party from charging ODJFS a fee for determining whether a Medicaid claim should be paid or for processing a Medicaid claim if the claim was submitted not later than six years after the date of service.

**Families and children**

Requires ODJFS and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to work together on the issue of achieving efficiencies in the delivery of medical assistance provided under Medicaid to families and children.
Requires ODJFS and ODH to develop a proposal for coordinating medical assistance provided to families and children under Medicaid while they wait to be enrolled in Medicaid managed care.

Permits ODJFS to seek federal approval to authorize payment for Medicaid-reimbursable targeted case management services provided in connection with ODH’s Help Me Grow Program and for services provided under the Program.

Provides, for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, that a Medicaid recipient under 21 years of age automatically satisfies all requirements for any prior authorization process for community mental health services provided under a Medicaid component administered by the Ohio Department of Mental Health if the child meets certain requirements related to being an abused, neglected, dependent, unruly, or delinquent child.

**Health homes**

Authorizes implementation of the federal Medicaid option of providing coordinated care through health homes to Medicaid recipients with chronic conditions.

Authorizes the Health Care Compliance Fund to be used for expenses incurred in implementing or operating health home programs and for the creation, modification, or replacement of federally funded Medicaid health-care systems in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

**Group health plans**

Permits, rather than requires, implementation of a program under which Medicaid recipients are enrolled in group health plans when doing so is cost-effective.

**Medicaid managed care**

Authorizes ODJFS to include in the Medicaid managed care system aged, blind, or disabled Medicaid recipients who are under age 21, nursing facility residents, recipients of Medicaid waiver home and community-based services, or dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Prohibits ODJFS from including in the Medicaid managed care system, in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, any additional individuals who have cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, or cancer and are receiving services through the program for medically handicapped children operated by ODH.

Requires ODJFS to establish a pediatric accountable care organization recognition system not later than July 1, 2012, and requires standards of recognition to
be the same as or not conflict with those adopted under the federal health care reform law.

Requires, rather than permits, that Medicaid managed care coverage of prescription drugs be provided by the health insuring corporations participating in ODJFS’s care management system.

Prohibits the participating health insuring corporations from imposing prior authorization requirements for antidepressants and antipsychotics if those mental health drugs meet specified criteria.

Establishes, for persons who are being treated with prescription drugs when coverage by the Medicaid managed care system begins, a period of 30, 90, or 120 days, depending on the type of drug involved, during which a participating health insuring corporation may not impose certain utilization or management techniques.

Specifies that ODJFS or its actuary is to base the hospital inpatient capital payment portion of the payment made to Medicaid managed care organizations on data for services provided to all Medicaid recipients enrolled in the organization as reported by hospitals.

Requires ODJFS to establish a Medicaid Managed Care Performance Payment Program to make payments to managed care organizations that meet performance standards established by ODJFS, and, for purposes of making the payments, requires ODJFS to withhold a percentage amount from each premium payment made to a managed care organization.

Exempts actions taken by ODJFS regarding the Medicaid managed care system, including entering into or refusing to enter into a provider agreement, or suspending, terminating, renewing, or refusing to renew an existing provider agreement, from the requirement that the action be taken pursuant to an administrative hearing.

Provider rate reductions

Requires the ODJFS Director to implement, for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, purchasing strategies and rate reductions that result in payment rates for hospital and other Medicaid-covered services, as selected by the Director, being at least 2% less than the payment rates for fiscal year 2011.

Excludes nursing facility and intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR) services from the requirement regarding purchasing strategies and rate reductions.
Cost and quality initiatives

Permits ODJFS, ODH, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health, in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, to seek assistance from and work with the Best Evidence for Advancing Child Health in Ohio! (BEACON) Council and hospital and other provider groups to identify specific targets and initiatives to reduce the cost and improve the quality of medical assistance provided under Medicaid to children.

Various provider-related provisions

Prohibits ODJFS from knowingly making a Medicaid payment for a provider-preventable condition for which federal financial participation is prohibited.

Authorizes ODJFS to establish an incentive payment program, as authorized by federal law, to encourage the use of electronic health record technology by certain Medicaid providers.

Requires certain Medicaid providers, no later than January 13, 2013, to submit Medicaid reimbursement claims through an electronic claims submission process and to arrange for receipt of Medicaid reimbursement by electronic funds transfer, but excludes the following from those requirements: nursing facilities, ICFs/MR, Medicaid managed care organizations, and other providers designated by the ODJFS Director.

Permits ODJFS, if it chooses to outsource the performance of pediatric Medicaid claims review and analysis, quality assurance functions associated with pediatric Medicaid claims, or both, to enter into a contract with any qualified person, including the Ohio Children's Hospital Solutions for Patient Safety, to perform the service or services.

Requires the ODJFS Director to apply for approval to claim federal Medicaid funds for administrative costs that ODH and the Arthur G. James and Richard J. Solove Research Institute of The Ohio State University incur in analyzing and evaluating certain data under the Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System.

Authorizes the ODJFS Director to implement a system under which payments for services provided under the Medicaid program are made to an organization on behalf of the providers.

Permits ODJFS to recover a Medicaid overpayment to a hospital within one year after receiving from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services a completed, audited, Medicare cost report.
Requires ODJFS to charge an application fee to a provider seeking to enter into or renew a Medicaid provider agreement unless the provider is exempt from the fee under federal regulations.

Provides for the application fee to be set by ODJFS rules, but prohibits the fee from exceeding the amount necessary to pay for implementing provider screening requirements established by federal regulations.

Requires generally that ODJFS suspend a Medicaid provider agreement and terminate the provider’s Medicaid reimbursement, without a hearing but subject to a notice containing certain information, on determining that a creditable allegation of fraud against the provider exists as those allegations are specified in federal law.

Authorizes a Medicaid provider affected by a suspension to request reconsideration of the suspension and associated termination of reimbursement.

Authorizes ODJFS to take any of several disciplinary actions, without a hearing, against a Medicaid provider agreement or an application for a provider agreement when the action is based on a disciplinary action taken by another state’s Medicaid agency or for other reasons specified under federal law.

**Physician assistants**

Requires ODJFS, by July 1, 2012, to establish a process by which a physician assistant may enter into a Medicaid provider agreement and engage in direct billing.

Authorizes a Medicaid claim for a physician assistant's services to be submitted either by: (1) the physician assistant with a provider agreement, or (2) the physician, group practice, clinic, or other health care facility that employs or contracts with the physician assistant.

Provides that Medicaid reimbursement rates for physician assistant services provided during fiscal year 2013 cannot be greater than the rates on June 30, 2012.

**Provider rate provisions**

Requires the ODJFS Director, as necessary to comply with federal law, to give public notice in the Register of Ohio of any change to a method or standard used to determine the Medicaid reimbursement rate for a service.

Prohibits, except as required by federal law, Medicaid reimbursement rates from exceeding: (1) limits established in federal Medicaid regulations in the case of hospital, nursing facility, and ICF/MR services, and (2) the authorized Medicare reimbursement limits for services in the case of all other providers.
**Dialysis services**

Requires ODJFS, for fiscal year 2012, to pay Medicaid providers the Medicare copayment amounts that apply to dialysis services for persons eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare as those copayments were made by ODJFS prior to the act.

Permits ODJFS, in fiscal year 2013, to adjust Medicaid payments for dialysis services by an amount sufficient to achieve $9 million in savings.

**Rates for aide and nursing services**

Requires ODJFS, effective October 1, 2011, to: (1) reduce the first-hour-unit price that Medicaid pays for aide services to 97% of the price paid on June 30, 2011, and for nursing services to 95% of the price paid on June 30, 2011, and (2) pay independent providers of aide and nursing services 80% of the price paid providers that are not independent providers.

Requires that ODJFS, not sooner than July 1, 2012, adjust the Medicaid reimbursement rates for aide services and nursing services in a manner that reflects, at a minimum, labor market data, education and licensure status, home health agency and independent provider status, and length of service visit.

**Pharmacy services**

Prohibits the Medicaid payment for a drug that is subject to a federal upper reimbursement limit from exceeding, in the aggregate, the federal limit for the drug.

Sets the Medicaid dispensing fee for noncompounded drugs at $1.80 for the period beginning July 1, 2011, and ending on the effective date of a rule changing the amount of the fee.

**Hospital services**

Requires the ODJFS Director to maintain, for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the Medicaid reimbursement rates in effect on June 30, 2011, for Medicaid-covered hospital inpatient and outpatient services that are paid under a prospective payment system.

Requires the ODJFS Director to make, for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, additional Medicaid payments to children’s hospitals for inpatient services under a program modeled on the program that was created for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 and subsequently continued.

Continues the Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP) for two additional years.
Provides for the assessments imposed on hospitals for the purpose of the Medicaid program to be imposed for two additional years.

Requires ODJFS to establish the hospital assessment rate in rules.

Permits the assessment rate to vary for different hospitals if ODJFS obtains any necessary federal waiver.

Provides for ODJFS to impose a 10% penalty on overdue hospital assessments.

Permits ODJFS to offset the amount of a hospital’s unpaid penalty imposed under HCAP or the law governing hospital assessments from one or more payments due the hospital under the Medicaid program.

Permits ODJFS to continue and modify the continuing Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient Supplemental Upper Payment Limit Program to provide supplemental Medicaid payments to hospitals for providing Medicaid-covered inpatient and outpatient services to Medicaid recipients.

Requires ODJFS to apply for federal approval of a Medicaid Managed Care Hospital Incentive Payment Program under which Medicaid managed care organizations are provided funds to increase payments to hospitals under contract with the organizations.

Prohibits ODJFS from implementing the Medicaid Managed Care Hospital Incentive Payment Program in a manner that reduces either: (1) the amounts Medicaid managed care organizations would have otherwise received, or (2) the amounts hospitals would have otherwise received from the Hospital Assessment Fund.

Requires Medicaid managed care organizations and hospitals, if the Medicaid Managed Care Hospital Incentive Payment Program does not result in $22 million in state savings, to pay the state the difference between the amount saved and $22 million.

**Nursing home services**

Sets the base rate for the franchise permit fee to be paid by nursing homes and hospital long-term care units at $11.47 for fiscal year 2012 and $11.67 for fiscal year 2013 and thereafter.

Provides for the percentage that is used in determining whether the franchise permit fee must be reduced in order for the fee to comply with federal restrictions to change in accordance with the federal restrictions.
Requires ODJFS annually to redetermine each nursing home’s and hospital long-term care unit’s franchise permit fee for the second half of a fiscal year if, during a certain period of time, any nursing home or hospital surrendered one or more beds.

Provides that the exiting and entering operator of a nursing home or hospital long-term care unit undergoing a change of operator have proportional responsibility for the nursing home’s or hospital long-term care unit’s franchise permit fee.

Abolishes the Home- and Community-Based Services for the Aged Fund.

Renames the Nursing Facility Stabilization Fund the Nursing Home Franchise Permit Fee Fund.

Provides for all money raised by the franchise permit fee and associated penalties to be deposited into the Nursing Home Franchise Permit Fee Fund, provides for the money to be used to make Medicaid payments to providers of home and community-based services as well as providers of nursing facility services, and permits the money to also be used for the Residential State Supplement Program.

Abolishes the PASSPORT Fund.

Provides for the money raised by horse-racing-related taxes that previously was deposited into the PASSPORT Fund to be deposited into the Nursing Home Franchise Permit Fee Fund, and continues to require that the money be used for the PASSPORT Program.

For purposes of calculating nursing facilities' Medicaid reimbursement rates for direct care costs: (1) includes the costs of behavioral and mental health services among the costs included in nursing facilities' direct care costs, (2) alters the methodology for determining a peer group's cost per case-mix unit, and (3) changes, beginning in fiscal year 2013, the residents for whom data from a resident assessment instrument is used in determining semiannual case-mix scores.

For purposes of calculating nursing facilities' Medicaid reimbursement rates for ancillary and support costs, eliminates the 3% adjustment applied to such costs of the nursing facility in each peer group that is at the 25th percentile of the rate for such costs.

For purposes of calculating nursing facilities' Medicaid reimbursement rates for capital costs: (1) provides that a peer group’s rate for capital costs is to be the capital costs for the nursing facility in the peer group that is at the 25th percentile of the rate for capital costs rather than the peer group’s median rate, (2) eliminates a requirement that ODJFS had to use information about construction costs obtained from the Dodge Building Cost Indexes when calculating adjustments used in determining the rate for
capital costs, and (3) prohibits ODJFS from redetermining a peer group’s rate for capital costs based on additional information that it receives after the rate is determined, and provides for ODJFS to make a redetermination only if it made an error in determining the rate based on information available at the time of the original determination.

Eliminates the franchise permit fee price center effective July 1, 2012.

For purposes of calculating nursing facilities' quality incentive payments under the Medicaid program: (1) modifies how points are to be awarded in fiscal year 2012 under pre-existing accountability measures, (2) requires ODJFS to cease using the pre-existing accountability measures beginning in fiscal year 2013, and (3) provides for ODJFS, beginning in fiscal year 2013, to award each nursing facility points for meeting accountability measures in accordance with amendments to be made, not later than December 31, 2011, to state law governing quality incentive payments.

For the purpose of determining a nursing facility’s fiscal year 2012 Medicaid rate for direct care costs, provides for the nursing facility's semiannual case-mix score for the period beginning July 1, 2011, and ending January 1, 2012, to be the same as the semiannual case-mix score used in calculating the nursing facility’s June 30, 2011, rate for direct care costs.

In determining nursing facilities' Medicaid reimbursement rates for fiscal year 2012, requires ODJFS to increase the cost per case-mix unit, rate for ancillary and support costs, rate for tax costs, and rate for capital costs by 5.08%.

Provides for the per resident per day Medicaid rate paid for the franchise permit fee in fiscal year 2012 to be $11.47.

In determining nursing facilities' quality incentive payments for fiscal year 2012, requires ODJFS to provide for the mean payment to be $3.03 per Medicaid day.

For a nursing facility whose preliminary fiscal year 2012 rate is less than 90% of its fiscal year 2011 rate, establishes a stop loss mechanism that provides for the amount of the reduction to be less than what it otherwise would be.

In determining nursing facilities' Medicaid reimbursement rates for fiscal year 2013, requires ODJFS to increase the cost per case-mix unit, rate for ancillary and support costs, rate for tax costs, and rate for capital costs by 5.08%.

In determining nursing facilities' quality incentive payments for fiscal year 2013, provides for the maximum quality incentive payment to be $16.44 per Medicaid day.
Sets the fiscal year 2013 Medicaid rate for nursing facility services provided to low resource utilization residents at $130 per Medicaid day.

 Specifies that a nursing facility is not to be paid more than 100%, rather than 109%, of the nursing facility’s Medicaid per diem rate for services provided on or after January 1, 2012, to a dual eligible individual, i.e. an individual eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, who is eligible for nursing facility services under the Medicaid program and post-hospital extended care services under Medicare Part A.

 Permits the ODJFS Director to seek federal approval to create the Centers of Excellence Program, the purpose of which is to increase the efficiency and quality of nursing facility services provided to Medicaid recipients with complex nursing facility service needs.

 Provides that the Medicaid reimbursement rate to reserve a bed in a nursing facility, for a day in calendar year 2011, is not to exceed 50% of the nursing facility’s regular per diem rate for that day and, for a day in calendar year 2012 and thereafter, is not to exceed: (1) 50% of the nursing facility’s regular per diem rate for that day if the nursing facility had an occupancy rate of more than 90% in the preceding calendar year, or (2) 18% of the nursing facility’s regular per diem rate for that day if the nursing facility had an occupancy rate of 90% or less in the preceding calendar year.

 Repeals a provision that required ODJFS to prepare an annual report containing recommendations on the methodology to be used to transition paying nursing facilities the Medicaid reimbursement rate for one fiscal year to the next.

 Permits ODJFS, if it determines that a nursing facility is experiencing or is likely to experience a serious financial loss or failure that jeopardizes or is likely to jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, to appoint, subject to the provider’s consent, a temporary resident safety assurance manager.

**ICF/MR services**

 Sets the rate for the franchise permit fee that is charged ICFs/MR at $17.99 for fiscal year 2012 and $18.32 for fiscal year 2013 and thereafter.

 Provides for the percentage that is used in determining whether the ICF/MR franchise permit fee must be reduced in order for the fee to comply with federal restrictions to change in accordance with the federal restrictions.

 Specifies that 81.77% of the money raised by the ICF/MR franchise permit fee and associated penalties for fiscal year 2012, and 82.2% of such money raised for fiscal year
2013 and thereafter, is to be deposited into the Home and Community-Based Services for the Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled Fund.

Continues to provide for the money raised by the ICF/MR franchise permit fee and associated penalties that is not deposited into the Home and Community-Based Services for the Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled Fund to be deposited into the Department of Developmental Disabilities Operating and Services Fund.

Provides for ODJFS, when determining inflation rates used in calculating Medicaid reimbursement rates for the direct care, indirect care, and other protected costs of ICFs/MR, to use a successor index if the index specified in statute ceases to be published.

Eliminates a requirement that an ICF/MR had to refund to ODJFS the amount of excess depreciation paid to the ICF/MR under Medicaid if the ICF/MR was sold.

For fiscal year 2012, requires ODJFS to determine modified rates and capped rates for existing ICFs/MR, and provides for an existing ICF/MR to be paid a rate that is the average of its modified and capped rates unless the mean of such rates for all existing ICFs/MR is other than $282.59, in which case the ICF/MR's rate is to be adjusted by a percentage that equals the percentage by which the mean rate is greater or less than $282.59.

For fiscal year 2013, requires ODJFS to determine modified and capped rates for existing ICFs/MR, and provides for an existing ICF/MR to be paid a rate that is the average of its modified and capped rates unless the mean of such rates for all existing ICFs/MR is other than $282.92, in which case the ICF/MR's rate is to be adjusted by a percentage that equals the percentage by which the mean rate is greater or less than $282.92.

Requires ODJFS and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (ODODD) to conduct a study regarding Medicaid reimbursement rates for ICF/MR services and, at the same time they conduct the study, work with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation and persons interested in the issue of ICF/MR services to develop recommendations regarding various ICF/MR issues.

Requires ODJFS to contract with ODODD for ODODD to assume ODJFS's powers and duties regarding the Medicaid program’s coverage of ICF/MR services.

**Long-term care facility provisions**

Prohibits a nursing facility or ICF/MR from amending a Medicaid cost report if ODJFS has notified the facility or ICF/MR that an audit of the cost report or a cost report
for a subsequent cost reporting period is to be conducted, but permits the facility or ICF/MR to provide ODJFS information that affects the costs included in the cost report.

Provides that ODJFS is permitted, rather than required, to base a determination of whether to conduct an audit of the Medicaid cost report of a nursing facility or ICF/MR on the facility’s or ICF/MR’s prior performance.

Requires ODJFS to revise certain requirements included in its manual for field audits.

Requires ODJFS to fine a nursing facility if an audit report regarding a Medicaid cost report includes: (1) adverse findings that exceed 3% of the total amount of Medicaid-reimbursable costs reported in the cost report, or (2) adverse findings that exceed 20% of Medicaid-reimbursable costs for a particular cost center reported in the cost report.

Specifies, for purposes of the law governing the collection of the Medicaid debts of nursing facilities and ICFs/MR, that a facility closure occurs when the building, or part of the building, that houses a nursing facility or ICF/MR converts to a different use if any necessary license or other approval needed for that use is obtained and one or more of the facility’s residents remain in the facility to receive services under the new use.

Requires nursing facilities and ICFs/MR that undergo a change of operator, close, or voluntarily cease to participate in Medicaid to use a method that ODJFS specifies in rules when submitting certain notices, forms, and documents.

Revises the list of information that a written notice of a change of operator must include.

Revises the criteria used to determine when a Medicaid provider agreement with an entering operator following a change of operator goes into effect.

Applies the Medicaid debt-collection process to nursing facilities and ICFs/MR that undergo an involuntary termination from Medicaid.

Permits Medicaid payments to be made for nursing facility and ICF/MR services for up to 30 days after the effective date of an involuntary termination of the facility that provides the services if they are provided to a Medicaid recipient who is eligible for the services and resided in the facility before the effective date of the involuntary termination.
Non-institutional long-term care services

Requires ODJFS, the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA), and ODDODD to strive to have, by June 30, 2013, non-institutionally based long-term service used by: (1) at least 50% of Medicaid recipients who are age 60 or older and need long-term services, and (2) at least 60% of Medicaid recipients who are under age 60 and have cognitive or physical disabilities for which long-term services are needed.

Permits ODJFS to apply to participate in the federal Balancing Incentive Payments Program, and requires that any funds that Ohio receives be deposited into the Balancing Incentive Payments Program Fund.

Eliminates the Ohio Access Success Project eligibility requirement under which an applicant for Project benefits had to need a nursing facility level of care.

Specifies that an applicant must be able to remain in the community as a result of receiving the Project’s benefits when it is being administered as a non-Medicaid program.

Requires the ODJFS Director to assess an applicant’s eligibility for participation in the Project regardless of how long the applicant has been a recipient of Medicaid-funded nursing facility services.

Creates state-funded, non-Medicaid components of the PASSPORT and Assisted Living Programs.

Provides for individuals who have applications pending for the Medicaid-funded components of the PASSPORT and Assisted Living Programs and meet other requirements to qualify for the state-funded components for up to three months.

Provides that certain other individuals qualify for the state-funded component of the PASSPORT Program for an unlimited number of months.

Provides that the Home First processes for the PASSPORT and Assisted Living Programs apply only to the Medicaid components of those Programs.

Eliminates the eligibility requirement for the Medicaid-funded component of the Assisted Living Program under which an applicant had to be a nursing facility resident, residential care facility resident, or participant of the PASSPORT Program, the Choices Program, or an ODJFS-administered Medicaid waiver program.

Provides for ODA to administer the Assisted Living Program without the condition that the Director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) approve the contract between ODA and ODJFS regarding ODA’s administration of the Program.
Provides that a requirement for ODA to establish a unified waiting list for the PASSPORT, Choices, Assisted Living, and PACE Programs applies if ODA determines that there are insufficient funds to enroll all individuals who have applied and been determined eligible for the programs.

Requires the ODA Director to contract with Miami University’s Scripps Gerontology Center for an evaluation of the PACE Program.

Permits the ODA Director, in consultation with the ODJFS Director, to expand the PACE Program to new regions of Ohio under certain circumstances.

Codifies the Ohio Home Care and Ohio Transitions II Aging Carve-Out Programs.

Modifies the ODJFS Director’s rulemaking authority regarding prioritizing and approving enrollment in Medicaid waivers for home and community-based services.

Eliminates a requirement that ODJFS had to seek federal approval to obtain a federal Medicaid waiver to consolidate the PASSPORT, Choices, and Assisted Living Programs into one Medicaid waiver program.

Requires ODJFS, working with ODA, to seek federal approval for a unified long-term services and support Medicaid waiver program to provide home and community-based services to eligible individuals of any age who require the level of care provided by nursing facilities.

Requires ODJFS and ODA to work together to determine, on an individual program basis, whether the PASSPORT, Choices, Assisted Living, Ohio Home Care, and Ohio Transitions II Aging Carve-Out Programs should continue to operate as separate Medicaid waiver programs or be terminated if the unified long-term services and support Medicaid waiver program is created.

Eliminates a requirement that an individual had to be on ODA’s unified waiting list to qualify for the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, or PACE Program through the Home First process.

Eliminates a requirement for ODA to make quarterly certifications to the OBM Director regarding the estimated increase in the costs of the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, and PACE Programs resulting from enrollment of individuals through the Home First process.

Establishes Home First processes for the Ohio Home Care Program and unified long-term services and support Medicaid waiver program.
Repeals the requirement for ODJFS to create a pilot program under which up to 200 Medicaid recipients were to be given spending authority to pay for the cost of home and community-based services.

Requires ODJFS to adopt rules establishing the amount of reimbursement or methods by which reimbursement is to be determined, in place of the previous statewide fee schedules, for home and community-based services provided to individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities through ODODD-administered Medicaid waiver programs.

Permits an operator of an ICF/MR to convert some of the beds in the facility from providing ICF/MR services to providing home and community-based services under an ODODD-administered Medicaid waiver program rather than requiring that all of the beds be converted.

Permits ODJFS to seek federal approval for up to 200, rather than 100, slots for home and community-based services provided and ODODD-administered Medicaid waiver programs for the purpose of the beds that convert from providing ICF/MR services to home and community-based services.

Requires ODJFS to contract with ODODD for ODODD to administer the Transitions Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver.

**Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program**

Maintains the Money Follows the Person Enhanced Reimbursement Fund into which the OBM Director is to deposit the federal grant that Ohio receives under the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program.

**Dual eligible individuals**

Permits the ODJFS Director to seek federal approval to implement a demonstration project to test and evaluate the integration of the care that dual eligible individuals receive under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Creates the Integrated Care Delivery Systems Fund in the state treasury to receive amounts that the demonstration project saves the Medicare program if the terms of the project provide for Ohio to receive such amounts.

Requires ODJFS to use the money in the Integrated Care Delivery Systems Fund to further develop integrated delivery systems and improved care coordination for dual eligible individuals.
**Unified long-term services and supports**

Creates the Joint Legislative Committee for Unified Long-Term Services and Supports.

Permits the Committee to examine: (1) implementing the dual eligible integrated care demonstration project, (2) implementing a unified long-term services and support Medicaid waiver component, (3) providing consumers choices regarding a continuum of services that meet their health-care needs, promote autonomy and independence, and improve quality of life, (4) ensuring that long-term care services and supports are delivered in a cost effective and quality manner, (5) subjecting county homes, county nursing homes, and district homes to the nursing home franchise permit fee, and (6) other issues of interest to the Committee.

**Children's Buy-In Program**

Abolishes the Children's Buy-In Program, and establishes the following timeframes for concluding its affairs: (1) suspends new enrollments immediately, (2) repeals the applicable statutes on October 1, 2011, and (3) permits persons enrolled in the Program when it is repealed to continue receiving services through December 31, 2011.

**Military Injury Relief Fund**

Makes an individual injured while in active service as a member of the armed forces of the United States while serving in Operation New Dawn eligible for Military Injury Relief Fund grants.

**VI. Unemployment Compensation**

Prohibits, effective October 30, 2011, an individual who performs services that significantly consist of seasonal employment from being paid unemployment compensation benefits for services performed in seasonal employment during the period between two successive seasonal periods if there is reasonable assurance that the individual will be employed in the later of the seasonal periods.

Eliminates the authority of the Unemployment Compensation Council with respect to the Unemployment Compensation Special Administrative Fund.
JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGENCY RULE REVIEW

Provides that the new business rule review process established by Am. Sub. S.B. 2 of the 129th General Assembly does not apply to proposed rules that are pending on January 1, 2012, and first applies to proposed rules the original versions of which are filed on or after January 1, 2012.

Clarifies how rules being reviewed under the Cyclical Review of Rules Act on the provision’s effective date are to be reviewed in light of the new business rule review process.

JUDICIARY, SUPREME COURT

Permits a party in a civil action to subpoena a coroner or deputy coroner to give expert testimony at a trial, hearing, or deposition only upon filing with the court a notice with specified information, and prohibits a party that fails to provide such notice, unless good cause is shown, from having the coroner or deputy coroner called to give expert testimony.

Authorizes a court for good cause shown to permit a coroner or deputy coroner who has not been served with such a subpoena to give expert testimony in a civil action.

Requires a party that obtains the expert testimony to pay to the county treasury a "deposition fee" or a "testimonial fee," both as defined in the act, and provides a procedure for determining such fees.

Provides a procedure for the court to resolve a dispute as to the contents of the above notice or whether the testimony sought or given is "expert testimony" or "fact testimony," both as defined in the act.

Specifically excludes the above provisions from continuing law specifying the fees and mileage allowed for witnesses in civil cases.

Requires the court to commit a mentally ill criminal defendant who is incompetent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity to the Department of Mental Health for an appropriate placement by the Department for the defendant's treatment and evaluation and not directly to a facility.
Permits a prosecutor to hold charges against a defendant charged with a nonviolent misdemeanor in abeyance while the defendant engages in mental health treatment or developmental disability services.

Designates the county or municipal indigent alcohol treatment fund in which the court costs imposed for a violation of an ordinance of a municipal corporation that is a moving violation or for an OVI violation are to be deposited, based on the court with jurisdiction over the municipal corporation.

Eliminates the duty of the Clerk of the Supreme Court to file annual reports of the transactions and proceedings of the Court with the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the State Library.

Moves the jurisdiction over the Village of West Millgrove from the Fostoria Municipal Court to the Bowling Green Municipal Court.

Modifies the experience qualification for a municipal judge, a judge of the court of common pleas, a judge of the court of appeals, and the Chief Justice and a justice of the Supreme Court to hold judicial office by removing the requirement that the minimum of six years of prior practice of law be in Ohio.

Requires that at least two of the six or more years of prior practice of law or prior service as a judge of a court of record in any jurisdiction in the United States that qualify the judge, Chief Justice, or justice specified above have been in Ohio.

Modifies the experience qualification generally for a county court judge to hold judicial office by removing the requirement that the minimum of six years of prior practice of law be in Ohio, requiring that the prior practice of law be in any jurisdiction in the United States and that at least two of the years of prior practice of law have been in Ohio.

Provides, as a new option for the disposal of unclaimed or forfeited firearms and dangerous ordnance in the custody of a law enforcement agency, that a court may order the sale of the unclaimed or forfeited firearms and dangerous ordnance, in a manner that the court considers is proper, to a federally licensed firearms dealer.

**LAKE ERIE COMMISSION**

Adds five members appointed by the Governor to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission in addition to the Directors of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, Health, Agriculture, and Transportation, or their designees, who comprise the Commission under law revised in part by the act.
LEGAL RIGHTS SERVICE

Requires establishment not later than December 31, 2011, of a nonprofit entity to provide advocacy services and client assistance for people with disabilities.

Requires that the entity be established so as to be in compliance with all federal law regarding a protection and advocacy system.

Requires, not later than September 30, 2012, the Governor to designate the entity as Ohio’s protection and advocacy system and client assistance program for people with disabilities, and specifies that, on October 1, 2012, the entity becomes the Ohio Protection and Advocacy System.

Effective October 1, 2012, abolishes the Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS), Legal Rights Service Commission, and OLRS Ombudsperson Section, and eliminates all statutory provisions regarding the OLRS, Commission, and OLRS Ombudsperson Section, except provisions dealing with access to and confidentiality of client records.

Provides for management and retention of OLRS personnel and fiscal records and for transfer of OLRS equipment, assets, and designated positions to the Ohio Protection and Advocacy System.

Requires that compensation that may be awarded in a class action lawsuit pursued by OLRS or, starting October 1, 2012, the Ohio Protection and Advocacy System for the work of OLRS and the System's attorneys or attorneys employed by another state agency or political subdivision be limited to the actual hourly rate of pay for that legal work.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Public notice requirements

Revises the requirements for a newspaper to qualify as a newspaper of general circulation in which public notices and advertisements are published, and applies the definition to the entire Revised Code.

Eliminates the requirement that publication be made in a newspaper published in a political subdivision, in two newspapers, or in two newspapers of opposite politics.

Eliminates the requirement that a newspaper have second-class postal privileges, and instead uses the standard of publishing notices and advertisements in a newspaper of general circulation.
Authorizes mediation under a program operated by the court of common pleas if a newspaper’s qualifications as a newspaper of general circulation are in question.

Specifies that if a codified statute or administrative rule requires a state agency or political subdivision to publish a notice or an advertisement two or more times in a newspaper and the statute or rule authorizes the use of an alternative publication procedure, the state agency or political subdivision may satisfy the multiple publication requirement by publishing the first notice or advertisement in its entirety in a newspaper of general circulation, which may be made in a pre-printed insert, and by publishing a second, abbreviated notice or advertisement in that newspaper and on the newspaper’s Internet web site, if any.

Requires the abbreviated notice to refer to the state public notice web site established under the act, on which web site the entire notice or advertisement must be posted.

Requires each newspaper to establish a government rate for publication of local government public notices and advertisements, which cannot exceed the lowest classified advertising rate and lowest insert rate paid by other advertisers.

Requires newspapers to post the notices and advertisements free on the newspaper’s Internet web site if the newspaper has one.

Requires all legal advertisements and notices to be printed in a newspaper of general circulation and posted on the state public notice web site.

Allows county auditors to charge a land or home owner a flat fee for the cost of publishing the land or home on the delinquent real property or delinquent manufactured home tax lists and to place the fee as a lien on tax delinquent parcels or manufactured homes if it is not paid.

Authorizes publication of a succinct summary of a local government’s ordinance, resolution, or rule in a newspaper of general circulation rather than the entire ordinance, resolution, or rule.

**Municipal parking facilities**

Allows the operation of municipal parking facilities: (1) by municipal officials and employees, (2) by any other person or specified public agency retained by a municipal corporation, or (3) under a public parking franchise granted to any person or specified public agency for a term of not more than 30 years upon a lump sum or a periodic fee payment, or both.
Political subdivision shared services

Authorizes, generally, political subdivisions to enter into agreements with other political subdivisions to perform services for one another.

Requires political subdivisions that enter into such an agreement to obtain the written consent of a non-participating subdivision before the agreement is performed within that non-participating subdivision.

Regional councils of governments

Authorizes a regional council of governments to enter into unit price contracts related to buildings or structures on behalf of member political subdivisions.

Local governments in fiscal distress

Creates a fiscal caution designation for municipal corporations, counties, and townships (local governments).

Requires local governments in fiscal watch to provide a financial recovery plan that identifies the actions to be taken, includes a schedule detailing the approximate dates for beginning and completing those actions, and provides a five-year forecast reflecting the effects of those actions.

With respect to local governments in fiscal emergency:

--Eliminates the requirement that, upon a fiscal emergency, a financial planning and supervision commission be established for all local governments, and instead specifies that for villages or townships with a population of less than 1,000, the Auditor of State will serve as the financial supervisor with all the powers and responsibilities of a commission;

--Requires that a local government's financial plan include a five-year forecast reflecting the effects of the actions specified in the plan and that the plan be updated annually;

--If a local government fails to submit a financial plan, or fails to substantially comply with it, and the commission gives its certification, requires that all state funding other than benefit assistance to individuals be escrowed until a plan is submitted or compliance is achieved;

--In addition to its ongoing authority to limit a local government's general fund expenditures, permits a commission to limit expenditures from any other fund if deemed prudent;
--Adds that, if an officer of a local government in fiscal emergency is convicted of certain violations of ongoing law, the officer is ineligible to hold any public office in Ohio or be employed by a public entity in Ohio for seven years after the conviction; and

--Provides for the dissolution of municipal corporations and townships that are in fiscal emergency and meet specified conditions.

Clarifies that the Auditor of State is to be reimbursed for all expenses incurred with respect to a fiscal emergency, fiscal watch, or fiscal caution from an appropriation for that purpose and that the Controlling Board may provide sufficient funds if necessary.

**Cost savings and modified work weeks**

Extends, from through fiscal year 2011 to through fiscal year 2013, the authority for a county appointing authority to establish a mandatory cost savings program in which its exempt employees must participate, and expands the program to apply to townships and municipal corporations.

Expands the definition of "fiscal emergency" for purposes of a county, township, or municipal corporation implementing mandatory cost savings days for its exempt employees in the event of a fiscal watch or fiscal emergency occurring in fiscal year 2014 or later.

Allows a county, township, or municipal corporation appointing authority to establish a modified work week schedule program applicable to its exempt employees.

**County centralized services**

Authorizes a board of county commissioners to require county offices to use centralized purchasing, printing, transportation, vehicle maintenance, human resources, revenue collection, and mail operation services.

Defines and limits the human resource services that a board may centralize.

Prohibits the board from centralizing certain purchasing, printing, and collection services.

**Continuing education for county recorders**

Requires a county recorder to attend and successfully complete at least 15 hours of continuing education courses during the first year of the recorder's term of office and at least another eight hours of continuing education courses each year of the remaining term.
Requires a county recorder to attend and successfully complete at least eight hours of continuing education courses in each year of a subsequent term of office.

Requires the Ohio Recorders' Association to approve continuing education courses, administer the continuing education requirements, and send a list to the Auditor of State of the courses and number of hours that each county recorder has successfully completed.

Requires that the Association issue an informational failure to complete notice to any county recorder who fails to successfully complete the required number of hours of continuing education courses.

Requires the board of county commissioners to approve, from money appropriated to the county recorder, a reasonable amount requested by the county recorder to cover the recorder's costs of continuing education.

**Medical care for confined persons**

Establishes the Medicaid reimbursement rate as the rate of payment for medical care provided to persons confined in multicounty, municipal-county, or multicounty-municipal correctional centers by medical providers not employed by or under contract with a municipal corporation or township participating in the center.

**Joint police districts**

Authorizes boards of township trustees and the legislative authorities of one or more contiguous municipal corporations, by adoption of a joint resolution, to create a joint police district comprising all or any part of the townships or municipal corporations as are mutually agreed on rather than a joint township police district.

Creates a joint police district board to govern the joint police district.

Grants the powers of a joint township police district board to a joint police district board such as the power to levy a property tax to defray all or a portion of the district's expenses in providing police protection and to issue bonds for buying police equipment.

Authorizes a township or municipal corporation to join or to withdraw from an existing joint police district.

**Township noise regulations**

By eliminating a date restriction, applies a township noise regulation to any business or industry regardless of when it came into existence.
Competitive bidding thresholds

Increases specific competitive bidding thresholds for townships and villages.

Increases from $10,000 to $25,000 the threshold amount that triggers competitive bidding for service contracts entered into by a board of park trustees for municipal park improvements.

Police constables

Adds, as one of the methods by which a limited home rule township may meet the requirement to provide law enforcement for the township, designating one or more police constables.

Township mergers

Authorizes one or more townships to merge into a contiguous township, creating a new township, by initiative petition of the voters of each township proposed for merger.

Authorizes the boards of township trustees to submit a question of merger to the voters of the townships to be merged for their approval.

Requires merging townships to enter into a merger agreement that contains specific terms and conditions of the merger, but, if no agreement is entered into or if only partial agreement is reached, requires the new township to function under default terms and conditions prescribed by the act.

Prohibits a merger from being proposed again for at least three years if the merger was disapproved by the voters.

Joint projects

Authorizes state institutions of higher education to participate in joint projects with a joint recreation district and other contracting subdivisions.

Adds educational facilities as one of the projects that may be jointly acquired, constructed, operated, or maintained.

Boards of health

Authorizes a board of county commissioners to donate or sell property, buildings, and furnishings to any board of health of a general or combined health district.
County spending plans

Authorizes a board of county commissioners to adopt a quarterly spending plan or amended spending plan for appropriations from any county fund for any county office, department, or division under certain circumstances.

Authorizes the board also to adopt a two-year spending plan or amended spending plan with a quarterly schedule of expenses and expenditures of appropriations for personal services and payrolls from any county fund for any county office, department, or division under certain circumstances.

Requires the board of county commissioners to give written notice to the county office, department, or division for which it intends to adopt a plan.

Township expenses

Allows townships to compensate the township fiscal officer and township trustees from various township funds, in addition to the township general fund, based on the proportion of time that the fiscal officer or township trustee spends providing services related to each fund.

Requires the township fiscal officer and township trustees to certify the percentage of time spent working on matters to be paid from the township general fund and other township funds.

Permits a board of township trustees to request that expenses incurred by a county board of elections in relation to a township tax levy ballot issue be withheld from a particular township fund credited with tax revenue in a tax settlement.

Bonds issued for real property

Allows general obligation bonds issued by a county to finance the acquisition or construction of real property to have a maximum maturity of up to 40 years if supported by a certification as to the property’s estimated useful life.

Regional transit authority

Until November 5, 2013: (1) creates an alternative procedure for municipal corporations and townships to join a regional transit authority (RTA) that levies a property tax and that includes in the RTA membership political subdivisions that are located in a county having a population of at least 400,000 by placing the issue on the ballot, and (2) allows a municipal corporation or township that is a member of such an RTA to withdraw from the RTA by placing the issue on the ballot; without end, allows a
municipal corporation or township that withdraws from any such RTA after placing the issue on the ballot to contract for the provision of transportation services.

   Prohibits an RTA from extending its service or facilities into another political subdivision without first notifying it, and gives the political subdivision 30 days after receiving the notice to comment on the proposal.

   Requires the Ohio Public Transit Association, in consultation with the Ohio Municipal League, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, and the Ohio Township Association, to study regional transit authority expansion outside territorial boundaries and provide a report to the General Assembly and the Governor not later than December 31, 2011.

**Municipal corporation mergers**

   Creates a new procedure whereby: (1) one or more municipal corporations, whether or not adjacent to one another, may merge with an adjacent municipal corporation, (2) the unincorporated area of a township may merge with one or more municipal corporations, or (3) one or more municipal corporations, whether or not adjacent to one another, may merge with an adjacent unincorporated area of a township.

   Requires the legislative authorities of the municipal corporations and the township proposing a merger to enter into a merger agreement that specifies the conditions of the proposed merger in identical ordinances and resolutions adopted by a simple majority vote of each legislative authority.

   Requires the legislative authorities of the municipal corporations and township, if any, proposed for merger to present the question of merger to the voters for their approval.

   Mandates that a municipal corporation merging into a township has only the rights, powers, and responsibilities afforded by law to townships and that all other authority ceases to exist on the effective date of the merger.

**County automatic data processing boards**

   Permits a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution requiring the county automatic data processing board to assume the duties of the county records commission and the county microfilming board, which resolution must specify the date on which the duties will be transferred.
Requires, if such a resolution is adopted to expand the duties of the county automatic data processing board, the prosecuting attorney, county engineer, county coroner, and sheriff and a judge of the court of common pleas to be added to the membership of the board.

Specifies that, after such a resolution is adopted, no county office may purchase, lease, operate, or contract for the use of any automatic data processing equipment, software, or services; microfilming equipment or services; records center or archives facilities; or any other image processing or electronic data processing or record-keeping equipment, software, or services without prior approval of the board.

Specifies that, if such a resolution is adopted, the functions, powers, duties, and obligations of the county records commission and the county microfilming board are transferred and assigned to, devolved upon, and assumed by the county automatic data processing board and that the county automatic data processing board must be deemed to constitute the continuation of the county records commission and the county microfilming board.

Permits the county automatic data processing board to establish an automatic data processing center, microfilming center, records center, archives, and any other centralized or decentralized facilities it considers necessary to fulfill its duties, and specifies that those centralized facilities must be used by all county offices.

Requires the county auditor to prepare an annual estimate of the revenues and expenditures of the county automatic data processing board and submit it to the board of county commissioners, and specifies that the automatic data processing board’s funds are to be disbursed by the county auditor’s warrant drawn on the county treasury five days after receipt of a voucher approved by a majority of that board and by a majority of the board of county commissioners.

Permits a county automatic data processing board to enter into a contract with the legislative authority of a political subdivision or special district, with the board of county commissioners or the automatic data processing board or microfilming board of any other county, or with any other federal or state governmental agency to provide microfilming, automatic data processing, or other image processing or electronic data processing or record-keeping services to any of them.

Expands the authority of a county microfilming board to include other image processing equipment, software, or services.
For a county automatic data processing board that is not expanded by resolution, expands its authority to include electronic data processing or record-keeping equipment, software, or services.

**Marinas**

Eliminates the licensure and inspection of marinas.

**Sewer and water districts**

Expands the scope of the contracting authority of a county sewer district when conveying water supply facilities and sewer facilities to a municipal corporation.

Declares that whenever any portion of a regional water and sewer district is incorporated as, or annexed to, a municipal corporation, the area incorporated or annexed remains under the jurisdiction of the district for purposes of the acquisition, construction, or operation of a water resource project until the project's completion or abandonment.

Establishes new contracting authority for regional water and sewer districts regarding the conveyance of water resource projects to municipal corporations.

**Public defender salaries**

Prohibits the pay ranges for a county public defender and a joint county public defender from exceeding the pay ranges for county prosecutors.

**Nontherapeutic abortions**

Prohibits the use of political subdivision funds, with limited exception, for paying the costs, premiums, or charges associated with a health care policy, contract, or plan that provides coverage, benefits, or services related to nontherapeutic abortion.

Defines "nontherapeutic abortion" to be any abortion that is performed when the life of the mother would not be endangered if the fetus was carried to term or the pregnancy was not the result of a reported rape or incest.

Allows for the use of political subdivision funds to pay for the costs, premiums, or charges associated with a health care policy, contract, or plan that includes a rider or other provision offered on an individual basis that allows an individual to obtain a nontherapeutic abortion if the individual pays all of the costs associated with the rider or other provision.
Prohibits the use of any institution, structure, equipment, or physical asset that is owned, leased, or controlled by the state or any political subdivision, with limited exception, for performing or inducing a nontherapeutic abortion.

**Attorney General collection of debts**

Authorizes a political subdivision to certify past due receivables to the Attorney General for collection.

**Public records**

Exempts from public records law usage information, including the names and addresses of specific residential and commercial customers of municipally owned or operated utilities.

Applies a provision allowing journalists to request the address of certain government employees to journalistic requests for customer information maintained by a municipally owned or operated public utility other than private financial information.

Consolidates, into one provision of law, the records retention procedure that formerly applied recurrently to municipal corporations, school districts, educational service centers, libraries, special taxing districts, and townships.

Revises and clarifies the procedure used by the Ohio Historical Society for selecting records of continuing historical value before the entities described above dispose of records.

Expands the training or educational programs the Attorney General may offer to include the records retention procedure.

**County microfilming boards**

Moves the date for meetings of a county microfilming board from the third Monday in January to the second Monday in January.

**Sanitary districts**

Establishes procedures for the exclusion of a municipal corporation or a township from the territory of a sanitary district established solely for the reduction of biting arthropods.
Township cemeteries

Authorizes boards of township trustees to make and enforce all needful rules and regulations for burial, interment, reinterment, or disinterment in the township cemetery.

Sheriff sales

Specifies that notices of sheriff sales must be published once a week for at least three consecutive weeks before the day of the sale.

Disbursement of court filing fees

Specifies that disbursements of certain fees collected by local trial courts are subject to a court report listing the use of the funds or appropriation by the board of county commissioners or, in the case of certain fees collected by municipal courts that are not county-operated, appropriation by the legislative authority of the municipal corporation.

STATE LOTTERY COMMISSION

Would have required the State Lottery Commission to promulgate rules regarding the type of notices that must appear on a lottery ticket, including one that provided information about the percentage of lottery profits contributed to all education funding in Ohio (VETOED).

Would have required the same notice to appear on any television advertising for the Ohio Lottery and on the first page of the Lottery’s web site (VETOED).

Authorizes the Commission to charge a lottery sales agent license applicant fees, rather than a fee, and makes it permissive for the Commission to charge those license fees and license renewal fees.

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

Permits, rather than requires, the State Medical Board to administer a licensure examination for a certificate to practice the limited branches of medicine of massage therapy and cosmetic therapy.

Provides that if it administers an examination, the Board must adopt by rule a fee for administering the examination.
Provides that if it does not administer an examination, the Board must adopt rules specifying an acceptable examination and an acceptable score.

Eliminates both the $250 licensure examination fee and the $35 examination of preliminary education fee, and instead establishes a $150 certificate application fee.

Increases the biennial certificate registration fee from $50 to $100.

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**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

Revises the law under which boards of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services (ADAMHS boards) receive subsidies from the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) by: (1) requiring ODMH to establish a methodology for allocating to ADAMHS boards, on a district or multi-district basis, the funds appropriated to ODMH for the purpose of local mental health systems of care, and (2) permitting ODMH to allocate to ADAMHS boards a portion of the funds appropriated to ODMH for the operation of state hospital services.

For fiscal years 2012 and 2013: (1) requires, rather than permits, ODMH to allocate to ADAMHS boards a portion of ODMH’s appropriation for state hospital services, (2) requires, with certain exceptions, a board to use the funds to pay for expenditures the board incurs in paying for inpatient hospitalization services provided by state regional psychiatric hospitals to persons involuntarily committed to the board, (3) authorizes ODMH, if the amount distributed to a board exceeds the amount that the board needs to pay for such expenditures, to permit the board to use the excess funds for the board’s community mental health plan, and (4) authorizes ODMH to permit a board to have a portion of the funds deposited into the ODMH Risk Fund.

Repeals a law that provided for ADAMHS boards’ community mental health plans to constitute applications for funds from ODMH, but maintains a law that conditions a board’s eligibility for state and federal funding on an approved community mental health plan or relevant part of a plan.

Eliminates requirements for: (1) ADAMHS boards to receive, compile, and transmit to ODMH applications for state reimbursement, and (2) ODMH to review, periodically during a year, the budgets and expenditures of the various facilities and community mental health agencies receiving funds.

Eliminates certain requirements applicable to an ADAMHS board that elects to accept distribution of its allocation, including requirements for the board to pay into the
ODMH Risk Fund and to provide ODMH with the board’s projected utilization of state hospitals and other state-operated services.

Requires an ADAMHS board, as a condition of electing not to accept distribution of its allocation, to provide ODMH written confirmation that the board has received input about the impact that the board’s election will have on the mental health system in the board’s district.

Eliminates the authority of an ADAMHS board to utilize a part of its budget as approved by ODMH to purchase insurance and to pool with funds of other boards to pay for the costs of utilizing state hospital facilities that exceed the amount of the board’s allocation.

Specifies that an ADAMHS board’s use of its allocated funds is subject to audit by county, state, and federal authorities.

Requires ODMH to charge unreimbursed costs for services that ODMH provides against an ADAMHS board’s allocation of funds for state hospital services.

Permits, rather than requires, ODMH to withhold state or federal funds from an ADAMHS board that denies an available service on the basis of religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origin, disability, or developmental disability, and eliminates ODMH’s authority to make a withholding on the grounds that a board denies an available service on the basis of the inability to pay.

Requires each ADAMHS board to develop its community mental health plan, and submit the plan to ODMH, annually rather than requiring each board to submit its plan not later than six months before the conclusion of the fiscal year in which the board’s current plan is scheduled to expire.

Eliminates requirements that: (1) an ADAMHS board’s community mental health plan include an explanation of how the board intends to make any payments that it may be required to make under the law governing the funds that ODMH allocates to boards, and (2) a board submit an allocation request for state and federal funds with its plan.

Eliminates the deadline by which ODMH had to approve or disapprove an ADAMHS board’s community mental health plan.

Permits an ADAMHS board and ODMH to request that a dispute regarding a community mental health plan be submitted to a third-party mediator at any time while approval remains in dispute rather than having to wait until there are 30 days remaining in the fiscal year in which the board’s current plan is scheduled to expire.
Eliminates a requirement that ODMH, when a community mental health plan is submitted to a third-party mediator, make its final determination regarding approval before the conclusion of that fiscal year.

Eliminates a provision under which an ADAMHS board’s amendment to its community mental health plan was considered to be approved if ODMH failed to approve it within 30 days after it was submitted.

Eliminates the responsibility of ODMH and ADAMHS boards to pay the nonfederal share for services provided under a component of the Medicaid program that ODMH administers, and makes the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) responsible for paying for such services.

Requires ODMH, notwithstanding ODJFS’s new responsibility, to allocate to ADAMHS boards mental health Medicaid match funds appropriated to ODMH for fiscal year 2012, requires the boards to use the funds to pay claims for community mental health services provided during that fiscal year under the ODMH-administered Medicaid component, and requires the boards also to use all federal financial participation that ODMH receives for claims for such services as the first payment source to pay such claims.

Requires ODMH to enter into an agreement with each ADAMHS board regarding the issue of paying claims that are for community mental health services provided before July 1, 2011, and submitted for payment on or after that date, and requires that such claims be paid in accordance with the agreements.

Provides for an ADAMHS board to receive the federal financial participation received for claims for community mental health services that were provided before July 1, 2011, and paid by the board.

Repeals a law that made the county of residence of an individual with mental illness responsible for: (1) the necessary expense of returning the individual to the individual’s county of residence, and (2) regular probate court fees and expenses incident to an order of hospitalization.

Gives members of a board of directors, and employees, of a facility or agency in which ODMH places a person committed to ODMH qualified immunity from liability for injury or damages that the person suffers.

Provides for the Attorney General to represent in civil actions persons who, pursuant to an agreement with ODMH, render medical, nursing, dental, podiatric, optometric, physical therapeutic, psychiatric, or psychological services to patients in an institution that ODMH operates.
Provides that a prohibition against an ADAMHS board member being an employee of an agency with which the board contracts for services or facilities does not apply if the board member's employment duties with the agency consist of providing, only outside the district that the board serves, services for which the Medicaid program pays.

Gives ODMH all the authority necessary to carry out its powers and duties under state law governing ODMH.

Authorizes the ODMH Director to contract with agencies, institutions, and other entities as necessary for ODMH to carry out its duties under state laws governing ODMH, ADAMHS boards, criminal offenses against the family, criminal trials, and mentally ill persons subject to hospitalization by court order.

Exempts such contracts from state law governing the state's purchases of services if the contracts are for services provided to individuals with mental illness by agencies, institutions, and other entities not owned or operated by ODMH.

Provides for ODMH contracts concerning the custody, supervision, care, or treatment of mentally ill persons receiving services elsewhere than within an ODMH hospital also to provide for the evaluation of such persons.

Eliminates a requirement for ODMH to establish and support a program at the state level to promote a community support system for every ADAMHS district, and instead requires that ODMH support, to the extent ODMH has available resources and in consultation with ADAMHS boards, a community support system on a district or multi-district basis.

Eliminates a requirement that ODMH assist in coordinating the planning, evaluation, and delivery of services to facilitate mentally ill persons' access to public services at federal, state, and local levels.

Permits ODMH to prioritize support for one or more of the elements of a community support system.

Provides that ODMH's responsibility for promoting and supporting a full range of mental health services that are available and accessible to all Ohio residents applies to the extent ODMH has available resources.

Provides that the requirement for the ODMH Director to develop and operate a community mental health information system or systems applies to the extent the ODMH Director determines necessary, and permits the ODMH Director to contract for the operation of the system or systems.
Requires the ODMH Director to consult with ADAMHS boards before developing and operating the community mental health information system or systems.

Requires the ODMH Director to accept from a community mental health agency its accreditation from specified national accrediting organizations as evidence that the agency satisfies Ohio's standards for state certification of the agency's services if the Director determines that the agency’s accreditation is current and appropriate for the services for which the agency is seeking certification, and specifies that the agency's services are generally not subject to further evaluation.

Requires the ODMH Director and the Director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), not later than December 31, 2011, and in consultation with persons interested in the issues of mental health residential facilities and community behavioral health services and programs, to identify areas of duplicative documentation requirements, align the documentation standards of ODMH and ODADAS, streamline Ohio's standards regarding facilities and services with federal standards, and promote the integration of behavioral and physical health services.

Requires ODMH to use money in its Trust Fund to pay for expenditures that ODMH incurs in performing any of its duties under state law rather than for specific mental health purposes.

Transfers from the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) to ODMH the administration of the Residential State Supplement Program (RSS), and provides that no person receiving RSS payments is to be affected by the transfer.

Eliminates a requirement to prepare an annual report for the General Assembly on the costs and savings achieved through a Home First process for RSS recipients.

Eliminates a requirement that certain facilities be certified by ODA for residents to be eligible for RSS payments.

Transfers from ODA to ODMH responsibility for the certification of adult foster homes, and continues the requirement that employees in direct care positions undergo criminal records checks.

Transfers from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to ODMH responsibility for licensing adult care facilities.

Requires ODMH, rather than the Public Health Council, to adopt rules governing adult care facilities, and specifies what the rules are permitted, rather than required, to include.
Authorizes inspections of adult care facilities to be conducted as desk audits or on-site inspections.

Provides that if an inspection is conducted to investigate an alleged violation in an adult care facility serving residents receiving publicly funded mental health services or RSS Program payments, the inspection may, rather than must, be coordinated with the appropriate mental health agency, ADAMHS board, or RSS, rather than PASSPORT, administrative agency.

Adds the right to be free from seclusion and mechanical restraint to the rights of an adult care facility resident, and modifies the definition of "physical restraint."

Removes the ODA Director and residents' rights advocates from the list of individuals who are authorized to assert on behalf of adult care facility residents their statutory residents' rights.

Eliminates the authority of residents' rights advocates and sponsors of current or prospective residents to enter an adult care facility during reasonable hours.

If a court grants injunctive relief for operating an adult care facility without a license, eliminates a requirement that the facility assist residents' rights advocates in relocating facility residents, and instead requires the facility to assist in relocating residents.

Specifies that certain government and mental health agency employees and the ODMH Director may release resident-identifying information from the records of an adult care facility, without the resident's consent, if authorized by law to do so.

Requires criminal records checks of applicants for employment with an adult care facility in a position involving direct care to adult residents rather than only those positions involving direct care to older adults, i.e. persons 60 or older.

Authorizes: (1) hospitals licensed by ODMH to exchange with other healthcare providers a patient's psychiatric records and other pertinent information if the purpose of exchanging the confidential information is to facilitate the continuity of the patient's care, and (2) ODMH hospitals, institutions, and facilities, ODMH-licensed hospitals, and community mental health agencies to exchange such records and information with payers.

Authorizes the conveyance of state-owned real estate to the Board of County Hospital Trustees of The MetroHealth System in Cuyahoga County, and requires the ODMH Director to disburse $3.4 million from capital appropriation item C58010,
Campus Consolidation, to the grantee within 30 days after the conveyance to pay for demolishing the building situated on the real estate.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Authorizes the Director of Natural Resources to enter into contracts or agreements with any federal agency, other public agency, or private entity or organization for the performance of the Department of Natural Resources' duties.

Eliminates the Natural Resources Publications and Promotional Materials Fund.

Requires the transfer of the remaining cash balance in the Natural Resources Publications and Promotional Materials Fund to the Departmental Projects Fund and the Geological Mapping Fund in amounts determined by the Director of Budget and Management in consultation with the Director of Natural Resources.

Requires all moneys from the sale of books, bulletins, maps, or other publications and promotional materials on and after July 1, 2011, to be credited to the Departmental Projects Fund or the Geological Mapping Fund as determined by the Director of Natural Resources.

Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Forestry to enter into a personal service contract for consulting services to assist the Chief with the sale of timber or other forest products and related inventory.

Revises and expands the purposes for which money credited to the Geological Mapping Fund may be used, and requires money collected from fees for products provided and services performed by the Division of Geological Survey as required by the act to be credited to the Fund.

Revises the duties of the Division of Geological Survey concerning all of the following:

--Types of mineralogical and geological raw materials and natural resources data that must be collected, studied, and interpreted;

--Special studies and reports of the state's geological resources that are of economic, environmental, or educational significance or significance to public health, welfare, and safety;

--Storing and cataloging of data, maps, diagrams, records, rock core, samples, profiles, and geologic sections of the state; and
--Advising, consulting, and collaborating with state agencies, other state governments, and the federal government on geological problems or issues.

Authorizes the Division of Geological Survey to create custom products and provide information on Ohio's geological nature to governmental agencies, colleges and universities, and persons.

Requires the Chief of the Division of Geological Survey to adopt rules establishing fee schedules for:

--Providing manipulated, interpreted, or analyzed data from the Division's archived geologic records, data, maps, rock core, and samples; and

--Creating custom maps, custom data sets, or other custom products and providing information on Ohio's geological nature.

Revises the requirements governing well logs and related reports, and establishes a fine for failure to comply with the requirements.

Revises the purposes for which the Chief of Geological Survey may obtain temporary assistance from specified persons by authorizing the Chief to obtain such assistance for studies and plans for economic development or geologic hazards projects rather than for erosion projects as in prior law.

Creates the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management in the Department of Natural Resources, and transfers to the Division the functions and duties of the Division of Mineral Resources Management in the Department with respect to oil and gas.

Excludes from the Division of Ohio and Gas Resources Management’s exclusive authority under law largely retained by the act to regulate the permitting, location, and spacing of oil and gas wells and production operations only those activities that are regulated under federal laws for which oversight has been delegated to the Environmental Protection Agency and activities that are regulated under the statutes governing isolated wetlands.

States that the Oil and Gas Law and rules adopted under it constitute a comprehensive plan with respect to all aspects of well stimulation and completion.

Adds site construction and permitting related to site construction and restoration to the activities that are specifically identified as being subject to uniform statewide regulation.
Establishes a setback of 50 feet for a new well or a new tank battery of a well from a body of water, and authorizes the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management to reduce the distance if it is necessary to reduce impacts to the owner of the land or to protect public safety or the environment.

Allows the surface location of a new well that will be drilled using directional drilling to be located on a parcel of land that is not in the drilling unit of the well, provided that the surface location complies with setback requirements established in ongoing law and the act.

Expands the definition of "production operation" in the Oil and Gas Law.

Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Ohio and Gas Resources Management to issue compliance notices.

Transfers the management of the Ohio Natural Heritage Database from the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves to the Division of Wildlife.

Requires the Chief of the Division of Wildlife, in addition to the Chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, to prepare and maintain surveys and inventories of rare and endangered species of plants and animals and other unique natural features for inclusion in the Database.

Requires the Ohio Natural Areas Council to advise the Director of Natural Resources or the Director's designee, rather than the Chief of the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves as in former law, regarding nature preserves and natural areas.

Revises the membership of the Ohio Natural Areas Council by terminating the terms of office of the members serving on September 29, 2011 and providing for the appointment of new members, and requires members to be appointed by the Governor rather than the Director of Natural Resources as in prior law.

Increases the frequency of Ohio Natural Areas Council meetings.

Requires a nonresident owner of land in Ohio and the owner's children and grandchildren, if applicable, to purchase a nonresident hunting license, deer or wild turkey permit, fur-taker permit, or nonresident fishing license by applying the exemptions in law revised by the act for landowners and their families only to Ohio residents.

Allows all of the following to hunt without a license, take deer or wild turkey without a permit, hunt or trap fur-bearing animals without a permit, and fish without a
license on land owned by a limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or a trust:

--A resident individual, including the individual's children of any age and, for a hunting license, grandchildren under 18 years of age, who is a member of a limited liability company that has three or fewer members;

--A resident individual, including the individual's children of any age and, for a hunting license, grandchildren under 18 years of age, who is a member of a limited liability partnership that has three or fewer partners; and

--A resident individual, including the individual's children of any age and, for a hunting license, grandchildren under 18 years of age, who is a trustee or a beneficiary of a trust whose total number of trustees and beneficiaries does not exceed three individuals.

Prohibits a wild animal hunting preserve from being located within 1,500 feet, rather than 3,000 feet as in former law, of another hunting preserve or of a commercial bird shooting preserve.

Requires the boundaries of a wild animal hunting preserve to be clearly defined by the posting of signs at intervals of not more than 400 feet rather than 200 feet as in former law.

Allows the Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation to sell or otherwise dispose of by lawful means forest products, in addition to timber as in ongoing law, that require management for specified reasons, and adds to those reasons implementation of sustainable forestry practices.

Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Chief of the Division of Forestry to allow the Division of Forestry to administer the sale of timber and forest products on lands owned or controlled by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Requires 75% of any proceeds from such a sale to be credited to the State Park Fund and 25% to be credited to the State Forest Fund.

Alters the distribution of the proceeds of the sale of standing timber from state forest lands to provide 35% to the State Forest Fund and 65% to the county where the timber was harvested to be redistributed rather than 25% to the State Forest Fund, 65% to the county where the timber was harvested to be redistributed, and 10% to the General Revenue Fund as in former law.
Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Forestry to annually request the Director of Budget and Management to transfer to the Wildfire Suppression Fund not more than $100,000 from the State Forest Fund rather than from the General Revenue Fund as in prior law.

Requires the Administrator of Workers’ Compensation each fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013, when requested by the Director of Natural Resources, to transfer from the investment earnings of the Coal-Workers Pneumoconiosis Fund an amount not to exceed $3 million to the Mine Safety Fund and an amount not to exceed $1.5 million to the Coal Mining Administration and Reclamation Reserve Fund.

Eliminates former law that instead authorized the Administrator of Workers’ Compensation to transfer an unspecified portion of the investment earnings to the Mine Safety Fund.

Requires the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission to establish a Conservation Program Delivery Task Force.

Requires the Conservation Program Delivery Task Force to make recommendations to the Director of Natural Resources regarding how soil and water conservation districts may advance operations while continuing to provide local program leadership, and requires that the final report of recommendations be submitted no later than December 31, 2011.

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**OPTICAL DISPENSERS BOARD**

Eliminates the prorated fee schedule for the optician licensure application, and makes the fee $50 regardless of which quarter of the calendar year the application is submitted.

Decreases from $75 to $50 the reciprocity fee for out-of-state opticians seeking licensure in Ohio.

Increases from $10 to $20 the initial and annual optician apprentice registration fees.
STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

Increases from $110 to $130 the initial and renewal fees for an optometrist certificate of licensure.

Increases from $25 to $45 the initial and renewal fees for an optometrist therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate and the renewal fee for an optometrist topical ocular pharmaceutical agents certificate.

Increases from $75 to $125 the fee for late completion of continuing optometric education, and creates a fee of $125 for late submission of the continuing education or both late completion and late submission.

Increases from $75 to $125 the fee for late renewal of one or more expired optometrist certificates.

STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

Exempts the following from the requirement to be licensed as a pain management clinic: (1) a facility operated by a hospital for the treatment of pain or chronic pain, (2) a physician practice owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by a hospital or an entity that owns or controls, in whole or in part, one or more hospitals, and (3) an interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation program with specified accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Modifies a provision prohibiting a pain management clinic from employing an individual with a felony record by specifying that the prohibition applies only if the offense was a felony drug abuse offense or a felony theft offense.

Authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy to contract with private entities for processing licensure applications for wholesale and terminal distributor of dangerous drugs, requires the Board to give preference to Ohio-based companies when entering into the contracts, and prohibits the contracts from transferring to the private entities any of the Board's enforcement or disciplinary authority.

Increases from $150 to $750 the initial and renewal registration fees charged to wholesale distributors of dangerous drugs.

Increases from $55 to $150 the penalty for reinstatement of a wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs registration certificate that has not been timely renewed.
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Restricts the issuance of Freemason license plates to persons who are members in good standing of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio.

Modifies the provisions governing the sale of a used motor vehicle by a motor vehicle dealer and a used manufactured home or mobile home by a manufactured housing dealer when the dealer does not have a certificate of title to the vehicle or home in the dealer's name.

Modifies the payments that motor vehicle and manufactured housing dealers must make to the Attorney General for deposit into the Title Defect Recision Fund.

Repeals a provision in the Motor Vehicle Dealers Law regarding a vehicle repair guarantee.

Revises the application requirements for a new motor vehicle dealer's license and for a motor vehicle salesperson's license.

Repeals an exception that permitted two or more motor vehicle dealers to sell manufactured or mobile homes in the same manufactured home park without having to agree to joint, several, and personal liability.

Makes changes to the Motor Vehicle Dealers Law to conform with Am. Sub. H.B. 1 of the 128th General Assembly.

Clarifies the relationship between a construction equipment auction license issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and auction-related licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Exempts, from regulation by the Power Siting Board, manufacturing facilities that create byproducts that may be used in the generation of electricity as defined by the Board.

Requires the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), by the end of 2011, to determine appropriate methods to ensure that the reduction in assessments for the Office of the Consumers' Counsel for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 is distributed to the benefit of utility customers, and requires timely implementation.
Repeals the Community-voicemail Service Pilot Program, and requires assessments made under the Pilot Program to cease and the PUCO to refund the assessments, without interest, by August 29, 2011.

**OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Term of the Chancellor**

Changes the Chancellor’s term of office from five years to the term of the appointing Governor.

Changes removal of the Chancellor to the pleasure of the Governor instead of by the Governor only for specific reasons.

**Residency status for in-state tuition**

Grants residency status, for purposes of in-state college tuition, to Ohio high school graduates who enroll in a state institution of higher education and re-establish domicile in Ohio regardless of residence prior to enrollment.

Refuses residency status, for purposes of in-state college tuition, to any person who is not a U.S. citizen or U.S. national unless the person has been granted the right either: (1) to live in the U.S. permanently and without work restrictions, or (2) to reside temporarily in the U.S.

**College costs**

Limits annual increases in in-state undergraduate tuition for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 to: (1) 3.5%, in the case of state universities, university branches, and the Northeast Ohio Medical University, and (2) $200, in the case of community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges.

Requires each state institution of higher education to submit to the Chancellor, by December 31, 2011, a plan to reduce the cost to students of textbooks and other educational resource materials.

**Charter universities**

Requires the Chancellor to develop a plan for designating public institutions of higher education as charter universities, allowing qualifying institutions increased flexibility in managing their finances and operations.
Requires the Chancellor to report, by August 15, 2011, recommendations for changes in policy, statute, and administrative rules, and states the General Assembly’s intent to take actions necessary for implementation of the plan to commence July 1, 2012.

Prohibits formation of charter universities, and adoption, amendment, or recission of rules designating charter universities by the Chancellor, until the General Assembly enacts legislation establishing a procedure to designate charter universities.

**Three-year baccalaureate degrees**

Requires all state institutions of higher education that offer baccalaureate degrees to issue a statement describing a method of earning those degrees in three years, and sets a timeline by which institutions must complete the statements for 10% and 60% of majors offered, not including programs that qualify as cooperative education programs.

**College remediation**

Requires the presidents of the state institutions of higher education jointly to establish by December 31, 2012, uniform statewide standards in math, science, reading, and writing for a student to be considered as having a remediation-free status.

Requires the state institutions annually to report: (1) their remediation costs, both in the aggregate and disaggregated according to the school districts from which the students graduated, and (2) any other information with respect to remedial courses that the Chancellor considers appropriate.

Requires the Chancellor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue an annual report recommending policies and strategies for reducing the need for college remedial courses at state institutions.

**Distance and digital learning**

Requires that the distance learning clearinghouse be located, during the 2011-2013 biennium, in the Ohio Resource Center for Mathematics, Science, and Reading administered by the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University.

Requires that each school district, community school, and STEM school: (1) encourage and assist students to take advantage of distance learning offered through the clearinghouse, and (2) award credit for successfully completed courses equal to credit that would be awarded for similar courses offered by the district or school.
Establishes guiding principles for the clearinghouse for students in grades K-12, including that students may earn unlimited academic credit through distance learning, may utilize distance learning for all or any portion of their curriculum requirements, and may take distance learning courses throughout the calendar year.

Establishes the Ohio Digital Learning Task Force to make recommendations, by March 1, 2012, to the Governor and General Assembly on the expansion of digital learning opportunities.

Requires the Chancellor to take steps to: (1) facilitate full implementation of digital textbook pilot programs planned at state institutions of higher education, and (2) ensure that those pilot programs examine cost savings, efficiencies, and academic benefits of digital content.

**Other provisions**

Allows colleges and universities to propose Choose Ohio First initiatives that award scholarships for a STEMM (science, technology, engineering, math, or medicine) teacher education master's program to students who establish domicile in Ohio and commit to teach for at least three years in a hard-to-staff Ohio school district.

Expands the definition of products that employees of public colleges or universities may hold equity in, under rules adopted by the institution's board of trustees, to include intellectual property.

Prohibits state institutions of higher education from denying benefits to a religious student group based on the group's requirement that its leaders and members adhere to its sincerely held religious beliefs or standards of conduct.

Permits a state institution of higher education to enter into an agreement to convey auxiliary facilities to a conduit entity, which will enter into a lease-leaseback agreement with an independent funding source.

Authorizes state institutions of higher education and university housing commissions to enter into lease agreements with nonpublic vendors to provide campus housing facilities.

Eliminates the Ohio State University Highway and Transportation Research Fund, and requires the cash balance in the Fund to be paid to The Ohio State University.
Revises the authority of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), a county, or a municipal corporation to contract for the private operation and management of a state or specified local correctional facility by a private person or entity by repealing a two-year limitation on the duration of an initial contract and repealing a requirement that the contractor generally must be accredited by the American Correctional Association.

Expressly authorizes DRC's Director and the Director of Administrative Services to contract with a private person or entity for the private operation of the Lake Erie Correctional Facility, the Grafton Correctional Institution, the North Coast Correctional Treatment Facility, the North Central Correctional Institution, and the vacated correctional facility previously operated by the Department of Youth Services that is adjacent to the North Central Correctional Institution, which the act transfers to DRC and renames the North Central Correctional Institution Camp, and the transfer of the state's right, title, and interest in the facility to the private person or entity, and requires additional terms in a contract of that nature.

Authorizes the sale of the state's right, title, and interest in the real property on which a facility described above is situated and any surrounding land to the private person or entity privately operating the facility pursuant to a contract described above.

Specifies that any facility described above that is transferred must be returned to the county auditor's tax list and duplicate and is subject to all real property taxes and assessments, that no exemption from real property taxation under the Taxable Property Law applies to any such facility that is sold, and that the gross receipts and income of a contractor to whom any such facility is sold that are derived from operating the facility are exempt from gross receipts and income taxes levied by the state and its subdivisions.

Specifies that after the sale of any facility described above, the state has a right to repurchase the facility if the contractor wants to sell or otherwise transfer the facility or becomes insolvent, defaults on the contract, or defaults on the financial agreement for the purchase of the facility, and would have established a formula for determining the maximum repurchase price (PARTIALLY VETOED).

Provides that if a contract for the operation and management of a facility described above is terminated, the operation and management of the facility must be transferred to another contractor under the same terms or DRC and that the new contractor or DRC may purchase the terminated contractor's equipment, supplies, furnishings, and consumables.
Requires that any case challenging the constitutionality of the act's provisions regarding the sale of DRC facilities or the legality of certain official actions taken pursuant to those provisions be brought in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and that the case and any appeal from a final order in the case be given priority and be decided expeditiously.

Permits rather than requires DRC to provide laboratory services to itself and the Departments of Mental Health (DMH), Developmental Disabilities, and Youth Services.

Expands the definition of a DRC "psychiatric hospital" operated for the treatment of inmates to also include a part of a facility.

Provides that a psychiatric hospital is all or a part of a facility that is operated and managed by DMH pursuant to an agreement with DRC or an accredited psychiatric hospital licensed by DMH and operated and managed by DRC or a contractor of DRC.

Transfers specified responsibilities related to inmate patient care and treatment from the warden of a psychiatric hospital to DRC.

Provides that any money received by DRC for agricultural products produced in penal and correctional institutions be deposited into the Ohio Penal Industries Manufacturing Fund.

 Renames the Services and Agricultural Fund the Institutional Services Fund.

 Modifies the purposes for which money in the Institutional Services Fund may be used.

 Modifies the purposes for which money in the Ohio Penal Industries Manufacturing Fund may be used.

 Permits the Division of Business Administration in DRC to enter into a lease or agreement with a state agency, political subdivision, or private entity that allows the agency, subdivision, or entity to use property and facilities that are under DRC's jurisdiction, but that are not being used by it.

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**REHABILITATION SERVICES COMMISSION**

Adds the Administrator of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC) as a member of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council.
Requires funding agreements between ORSC and a public or private entity to comply with federal regulations for third-party cooperative agreements by public agencies.

Increases from 13% to 25% the maximum percentage of funds that ORSC may receive under a third-party funding agreement, and removes the specification that ORSC use the funds for administration.

**RETIRED**

Designates a retirement plan a provider for purposes of Ohio law governing alternative retirement plans if it was established by a public institution of higher education prior to July 1, 2000, and is a qualified trust under federal tax law.

Except for the contributions to mitigate negative financial impact on the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and interest on those contributions, provides that such an institution is not required to pay any retirement contributions or interest due STRS for an employee who made an election prior to July 1, 2000.

Permits an institution that failed to timely file with STRS a copy of an election made prior to July 1, 2000, to file it not later than December 28, 2011.

**STATE BOARD OF SANITARIAN REGISTRATION**

Increases the registration renewal fee for a registered sanitarian and a sanitarian-in-training from $74 to $80.

Increases the late fee for a renewal application from $27 to $50, and specifies that the late fee is in addition to the renewal fee.

Authorizes the State Board of Sanitarian Registration to establish by rule fees for additional copies of pocket identification cards and wall certificates.

**SCHOOL FACILITIES COMMISSION**

Increases from one year to 13 months the period after which the conditional approval of state funding for a school district’s classroom facilities construction project lapses if the district voters do not approve a bond issue and tax levy to pay the district’s portion of the project cost.
Specifies procedures for setting a new project scope and cost estimate for districts for which funding has lapsed.

Requires that funds that are reserved to pay the state and school district shares of all projects be spent simultaneously, in proportion to their respective shares, instead of spending the state funds first.

Specifies procedures for close-out of projects.

Codifies and makes permanent the Corrective Action Program.

Eliminates the prohibition of a school district that is within three fiscal years of eligibility for the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program from participating in the Exceptional Needs Program.

Codifies and makes permanent an Exceptional Needs sub-program to assist districts to relocate or replace a facility due to environmental contamination.

Authorizes the School Facilities Commission, with Controlling Board approval, to provide funding to a STEM school that is not governed by a single school district board, and requires the STEM school to secure at least 50% of the total cost from nonstate sources.

Would have revised the method for computing the wealth percentile rankings of school districts, including Expedited Local Partner districts, that had relatively higher percentages of tangible personal property valuation before the law phased out the tax on most tangible personal property (VETOED).

Permits a school district that received classroom facilities assistance under pre-1997 law and that is eligible for additional assistance to undertake a segment that addresses only part of a facility to renovate or replace work from the earlier project.

Adds the cost of nonrequired locally funded initiatives, in an amount of up to 50% of the district’s project cost, to the list of improvements for which a district participating in a state-assisted classroom facilities project may incur debt in excess of the ordinary debt limit of 9% of its tax valuation.

Modifies the standards by which the Superintendent of Public Instruction may certify a school district as a special needs district that may exceed the ordinary debt limit to acquire permanent improvements.

Increases the debt that a special needs district may incur.
Permits a joint vocational school district, in the same resolution, to commit existing or new tax levies to finance the annual debt service on bonds issued for both its state-assisted classroom facilities project and locally funded initiatives related to that project.

Requires school districts, when applying to the School Facilities Commission to purchase energy conservation measures, to report both: (1) forgone residual value of materials or equipment replaced by the energy conservation measures, and (2) a baseline analysis of energy consumption data for the preceding five years.

Requires that a district’s report on its monitoring of the approved energy cost-saving measures be submitted annually to the Commission instead of made available to the Commission upon request.

Authorizes the Commission to request the Director of Administrative Services to debar a contractor from contract awards for Commission projects in the same manner the Director debars contractors from contracts for other public improvements.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Removes the requirement for the Secretary of State to compile and publish specified numbers of nonelectronic copies of election statistics and official rosters of officers.

Requires the Secretary of State to charge a filing fee for multiple agents’ change filings.

Creates the Information Systems Fund in the state treasury for the information technology related expenses of the Secretary of State’s office.

Creates the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Fund in the state treasury, and specifies that HAVA moneys received by the Secretary of State from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission are to be credited to the Fund and used for activities conducted pursuant to HAVA.

Creates the Election Reform/Health and Human Services Fund in the state treasury, and specifies that HAVA moneys received by the Secretary of State from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are to be credited to the Fund and used to assure access for disabled individuals.

Establishes a privately funded Citizen Education Fund in the state treasury, and requires the Secretary of State to use moneys in the Fund for preparing, printing, and
distributing voter registration and educational materials and for conducting related workshops and conferences.

Eliminates the Secretary of State's duty to publish and distribute the session laws in a bound format, and provides for more flexible publishing and distribution requirements.

Abolishes the Secretary of State Business Technology Fund.

Requires the Secretary of State to use ordinary or electronic mail instead of certified mail or notices sent in writing to give businesses certain notices.

Harmonizes inconsistent filing fee statutes by referencing the statute specifying fees to be charged by the Secretary of State.

Increases from $1,800 to $2,400 the fee that must be paid by a voting machine vendor in order to have the Board of Voting Machine Examiners test the voting equipment for possible certification in Ohio.

Allows a nonprofit corporation that is formed under Ohio law to convert into another, specified entity if the conversion is also permitted by the law under which the converted entity would exist.

Defines "entity" as used in the Nonprofit Corporation Law.

Expands the definition of "entity," as used in the Limited Liability Company Law, to include nonprofit corporations.

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SOUTHERN OHIO AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND

Repeals the limitation that no more than 5% of the total disbursements, encumbrances, and obligations of the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation had to be for administrative expenses in the same fiscal year.
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Tax exemptions for privatized state services

Exempts from the commercial activity tax and state and local income and sales/use taxes private contractors contracting to operate the turnpike and to operate the liquor merchandising function, i.e. JobsOhio.

Continues tax exemption of real property used by such contractors if the state continues to own the property during the contract.

Local Government Fund and Public Library Fund

Reduces the amount of state tax revenue credited to the Local Government Fund (LGF) to 75% of fiscal year 2011 levels for each month between August 2011 and June 2012 and to 50% of fiscal year 2011 levels for all months in fiscal year 2013.

Reduces the amount of state tax revenue credited to the Public Library Fund (PLF) for all months between August 2011 and June 2013 to 95% of fiscal year 2011 levels.

Provides that distributions to the LGF and PLF after fiscal year 2013 will depend on the total amount allocated to the respective funds in fiscal year 2013 as a percentage of total state tax revenue credited to the General Revenue Fund (GRF) in that fiscal year.

Requires, beginning in August 2011, pro rata distributions from the LGF to county undivided LGFs and municipal corporations based on the proportionate share each subdivision received from the LGF in fiscal year 2011, and reflecting the 25% (FY 2012) and 50% (FY 2013) reductions in the tax revenue credited to the LGF.

Requires minimum distributions to county LGFs in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, such that a county that received a total distribution of over $750,000 in fiscal year 2011 may not receive less than $750,000, while county LGFs that would receive less than $750,000 because of the reductions must receive at least the same amount the county LGF received in fiscal year 2011.

Provides a supplemental payment to county LGFs in FY 2012 in a total amount of $49,270,000, to be distributed on a pro rata basis according to each county LGF’s share of the FY 2011 LGF.

Authorizes, for the period between July and December 2011, pro rata distributions from the PLF to counties based on the proportionate share each county
received in 2010 and, for the period between January 2012 and June 2013, pro rata distributions to counties based on the proportionate share each county received in 2011.

Provides that county undivided LGFs must no longer receive 5/8 of the revenue from the dealers in intangibles tax on unaffiliated dealers, and instead allocates all revenue from that tax to the GRF.

**Tangible personal property tax reimbursements**

Decreases the portion of commercial activity tax and kilowatt-hour tax revenue earmarked for reimbursing school districts and other taxing units for business and public utility personal property tax losses, and increases the GRF portion.

Requires all natural gas distribution tax revenue to be credited to the GRF.

Replaces the previous business and public utility property reimbursement schedules for fixed-rate levy losses with ones that:

--Over the FY 2012-2013 fiscal biennium, terminate payments if a taxing unit's reimbursement for calendar year 2010 (non-school taxing units) or fiscal year 2011 (school districts) fails to exceed an annually increasing threshold percentage of the taxing unit's total resources, that is, a fixed measure of its state aid and local levy revenues;

--Over the FY 2012-2013 fiscal biennium, reduce payments for taxing units whose 2010 or 2011 reimbursement exceeds the threshold percentage by paying the unit its 2010 or 2011 reimbursement minus the threshold percentage of its total resources; and

--After the biennium, reimburse taxing units at FY 2013 (schools) or tax year 2013 (others) levels indefinitely for taxing units that received payments in FY 2013 or tax year 2013.

Reduces the reimbursements for non-current expense fixed-rate levy losses over the biennium for school districts and municipal corporations, and provides that other taxing units’ non-current expense, fixed-rate levies, if any exist, are disregarded.

Retains the prior law reimbursements for unvoted debt levies and fixed-sum levies, i.e. school district emergency and similar fixed-dollar levies and voted debt levies.

Requires debt levies authorized by a municipal charter to be levied without a vote of municipal electors to be reimbursed as an unvoted debt levy.
Reduces the business personal property reimbursement frequency for school districts from three payments per year (one-third in August, October, and May) to two payments per year (two-thirds in November and one-third in May).

Changes the business property reimbursement installment fractions for non-school taxing units to one-seventh in May and six-sevenths in November through 2013, and thereafter to one-half in both May and November.

Terminates payments of surplus public utility property reimbursement money remaining in the Local Government Property Tax Replacement Fund after all reimbursement was paid by eliminating provisions under which the surplus was distributed among counties on a per-capita and prorated utility property tax loss basis and was paid to taxing units in the counties in proportion to current property taxes.

Changes the manner of apportioning reimbursement payments among school districts that have transferred or merged territory to reflect the changes in the factors for computing reimbursement payments and to apportion payments on the basis of the per-pupil values of those factors.

Changes the default method for apportioning reimbursement payments among other local governments for mergers or annexations from a property value basis to a square mileage basis.

Phases out the county administrative fee losses caused by the tangible personal property tax phase-out from 2012 to 2016, and provides that the reimbursement is to equal a percentage of the 2010 administrative fee loss reimbursement – 80% for 2012 and declining to 0% in 2016 in 20% increments.

Repeals the law creating, as of January 1, 2011, the Public Utility Tax Study Committee, which was to study the extent to which school districts had been compensated by the tax loss reimbursements.

**Job retention, investment tax credits and other credits**

Expands the job retention tax credit (JRTC) program, which includes both a permanent nonrefundable and a temporary refundable credit program, to provide for a new, separate refundable tax credit available to certain eligible businesses for a limited time.

Requires recipients of the new refundable credit to have an annual payroll of at least $20 million, invest at least $5 million at a project site located within the same jurisdiction as that in which the business has its principal place of business, and meet other JRTC program requirements.
Modifies the JRTC eligibility requirement that a business must retain at least 500 employees by instead requiring a business to either meet the 500-employee retention requirement or have an annual payroll of $35 million.

Authorizes the new credit only temporarily by providing that the Tax Credit Authority may only enter agreements for the new credit between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2013.

Provides a new annual credit limit applicable to both the continuing and new refundable JRTC credits by allowing the authorization of up to $25 million of new refundable credits in 2011 and 2012 combined, and up to $25 million of new credits in 2013, for a total limit of $50 million in annual credits claimable in 2013 and every year thereafter for up to 15 years.

Grants an income tax credit for investments in small businesses with a specified minimum business presence in Ohio.

Extends perpetually the credit for rehabilitating an historic building.

Requires credits to be awarded after the rehabilitation or a stage in the rehabilitation is complete, depending on the length of the rehabilitation period.

Requires a credit recipient to repay any credit if the project is not completed.

Allows the Department of Development and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office to charge reasonable fees for the administration of the credit.

Requires expenditures of projects with costs over $200,000 to be certified by an accountant.

Requires the adoption of rules for conducting cost-benefit analyses of each rehabilitation project.

Permits the Director of Development to rescind an application if the applicant has failed to obtain financing for the project within 18 months of being approved for a credit.

Allows foreign and domestic insurance company taxpayers to be eligible for a refundable historic rehabilitation tax credit equal to 25% of the dollar amount indicated on a rehabilitation tax credit certificate.

Extends the final date on which horse racing permit holders are eligible for tax reductions to recover the costs that they incurred in certain renovation, reconstruction, or remodeling projects at their tracks.
Authorizes the Tax Credit Authority to grant a full or partial sales and use tax exemption for equipment purchased by a business for use at an eligible computer data center, provided that the business agrees to make a capital investment of at least $100 million and maintain an annual payroll of at least $5 million at the center.

Requires the Tax Commissioner to grant a direct payment permit to businesses that enter into an agreement with the Tax Credit Authority for a computer data center equipment sales and use tax exemption.

Estate tax

Repeals estate tax for the estates of individuals dying on or after January 1, 2013.

Tax amnesty

Requires the Tax Commissioner to administer a temporary tax amnesty program from January 1, 2012, to February 15, 2012, with respect to delinquent state taxes, tangible personal property taxes, county and transit authority sales taxes, and school district income taxes.

Requires the Commissioner to administer a separate temporary use tax amnesty program specifically for consumers with outstanding use tax obligations.

Reduces the time within which the Commissioner must issue an assessment for unpaid use tax from ten to seven years when no shorter time limit applies.

Permits taxpayers assessed for unpaid use tax between four and seven years after the tax was due to file a refund claim for overpaid sales or use tax for up to seven prior years.

Tax administration

Authorizes the Tax Commissioner to adopt rules requiring employer income tax withholding, use tax, motor fuel tax, cigarette and tobacco product excise tax, or severance tax returns or reports to be filed, or payments made, electronically unless exempted for good cause.

Authorizes the Commissioner to issue notices and orders using delivery means other than certified mail or personal service if the alternative means records when the notice or order is placed with the delivery service and when it is accepted from a recipient and if the delivery service is available to the general public and is as timely and reliable as the U.S. Postal Service.
Authorizes the Commissioner to use a change of address service offered by such an alternative delivery service to attempt to deliver notices or orders if certified mail is returned undelivered.

Authorizes the Commissioner to provide notice of retail license suspension or revocation by a delivery service other than certified mail.

Eliminates the requirement that the Department of Taxation had to include mail-in voter registration materials with income tax returns.

Requires all claims and inquiries regarding the repealed Ohio Inheritance Tax to be submitted to the Department before 2013.

**Miscellaneous**

Extends by two years the deadlines by which the owner of a qualified energy project must submit a property tax exemption application, begin construction, and place into service an energy facility using renewable energy resources or advanced energy technology to qualify for an ongoing real and tangible personal property tax exemption.

Extends to joint vocational school districts the same terms of compensation and the same notification regarding pending tax increment financing arrangements that apply under continuing law to city, local, and exempted village school districts.

Extends by one year the authority of local governments to offer enterprise zone economic development incentives.

Authorizes a property tax exemption for a convention center owned by the largest city in a county with a population between 700,000 and 900,000, and incidentally applies a continuing sales and use tax exemption for building materials incorporated into the convention center.

Provides for the abatement of unpaid taxes with respect to the convention center for any tax year at issue in a tax exemption application or appeal proceeding pending on September 29, 2011.

Creates an income tax refund check-off contribution for the benefit of the Ohio Historical Society.

Authorizes school districts, with voter approval of a single ballot question, to levy both a property tax for a fixed amount of revenue and an income tax.
Excludes from the sales and use tax the value of gift cards or certificates redeemed by a consumer in exchange for the vendor's goods or services as part of the vendor's awards, loyalty, or promotional program.

Modifies the statutory language governing the agricultural use on use, direct use, and agricultural land tile sales and use tax exemptions by applying them to tangible personal property used primarily rather than directly for such purposes.

Authorizes a sales and use tax exemption for building materials and related services incorporated into a structure for keeping fish, horses, or captive deer for food or other agricultural purposes.

Allows school districts to transfer surplus money in a bond fund or bond retirement fund to a specific permanent improvement fund with the approval of the county budget commission.

Expands the purposes for which a political subdivision may propose a police or fire services property tax levy to include the payment of salaries and retirement fund contributions for EMS personnel, part-time police personnel, and police and fire communications and administrative personnel.

Clarifies that the ballot for a school property tax levy for cultural center purposes must state that the levy is for cultural center purposes.

Authorizes county treasurers that sell delinquent property tax certificates to shorten the deadline by which certificate holders must initiate foreclosures to as few as three years.

Authorizes tax certificates being sold at public auction to be advertised electronically.

Extends by one year the authority of the prosecuting attorney or treasurer of Hamilton County to appropriate up to 50% of delinquent tax and assessment funds above the amount necessary to collect additional delinquent taxes and assessments and to use the excess to pay operating expenses of the respective office otherwise paid from the general fund.

States that, for the purpose of the continuing corporation franchise, i.e. financial institution, tax credit for research expenses incurred by one or more members of a commonly owned or controlled group of corporations, an insurance company may be included in the group even though insurance companies are not subject to the corporation franchise tax.
Divides each county’s Delinquent Tax and Assessment Collection Fund into two separate funds, one for the expenses of the county treasurer and one for the expenses of the county prosecuting attorney.

Authorizes the county treasurer or prosecuting attorney to suspend the crediting of delinquent tax collections to the respective officer’s fund if the balance of the fund reaches a specified threshold.

Authorizes a commercial activity tax exemption for receipts received from transactions that occur within a uranium enrichment zone certified by the Tax Commissioner.

Changes the composition of the Ohio Business Gateway steering committee by increasing the number of business representatives and decreasing the number of municipal tax administrator representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

In regard to the authority granted to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) by Am. Sub. H.B. 114 of the 129th General Assembly to enter into public-private partnership agreements, eliminates: (1) a requirement for the agreements to be for a period not to exceed the biennium, (2) authorization for an agreement to include certain costs of transportation facilities prior to acquisition and construction of the facilities, and (3) language specifying that the agreement did not constitute a debt or pledge of the state’s faith and credit and that the operator had no right to have taxes or excises levied for payment under the agreement.

Permits the Director of Transportation to enter into agreements with a federal agency for the purpose of dedicating staff to the review of environmentally related documents submitted by ODOT that are necessary for the approval of federal permits.

Permits the Director of Transportation to expend funds for the design, construction, inspection, maintenance, repair, and replacement of bridge and bridge approaches for the Ironton-Russell Bridge, which spans the Ohio River between Ironton, Ohio, and Russell, Kentucky, and to expend funds in the same manner for the bridge that will replace the Ironton-Russell Bridge.

Provides that an applicant for a certificate of qualification from ODOT in an amount of $5 million or more, rather than $2 million or more as specified in prior law, must submit to the Director of Transportation a financial audit report prepared and attested to by an independent certified public accountant and that an applicant for such
a certificate of qualification from ODOT in an amount less than $5 million, rather than less than $2 million as specified in prior law, must submit a financial review report to the Director.

Permits a transportation improvement district (TID) and any one or more governmental agencies, until December 31, 2011, to enter into an agreement providing for the joint financing, construction, acquisition, or improvement of any project, which includes a street, highway, parking facility, or freight rail tracks and necessarily related freight rail facilities; provides that a municipal corporation, county, or township that is a party to such an agreement, in certain circumstances, may issue securities to provide for the payment of its portion of the project’s cost; and allows the TID to purchase those securities directly from the municipal corporation, county, or township.

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**TREASURER OF STATE**

Provides for the Treasurer of State to supersede and replace the Ohio Building Authority (OBA) as the issuing authority in all matters relating to the issuance of obligations for the financing of capital facilities for housing branches and agencies of state government and for the financing of community or technical college capital facilities pursuant to the Bond Intercept Program.

Does not repeal the OBA’s current bond issuance authority for those purposes.

Excepts from the transfer of authority OBA’s duties, interests, and responsibilities regarding the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower, the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, the Frank J. Lausche State Office Building, the Michael V. DiSalle Government Center, the Oliver R. Ocasek Government Office Building, and the State of Ohio Computer Center.

Creates four specific bond service trust funds used for the payment of bond service charges for bond sales credited to four specific building funds that the act consolidates into the bond authority law.

Expands the financial instruments that the Treasurer of State may place with an eligible lending institution under the Small Business Linked Deposit Program for purposes of lending money to eligible small businesses at a rate below the present borrowing rate.
TUITION TRUST AUTHORITY

Requires the Tuition Trust Authority to establish, within the Variable College Savings Program, a default investment option to benefit contributors who are first-time investors or have low to moderate incomes.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COUNCIL

Abolishes the Workers' Compensation Council.

Transfers all of the Council's records to the Legislative Service Commission and all other assets, liabilities, and funds to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

Requires the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to coordinate and assist juvenile justice systems by visiting and inspecting jails, detention facilities, correctional facilities, facilities that may hold juveniles involuntarily, and any other facility that may temporarily house juveniles on a voluntary or involuntary basis for the purpose of compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

Requires a county and the juvenile court that serves the county to prioritize the use of the moneys in the county treasury’s Felony Delinquent Care and Custody Fund to research-supported, outcome-based programs and services.

Authorizes the sale of DYS facilities that are closed before January 1, 2012.

MISCELLANEOUS

Increases the filing fee for most disclosure statements that are required to be filed with the appropriate ethics commission.

Limits the cumulative total amount recovered in a civil action for forfeiture to $10,000 and the amount of attorney’s fees to an amount not to exceed the forfeiture amount recovered for a violation of the prohibition against the unlawful removal, destruction, mutilation, transfer, or other damage to or disposition of the records of a public office.
Provides that a person is not aggrieved by such a violation if clear and convincing evidence shows that the request for a record was contrived as a pretext to create potential liability.

Precludes the recovery of a forfeiture by others involving the same record once a person has recovered a forfeiture regardless of the number of persons aggrieved or the number of civil actions commenced.

Prescribes a five-year period of limitations for a civil action for injunctive relief or for forfeiture for a violation of the prohibition.

Changes the name of the Ohio Community Service Council to the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

Specifies that: (1) the expenses of a decedent’s last continuous stay in a nursing home, residential facility for persons with mental retardation or a developmental disability, or hospital long-term care unit are seventh in the order in which a decedent’s debts are to be paid, and (2) the decedent’s last continuous stay includes up to 30 consecutive days during which the decedent was temporarily absent from the facility.

Removes the requirement that the bill of costs for the prosecution of a nonindigent felon had to be presented to and certified by the prosecuting attorney.

Authorizes the conveyance of state-owned real estate in Brown County to Ripley Union Lewis Huntington School District for the construction and operation of a water well.

Authorizes the conveyance of state-owned real estate in Stark County to Jackson Township.

Extends the expiration date for an authorization to convey state land to the Dayton Public Schools.

Authorizes conveyance of the real estate in the possession of Cleveland State University to a purchaser who is to be determined.
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Am. H.J.R. 1


Sens. Wagoner, Faber, Seitz, Turner, Bacon, Brown, Coley, Daniels, Hite, Lehner, Manning, Patton, Schiavoni, Smith, Widener, Wilson

Adopted: June 28, 2011; disapproved by voters on November 8, 2011

Would have amended Section 6 of Article IV of the Ohio Constitution to do both of the following:

--raise from 70 to 76 the age at which a person cannot assume judicial office pursuant to election or appointment; and

--set the date of the election or appointment at which a judicial office is filled as the day as of which the age for assuming judicial office is measured.

Would have repealed Sections 19 and 22 of Article IV of the Ohio Constitution, which authorize the General Assembly to establish courts of conciliation and Supreme Court commissions.
Sub. H.B. 5

Reps. Huffman, Okey, Murray, Letson, McKenney, Coley, Bubp, Carney, Combs, DeGeeter, Derickson, Foley, Garland, Luckie, Mallory, McClain, Milkovich, O'Brien, Patmon, Pillich, Slaby, Stebelton, Stinziano, Williams, Batchelder

Sens. Seitz, Obhof, Kearney, Wagoner, Bacon, Brown, Hughes, Lehner, Manning, Patton, Sawyer, Stewart, Wilson

Effective date: September 23, 2011

Consolidates references to costs and fees, other than attorney fees, that apply in courts of record, and generally organizes costs and fees according to the courts in which they apply.

Requires the Ohio Judicial Conference to adjust each dollar amount set forth in the provision of law that specifies the amount of various types of property that is exempt from execution, garnishment, attachment, or sale to reflect the change in the consumer price index or other generally available comparable index.

Requires the Ohio Judicial Conference to prepare a memorandum specifying those adjusted dollar amounts and to transmit that memorandum to the Director of the Legislative Service Commission who must publish that memorandum in the Register of Ohio.

Allows the Ohio Judicial Conference to publish that memorandum in any other manner that it concludes will be reasonably likely to inform persons who are affected by its adjustment of the dollar amounts.

Allows an investigator appointed by the State Auditor to carry a concealed weapon while engaging in the scope of the investigator's duties.

Allows persons who are due restitution in felony and misdemeanor criminal cases to request a certificate of judgment from the clerk of the court that is in the same manner and form as a certificate of judgment issued in a civil action.

Provides that a court retains jurisdiction over a jail term imposed on a misdemeanor offender and over the offender, and allows that court to substitute one or more community control sanctions under the Misdemeanor Sentencing Law for any jail days that are not mandatory jail days.
Provides that a court retains jurisdiction over any community control sanctions imposed on a misdemeanor offender, the offender, and the duration of the sanctions, and allows that court to modify the sanctions or conditions of release previously imposed, substitute a community control sanction or condition of release for another community control sanction or condition of release previously imposed, or impose an additional community control sanction or condition of release.

Allows a misdemeanor offender, if a court imposes a term of community service on the offender, to request that the court modify the sentence to authorize the offender to make a reasonable contribution to the general fund of the county, municipal corporation, or other local entity that provides funding to the court, and requires the offender to make that contribution if the court grants that request.

Prohibits a person from introducing evidence of an award of restitution in a civil action for the purpose of imposing liability against an insurer under the Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Coverage Law.

Provides that when an offender is ordered under various motor vehicle laws to serve a term of community service, the failure of the offender to complete a term of community service may be punished as indirect contempt of court.

Allows, rather than requires as under prior law, the trial judge to impound the identification license plates of any motor vehicle registered in the name of a person that is convicted of driving under suspension or in violation of a license restriction under continuing law, driving under operating a vehicle under the influence (OVI) suspension, failure to reinstate a license, driving under financial responsibility law suspension or cancellation, or driving under a nonpayment of judgment suspension.

Specifies certain motor vehicle offenses as unclassified misdemeanors, and provides that an offender cannot be sentenced to a jail term or a community residential sanction for such an offense, but allows the offender to be fined up to $1,000 and to be ordered to serve a term of community service of up to 500 hours.

Modifies the points assessed for specified motor vehicle law violations.

Allows, instead of requires as under prior law, the court to impose a class seven suspension for certain motor vehicle law violations.

Provides that the immobilization of a motor vehicle, the impoundment of that vehicle’s license plates, and the forfeiture to the state of that motor vehicle are discretionary, rather than mandatory as under prior law, for the offense of driving under license suspension or in violation of a license restriction under continuing law.
Allows, upon the motion of the prosecuting authority in specified traffic offense cases, a noncertified copy of the LEADS (law enforcement automated data system) report to be introduced to create a rebuttable presumption that the accused was under suspension or had no license at the time of the offense if the offender is charged with driving under license suspension or in violation of a license restriction under continuing law, the act’s driving under suspension offense, operating a motor vehicle without a license, driving under financial responsibility law suspension or cancellation, or failure to reinstate a license.

Requires an offender charged with driving under a license suspension or in violation of a license restriction under continuing law, the act’s driving under suspension offense, driving under OVI suspension, driving under financial responsibility law suspension or cancellation, or OVI to provide the court with proof of financial responsibility, and, if the offender fails to provide that proof, authorizes the court to order restitution in an amount not exceeding $5,000 for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender’s operation of the vehicle.

**Am. H.B. 9**


**Sens.** Wagoner, Bacon, Beagle, Brown, Daniels, Faber, Hughes, Kearney, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Schiavoni, Tavares

**Effective date:** June 29, 2011

Adopts the revisions to the general provisions and documents of title portions of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) that were recommended by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Expands the UCC – Documents of Title Law to cover electronic documents of title, and makes conforming changes throughout the UCC to accommodate electronic documents of title.

Defines the manner in which a person has control of an electronic document of title, and incorporates perfection by control of such a document into the UCC – Secured Transactions Law.
Permits a document of title to be issued in alternative mediums.

Permits only tangible bills of lading to be issued in a set of parts.

Defines rules to negotiate an electronic document of title.

Renames warehouseman as warehouse.

Removes the ability of a warehouse to limit damages by setting forth a specific liability per article or item, or value per unit of weight, beyond which the warehouse is not liable.

Grants a warehouse a lien of the goods covered by a storage agreement or the proceeds thereof in addition to the lien the warehouse may have on goods in its possession.

 Makes a warehouse's lien on household goods for charges and expenses in relation to the goods also effective against all persons if the depositor was the legal possessor of the goods at the time of deposit.

Grants a carrier a lien on the proceeds of the goods in its possession.

Allows an obligation to be issued as subordinated to performance of another obligation of the person obligated, and allows a creditor to subordinate its right to performance of an obligation by agreement with either the person obligated or another creditor of the person obligated.

States that the UCC – General Provisions Law and the UCC – Documents of Title Law, with some exceptions, modify, limit, and supersede the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

**H.B. 29**


**Sens.** Seitz, Wagoner, Kearney, Jones, Hughes, Patton, Bacon, Hite, Widener, Obhof, Oelslager, Daniels, Lehner, Niehaus

**Effective date:** Emergency, March 22, 2011
Increases from 50 to 100 the number of signatures required on a nominating petition for a judge for the Hamilton County Municipal Court in order to codify an existing court order.

Requires nominating petitions for the Hamilton County Municipal Court to be signed and filed in accordance with state law instead of requiring those petitions to be signed and filed in the same manner as petitions nominating members of the Cincinnati City Council.

Codifies a remedial order already in effect by specifying that the judges of the Hamilton County Municipal Court must be elected by the electors of the relative judicial district of the county instead of the territory of the court.

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**Am. H.B. 302**

**Reps.** R. Adams, Letson, Amstutz, Beck, Blair, Buchy, Carey, Combs, Fedor, Gerberry, Grossman, Huffman, Johnson, Luckie, Slaby, Young, Batchelder

**Sens.** Coley, Obhof, Faber, Hite, Lehner, Wagoner

**Effective date:** Emergency, December 21, 2011

Provides that the Clerk of Courts of Miami County is the clerk of the Miami County Municipal Court.

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**Sub. S.B. 117**

**Sens.** Seitz and Schiavoni, Kearney, Wagoner, Bacon, Brown, Coley, Faber, Gillmor, Grendell, Hughes, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Smith, Turner, Wilson

**Reps.** Murray, Letson, Stinziano, Slaby, Terhar, Stebelton, Bubp, Blair, Blessing, Carney, Combs, Gardner, Garland, Hackett, Hayes, Huffman, Johnson, Luckie, Mallory, McKenney, Milkovich, Newbold, O'Brien, Sears, Szollosi, Wachtmann, Winburn, Batchelder

**Effective date:** March 22, 2012

**Uniform Power of Attorney Act**

Repeals certain provisions of the statutory power of attorney law in Ohio and enacts the Uniform Power of Attorney Act.
Specifies that the Uniform Power of Attorney Act does not apply to a power to the extent it is coupled with an interest in the subject of the power, including a power given to or for the benefit of a creditor in connection with a credit transaction, a power to make health-care decisions, a proxy or other delegation to exercise voting rights or management rights with respect to an entity, and a power created on a form prescribed by a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality for a governmental purpose.

Provides that a power of attorney created under the Uniform Power of Attorney Act is durable unless it expressly provides that it is terminated by the incapacity of the principal.

Requires that the principal sign the power of attorney or that the power of attorney be signed in the principal's conscious presence by another individual.

Provides that a power of attorney executed in Ohio on or after the act's effective date is valid if its execution complies with the signature requirements, a power of attorney executed in Ohio before the act's effective date is valid if its execution complied with the law of Ohio as it existed at the time of execution, and a power of attorney executed other than in Ohio is valid in Ohio if, when the power of attorney was executed, the execution complied with the law of the jurisdiction that determines the meaning and effect of the power of attorney or with the requirements for a military power of attorney.

Provides for the process for the nomination of a guardian, and provides that, except for good cause shown or disqualification, the court must make its appointment in accordance with the principal's most recent nomination.

Provides that a power of attorney is effective when executed unless the principal provides in the power of attorney that it becomes effective at a future date or upon the occurrence of a future event or contingency.

Provides for when a power of attorney becomes effective if a power becomes effective upon the principal's incapacity and the principal has not authorized a person to determine whether the principal is incapacitated or the person authorized is unable or unwilling to make that determination.

Details when a power of attorney terminates.

Permits a principal to designate two or more persons to act as coagents, and permits a principal to designate one or more successor agents to act if an agent resigns, dies, becomes incapacitated, is not qualified to serve, or declines to serve.
Requires an agent that has actual knowledge of a breach or imminent breach of fiduciary duty by another agent to notify the principal and, if the principal is incapacitated, take any action reasonably appropriate in the circumstances to safeguard the principal’s best interest.

Details the responsibilities of an agent that accepts an appointment of a power of attorney.

Provides who may petition a court to construe a power of attorney or review the agent's conduct and grant appropriate relief.

Provides that an agent that violates the Uniform Power of Attorney Act is liable to the principal or the principal's successors in interest for the amount required to restore the value of the principal's property to what it would have been had the violation not occurred and the amount required to reimburse the principal or the principal's successors in interest for the attorney's fees and costs paid on the agent's behalf.

Provides to whom an agent must give notice when the agent resigns.

Details the authority of an agent under a power of attorney.

Details what a principal authorizes an agent to do under a power of attorney.

Details the construction of powers of attorney for real property; personal property; stocks and bonds; commodities and options; banks and other financial institutions; operation of an entity or business; insurance and annuities, estates, trusts, and other beneficial interests; claims and litigation; personal and family maintenance; benefits from governmental programs or civil or military service; retirement plans; taxes; and gifts; and removes the constructions of powers of attorney for any artistic, domestic, intellectual, literary, mechanical, scientific, or other proprietary interest or material; safe deposit transactions; borrowing transactions; fiduciary transactions; records, reports, and statements; licenses; employment of agents; and delegation.

Creates two new documents, one that may be used to create a statutory form power of attorney that has the meaning and effect prescribed in the Uniform Power of Attorney Act and an optional form that may be used by an agent to certify facts concerning a power of attorney.

Provides that generally the principles of law and equity supplement the Uniform Power of Attorney Act.
Ohio Trust Code

Provides that the parties to a private settlement agreement must be any two or more, instead of all, of the parties specified in continuing law or their representatives, and provides that the statute governing that type of agreement does not prohibit some or all of the persons who could enter into an agreement under that statute from entering into agreements that are governed by other law, including the common law.

Modifies the law that permits the termination of a noncharitable irrevocable trust if its continuance is not necessary to achieve the trust's material purpose or the modification of a noncharitable irrevocable trust if it is not inconsistent with the trust's material purpose by providing that in determining what constitutes a material purpose of a trust, a court may, but is not required to consider extrinsic evidence indicating a settlor's intent at the time the instrument was executed.

Expands the immunity generally from liability of a trustee to a beneficiary for breach of trust if the beneficiary's representative under the law's representation provisions consented to the conduct constituting the breach, released the trustee from liability for the breach, or ratified the transaction constituting the breach.

Requires a trustee to make a distribution to the personal representative of a beneficiary's estate if the beneficiary was entitled to receive a distribution and is deceased, the beneficiary's death did not terminate the beneficiary's right to receive the distribution, and an administration of the beneficiary's estate is open.

Provides that if a beneficiary who was entitled to receive a distribution is deceased, the beneficiary's death did not terminate the beneficiary's right to receive the distribution, and an administration of the beneficiary's estate is not open, the trustee, without liability, may make the distribution directly to the beneficiary's heirs or devisees without requiring the opening or re-opening of estate administration proceedings if the trustee does not know of an adverse claim to the distribution and certain specified circumstances apply.

Permits the trustee of a first trust that has absolute power under the terms of the first trust to make distributions of principal to one or more current beneficiaries to exercise that power by distributing all or any part of the principal subject to that power, and all or any part of any income that is not otherwise currently required to be distributed, to the trustee of a second trust that is for the benefit of one or more current beneficiaries of the first trust.

Details how one determines whether the trustee has absolute power to make distributions of principal to any current beneficiary as discussed above.
Provides that a trustee of a first trust who has power, other than absolute power, under the terms of the first trust to make distributions of principal to one or more current beneficiaries may exercise that power by distributing all or any part of the principal subject to the power, and all or any part of any income that is not otherwise currently required to be distributed, to the trustee of a second trust.

Details additional limitations on the power to make distributions to a second trust.

Requires that the exercise of power to distribute trust income or principal to the trustee of a second trust be by an instrument in writing, signed by the trustee of the first trust and filed with the records of the first trust.

Requires the trustee of the first trust to notify all current beneficiaries of the first trust, in writing, of the intended distribution to the trustee of a second trust not later than 30 days prior to that distribution, and allows the distribution to be made prior to the expiration of 30 days from the date on which that notice is given to all current beneficiaries of the first trust if all of those current beneficiaries waive the 30-day period from receipt of the notice in which the distribution is to be made.

Allows any person, other than the trustee, who has a power exercisable in a fiduciary capacity to direct the trustee to make any distribution of principal that, if held by the trustee, would be a distribution from a first trust to the trustee of a second trust to exercise that power by directing the trustee to make that distribution.

Provides that a trustee who acts reasonably and in good faith in exercising the power to distribute trust income or principal to the trustee of a second trust is presumed to have acted in accordance with the terms and purposes of the trust and the interests of the beneficiaries.

Provides that there is no intention to create or imply a duty to exercise a power to distribute income or principal of a trust and that no inference of impropriety can arise as a result of a trustee not exercising the power to make any distribution to the trustee of a second trust.

Provides that if the first trust is a testamentary trust established under the will of a testator who was domiciled in Ohio at the time of the testator’s death, the power to distribute trust income or principal to the trustee of a second trust may be exercised only if approved by the court, if any, that has jurisdiction over the testamentary trust.

Provides that the provisions regarding distributing principal from a first trust to the trustee of a second trust do not apply to any trust during any period that the trust
may be revoked or amended by its settlor or any trust with respect to any portion of the first trust as to which that trustee is also the settlor.

Provides that the governing instrument for the second trust is considered to be an amendment of the trust instrument signed by the settlor of the first trust even if that governing instrument is signed by a person other than that settlor.

Provides that nothing in the act can be construed to limit the power of any trustee to distribute trust property in further trust whether that power arises under the terms of the trust instrument, under other provision of the Ohio Trust Code, under any other statute, or under the common law.

Details what the terms of a trust instrument may do.

States that the provisions of the act regarding a trustee that has absolute power under the terms of a first trust to make distributions of principal to one or more current beneficiaries is intended to be a codification of the common law of Ohio prior to the enactment of the act and applies to distributions, whenever made, from any trust that is governed by the law of Ohio or that has its principal place of administration in Ohio whether that trust was created before, on, or after the act's effective date.

States that the provisions of the act regarding a trustee who has power, other than absolute power, under the terms of the first trust to make distributions of principal to one or more current beneficiaries applies to distributions made on or after the act's effective date from any trust that is governed by the law of Ohio or that has its principal place of administration in Ohio whether that trust was created before, on, or after the act's effective date.

Provides that the duties of a trustee with respect to the acquisition, retention, or ownership of a life insurance policy as a trust asset do not include certain specified duties.

Provides that the trustee, the attorney who drafted a trust, or any person who was consulted with regard to the creation of a trust, in the absence of fraud, is not liable to the beneficiaries of the trust or to any other person for any loss arising from the absence of those certain specified duties.

Provides that personal property may be transferred to a trustee by executing the necessary written instrument that identifies the personal property transferred and identifies the trustee by name followed by the designation "trustee."

Provides that a certification of trust may establish the identity of the trustee and any succession of trustees.
Provides that a future transfer of personal property to a trustee as a designation that is made by executing the necessary written instrument identifying the trustee by name followed by the designation "trustee" must be considered a transfer of the personal property to the trustee serving at the time of the future transfer.

Modifies the law regarding the prohibition against an instrument conveying real estate, or any interest therein, and of record in the office of the county recorder of the county within Ohio in which the real estate is situated being deemed defective or its validity being affected because of certain specified circumstances by providing that the grantor or grantee of the instrument is a trust rather than the trustee or trustees of the trust if the trust named as grantor or grantee has been duly created under the laws of the state of its existence at the time of the conveyance and a memorandum of trust that complies with Ohio law and contains a description of the real property conveyed by that instrument is recorded in the office of the county recorder in which the instrument of conveyance is recorded.

Provides that the above provision must be given retroactive effect to the fullest extent permitted under Article II, Section 28 of the Ohio Constitution, but it cannot be given retroactive or curative effect if to do so would invalidate or supersede any instrument that conveys real property, or any interest in the real property, recorded in the office of the county recorder in which that real property is situated prior to the date of recording of a curative memorandum of trust or the act's effective date, whichever event occurs later.

Modifies the law regarding the Ohio trust income tax by replacing "nonresident" with "resident," providing the credit to resident trusts for income tax paid to other states or the District of Columbia with respect to any modified nonbusiness income that is also subject to the Ohio trust income tax rather than nonresident trusts.

Anti-lapse statute

Enacts a new anti-lapse statute for wills, and provides that, unless a contrary intent appears in the will, if a devisee fails to survive the testator and is a grandparent, a descendent of a grandparent, or a stepchild of either the testator or the donor of a power of appointment exercised by the testator's will, certain specified provisions apply.

Enacts an anti-lapse statute for trusts, and provides that, unless a contrary intent appears in the instrument creating a future interest under the terms of the trust, certain specified provisions apply.
Treatment for alcohol and other drug abuse

Allows a probate court to order involuntary treatment for a person suffering from alcohol or other drug abuse pursuant to certain specified procedures.

Permits a spouse, relative, or guardian to initiate proceedings for treatment for an individual suffering from alcohol and other drug abuse by filing a verified petition in the probate court and paying a filing fee, if any, that is charged for the filing of an affidavit seeking the hospitalization of a person.

Details what information the petition must contain.

Gives the probate court exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine petitions for an order for treatment of a person suffering from alcohol and other drug abuse and to order treatment of that nature in accordance with, and take other actions afforded to the court under, the law regarding involuntary treatment for a person suffering from alcohol and other drug abuse.

Requires the probate court, upon receipt of a petition and the payment of the appropriate filing fee, if any, to examine the petitioner under oath as to the contents of the petition, and requires the court to take certain specified actions if, after reviewing the allegations contained in the petition and examining the petitioner under oath, it appears to the probate court that there is probable cause to believe that the respondent may reasonably benefit from treatment, including scheduling and conducting a hearing to determine if there is clear and convincing evidence that the respondent may reasonably benefit from treatment for alcohol and other drug abuse.

Provides that if the probate court finds by clear and convincing evidence upon completion of the hearing that the respondent may reasonably benefit from treatment, the court may order the treatment after considering the qualified health professional's recommendations for treatment that have been submitted to the court.

Requires the court, if it orders the treatment, to order the treatment to be provided through a certified alcohol and drug addiction program or by certain licensed individuals.

Provides that following an examination by a qualified health professional and a certification by that professional that the person meets the criteria for involuntary treatment, a probate court may order the person hospitalized for a period not to exceed 72 hours if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person presents an imminent threat of danger to self, family, or others as a result of alcohol and other drug abuse, and provides that if the hearing to be held will be held within 72 hours, the court may order the person hospitalized until the hearing.
Requires the court to inform the person that the person may immediately make a reasonable number of telephone calls or use other reasonable means to contact an attorney, a licensed physician, or a qualified health professional, to contact any other person or persons to secure representation by counsel, or to obtain medical or psychological assistance and that the person will be provided assistance in making calls if the assistance is needed and requested.

Provides that any person who has been admitted to a hospital under the above procedure must be released from the hospital immediately upon the expiration of the time period established by the court.

Provides that when a probate court is authorized to issue an order that the respondent be transported to a hospital, the court may issue a summons and, if the respondent fails to attend an examination scheduled before the hearing, the court must issue a summons.

Requires that the summons be directed to the respondent and must command the respondent to appear at a time and place specified in the summons, and provides that if a respondent fails to appear at the hospital or examination, the probate court may order the sheriff or any other peace officer to transport the respondent to a hospital from a list specified in the act.

Requires each county board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services on at least an annual basis to submit lists of certain specified hospitals to the clerk of the probate court in each county served by the board.

Provides that the requirements regarding statistics collected by the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services concerning the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of alcoholics, drug dependent persons, and persons in danger of drug dependence in Ohio, the laws regarding confidentiality of a patient's records or information pertaining to the identity, diagnosis, or treatment that are maintained in connection with the performance of certain specified drug treatment programs, and the law regarding the person's civil rights and liberties apply to a person who is ordered to undergo treatment for alcohol and other drug abuse.

**Federal estate tax and federal generation-skipping transfer tax**

Provides that the Attorney General may be a party to an agreement among interested parties regarding trust matters if an agreement regarding construing or modifying the terms of a trust that refer to the federal estate tax, federal generation-skipping transfer tax, or Ohio estate tax or that contain a property division based on the imposition or amount of those taxes is being made and either a certain specified organization is a beneficiary or the trust is a charitable trust.
Includes among the matters that may be resolved by a private settlement agreement the construing or modifying of the terms of a trust that refer to the federal estate tax, federal generation-skipping tax, or Ohio estate tax or that contain a division of property based on the imposition or amount of one or more of those taxes to give effect to the intent of the settlor.

Permits a court to modify or interpret the terms of a trust, including, but not limited to, a charitable trust or a trust having as a beneficiary an organization with a charitable purpose, that refer to the federal estate tax, federal generation-skipping transfer tax, or Ohio estate tax or that contain a division of property based on the imposition or amount of one or more of those taxes to give effect to the intent of the settlor.

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**Am. Sub. S.B. 124**

**Sens.** Bacon, Wagoner, Brown, Hughes, Kearney, Coley, Hite, Lehner, Obhof, Sawyer, Seltz, Wilson

**Reps.** Blair, Brenner, Bubp, Combs, Hayes, Letson, Pelanda, Pillich, Slaby, Stautberg, Batchelder

**Effective date:** January 13, 2012

**Probate court – jurisdiction and procedure**

Replaces "stenographers" and "stenographic reporters" with "court reporters" and "referee" with "magistrate" in the Probate Code.

**Liability of probate judge and juvenile judge**

Provides that a probate judge is not personally liable for the misconduct of an employee appointed by the judge, and removes language that made a judge’s liability for such acts contingent on whether the judge required the appointee to give a bond.

Provides that a juvenile judge is not personally liable for the misconduct of an employee appointed by the judge, and removes language that made a judge’s liability for such acts contingent on whether the judge required the appointee to give a bond.

**Wills**

Increases the fee for receiving, keeping, and giving a certificate of deposit for a will from $1 to $5, and requires the envelope in which a will is kept to be publicly opened within one month, instead of two months, after notice of the testator’s death.
Reduces from three years to one year the period in which a beneficiary named in a will knows of its existence and intentionally conceals or withholds it, thus preventing any testate or intestate property or right from passing to the beneficiary.

Reduces the time to offer an oral will for probate from six months to three months after the testator’s death.

**Fiduciaries**

Removes the requirement for the probate court to impose the $2.50 cost per improper or incomplete filing in matters of estates, guardianships, or trusts.

Requires every fiduciary to sign and file with the court a statement of permanent address and notify the court of any change of address, and authorizes the court to remove a fiduciary if the fiduciary fails to comply with that requirement.

Specifies that a fiduciary may resign by filing a written statement with the court after giving at least 15 days notice to the persons known to be interested in the estate, and prohibits a fiduciary from resigning without a court order.

Authorizes a fiduciary with trust funds to invest to invest them in savings accounts in, or certificates or other evidences of deposits issued by, credit unions under certain requirements, including the requirement that deposits in the depository credit union are insured under specified federal or state law.

Generally expands the authority for additional investments made by a fiduciary to include securities of corporations organized and existing under the laws of any foreign government or state or bonds or other interest-bearing obligations of any foreign government if they may be lawfully sold in Ohio and investment is made only in those securities as would be acquired by prudent persons who are seeking a reasonable income and the preservation of their capital.

In addition to continuing law’s sanctions, permits the court to remove a fiduciary for fraudulent conduct or dereliction of duty related to the fiduciary’s personal use or misuse of funds or property belonging to a trust.

Provides that it is within the court’s discretion, upon application, notice to interested persons, and a hearing, to allow the personal use of trust property by the fiduciary.

Permits the fiduciary or the attorney for an estate to petition the court for authority to purchase property of the estate if specified requirements are met.
Applies continuing law's procedures when assets are concealed or embezzled in the administration of a trust estate to the concealment or embezzlement of assets in the administration of an estate, a testamentary trust, or a guardianship.

Requires that notice of any action or proceeding against the bonded fiduciary be given to the surety.

**Executors and administrators**

Increases from $2,500 to $5,000 the amount of the wages or personal earnings due a deceased employee that an employer may pay to specified heirs without requiring letters testamentary or letters of administration to be issued upon the estate of the deceased employee and without requiring an Ohio estate tax release.

Provides that minors who would have been entitled to priority to administer the estate except for their minority must be served notice pursuant to the Civil Rules.

Specifically requires a special administrator to file an account of the special administration within 30 days of the appointment of the executor or administrator.

Specifies that a creditor's claim may be presented to a special administrator.

Reduces the time within which an executor or administrator of an estate must collect the assets and complete the administration of that estate from 13 months to six months after the date of appointment unless an extension of the time to file a final and distributive account is authorized, and provides that for good cause shown the court may grant an extension of the time to file the inventory and accounts.

Modifies the contents of the application for a certificate of transfer of real property and the contents of the certificate of transfer.

Requires the notice of the manner of the apportionment of tax determined by the fiduciary that is sent by the fiduciary to any person interested in the estate to include a statement that the person is bound by the proposed apportionment if the person fails to file an objection to the proposed apportionment within 30 days of receipt of the notice.

Permits an executor or administrator to accept the valuation of the real property by the county auditor in lieu of the appointment of an appraiser for real property as required under prior law.

Repeals statutes in the Powers of Executors and Administrators Law pertaining to the following: statute of limitations for granting original administration; nonliability of a special administrator to an action by the deceased’s creditor; tolling of the statute of limitations for an action against an executor or administrator upon the executor's or...
administrator’s death, resignation, or removal until the appointment of a successor; limit on the court’s extension of the time for collecting assets and administering the estate; time allowed to collect assets not to defer the filing of accounts; accounting by and liability of a new administrator as that of the original administrator; distribution of the balance after settlement of an account; and fees for recording certificates of transfer.

**Presentation of certain claims**

Shortens the time within which a claim that is contingent at the time of a decedent’s death and on which a cause of action subsequently accrues must be presented to the executor or administrator as in other claims.

Reduces the time within which claims against an estate that is subject to ancillary administration by a nonresident executor or administrator must be presented to the probate court.

Renames the Medicaid estate recovery reporting form the Medicaid estate recovery notice form, eliminates the requirement for the administrator of the Medicaid estate recovery program to prescribe a reporting form and the provisions specifying the contents of the form, and removes the requirement for the probate court to send a copy of the completed probate form to the administrator of the program.

**Miscellaneous changes**

Replaces "petition" with "complaint" in specified proceedings in the probate court.

Replaces outdated terminology and makes numerous technical changes in the Probate Code.

Provides that the act's provisions relating to decedents' estates apply to the estates of decedents who die on or after the act's effective date.
CRIMES, CORRECTIONS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

H.B. 54


Sens. Wilson, Cafaro, Coley, Daniels, Hite, Jordan, Manning, Oelslager, Wagoner

Effective date: September 30, 2011

Eliminates the prohibition under the offense of having weapons under disability against persons with certain misdemeanor drug offense convictions from acquiring or possessing firearms or dangerous ordnance.

Expands the categories of persons who may apply for relief from a disability against acquiring, having, carrying, or using any firearm so that any person who is prohibited from acquiring, having, carrying, or using firearms may apply for relief, replacing former law under which only a person who was so prohibited solely by reason of the person's disability resulting from an indictment for, conviction of, or delinquent child adjudication for a felony offense of violence or an offense involving the illegal possession, use, sale, administration, distribution, or trafficking in a drug of abuse could apply for relief.

Specifies that, if a person is prohibited from acquiring, having, carrying, or using firearms and a court of common pleas grants the person relief from the disability, the relief from the disability restores the person to all civil firearms rights to the full extent enjoyed by any citizen, subject to certain conditions described below.

Regarding the conditions that apply to a relief from disability described above, eliminates the provision that previously specified that the relief did not apply with respect to dangerous ordnance, but retains the conditions, conformed to the changes described above, that continue to specify that it: (1) applies only with respect to the basis of the disability recited in the application and only with respect to firearms that the person lawfully acquires, possesses, carries, or uses, (2) may be revoked by the court at any time for good cause shown and upon notice to the person, and (3) is automatically void upon the person's commission of any felony offense of violence or any specified type of drug-related offense or upon becoming one of any other class of persons to whom the offense of having weapons while under disability applies.
Specifies that: (1) it is the intent of the General Assembly in making the changes described above to apply the changes retroactively to any restoration of rights granted previously to any person under any version of the statute providing for the relief from disability, and (2) the General Assembly is explicitly making those changes to clarify that relief from a weapons disability granted under that statute restores a person’s civil firearm rights to such an extent that the uniform federal ban on possessing any firearms at all does not apply to that person in correlation with a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court interpreting a statute of another state related to the federal ban.

Sub. H.B. 64


**Sens.** Turner, Kearney, Bacon, Brown, Cafaro, Daniels, Faber, Gillmor, Grendell, Hite, Hughes, Jones, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Patton, Sawyer, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Smith, Tavares, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

**Effective date:** October 17, 2011

Includes five synthetic cannabinoids commonly known as K2 or Spice as Schedule I controlled substances with the result that all statutory provisions pertaining to Schedule I controlled substances, including the drug offenses, apply to those five synthetic cannabinoids except as otherwise specified in the act.

Provides that possession of Spice is a minor misdemeanor.

Provides that trafficking in Spice is a fifth degree felony or, if committed in the vicinity of a school or juvenile, a fourth degree felony.

Provides that if Spice is the drug involved in the offense of corrupting another with drugs, the penalty for the offense is a fourth degree felony or, if committed in the vicinity of a school, a third degree felony, which is the same as if marihuana was the drug involved in the offense.

Adds six synthetic derivatives of cathinone that have been found in bath salts to the list of Schedule I controlled hallucinogenic substances.
Defines "controlled substance analog" for the purposes of the Controlled Substances Law, and provides that controlled substance analogs must be treated as Schedule I controlled substances.

Specifies that the residential and familial information of probation officers and bailiffs is not a public record.

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Am. Sub. H.B. 86


Sens. Bacon, Beagle, Brown, Coley, Daniels, Hite, Jones, Kearney, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Obhof, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Smith, Tavares, Turner, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: September 30, 2011

Penalties for theft and other offenses

Increases from $500 to $1,000 the initial threshold amount that is used in determining increased penalties, generally from a misdemeanor to a felony, for theft-related offenses and for certain non-theft-related offenses, and increases by 50% the other threshold amounts that are used in determining the other increased penalties for those offenses.

Vandalism; corrupt activity

Regarding the offense of vandalism, increases from $500 to $1,000 the threshold amount of the value of property or amount of physical harm that is required to commit the offense by knowingly causing physical harm to property owned or possessed by another and used by its owner or possessor in the owner's or possessor's profession, business, trade, or occupation and the threshold amount of loss to the value of property necessary to constitute serious physical harm for any of the prohibitions under the offense that prohibit causing serious physical harm to specified property, and increases by 50% the property value thresholds used in determining the penalty for the offense.
In the definition of "corrupt activity" that applies to the offense of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, increases from $500 to $1,000 the property valuations that are used in determining whether certain criminal activity constitutes corrupt activity.

**Nonsupport of dependents**

Provides that, if the offense of nonsupport of dependents is based on an abandonment of or failure to support a child or a person to whom a court order requires support and is a felony, the sentencing court generally must first consider placing the offender on one or more community control sanctions, and provides that this preference does not apply in either of the following circumstances:

1. If the court determines that the imposition of a prison term is consistent with the purposes and principles of sentencing; or

2. If the offender previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to felony nonsupport of dependents and the offender either was sentenced to a prison term for the violation or was sentenced to one or more community control sanctions and failed to comply with the conditions of the sanctions.

**Escape; trespass in habitation**

Modifies the offense of escape as follows:

1. Enacts a new prohibition within the offense that parallels the continuing prohibition, but that applies only to a person under supervised release detention;

2. Provides that a violation of the new prohibition generally is a fifth degree felony, but is a fourth degree felony if the supervised release detention was for aggravated murder, murder, an offense with a life sentence, or a first or second degree felony;

3. Defines "supervised release detention" as detention that is supervision of a person by a Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) employee while the person is on any type of release from a state correctional institution other than transitional control or Parole Board placement in a community-based correctional facility; and

4. Specifies that a continuing consecutive sentence requirement does not apply to a conviction under the new prohibition.

Removes from the offense of burglary a prohibition against trespassing, by force, stealth, or deception, in a permanent or temporary habitation of any person when any person other than an accomplice of the offender is likely to be present, instead provides
that a violation of that prohibition is the new offense of trespass in a habitation when a person is present or likely to be present, and makes corresponding changes in the definitions of the offenses of "aggravated murder" and "conspiracy" to include the new offense of trespass in a habitation when a person is present or likely to be present as part of the descriptions of those offenses.

**Sex offenders and child-victim offenders**

Prohibits a person who is or has been convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for committing a sexually oriented offense or child-victim oriented offense from possessing a photograph of the victim of the offense while the person is serving a prison term, jail term, community residential sanction, or other term of confinement imposed on the offender for the offense, prohibits a person who is or has been convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for committing a child-victim oriented offense from possessing a photograph of any minor child while the person is serving a prison term, jail term, community residential sanction, or other term of confinement imposed on the offender for the offense, and provides that a violation of either prohibition is the offense of illegal possession of a prohibited photograph, a first degree misdemeanor.

**Felony sentencing; risk assessment**

Changes the range of possible prison terms for a first or third degree felony in the following ways:

1. Increases the range of possible definite prison terms for a first degree felony from a definite prison term of three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, or ten years to a definite prison term of three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, or eleven years; and

2. Modifies the range of possible prison terms for a third degree felony so that, if the third degree felony is aggravated vehicular homicide, aggravated vehicular assault, vehicular assault, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, or gross sexual imposition, or if it is robbery or burglary and the offender previously has been convicted in two or more separate proceedings of two or more aggravated robbery, robbery, aggravated burglary, or burglary offenses, the range for the offense is a definite prison term of 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48, 54, or 60 months and, if the offense is any other third degree felony, the range for the offense is a definite prison term of 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36 months.

Revises some of the provisions in the state’s Felony Sentencing Law that were invalidated and severed by the Ohio Supreme Court’s decision in *State v. Foster* by: (1) reenacting statutory language regarding the consecutive sentencing provisions as described in *State v. Hodge*, (2) retaining statutory language regarding repeat violent offenders that previously was modified and differs from the repeat violent offender
provisions found to be unconstitutional in Foster, and (3) repealing all other provisions found to be unconstitutional in Foster and modifying many other provisions that relate to those provisions.

Modifies a provision that describes the overriding purposes of felony sentencing that a court must follow in sentencing an offender for a felony to specify that those overriding purposes are to protect the public from future crime by the offender and others and to punish the offender using the minimum sanctions that the court determines accomplish those purposes without imposing an unnecessary burden on state or local government resources.

Generally requires a sentence to a community control sanction of at least one year's duration for an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a fourth or fifth degree felony that is not an offense of violence if other specified criteria are satisfied, but authorizes the court to impose a prison term on such an offender if: (1) the offender committed the offense while having a firearm on or about the offender's person or under the offender's control, caused physical harm to another person while committing the offense, or violated a term of the conditions of bond as set by the court, or (2) the court requested DRC to provide specified information about any available programs and DRC within a specified 45-day period did not provide the court with the name of, contact information for, and program details of a community control sanction of at least one year's duration that is available for persons sentenced by that court.

Requires DRC to adopt rules specifying the class of offenders whose degree of felony, whose community control sanction revocation history, or whose risk level as assessed by the act's single validated risk assessment tool make the offender suitable for admission to a community-based correction facility or for participation in community corrections programs, and requires that the rules make the level of state financial assistance or subsidy provided to every facility, county, or group of counties contingent on the number of offenders admitted to the facility or participating in the programs each fiscal year who satisfy the admission suitability standards.

Establishes a mechanism for risk reduction sentencing pursuant to which a judge who sentences an offender to a prison term for a felony may recommend risk reduction sentencing for the offender in specified circumstances and, if the offender completes treatment or programming required by DRC, the offender is granted release to supervised release after serving a minimum of 80% of the prison term.

Requires DRC to select a single validated risk assessment tool to be used by courts when they order an assessment of an offender for sentencing or another purpose and by probation departments, correctional facilities, the Adult Parole Authority (APA), and the Parole Board.
Specifies that, for each entity required to use the single validated risk assessment tool, every employee of the entity who actually uses the tool must be trained and certified by a trainer who is certified by DRC, and requires each entity utilizing the assessment tool to develop policies and protocols regarding application and integration of the assessment tool into operations, supervision, and case planning, administrative oversight of the use of the assessment tool, staff training, quality assurance, and data collection and sharing.

Specifies that each authorized user of the single validated risk assessment tool must have access to all reports generated by and all data stored in the tool and that all reports generated by or data collected in the tool are confidential information and not a public record.

**Earned credits for program participation or completion**

Revises the mechanism pursuant to which a prisoner in a state correctional institution, other than one who is ineligible under the mechanism because of specified statutory exclusions, formerly could earn one day of credit as a monthly deduction from the prisoner's prison term for productive participation in specified prison programs or activities so that:

1. Certain prisoners, unless ineligible for the mechanism under disqualifying provisions expanded by the act, may provisionally earn five days of credit toward satisfaction of the prisoner's prison term for participation in a specified program or activity;

2. Other prisoners, unless ineligible for the mechanism under disqualifying provisions expanded by the act, who are imprisoned for any of a list of specified, serious offenses may provisionally earn one day of credit for participation in a specified program or activity;

3. All prisoners, unless ineligible for the mechanism under disqualifying provisions expanded by the act, who successfully complete two specified programs or activities may provisionally earn up to five days of credit for the successful completion of the second program or activity;

4. All credits described above are earned provisionally, DRC may deny a prisoner who violates prison rules a credit that otherwise could have been provisionally awarded to the prisoner or may withdraw one or more credits previously earned by the prisoner, and days of credit provisionally earned by a prisoner are finalized and awarded by DRC subject to administrative review by DRC of the prisoner's conduct;
(5) The total number of days of earned credit that a prisoner may provisionally or finally earn under the mechanism cannot exceed 8% of the total number of days in the prisoner’s stated prison term;

(6) The types of programs or activities that may be available for earning days of credit under the mechanism are limited to education, vocational training, prison industry employment, and substance abuse treatment, and other constructive programs developed by DRC, and sex offender treatment programs are removed;

(7) Prisoners serving a sentence for a sexually oriented offense committed on or after the act’s effective date, or those sentenced to death or serving a prison term for conspiracy, complicity, or an attempt to commit aggravated murder or murder, are not eligible for the mechanism;

(8) The categories of prisoners who are not eligible to provisionally or finally earn credits are clarified and consolidated;

(9) A court that imposes a prison term for a felony generally must include in the sentence a statement notifying the offender that the offender may be eligible to earn days of credit under the earned credits mechanism;

(10) DRC must annually seek and consider written feedback from specified interested parties regarding the earned credits mechanism as part of its evaluation of the program and in determining whether to modify the program; and

(11) Several other procedures regarding the mechanism are modified.

Requires that a prisoner who is placed on post-release control from the prisoner’s stated prison term by reason of earning under the earned credits mechanism 60 or more days of credit for participation in certain programs or activities be subject to active GPS supervision by the APA for the first 14 days after release from imprisonment.

80% release mechanism

Establishes an 80% release mechanism for DRC inmates pursuant to which:

(1) DRC’s Director may petition the sentencing court for the release from prison of an inmate who is serving a stated prison term of one year or more, who is eligible under specified criteria, and who has served at least 80% of the stated prison term that remains to be served after becoming eligible for use of the mechanism;

(2) An inmate serving a stated prison term that includes a disqualifying prison term never is eligible for use of the 80% release mechanism, an inmate serving a stated prison term that includes one or more restricting prison terms is not eligible for release.
during the restricting prison terms, but becomes eligible after having fully served each restricting prison term if the offender has an eligible prison term to serve after service of the restricting prison terms, and an inmate serving a stated prison term that consists solely of one or more eligible prison terms becomes eligible upon commencement of service of the term; and

(3) If a court grants a petition under the 80% release mechanism, it must: (a) order the release of the inmate and place the inmate under one or more appropriate community control sanctions under appropriate conditions and under the supervision of the department of probation that serves the court, (b) reserve the right to reimpose the sentence that it reduced and from which the offender was released if the offender violates the sanction, and (c) if the sentence from which the inmate is being released was imposed for a first or second degree felony, consider ordering that the inmate be monitored by means of a GPS device.

**Parole review of inmates age 65 or older**

Requires DRC to review the cases of all parole-eligible inmates who are 65 or older and who have had a statutory first parole consideration hearing, requires DRC to send a report to the President and Minority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives that summarizes the findings of its review and that explains why each of those inmates has not been paroled or otherwise released from custody, requires the Parole Board’s chair to present to the Board the cases of the offenders described above, and authorizes the Board upon presentation of the case of an offender to choose to rehear the offender’s case for possible release on parole.

**Corrections commissions; community alternative sentencing centers**

Removes judges from the membership of a corrections commission, instead has them form an advisory board, and makes other changes regarding the commission.

Provides for the establishment and operation by counties or affiliated groups of counties of community alternative sentencing centers for confining misdemeanants who are sentenced directly to the centers by the court under a community residential sanction imposed under state law or a municipal ordinance not exceeding 30 days or under a term of confinement for an OVI offense imposed under state law or a municipal ordinance not exceeding 60 days.

**Victims' notification of violent offenders' escape**

Revises procedures for notification of victims when violent offenders escape from DRC by: (1) requiring DRC’s Office of Victim Services to notify each victim of a
felony offense of violence of the offender's escape and, if applicable, of the offender's subsequent apprehension, (2) repealing a provision that required a prosecuting attorney to give a similar notice in specified circumstances, (3) allowing the Office of Victim Services to request assistance from the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the offender was convicted in identifying and locating the victim of the offense, and (4) requiring the prosecuting attorney to promptly provide such information.

**Drug offenses**

Eliminates the distinction between the criminal penalties provided for drug offenses involving crack cocaine and those offenses involving powder cocaine, provides a penalty for all such drug offenses involving any type of cocaine that generally has a severity that is between the two former penalties, and also revises, in specified circumstances regarding an offender who is guilty of possession of cocaine, the specified statutory rules to use in determining whether to impose a prison term on the offender.

For the offenses of trafficking in marihuana, trafficking in hashish, possession of marihuana, and possession of hashish, creates a new category of the amount of the drug involved, and provides for a potentially shorter mandatory prison term than under continuing law if the amount of the drug involved in the offense committed by an offender is within the new category.

Revises, in specified circumstances regarding an offender who is guilty of trafficking in marihuana or trafficking in hashish, the specified statutory rules to use in determining whether to impose a prison term on the offender.

For certain drug abuse offenses that are third degree felonies and for which a mandatory prison term formerly was required, provides that a mandatory prison term requirement applies only if the offender two or more times previously has been convicted of a felony drug abuse offense and that if the offender has not two or more times previously been convicted of a felony drug abuse offense, there is a presumption of a prison term for the offense.

For certain drug abuse offenses that are fourth degree felonies and that had a presumption for a prison term, removes the presumption, and specifies that the statute establishing factors to be considered when determining whether to impose a prison term on the offender applies.
Judicial release

Revises the definition of "eligible offender" for purposes of the Judicial Release Law and the time periods within which an eligible offender may file a motion for judicial release so that:

(1) "Eligible offender" means a person who, on or after April 7, 2009, is serving a stated prison term that includes one or more nonmandatory prison terms and who is not excluded from the definition under a public office exclusion; and

(2) A motion for judicial release may be made during the following time periods:
   (a) if the aggregate of nonmandatory prison terms is under two years, not earlier than 30 days after the offender is delivered to a state correctional institution or, if the prison term includes any mandatory prison term, not earlier than 30 days after the expiration of all mandatory terms, (b) if the aggregate of nonmandatory terms is at least two years but less than five years, not earlier than 180 days after the offender is delivered to a state correctional institution or, if the prison term includes any mandatory prison term, not earlier than 180 days after the expiration of all mandatory prison terms, (c) if the aggregate of nonmandatory terms is five years, not earlier than four years after the offender is delivered to a state correctional institution or, if the prison term includes any mandatory prison term, not earlier than four years after the expiration of all mandatory terms, (d) if the aggregate of nonmandatory prison terms is more than five years but not more than ten years, not earlier than five years after the eligible offender is delivered to a state correctional institution or, if the prison term includes any mandatory prison term, not earlier than five years after the expiration of all mandatory terms, and (e) if the aggregate of nonmandatory prison terms is more than ten years, not earlier than the later of the date on which the offender has served one-half of the offender's stated prison term or the date specified in item (d).

Intervention in lieu of conviction

Modifies the provisions governing intervention in lieu of conviction (ILC) as follows:

(1) Specifies that ILC is available to persons charged with specified theft or nonsupport offenses;

(2) Authorizes ILC for an offender whose mental illness or intellectual disability contributed to the person's criminal behavior;

(3) Requires that a request for ILC include a statement as to whether the offender alleges that drug or alcohol use or mental illness or intellectual disability contributed to the offense;
(4) Provides that the court may order that an offender alleging that drug or alcohol use contributed to the offense be assessed by a certified program or credentialed professional for ILC eligibility;

(5) Prohibits ILC for an offender who has previously been convicted of a felony offense of violence or previously has been convicted of a felony that is not an offense of violence unless the prosecuting attorney recommends that the offender be found eligible for participation in ILC rather than prohibiting it for offenders with any prior felony conviction as in former law;

(6) Eliminates restrictions on eligibility for ILC for an offender charged with a drug trafficking offense that is not a first, second, third, or fourth degree felony;

(7) Eliminates restrictions on eligibility for ILC for an offender charged with a drug possession offense that is a fourth degree felony;

(8) Provides that a criterion for eligibility for ILC for an offender who alleges that drug or alcohol use contributed to the offense is assessment by a certified program or properly credentialed professional, which must be filed with the court;

(9) Provides that a criterion for eligibility for ILC for an offender who alleges that mental illness or intellectual disability contributed to the offense is assessment and a recommended intervention plan by a psychiatrist, psychologist, independent social worker, or professional clinical counselor; and

(10) Requires a court to find that the offender participated in treatment and recovery support services before dismissing the proceeding.

Halfway houses, community residential centers, and reentry centers

Expands the categories of released prisoners that DRC may require to reside in a halfway house or community residential center, revises the rules for determining payment for beds and services at those facilities, specifies that those facilities may provide and be paid for electronic monitoring services for offenders under APA supervision, and extends provisions that apply to halfway houses and community residential centers, other than the general referral provision, to also apply to reentry centers.

Inmate identification cards

Regarding DRC's issuance of an inmate identification card upon the inmate’s release that the inmate may present to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or a deputy registrar, removes the authority of DRC's Director to adopt rules to implement those
provisions, and provides that, when a person applies for a state identification card, an identification card issued by DRC upon an inmate's release is sufficient documentary evidence as required by the Registrar of the applicant's age and identity upon verification of the applicant's Social Security number by the Registrar or a deputy registrar.

**Reentry**

Extends the existence of the Ex-offender Reentry Coalition to December 31, 2014, and changes the membership of the Coalition by reducing the number and modifying the eligibility criteria of members from the Governor's office and adding the Director of Veterans Services.

Expands the required content of the annual report that the Coalition must issue to include information about funding sources for reentry programs sponsored by the state and by other entities, and requires the Coalition to gather information about reentry programs in a repository maintained and made available by the Coalition.

Regarding reentry plans for DRC inmates, specifies that:

1. Generally, DRC must prepare a written reentry plan for each inmate committed to it to help guide the inmate's rehabilitation program during imprisonment, to assist in the inmate's reentry into the community, and to assess the inmate's needs upon release;

2. The reentry plan requirement does not apply to an inmate who has been sentenced to life without parole or who has been sentenced to death or an inmate who is expected to be imprisoned for 30 days or less, but DRC may prepare a written reentry plan of the type described in the requirement if it determines the plan is needed;

3. DRC may collect, if available, social and other information to aid in the preparation of reentry plans; and

4. If DRC does not prepare a required written reentry plan, or makes a decision to not prepare a discretionary written reentry plan or to not collect information as described above, that fact does not give rise to a claim for damages against the state, DRC, DRC's Director, or any DRC employee.

**Certificates of achievement and employability**

Provides for the issuance by DRC or the APA of certificates of achievement and employability for prisoners serving a prison term in a state correctional institution who satisfy specified criteria and prisoners who have been released from a state correctional
institution, who are under supervision on parole or under a post-release control sanction, and who satisfy specified criteria, specifies that a certificate issued to a person generally grants the person relief from mandatory civil impacts specified in the person's application that would affect a potential job within a field in which the person trained as part of an in-prison vocational program, and requires DRC to adopt rules that specify standards and criteria for the revocation of a certificate.

**Parole Board**

Except for the chairperson, and except for the member who has been a victim, is a member of a victim’s family, or represents a victims’ advocacy organization, limits members of the Parole Board appointed on or after the act’s effective date to two six-year terms.

Modifies the number of Parole Board members required to conduct a full Board meeting from a minimum of seven Board members to a majority of Board members.

**Local corrections planning boards**

Adds all of the following to the membership of a county local corrections planning board:

(1) The executive director of the board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services serving that county or the executive director’s designee, or the executive directors of both the community mental health board and the alcohol and drug addiction services board serving that county or their designees, whichever is applicable;

(2) The executive director of the county board of developmental disabilities of that county or the executive director’s designee;

(3) An administrator of a halfway house serving that county, if any, or the administrator’s designee;

(4) An administrator of a community-based correctional facility, if any, serving the court of common pleas of that county or the administrator’s designee; and

(5) An administrator of a community corrections act-funded program in that county, if any, or the administrator’s designee.
Multiple theft, Medicaid fraud, workers' compensation fraud, and similar offenses; workers' compensation fraud as theft

Revises and clarifies the law regarding the prosecution of multiple theft, Medicaid fraud, workers' compensation fraud, and similar offenses and the valuation of property or services involved in the prosecution.

Includes workers' compensation fraud within the statutory definition of "theft offense."

Transfer of prisoners to adjoining state

Expands the authorization to transfer certain Ohio prisoners for pretrial confinement to a jail in a contiguous county in an adjoining state so that the authorization also applies to postconviction confinement and confinement upon civil process.

Community control sanctions; concurrent supervision offenders

Modifies the time at which notice must be given to the probation officer of a person serving a community control sanction if the person is arrested and the time at which the arrested person must be brought before a court.

Establishes a mechanism for the supervision by a single entity of concurrent supervision offenders, that is, offenders who are under community control, who are subject to supervision by multiple supervisory authorities, and to whom other specified criteria apply, and specifies that the APA and one or more courts may enter into an agreement whereby a releasee or parolee who is simultaneously under the supervision of the APA and the court or courts is supervised exclusively by either the APA or a court.

County probation departments

Regarding county probation departments:

(1) Specifies that, when appointing a chief probation officer, a court of common pleas must publicly advertise the position on its web site, conduct a competitive hiring process that adheres to equal employment opportunity laws, and review applicants who meet the posted qualifications and comply with the application requirements;

(2) Requires that probation officers be trained in accordance with a set of minimum standards that the APA, in consultation with the Supreme Court, must establish; and
(3) Requires that the court of common pleas of the county require the probation
department to establish policies regarding the supervision of probationers that must
include specified information.

Requests the Supreme Court to adopt a Rule of Superintendence that provides
for the collection for each month of statistical data relating to the operation of probation
departments, including a count of the number of individuals placed on probation, a
count of the number of individuals terminated from probation, and the total number of
individuals under supervision on probation at the end of the month covered by the
report.

Community corrections programs and subsidies

Regarding DRC community corrections programs and subsidies:

(1) Specifies that, in order to be eligible for a subsidy, counties, groups of
counties, and municipal corporations must satisfy all applicable requirements for
establishment and operation of county and multicounty probation departments, must
utilize the single validated risk assessment tool selected by DRC under the act, except
for sentencing decisions by a court when use of the assessment tool is discretionary, and
must deliver programming that addresses the assessed needs of high risk offenders as
established by the single validated risk assessment tool and that may be delivered
through available and acceptable resources within the municipal corporation, county,
or group of counties or through DRC;

(2) Requires that the county comprehensive plan adopted by a local corrections
planning board of a county that desires to receive a subsidy include a description of the
offender population’s assessed needs as established by the single validated risk
assessment tool, with particular attention to high risk offenders, and the capacity to
deliver services and programs within the county and surrounding region that address
the offender population’s needs;

(3) Requires DRC to adopt standards specifying the class of offenders that make
the offender suitable for participation in community corrections programs; and

(4) Authorizes, instead of requiring, DRC to discontinue subsidy payments to a
political subdivision that is a recipient of a community corrections subsidy payment
and that reduces, by the amount of the subsidy it receives or by a greater or lesser
amount, the amount of local, nonfederal funds it expends for corrections or that uses
the subsidy or any portion of a subsidy to make capital improvements.
Probation improvement and incentive grants

Requires DRC to establish and administer a Probation Improvement Grant and a Probation Incentive Grant for court of common pleas probation departments that supervise felony offenders.

Delinquent youth

Establishes a mechanism for determining the sanction for children who are convicted of a crime in criminal court (hereafter, the offense of conviction and the court of conviction) after their case is transferred under a mandatory bindover provision that requires transfer if a child is alleged to be a delinquent child for committing an act that would be aggravated murder, murder, attempted aggravated murder, or attempted murder if committed by an adult and was 16 or 17 at the time of the act charged or if the child is alleged to be a delinquent child for committing a category two offense, the child was 16 or 17 at the time of the act charged, and the child is alleged to have had a firearm while committing the act charged and to have displayed, brandished, indicated possession of, or used the firearm in committing the act charged.

Provides that under the new mechanism:

(1) If the court of conviction determines that if the child had originally been charged with the offense of conviction in juvenile court, the case would not have been subject to either mandatory or discretionary bindover, the case is transferred back to juvenile court, and the juvenile court imposes a traditional juvenile disposition;

(2) If the court of conviction determines that if the child had originally been charged with the offense of conviction in juvenile court, the case would not have been subject to mandatory bindover, but would have been subject to discretionary bindover, the court of conviction imposes sentence on the child, but stays that sentence and transfers the case back to juvenile court for imposition of a serious youthful offender disposition subject to a possible prosecutor objection and transfer of the case back to the court of conviction, if the juvenile court imposes a serious youthful offender disposition, the court of conviction sentence terminates, the record of the conviction is expunged, and the conviction is treated as a delinquent child adjudication, and if the serious youthful offender disposition is imposed and the adult portion subsequently is invoked, the child no longer is a child for purposes of the Delinquent Child Law; and

(3) If the court of conviction determines that if the child had originally been charged with the offense of conviction in juvenile court, the case would have been subject to mandatory bindover, the court of conviction imposes sentence on the child.
Specifies that if a child is adjudicated a delinquent child for an act that is a felony, if the child is complicit in another person's conduct that constitutes a specified type of firearm specification, if the other person's conduct relates to the child's underlying delinquent act, and if the child did not furnish, use, or dispose of any firearm that was involved in the underlying act or with the other person's specification-related conduct, the court may commit the child to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) for a definite period of not more than one year.

Enacts a new mechanism for judicial release of a delinquent child in DYS custody that applies at any time after the expiration of the prescribed minimum period for which the child was committed to DYS, applies special eligibility rules if the child was committed to DYS for a specification as well as for an underlying delinquent act, provides that the judicial release is to DYS supervision if it is made during the period within which continuing law allows a judicial release to DYS supervision and is to court supervision in all other cases, and generally requires notice to be given at the time of disposition of a delinquent child that the court is retaining jurisdiction for the purpose of a possible grant of this type of judicial release.

Specifies that if a child is granted an emergency release from DYS, the child thereafter is considered to have been institutionalized for the prescribed minimum period of time imposed by the juvenile court for a traditional juvenile court disposition for a delinquent act, or for all definite periods of commitment imposed for a specification plus the prescribed minimum period of time imposed by the juvenile court for a traditional juvenile court disposition for a delinquent act, whichever is applicable.

Establishes a mechanism for determining the competency to participate in the proceeding of a child who is the subject of any proceeding under the Delinquent Children and Juvenile Traffic Offenders Law, other than a proceeding alleging that the child is a juvenile traffic offender, and procedures for a child who is found incompetent under the mechanism for attaining competency, and includes as part of the mechanism a provision that specifies that if the child who is the subject of any such proceeding is 14 years of age or older and is not otherwise found to be mentally ill, intellectually disabled, or developmentally disabled, it is rebuttably presumed for purposes of the competency determination that the child does not have a lack of mental capacity.

Specifies that a county and the juvenile court that serves the county are encouraged to use the moneys in the county treasury's Felony Delinquent Care and Custody Fund for research-supported, outcome-based programs and services, to the extent they are available.

Provides that a complaint alleging that a child is a delinquent child based on chronic or habitual truancy may be filed against just the child or against the child and
the child's parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child and that the complaint must include an allegation that the child’s parent, guardian, or other person with care of the child failed to cause the child’s attendance at school only if the complaint is also filed against the child’s parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child.

Establishes an interagency task force to investigate and make recommendations on how to most effectively treat delinquent youth who suffer from serious mental illness or emotional and behavioral disorders, with attention to the needs of Ohio's economy.

**Speeding violations**

Specifies that no person may be arrested, charged, or convicted of a speeding violation based on a peace officer's unaided visual estimation of the speed of a motor vehicle, trackless trolley, or streetcar.

Specifies that the above restriction does not: (1) preclude the use by a peace officer of a stopwatch, radar, laser, or other electrical, mechanical, or digital device to determine the speed of a vehicle, (2) apply regarding any violation other than a speeding violation, or (3) preclude a peace officer from testifying that the speed of a motor vehicle, trackless trolley, or streetcar was at a speed greater or less than a speed that was reasonable or proper as described in continuing law or at a greater speed than would allow the driver to stop the vehicle within an assured clear distance, the admission into evidence of such testimony, or a conviction of a speeding violation based on those conditions.

**Forfeited recognizances**

Modifies the notification and show-cause procedures regarding forfeited recognizances so that: (1) the magistrate or clerk must send the required notice to the accused and each surety within 15 days after the declaration of the forfeiture, and (2) the date certain by which the accused and sureties must show cause why judgment should not be entered against each of them for the penalty stated in the recognizance and that must be stated in the notice cannot be less than 45 nor more than 60 days from the date of the mailing of the notice.

**Shoplifting**

Expands the list of purposes under continuing authority for which an officer, agent, or employee of a library, museum, or archival institution or a merchant or employee or agent of a merchant may detain another person to also allow such a detention to offer the person, if the person is suspected of unlawful taking, criminal
mischief, or theft and notwithstanding any other provision in state law, an opportunity to complete a pretrial diversion program and to inform the person of the other legal remedies available to the library, museum, archival institution, or merchant.

**Study of inmate assaults**

Requires DRC to conduct an empirical study of all of the following: (1) assaults of any type by inmates on DRC staff, (2) assaults with a weapon by inmates on other inmates, (3) sexual assaults by inmates against other inmates, and (4) the frequency with which DRC recommends prosecution for each type of such an assault, the process that applies to such prosecutions that are commenced, and the outcome of such prosecutions.

Requires DRC to prepare a report that summarizes the findings of its study and includes recommendations for improving the safety of its institutions as supported by the sanctioning and prosecution process, and requires DRC, not later than December 31, 2012, to submit copies of the report to the Governor, Attorney General, President (presumably Speaker is intended) and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and President and Minority Leader of the Senate.

**Statutory name change**

Requires that an application for a statutory change of name require the applicant to state whether the applicant has been convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for identity fraud or has a duty to comply with the registration or notice of intent to reside requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Law (SORN Law) because the applicant was convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or was adjudicated a delinquent child for having committed a sexually oriented offense or a child-victim oriented offense.

Prohibits a court from granting an application for a statutory change of name if the applicant or a minor on whose behalf an application is made is required under the SORN Law to register or provide notice of intent to reside because the applicant or minor was convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or was adjudicated a delinquent child for having committed a sexually oriented offense or a child-victim oriented offense or has pleaded guilty to, been convicted of, or been adjudicated a delinquent child for committing identity fraud.

**Crime victims reparations**

Modifies the Crime Victims Reparations Law by: (1) eliminating the period of limitations for filing an application for an award of reparations unless the victim of the criminally injurious conduct was a minor and the related bar against an award of
reparations to a claimant if the application was not filed within the applicable period of limitations, (2) eliminating the bar against an award of reparations being made to a claimant when the criminally injurious conduct on which the claimant based a claim was not reported to a law enforcement officer or agency within 72 hours after the occurrence of the conduct unless good cause existed for the failure to report the conduct within the 72-hour period, (3) modifying the definitions of "allowable expense" and "cost of crime scene cleanup" that apply to the Law, and (4) specifying that the revisions described in items (1) to (3) generally apply to all applications for an award of reparations filed on or after the act’s effective date and to all applications for an award filed before that date for which an award or denial of the claim has not yet become final, but that the revisions that eliminate the statute of limitations and remove the 72-hour reporting requirement and the revisions concerning guardian bonds in the definition of "allowable expense" apply to all claims for an award pending on the act’s effective date and all claims for an award filed on or after that date that are based on criminally injurious conduct not previously addressed.

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**Sub. S.B. 17**

**Sens.** Schaffer, Jones, Faber, Cafaro, Jordan, Grendell, Daniels, Beagle, Seitz, Wilson, Widener, Oelslager, Manning, Cates, Hite, Niehaus, Obhof, Stewart, Coley

**Reps.** Mecklenborg, Maag, Blessing, Buchy, Combs, Dovilla, Huffman, Young, Amstutz, Balderson, Beck, Boose, Brenner, Bubp, Carey, Derickson, Goodwin, Hackett, C. Hagan, Hall, Hayes, Henne, Johnson, Kozlowski, Landis, Martin, Newbold, Roegner, Ruhl, Sears, Thompson, Uecker, Batchelder

**Effective date:** September 30, 2011

**Concealed carry in a liquor permit premises**

Expands the types of liquor permit premises in which a concealed carry licensee may legally possess a concealed handgun to include any premises that has been issued a D liquor permit, which includes carry outs, restaurants, nightclubs, clubs, hotels, shopping malls, marinas, museums, and other establishments.

Specifies that the above exemption applies only if a concealed carry licensee is not consuming beer or intoxicating liquor or under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse while in possession of a firearm in a premises that has been issued a D liquor permit.
Impercroppably handling firearms in a motor vehicle by a concealed carry licensee

Through repeal of a prohibition, allows a concealed carry licensee to transport or have a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle regardless of whether it is secured in a holster, case, bag, or box or by other specified means.

In concert with the above change, repeals a provision that prohibited a concealed carry licensee from removing or attempting to remove a loaded handgun from the holster, case, bag, box, etc., grasping it, and holding or having contact with it by touching it while the vehicle was being operated on a street, highway, or public property.

Alters other prohibitions related to improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle by a concealed carry licensee to conform with the repeal of the prohibition related to securing a handgun in a motor vehicle.

Knowingly transporting a firearm in a motor vehicle by a concealed carry licensee

Modifies an exception to prohibitions governing the transporting of a firearm in a motor vehicle by eliminating a portion of the exception that generally required a concealed carry licensee's handgun to be secured in a holster, case, bag, or box or by other specified means.

Expungement of prior conviction of improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle that no longer would be a crime

Authorizes the expungement of a prior conviction of improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle that no longer would be a crime under the act.

S.B. 84

Sens. Oelslager, Skindell, Kearney, Wagoner, Bacon, Beagle, Daniels, Hughes, Jones, LaRose, Obhof, Patton, Sawyer, Seitz, Smith, Stewart, Wilson

Reps. Garland, Winburn, Coley, Slaby, Anielski, Bubp, Carney, Combs, Letson, Patmon, Yuko, Batchelder

Effective date: September 30, 2011

Designates as an unfair or deceptive act or practice the offense of advertising or conducting a live musical performance or production in Ohio through the use of a false,
deceptive, or misleading affiliation, connection, or association between a performing group and a recording group.

Declares that a performing group that is the owner of a valid trademark under the federal Lanham Act for that group is exempt from the offense.

Establishes a civil penalty of not less than $5,000 and not more than $15,000 for each day of violating a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction to restrain and prevent acts that violate the offense.

Eliminates the duties of the Attorney General under former law regarding investigations of persons violating the offense, and instead authorizes enforcement actions to be commenced under the Consumer Sales Practices Act.
**EDUCATION**

### Sub. H.B. 21


**Sens.** Beagle, Cates, Hite, Obhof, Bacon, Faber, Jones, Jordan, LaRose, Niehaus, Schaffer, Seitz, Wagoner

**Effective date:** July 29, 2011

Directs the State Board of Education to issue a resident educator license to an applicant who is assigned by Teach for America to teach in Ohio and meets certain minimum qualifications.

Requires Teach for America to enter into an agreement with one or more public or private Ohio institutions of higher education to enable participants to complete an optional master's degree.

Directs the State Board to issue a resident educator license to an applicant who has completed at least two years of teaching in another state as a participant in the Teach for America program and to credit that person with completion of two years of the four-year Ohio Teacher Residency Program.

### Am. Sub. H.B. 30


**Sens.** Hite, Bacon, Beagle, Daniels, Grendell, Hughes, Jones, Jordan, LaRose, Lehner, Patton, Schaffer, Seitz, Wagoner, Widener, Cates, Niehaus, Manning

**Effective date:** July 1, 2011; Sections 4 and 5 effective June 29, 2011
Eliminates the requirement that school districts offer all-day kindergarten, and reinstates the permanent authority for most districts and community schools to charge tuition for all-day kindergarten.

Eliminates the authority of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt rules imposing spending and reporting requirements associated with the Evidence-Based Model (EBM) school funding system, and eliminates the authority to impose graduated sanctions for noncompliance with those rules.

Eliminates the requirements that school districts account separately for most components of the EBM and submit annual spending plans.

Retains the requirement for spending rules governing state gifted education funding, but postpones the effective date for the rules from July 1, 2011, to July 1, 2013.

Modifies school districts’ maintenance of effort spending requirements for gifted education services, requires districts to account for their maintenance of effort spending to the Department of Education, and directs the Department to monitor and enforce districts’ compliance with the maintenance of effort requirements.

Eliminates the prohibition against payment of state unit funding for gifted education after fiscal year 2011.

Eliminates the requirement that school districts establish family and civic engagement teams, except as required for the federal Race to the Top grant.

Eliminates the requirement that school districts annually set aside an amount per pupil into a textbook and instructional materials fund.

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**Sub. H.B. 36**


**Sens.** Hite, Obhof, Bacon, Beagle, Brown, Cafaro, Cates, Daniels, Faber, Grendell, Hughes, Jones, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Patton, Sawyer, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Smith, Stewart, Turner, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson, Gillmor

**Effective date:** Emergency, April 13, 2011
Restores the two excused calamity days that were cut from the 2010-2011 school year, raising the total number of excused days for that school year from three to five.

Eliminates the requirement that school districts, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools had to make up the first five excess, that is, unexcused, calamity days as whole school days, thereby allowing them the option to make up all unexcused calamity days by adding time to other school days.

Requires the Department of Education to waive the number of hours that a community, i.e. charter, school is closed for a public calamity as long as the school provides the required minimum number of hours, that is, 920 hours, of learning opportunities to students in the school year.

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**Sub. H.B. 96**


**Sens.** Hite, Obhof, Bacon, Balderson, Beagle, Brown, Burke, Cafaro, Eklund, Gentile, Jones, Kearney, Oelslager, Patton, Sawyer, Skindell, Smith, Tavares, Wagoner, Widener

**Effective date:** March 22, 2012

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a pilot project for school districts to test the delivery of early screening and intervention services for children with risk factors for dyslexia.

Requires the state Superintendent to evaluate the pilot project and report results to the General Assembly.

Specifies in state statute that dyslexia is a learning disability for which a child may receive special education services.
H.B. 139


Sens. Sawyer, Widener, Jones, Bacon, Lehner, Patton, Skindell, Smith, Brown, Cafaro, Cates, Gillmor, Grendell, Hughes, Kearney, LaRose, Obhof, Oelslager, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Tavares, Turner, Wagoner, Wilson

Effective date: Emergency, April 29, 2011

Changes the name of the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine to the Northeast Ohio Medical University.

Sub. H.B. 157


Sens. Hite, Brown, Coley, Gentile, Hughes, Jones, Kearney, Obhof, Patton, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Turner, Wagoner

Effective date: Emergency, December 21, 2011

Educational service centers (ESCs)

Permits an ESC to engage the services of a dyslexia specialist to provide training for K-4 teachers in school districts and other public schools that contract with the ESC for training services on: (1) the indicators of dyslexia, and (2) the types of instruction that children with dyslexia need.

Permits groups of local school districts within an ESC's territory to engage the services of a dyslexia specialist if the ESC does not provide the training.
Specifies that if a local school district elects to receive services from an ESC in whose territory the district is not located, the statutory per pupil payments for those services must be paid to the ESC from which the district actually receives the services.

Requires service agreements between ESCs and local school districts for the 2012-2013 school year to be finalized by June 30, 2012.

Requires a local school district that intends to obtain services from a different ESC in the 2012-2013 school year to notify the ESC from which it currently receives those services by March 1, 2012, of the intended change.

Extends by two months to March 1, 2012, the deadline for a city or exempted village school district to notify an ESC that it intends to obtain services from a different ESC in the 2012-2013 school year, and specifies that failure to meet the deadline results in automatic renewal of the service agreement for one year.

Requires an ESC to be dissolved when it no longer has any agreements to provide school districts with services for which per pupil payments are made.

Specifies that when an ESC is dissolved, the territory of each of the local school districts that made up the ESC's territory is no longer part of the territory of any ESC.

**Public college-preparatory boarding schools**

Requires the College-Preparatory Boarding School Facilities Program to comply with the main Classroom Facilities Assistance Program, except for provisions related to the issuance of bonds or the levying of taxes.

Requires the Ohio School Facilities Commission to determine the cost of a public college-preparatory boarding school's project based on all campus facilities needed for the school's programs and operations, but limits the use of state funds to paying for classroom facilities that do not exceed the Commission's construction and design standards.

Requires the Commission to initiate procedures for a public college-preparatory boarding school's project upon execution of the contract between the State Board of Education and the school's operator establishing the school.

Specifies that the project agreement must provide for release of the state funds encumbered for the project if the public college-preparatory boarding school fails to secure the $20 million of private money required by continuing law for its share of the project.
Authorizes the Commission and the board of trustees of a public college-preparatory boarding school to enter into an agreement to lease the school’s site to a third party who will develop facilities for the school and lease them back to the school in return for rental payments partially financed with state funds.

Eliminates the requirement that a public college-preparatory boarding school qualify for and obtain a charter from the State Board of Education.

Transfers certain statutory duties from the operator of a public college-preparatory boarding school to the school’s board of trustees, including the duty to adopt bylaws for the school.

Revises the appointment of nongubernatorial members of the board of trustees of a public college-preparatory boarding school.

Requires each public college-preparatory boarding school to have a fiscal officer who meets standards established by the State Board of Education.

Directs the Department of Education to monitor public college-preparatory boarding schools and to take action for a school’s failure to comply with its bylaws or contract with the State Board of Education or with applicable laws or rules.

Permits the resident school district of a student enrolled in a public college-preparatory boarding school to meet its responsibility to provide weekly transportation to and from the school by contracting with a third party or by paying an agreed-upon amount to the school for the school to assume the transportation duties.

Requires student transportation to comply with all laws and rules regarding the construction, design, equipment, and operation of school buses and the qualifications of drivers and mechanics.

Requires the Department of Education, when using federal funds to offset the per pupil boarding amount paid to a public college-preparatory boarding school, to retain any portion of those funds that may be used for administrative purposes.

Requires regulatory agencies to use financial audits of a public college-preparatory boarding school provided by the Auditor of State, rather than by the school’s operator as in prior law, to monitor federal funds that are used to offset the per pupil boarding amount.
ELECTIONS

Am. Sub. H.B. 194


Sens.  Faber, Bacon, Beagle, Coley, Hite, Jones, Jordan, Lehner, Niehaus, Schaffer, Seitz, Widener

Effective date:  The act is subject to a referendum vote on November 6, 2012. The vote will determine whether the act takes effect.

Election administration

Presumption of pollworker error

Specifies that, in any administrative review or legal action brought regarding the actions of any election official, all of the following apply:

--No election official can be presumed to have committed any error in the course of the election official’s duties unless that error is independently proven by the facts of the administrative review or legal proceeding.

--If an election official has been found to have committed an error with respect to a particular person or set of circumstances, that election official must not be presumed to have committed an error with respect to any other person or set of circumstances.

--If election officials in one precinct, polling location, or county are found to have committed an error with respect to a particular person or set of circumstances, that error must not be presumed to have occurred in any other precinct, polling location, or county.

Use of Social Security number as identification

Requires a person who uses a Social Security number as identification under the Election Law to provide the full nine digits of that number instead of the last four digits as under prior law.
Specifies that the Social Security number of an elector or voter registration applicant is not a public record and must be redacted on records made publicly available.¹

**Contracts for the provision of election services**

Permits a board of elections to contract with another board of elections in Ohio with a county automatic data processing board or with an educational service center for the provision of election services, including any statutory duties imposed on the board.

**Bulk purchase of election supplies**

Permits the Secretary of State to enter into agreements for the bulk purchase of election supplies in order to reduce the costs for those purchases by boards of elections.

**Bid threshold for ballots and election supplies**

Increases from $10,000 to $25,000 the cost of a contract for printing ballots and furnishing other election supplies that may be let without competitive bidding.

**Number of precinct officials at a special election**

Permits a board of elections to select two precinct election officials who are not members of the same political party, instead of the usual four precinct officials, to serve as the precinct officials for a precinct at a special election if the board determines that four officials are not required.

**Polling place accessibility**

Eliminates the requirement that ramps had to have a grade of not more than 8%, and instead requires ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Clarifies that an elector is only eligible to vote in the elector's car if the elector is unable to enter the polling place due to the inaccessibility of the polling place.

**Qualifications to circulate an election petition**

Eliminates provisions that required the circulator of an initiative or referendum petition to be a resident of Ohio, and eliminates provisions requiring circulators of all other election petitions to be residents and registered to vote for 30 days before the next election.

¹ Am. Sub. H.B. 224 of the 129th General Assembly repealed the nine-digit requirement and reinstated the last four digit language before the provisions of this act took effect.
Voter challenges

Eliminates the detailed questions that precinct officials previously were required to ask a voter who was challenged based on citizenship, and eliminates a requirement that naturalized citizens had to provide their naturalization certificate.

Eliminates authority for a presiding judge to ask questions not specified in law as the judge considered necessary to determine an elector's qualifications to vote at an election.

Minimum precinct size

Establishes a minimum precinct size of 500 electors for precincts located in a municipal corporation.

Specifies that a board of elections does not violate the minimum precinct size if its minimum precinct size varies from the statutory minimum by 5% or less.

Permits a board of elections to apply to the Secretary of State for a waiver from the minimum precinct size requirement, and requires a board that applies for a waiver to identify the affected precincts and to explain the reason for the waiver request.

Time for use of voting machines

Increases from five minutes to ten minutes the maximum time that a voter may occupy a voting compartment or use a voting machine when all the compartments or machines are in use and voters are waiting to occupy them.

Specifies that the time limit does not apply to a person who is disabled and requires accommodation to the extent required under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Official oversight over a board of elections

Requires the Secretary of State to adopt rules to establish procedures and standards for all of the following: determining when a board of elections must be placed under official oversight, placing a board under official oversight, transition of a board out of being under official oversight, and supervision by the Secretary of State of a board that is under official oversight.

Number of precinct officials at multiple precinct polling locations

Permits a board of elections that opts to use multiple precinct polling locations in lieu of any or all individual precinct polling locations to appoint a reduced number of precinct election officials to staff a polling location.
Directives issued by the Secretary of State

Changes the time during which the Secretary of State may not issue permanent directives from the period beginning 90 days before an election until 40 days after an election to the period beginning 30 days before an election until 30 days after the election.

Training of election officials

Permits the Secretary of State to mandate training, in addition to that required under continuing law, for election officials on a continuing basis in an effort to achieve election uniformity.

Temporary election employees and sick/vacation leave

Permits a board of elections to hire temporary employees as well as part-time employees.

Specifies that nonfull-time, part-time, or temporary employees must only be paid for sick or vacation time subject to action adopted by the board.

Elimination of political party challenge

Eliminates the ability to challenge a voter based on the person's political party affiliation.

Font size for statewide ballot issue advertising

Reduces the font size from 10-point to 8-point for printing information on statewide ballot issues in newspapers.

Initiative and referendum petitions

Supreme Court jurisdiction over challenges to initiative and referendum petitions

Specifies that pursuant to Article II, Section 1g of the Ohio Constitution, the Ohio Supreme Court has original, exclusive jurisdiction in all challenges to initiative and referendum petitions.

Filing requirements for initiative and referendum petitions

Requires a petitioner, when filing a petition, to also file: (1) an electronic copy of the petition along with a verification that the electronic copy is a true representation of the original paper petition filed with the Secretary of State, (2) a summary of the
number of part-petitions filed per county and the number of signatures on each part-
petition, and (3) an index of the electronic copy.

Specifies that, for a request made for inspection or copying of a petition, the request is fulfilled when the Secretary of State provides inspection of or copies of the electronic copy of the petition.

Specifies that discrepancies between the original paper petition and the electronic copy of the petition do not render the petition invalid, but specifies that such discrepancies, if the product of fraud, are subject to criminal penalties for election falsification.

**Notifying initiative and referendum petitioners of signature verification results**

Requires the Secretary of State to notify, by certified mail, each member of the committee in charge of the circulation of the petition as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition.

Specifies that the ten-day period to obtain additional signatures begins after the first member of the committee receives notice of the petition’s insufficiency by certified mail from the Secretary of State.

**Collection of additional signatures on petitions**

Prohibits the circulator of a petition from collecting additional signatures during the period beginning on the date that a petition is filed and ending on the date that the Secretary of State determines the sufficiency of the signatures that were originally filed.

**Primary and special elections**

**Changing presidential primary election from March to May**

Changes the date of the presidential primary election in each presidential election year from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May.

Eliminates the provision that permitted a special election to be conducted on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in the year in which a presidential primary election was held.

**Determination of whether to conduct primary election**

Changes the basis for calculating whether a primary election should be conducted from the number of declarations of candidacy filed to the number of candidates certified to appear on the ballot.
Prepayment of special election costs

Requires a board of elections, not less than 15 business days before the deadline for submitting a question or issue for placement on the ballot at a special election, to determine the estimated cost of the special election.

Requires the political subdivision placing the question or issue, or nomination for or election to office, on the ballot to pay to the county elections revenue fund 65% of the estimated cost of the special election not less than ten business days after the deadline for submitting questions and issues for placement on the ballot.

Requires the board of elections, not later than 60 days after the date of a special election, to provide to each political subdivision the true and accurate cost for the question or issue or nomination for or election to office that the political subdivision submitted to the voters at the special election.

Requires a political subdivision that paid less than the actual cost to remit to the county elections revenue fund the difference between the amount paid and the actual cost within 30 days after being notified of the actual cost.

Requires the board of county commissioners to remit, from the county elections revenue fund, within 30 days after receiving notice of the overpayment from the board of elections, to a political subdivision that paid more than the actual cost, the amount by which the subdivision's payment exceeded the actual cost.

Candidates

Specifies the process for removing a person's name from the ballot when the candidate withdraws before any election, not just a primary election.

Ballots

Ballots with more marks than legal selections (overvotes)

Specifies that a ballot is marked contrary to law and does not contain a technical error if the voter marks more selections for a particular office, question, or issue than the number of selections that the voter is allowed by law to make for that office, question, or issue.

Specifies that a voter marks more selections for a particular office than the voter is allowed by law to make for that office if the voter marks the ballot for a candidate and also writes in the name of the candidate as a write-in vote.
Requires an otherwise overvoted ballot to be counted if all of the following apply:

--The voter marks the ballot for a candidate and writes in the identical candidate's name.

--The ballots are counted at a central location using automatic tabulating equipment.

--At least three members of the board of elections agree that the candidate's name, as it appears on the ballot, and the name of the candidate written in by the voter are identical.

Requires a voter's ballot to be invalidated for the overvoted office, question, or issue, but specifies that the ballot is not to be invalidated for any other office, question, or issue for which the voter has not marked an excess number of selections.

**Removal of local issues from the ballot**

Permits a political subdivision, taxing authority, or other entity that placed an issue on the ballot to remove that issue from the ballot at any time prior to the 70th day before the election using the same process that the entity used to originally certify the issue for the ballot.

**Number of ballots required to be prepared for ballots on demand**

Specifies a process for determining the minimum number of ballots to be prepared in a county that uses ballots on demand for a primary election if no primary election was held four years previously, which is the election typically used to determine the comparable number of ballots to be produced.

**Voter registration**

**Administration of the statewide voter registration database**

Requires the Secretary of State to administer the statewide voter registration database and make it continuously available to each board of elections and to other agencies as authorized by law.

Requires the Secretary of State to adopt rules establishing a uniform method for addressing instances in which records contained in the statewide voter registration database do not conform with records maintained by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.
Data-sharing with state agencies and other states

Generally requires state agencies, including the Department of Health, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Department of Job and Family Services, and Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, to provide any information and data to the Secretary of State that the Secretary of State considers necessary to maintain the statewide voter registration database.

Requires the Secretary of State to ensure that any information or data provided to the Secretary of State by another agency that is confidential while in the possession of the agency providing the information or data remains confidential while in the possession of the Secretary of State.

Prohibits information provided by another agency from being used to update the name and address of a registered elector, and specifies that an elector’s name and address may only be updated as a result of the elector's actions in filing a notice of change of name, change of address, or both.

Requires a board of elections to contact a registered elector at the address on file with the board to verify the accuracy of information in the statewide voter registration database if information received from another agency identifies a discrepancy between the information maintained in the database and information maintained by the other agency.

Permits the Secretary of State to enter into agreements to share information or data with other states or groups of states, as the Secretary of State considers necessary, in order to maintain the statewide voter registration database.

Persons eligible to purge voters from the statewide voter registration database

Eliminates a provision requiring boards of elections to purge a voter's name and voter registration from the statewide voter registration database upon cancellation of the voter's registration, and requires the Secretary of State to specify, by rule, the persons authorized to add, delete, modify, or print records in the database.

Requires the Secretary of State to notify the applicable board of elections of each voter that the Secretary of State has purged from the statewide voter registration database.

Cancellation of voter registrations due to death

Requires the chief health officer of each political subdivision and the Director of Health to file with the Secretary of State and each board of elections, at least monthly, the names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, dates of death, and residences of all
persons over 18 years of age who have died within the subdivision or within Ohio or another state within the month.

Requires the Secretary of State and the Director of Health jointly to establish a secure electronic system through which they can exchange the required information regarding the death of a registered elector.

Requires a board of elections or the Secretary of State promptly to cancel the registration of each elector who is named in a death report filed under those provisions.

Requires the registration of a registered elector to be cancelled upon the filing with the board of elections of a certified copy of the death certificate of the registered elector by the deceased elector's spouse, parent, or child, by the administrator of the deceased elector's estate, or by the executor of the deceased elector's will.

**Online voter registration**

Requires the Secretary of State, by rule, to establish a secure online process for voter registration, which will allow a voter registration to be submitted online to the Secretary of State through the Internet.²

Requires an online applicant to be registered to vote if all of the following apply: (1) the application contains all of the required information, including the applicant's Social Security number, (2) the applicant is qualified to register to vote, and (3) the applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the information in the online application under penalty of election falsification using the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of the applicant's Ohio identification card as proof of the applicant's identity.

Requires the Secretary of State to obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's signature that is on file with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for each application submitted online through the Internet.

Specifies that the applicant's signature obtained from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles must be considered the applicant's signature for all election and signature-matching purposes.

Requires the online registration process to be operational not later than July 1, 2012.

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² Although this act established online voter registration and online updating of voter registration information, those provisions were repealed by Am. Sub. H.B. 224 of the 129th General Assembly before they could be implemented.
Online updating of voter registration information

Permits a registered voter to use the online voter registration process to update the elector's name, address, or both.³

Sending of acknowledgment notice

Permits a board of elections to send an acknowledgment notice, as prescribed by the Secretary of State, to any registered elector at any time to facilitate the maintenance and accuracy of the statewide voter registration database.

Address verification with national change of address database

Requires boards of elections, instead of the Secretary of State, to verify the address information of each registered voter in the county with the national change of address database.

Increases the frequency at which the verification is to be conducted from once in every odd-numbered year to at least once in each year.

Database information available online

Removes, by striking through the word "only," its apparent limiting effect on the information from the statewide voter registration database – voter names, voter addresses, voter precinct numbers, and voter voting histories – that can be made available on the Secretary of State’s web site.

Persons who are compensated for registering voters

Eliminates provisions that required persons who are compensated for registering voters to register with the Secretary of State and complete a training program regarding voter registration.

Voter registration informational brochure

Eliminates the requirement that a board of elections, designated agency, public high school, public vocational school, public library, county treasurer, or deputy registrar of motor vehicles had to distribute an informational brochure regarding voter registration to each person who requested more than two voter registration forms at one time.

³ Although this act established online voter registration and online updating of voter registration information, those provisions were repealed by Am. Sub. H.B. 224 of the 129th General Assembly before they could be implemented.
**Incomplete voter registration applications**

Requires the Secretary of State to establish, by rule, a uniform process for notifying individuals who have submitted an incomplete voter registration application of the incomplete status of that application, and requires the process to permit such an individual to provide any information required to complete the application.

**Provisional ballots**

**Changes in categories of provisional voters**

Consolidates several categories of voters who are required to cast a provisional ballot because of lack of identification into a single category, thereby reducing the number of reasons that a voter may be required to cast a provisional ballot.

Eliminates the requirement that an elector who changes the elector's name and remains within a precinct had to cast a provisional ballot, and instead permits an elector who changes the elector's name, but stays in the same precinct to vote a regular ballot.

Requires an elector who moves from one county to another and changes the elector's name to vote a provisional ballot in the same manner as any other elector who moves from one county to another without updating the elector's registration information must vote a provisional ballot.

Requires an individual who is casting a ballot after the time for the closing of the polls pursuant to a court order extending the time for the closing of the polls to cast a provisional ballot.

**Provisional ballots cast by voters without identification**

Eliminates a provision of law that permitted an individual without identification to execute an affirmation and have that individual's provisional ballot counted.

Requires an individual who does not have or cannot provide identification to the election officials to vote a provisional ballot, permits such an individual to provide identification to the board of elections not later than the close of the polls or to provide the individual's Social Security number on the provisional ballot envelope, and allows such a person's ballot to be counted if the identification is so provided or the Social Security number is verified with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.4

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4 Am. Sub. H.B. 224 of the 129th General Assembly eliminated those provisions and instead requires an elector without identification to provide the last four digits of the elector's Social Security number or the elector's driver's license or state identification card number, which number must be compared to the elector's information in the statewide voter registration database.
Requirement to direct voters to the correct precinct

Permits, instead of requires, an election official to direct a voter who is in the wrong precinct to the voter's correct precinct.

Specifies that it is the duty of the individual casting the ballot to ensure that the individual is casting that ballot in the correct precinct.

Specifies that if an election official attempts to direct an individual to the correct precinct and the individual subsequently casts a ballot in the wrong precinct: (1) that ballot must not be counted, and (2) the ballot being cast in the wrong precinct must not be considered to be caused by an error on the part of the election official.

Provisional ballot affirmation form

Eliminates the provisional ballot affirmation form established in prior law, and instead requires the Secretary of State to prescribe the form of the written affirmation, which affirmation must be printed on the face of the provisional ballot envelope.

Provisional voters who decline to execute the required affirmation

Prohibits the election official from recording any of the information required to be provided by the provisional voter on the provisional ballot affirmation when the voter declines to execute the affirmation.

Requires the election official to explain to an individual who declines to execute the affirmation that the individual's provisional ballot will not be counted.

Eliminates a provision that required the election officials to record the name of an individual who declined to execute the affirmation and transmit that information with the provisional ballot for the purpose of ballot verification.

Eliminates a provision that permitted such an individual's provisional ballot to be counted if the election officials determined that the individual was eligible to vote.

Elimination of ten-day period to provide additional information

Eliminates the option for an elector who does not provide identification or who does not provide documentation to resolve a polling place challenge to provide that information to the board of elections within ten days after the election.

Eliminates a provision that required election officials, when considering the validity of a provisional ballot, to review additional information provided by the provisional voter within ten days after the day of the election.
Eliminates a provision that permitted a voter registration application hearing or a challenge hearing that was postponed until after the election to be conducted during the ten days following the election, and requires the hearing to be conducted not later than ten days after the application was received.

**Determining validity of provisional ballots**

Specifies that, when determining whether a provisional ballot is valid and entitled to be counted, the board of elections must examine the affirmation executed by the provisional voter, the Statewide Voter Registration Database, and other records maintained by the board of elections.

Requires the provisional voter to provide all of the following information on the affirmation for the provisional ballot in order to be eligible to be counted:

1. The elector’s printed name;
2. The elector’s signature;
3. The elector’s date of birth;
4. The elector’s Social Security number, Ohio driver’s license number, or state identification card number, or an affirmative notation that the elector provided the required identification to the election officials;
5. The elector’s residence address;
6. A statement that the individual is a registered voter in the jurisdiction in which the provisional ballot is being voted; and
7. A statement that the individual is eligible to vote in the election in which the provisional ballot is being voted.

**Use of provisional ballot affirmation as notice of change of address or name**

Requires the provisional ballot affirmation of an elector who votes a provisional ballot due to a change of residence, change of name, or both to serve as the change of residence or change of name form instead of requiring the elector to complete and sign a separate form.

**Assistance for disabled and illiterate electors**

Specifies that nothing in the Provisional Ballot Law is in derogation of the provisions of continuing law that permit a blind, disabled, or illiterate elector to receive
assistance in the marking of the elector's ballot by two precinct election officials of different political parties.

Permits a blind, disabled, or illiterate elector to receive assistance in marking that elector's provisional ballot and in completing the required affirmation in the same manner as an elector may receive assistance on the day of an election.

Clarifies that the provisions of law that permit a blind, disabled, or illiterate elector to receive assistance in the marking of the elector's ballot by two precinct election officials of different political parties supersedes any contrary provision of law.

**Absent voting**

**Time for in-person and mail-in absent voting**

Requires absent voter's ballots that will not be cast in person to be printed and ready for use on the 21st day before an election, except for military and overseas voters, whose ballots must be available 45 days before an election.

Requires absent voter's ballots to be printed and ready for use for in-person voting beginning on the 17th day before the election through 6 p.m. on the last Friday before the election, except that in-person ballots must not be available for use on Sundays.

Specifies that, on days that absent voter's ballots may be cast in person, those ballots must be available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Requires electors who are waiting in line at the time for the close of in-person absent voting on a particular day to be permitted to cast their ballots before the in-person absent voting location may close.

Changes the time during which a registered elector who has moved or changed the elector's name may appear in person at the office of the board to fill out a change of residence or change of name form and vote in person to match the time during which any other elector may appear at the office of the board and cast an absent voter's ballot in person.

**Process for in-person absent voting**

Specifies that all of the following apply to the casting of absent voter's ballots in person:
--The absent voter must provide identification in the same manner as a voter who casts a ballot in person on the day of an election.

--The absent voter is not required to complete an absent voter's ballot identification envelope.

--The board of elections must provide a signature book to be signed by absent voters who are casting their ballots in person.

--If a board of elections employs more than one location for casting absent voter's ballots in person before an election, an electronic pollbook that provides real time access to voting records must be used at each such location.

--No person other than a precinct election official is to be permitted to challenge the right to vote of an absent voter who is casting a ballot in person. The precinct election officials may challenge such a voter's right to vote in the same manner as a challenge may be made on the day of an election.

--No absent voter may receive a replacement ballot after the voter's absent voter's ballot has been scanned or entered into automatic tabulating equipment.

**Location for in-person absent voting**

Generally requires voters who cast in-person absent ballots or who otherwise must cast ballots at the board to vote at the main office of the board of elections.

Permits a board of elections to allow electors to cast absent voter's ballots in person at a branch office of the board if: (1) at least three members of the board vote to establish a branch office at a specified location for the applicable election, and (2) at least three members of the board determine, as part of that vote, that the board of elections lacks the physical capacity at the office of the board to conduct in-person absent voting at that location for the applicable election.

**Unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots**

Prohibits a board of elections from mailing any unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots.

Permits a board of elections to mail an absent voter's ballot application only to an elector who has requested such an application.
**Prepayment of return postage costs**

Prohibits a board of elections from prepaying the return postage on absent voter's ballot applications.

Requires absent voters to send their marked ballots to a board of elections with the postage prepaid.

**Sealing of unsealed envelopes; inserting ballots**

Requires the board of elections, upon receiving any return envelope before the eleventh day after the day of an election, to open the return envelope but not the identification envelope contained within it.

Requires the board of elections to place voted ballots in the identification envelope and seal it if the board opens the return envelope and discovers that the ballots are not properly enclosed and sealed in the identification envelope.

Requires the board of elections to seal an identification envelope that is not properly sealed.

**Vote totals for absent voter's ballots**

Requires a board of elections, when tallying the results of absent voter's ballots, to add those votes to the vote totals for the precincts in which the applicable absent voters reside.

**Challenging absent voters based on incomplete envelopes**

Permits the precinct election officials to challenge the right to vote of an absent voter if the identification envelope statement of voter has not been completed unless the ballot is a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot.

**Stub A requirements**

Prohibits an absent voter's ballot from being accepted or counted if Stub A is not included in the envelope with the ballot instead of prohibiting the ballot from being counted if Stub A was detached as under prior law.

**Use of federal write-in absentee ballot for state and local elections**

Requires a board of elections to accept and process federal write-in absentee ballots for all federal, state, and local elections conducted in any year.
Required fields for absent voter's ballots

Requires the statement of voter on a completed absent voter’s ballot identification envelope to contain the voter's date of birth.

Election observers

Observing during the casting of in-person absent voter's ballots

Permits election observers to be appointed to serve at the board of elections during the time that absent voter's ballots may be cast in person.

Activities of election observers who serve during the casting of the ballots

Permits election observers who serve during the casting of the ballots only to watch and listen to election officials engaging in their duties and to interactions between voters and election officials and to take notes on their observations other than by means of a photographic, video, or audio recording.

Specifies that observations must not delay election officials in performing their duties or voters in casting their ballots.

Prohibits an observer who serves during the casting of the ballots from interacting with any precinct election official or with any voter while the observer is inside the polling place, within the area between the polling place and the small United States flags placed on the thoroughfares and walkways leading to the polling place, or within ten feet of any elector in line waiting to vote if the line of electors waiting to vote extends beyond those small flags.

Specifies that no violation of the prohibition occurs as a result of an incidental interaction between an observer and a voter or a precinct election official such as an exchange of greetings.

Electronic pollbooks

Certification by the Board of Voting Machine Examiners

Authorizes the Board of Voting Machine Examiners to test, and the Secretary of State to certify, electronic pollbooks for use in Ohio in the same manner as voting equipment is tested and certified.

Specifies that, if an electronic pollbook is certified by the Secretary of State, equipment of the same model and make may be adopted for use at elections as long as it operates in an identical manner.
Adoption for use by a board of elections

Permits a board of elections to adopt the use of any electronic pollbook that has been certified for use in Ohio instead of using pollbooks or signature poll lists.

Requires the Secretary of State to provide rules, instructions, directives, and advisories regarding the examination, testing, and use of electronic pollbooks to boards of elections that have adopted them.

Campaign-related changes

Eliminates provisions that were permanently enjoined due to their unconstitutionality, which governed the expenditure of personal funds by candidates and permitted the opponents of personal funds candidates to accept contributions in excess of the contribution limits.

Eliminates provisions that were permanently enjoined due to their unconstitutionality, which prohibited corporations and labor organizations from using their money and property for political purposes.

Specifies that the definition of "political contributing entity" includes a corporation or labor organization, subject to the continuing prohibition against corporations and labor organizations making contributions directly to candidates.

Specifies that none of the act's changes prohibit a labor organization from making a contribution to a candidate's campaign committee or to another political entity or from making an independent expenditure.

Specifies that the changes to the definition of "political contributing entity" supersede the provisions of rule 111-3-05 of the Administrative Code, which governs the reporting of independent expenditures by corporations, and that, on and after the effective date of the new definition, rule 111-3-05 is void and must have no further effect.

Specifies that the provisions of continuing law regarding the registration of federal political committees do not apply to the federal political committee of a member of, or a candidate to become a member of, Ohio's Congressional delegation.

Prohibits a local elected official, during the 90 days before that elected official's name appears on the ballot at an election, from producing or disseminating any mass mailing or any form of advertising mailed from the official's office or advertised in a periodical, on radio, by Internet, on television, or through a similar medium that includes the name or photograph of the elected official.
Specifies that no violation of that prohibition occurs, and that no fine is to be imposed, if an elected official sends out daily and regular normal office correspondence that: (1) is from the official’s actual office or associated with the duties of the official’s office, but not including any other board or commission on which the official serves, (2) is in the ordinary course of business, (3) is issued on a regular schedule throughout the year, (4) is directly necessary for the conduct of business by the office such as tax bills, and (5) is sent during the 90 days before the date of any election at which the elected official's name will appear on the ballot.

**Maintaining order at polling places**

Eliminates the prohibition against loitering, congregating, or campaigning within the area marked by the small flags outside a polling place, and instead prohibits persons from loitering, congregating, or campaigning within 50 feet of the entrance of a polling place.

Specifies that a person who violates that prohibition is guilty of a minor misdemeanor, except that, if the person refuses to comply with the election officials or law enforcement officers who are enforcing the prohibition, the person is guilty of a first degree misdemeanor.

Prohibits the line of waiting voters and persons loitering, congregating, or campaigning near that line from impeding the normal flow of traffic or access to the entrance or exit of any business or organization in the vicinity.

**New political parties**

Reduces from 120 days to 90 days before a primary election the deadline for a petition to be filed to establish a new political party.

Specifies that Directives 2011-01 and 2009-21 issued by the Secretary of State, which address the petition requirements for new political parties, are void and must not be enforced or have effect on or after the effective date of those changes.

**Presidential ballots for former electors**

Clarifies that a former Ohio elector is eligible to vote in a presidential general election in Ohio in person or by mail if all of the following apply:

--The former elector moved out of Ohio not more than 30 days before the day of the presidential general election.

--The former elector has not resided in the former elector's new state long enough to be eligible to vote in the presidential general election.
--The former elector was registered to vote in Ohio at the time the former elector left Ohio.

--The former elector would be eligible to vote in Ohio if the former resident were a resident of Ohio.

Requires a former Ohio elector to submit a completed certificate of intent to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, under penalty of election falsification, to the board of elections not later than noon of the third day before the day of the election.

Requires the elector to submit, with the certificate of intent to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, a properly completed and signed Ohio voter registration cancellation request on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

**Voter history**

Requires a board of elections to maintain a list of registered voters in the county who cast a ballot at each election, which list must be provided to the Secretary of State after each election.

Requires the Secretary of State to compile the voting history of each registered elector who casts a ballot in an election for inclusion in the statewide voter registration database.

**Consent decrees under the Election Law**

Specifies that any action brought challenging the constitutionality, legality, or enforcement of any provision of the Ohio Constitution governing elections or the Election Law is to be deemed to have been brought against the state and all of the following apply:

--The General Assembly must be notified of the filing of the action.

--The General Assembly has the right to intervene in the action.

--The General Assembly must be notified of any proposed consent decree before the consent decree is agreed to by the court.

--The General Assembly has the right to intervene in the action to object to any proposed consent decree.
Miscellaneous

**Transporting students to vote during regular school hours**

Prohibits a public school, a community school, a STEM school, or a chartered nonpublic school from transporting students to a polling place during regular school hours for the purpose of casting a ballot.

**Method for boards of elections to send required documents to the Secretary of State**

Requires a board of elections to send copies of campaign finance statements filed with the board and the board’s certification that each polling place in the county meets the requirements for accessibility for the disabled to the Secretary of State by mail or electronically rather than requiring those documents to be sent by certified mail as required under prior law.

**Changes required for consistency with the Ohio Constitution**

Changes provisions that specify the process for filling vacancies in office to require an election to be held to fill a vacancy that occurs more than 40 days before an election as required by Article XVII, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution instead of 56 days as specified in prior law.

Specifies that, if an election is required to be held to fill a vacancy that occurs after absent voter's ballots have been printed and distributed for an election, the board of elections must print and distribute a supplemental ballot for that election to each absent voter who has requested a ballot for that election as many days before the election as reasonably possible.

Changes a provision that stated that an initiative or referendum would appear on the ballot at the first general election that occurred 90 or 60 days, respectively, after the petition was filed to instead conform to recent changes made to the Ohio Constitution, which place those issues on the ballot at the next general election occurring at least 125 days after the petition is filed.

Eliminates statutory language governing protests against statewide initiative and referendum petitions and the verification of those petitions, over which the Ohio Supreme Court now has exclusive jurisdiction.

**Voter identification**

Specifies that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the provisions of H.B. 159 of the 129th General Assembly, if enacted, prevail over any conflicting provisions of
this act for the purpose of determining the types of identification that are acceptable for voting under the Election Law.

Renaming judges of election and presiding judge

Changes all references to judges of election to refer to precinct election officials, and changes references to the presiding judge to the voting location manager.

Determination of voting location manager

Specifies that the voting location manager must be a member of the political party whose candidate received the highest number of votes for Governor in the precincts whose polling places are located at the applicable voting location when tallying the combined vote for Governor for all such precincts.

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Am. Sub. H.B. 224


Sens.  Grendell, Turner, Brown, Jordan, Bacon, Coley, Daniels, Faber, Hite, Hughes, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Oelslager, Patton, Sawyer, Schaffer, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

Effective date:  October 27, 2011; emergency for Sections 3 and 4, effective July 27, 2011

Uniformed services and overseas absent voting

Permits a uniformed services or overseas voter to request absent voter's ballots by electronic mail or through Internet delivery if such delivery is offered by the board of elections or the Secretary of State.

Permits a uniformed services or overseas voter to specify that the voter would like to receive absent voter's ballots through the Internet, and requires the board of elections to send those ballots by electronic mail or, if Internet delivery is offered by the board of elections or the Secretary of State, through Internet delivery.
Permits a uniformed services or overseas voter to use the declaration accompanying a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to apply to register to vote simultaneously with the submission of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

Specifies that if the declaration is received later than 30 days before an election, the declaration is to be considered an application to register to vote for all subsequent elections.

Requires a board of elections to accept the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for all elections and for all federal, state, or local offices and for all ballot questions and issues.

Permits the Governor directly, or by delegation to the Secretary of State, to prescribe, by emergency order or rule, a special procedure or requirement as may be necessary to facilitate absent voting by absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters who are directly affected by armed conflicts or other emergencies that make substantial compliance with the federal Uniformed Oversees Citizen Absentee Voting Act impossible or impracticable.

Requires the Secretary of State to take reasonable steps to provide absent uniformed services or overseas voters with timely notice of any such special procedure or requirement.

Adds daughters-in-law and sons-in-law to the list of family members who are permitted to request an absent voter’s ballot for a uniformed services or overseas voter.

Expands the list of individuals who are eligible to vote uniformed services and overseas absent voter’s ballots in Ohio beyond those required under federal law.

Specifies that an individual who moves out of Ohio to another country does not lose the person’s residence in Ohio for the purpose of voting.

Permits an American citizen who was born in another country and who has never resided in Ohio to vote in Ohio if the person’s parent or legal guardian resided in Ohio for at least 30 days prior to leaving the United States and the person has not established residency in another state.

Specifies that the voting residence of such a person must be considered to be the last place of residence of the person’s parent or guardian immediately before the parent or guardian left the United States.
Specifies that, if an address that is considered to be the voting residence of such a person ceases to be recognized as a residential address, the board of elections must assign an address to the person for voting purposes.

Eliminates a provision of law that established a separate application process for members of the organized militia on duty in Ohio to apply for absent voter’s ballots, and instead permits them to apply for, and vote, uniformed services and overseas absent voter’s ballots.

Requires a board of elections that receives an application for absent voter’s ballots under the general Absent Voting Law to treat the applicant as having applied for uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots if it is apparent to the board that the absent voter is a uniformed services or overseas voter.

Requires a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot to be submitted for mailing not later than 12:01 a.m. at the place where the voter completes the ballot, on the date of the election.

Specifies that a uniformed services or overseas absent voter’s ballot that is received within ten days after the election is eligible to be counted if the voter signed the identification envelope by the deadline for mailing regardless of whether the envelope is postmarked, contains a late postmark, or contains an illegible postmark.

Eliminates a provision of law that prohibited a uniformed services or overseas absent voter’s ballot that was received after the election from being counted if it was postmarked using a postage meter.

Requires the board of elections of each county to prepare an election notice for each precinct, at least 100 days before the day of a regularly scheduled election, that identifies the ballot questions and issues and all federal, state, and local offices that the board expects to be on the ballot at that election.

Requires the election notice to contain instructions on how a uniformed services or overseas absent voter may indicate on the federal write-in absentee ballot the voter's choice for each office and issue expected to appear on the ballot.

Permits a uniformed services or overseas voter to request a copy of the election notice, and requires a board of elections that receives such a request to send the notice by facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or regular mail as the voter requests.

Requires the board of elections to update the election notice with the certified candidates for each office and the ballot questions and issues as soon as the form of the ballot is certified, and requires the board to make that notice publicly available.
Requires a board of elections that maintains an Internet web site to make the election notice and updated versions of the election notice regularly available on that web site.

**Online voter registration**

Repeals a provision of Am. Sub. H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly that would have permitted individuals to register to vote or update their voter registration information online through the Internet.

**Use of Social Security number for election purposes**

Requires an individual who uses the individual’s Social Security number for election purposes to provide the last four digits of that number instead of the full nine digits as required by Am. Sub. H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly.

Declares an emergency with respect to the above provision to ensure that voters are not disenfranchised by a temporary change from four digits to nine digits due to the interaction between Am. Sub. H.B. 194 and the act.

Specifies that any part of a Social Security number of an elector or an applicant for voter registration is not a public record.

**Process for casting a provisional ballot without identification**

Eliminates a provision of Am. Sub. H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly that would have permitted a voter who did not have identification at the polling place to provide identification to the board of elections before the close of the polls.

Requires a provisional voter to provide identification, or one of the following, at the time the person casts a provisional ballot in order for that ballot to be eligible to be counted: the last four digits of the elector’s Social Security number, the elector’s driver’s license number, or the elector’s state identification card number.

Eliminates a provision of Am. Sub. H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly that would have required a provisional voter’s Social Security number to be verified with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and instead requires the board of elections to compare the information received from the provisional voter with the voter’s information statewide voter registration database.

**Required fields on absent voting ballot envelopes**

Prohibits an absent voter’s ballot from being accepted or counted if the identification envelope statement of voter does not contain the voter’s printed name.
Technical corrections

Eliminates a reference to an elector voting a provisional ballot because the election officials determined that the elector was not affiliated with the political party whose ballot the elector wished to vote because Am. Sub. H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly repealed the provisions of law permitting an elector to be challenged based on party affiliation.

Corrects two sections of law that specify the deadline for requesting an absent voter's ballot in person to reflect the deadline established in Am. Sub. H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly.

Sub. H.B. 318


Sen. Coley

Effective date: January 20, 2012; Section 4 effective October 21, 2011

Permits any candidate for President who has raised at least $5,000 in at least 20 states, with a maximum of $250 per contributor counting toward the threshold, to file a declaration of candidacy to become a candidate in Ohio's presidential primary election.

Establishes two separate primary elections in 2012, with all offices affected by Congressional district lines, including the office of President, to be nominated on June 12, 2012.

Establishes a process, and applicable deadlines, for persons who wish to become candidates in the June 12, 2012, primary election.

Generally requires the June primary election to be conducted in the same manner as other primary elections are conducted, except that only specified candidates may appear on the ballot at that election.

Deems null and void any petitions filed prior to the act's effective date for candidates for those offices that will be voted on at the June primary election.
Eliminates the August special election, and instead permits a political subdivision or taxing authority to conduct a special election on the day of the June primary election.

Specifies the General Assembly’s intention that individuals who file on or before December 7, 2011, to become candidates for the offices that will be voted on at the June primary election must file in the 16-district Congressional plan that was previously enacted.

Makes an appropriation.

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**Sub. H.B. 319**

**Reps.** Huffman, Maag, Amstutz, Anielski, Blair, Blessing, Buchy, Combs, Grossman, Roegner, Slaby, Stautberg, Terhar, Batchelder

**Sens.** Coley, Faber, Niehaus

**Effective date:** September 26, 2011

Makes an appropriation.

The subsequent enactment of Sub. H.B. 369 of the 129th General Assembly replaced or eliminated several provisions of H.B. 319. H.B. 319 would have:

--established boundaries for the state’s 16 Congressional districts based on the 2010 decennial census of Ohio;

--specified that any unassigned territory was included within the district that: (1) contained the least population according to the 2010 decennial census of Ohio, and (2) was contiguous to that territory;

--required the board of elections of each county, not later than 35 days before the 2012 primary election, to send a notice to each registered elector in that county notifying the elector of: (1) the election date, (2) the precinct in which the elector was registered to vote, (3) the Congressional district in which the elector’s residential address was located, and (4) the House of Representatives and Senate districts in which the elector’s residential address was located; and

--specified that it was the intent of the General Assembly that the congressional districts take immediate effect to enable boards of elections to complete their required remapping and reprecincting so that candidates could file in their new
districts, boards could verify the petitions, boards could notify electors of their new districts, and elections could be conducted in those districts for the 2012 primary election.

Sub. H.B. 369

Reps. Huffman, Brenner, Buchy, Grossman, Hall, Maag, McClain, Ruhl, Sears, Stebelton, Terhar, Wachtman, Young, Batchelder

Sens. Eklund, Seitz, Wagoner

Effective date: Emergency, December 15, 2011

Establishes boundaries for the state's 16 Congressional districts based on the 2010 decennial census of Ohio.

Specifies that any unassigned territory is included within the district that: (1) contains the least population according to the 2010 decennial census of Ohio, and (2) is contiguous to that territory.

Repeals the provisions of Sub. H.B. 318 of the 129th General Assembly that established two primary elections in 2012 and that made an appropriation to pay for the second primary election.

Repeals the provision of Sub. H.B. 319 of the 129th General Assembly that required a mailing to be sent to all registered electors prior to the March 6, 2012, primary election notifying them of their Congressional and General Assembly districts.

Establishes a single primary election on March 6, 2012, for the purpose of nominating all candidates for election in 2012 and electing candidates who are scheduled to be elected on the day of the 2012 primary election.

Specifies that candidacy documents previously filed for the offices of President and Vice-President, member of the United States House of Representatives, or delegate or alternate to a political party convention for 2012 are null and void, and requires persons who wish to be candidates for those offices to refile their candidacy documents not later than 67 days before the election.

Reinstates the ability of a political subdivision to place an issue on the ballot at a special election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August by repealing a provision of uncodified law that eliminated the August special election in 2012.
Permits any candidate for President who has raised at least $5,000 in at least 20 states, with a maximum of $250 per contributor counting toward the threshold, to file a declaration of candidacy to become a candidate in Ohio's 2012 presidential primary election.

Establishes a Redistricting Reform Task Force, comprised of eight members of the General Assembly, which must create a redistricting reform proposal for consideration by the General Assembly during 2012, and requires a report of that proposal to be issued not later than June 30, 2012.

Waives competitive bidding for ballot preparation for the 2012 primary election.
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Am. Sub. H.B. 133


Sens.  Faber, Schaffer, Bacon, Coley, Daniels, Hite, Jones, Jordan, Niehaus, Seitz, Widener, Wilson, Lehner

Effective date: September 30, 2011

Creates the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission to oversee and facilitate the leasing of land that is owned or controlled by a state agency, including a state university, for the purpose of the exploration for, development of, and production of oil and natural gas resources.

Repeals prior authority for certain state agencies to enter into oil and natural gas leases.

Establishes four classifications for all property that is owned or controlled by a state agency, and requires each state agency to inventory and classify each parcel of land that is owned or controlled by the agency.

Prohibits a state nature preserve from being nominated or leased under the act for the purpose of exploring for and developing and producing oil and natural gas.

Authorizes a state agency, beginning on the act’s effective date and ending on the effective date of the rules adopted by the Commission under the act, and in consultation with the Commission, to lease a formation within a parcel of land that is owned or controlled by the state agency for oil and gas drilling.

After the effective date of the rules, generally requires the state agency that owns or controls the parcel of land that is the subject of a nomination approved by the Commission to enter into a lease with the Commission’s selection of the highest and best bidder.

Establishes a procedure by which certain persons may submit lease nominations to the Commission, and requires the Commission to approve or disapprove a nomination based on specified factors.
Requires the Director of Natural Resources to adopt rules establishing procedures and requirements for publishing notice on the Department's web site of each nomination received by the Commission for at least 21 days prior to the Commission’s approval or disapproval of a nomination.

Establishes procedures to be used by the Commission governing the advertising for and selection of bids for leases for the extraction of oil and gas from state land.

Requires the Commission to adopt rules governing the oil and gas leasing program.

Establishes the State Land Royalty Fund to which proceeds from lease signing fees, rentals, and royalty payments generally are required to be credited, and requires that money in the Fund be used to acquire land and to pay capital costs of state agencies whose land is leased for oil and gas extraction.

Creates the Forestry Mineral Royalties Fund and Parks Mineral Royalties Fund, and requires money from signing fees, rentals, and royalties from oil and gas leases entered into under the act on Division of Forestry or Parks and Recreation land to be deposited into the applicable Fund and used for the purposes discussed above.

Requires money from signing fees, rentals, and royalties from oil and gas leases entered into under the act on Division of Wildlife land to be deposited into the continuing Wildlife Habitat Fund and used for the purposes established for that Fund in law unchanged by the act.

Requires at least 30% of the proceeds from a lease executed on or after the act's effective date for the exploration and production of oil or gas within or under a state park to be credited to the applicable fund created in the state treasury that supports the state park, and requires the Department of Natural Resources to use the money for capital improvements in that state park.

Establishes the Oil and Gas Leasing Commission Administration Fund consisting of nomination fees and bid fees credited to it under the act, and requires the Fund to be used to pay the Commission's and the Department of Natural Resources' administrative expenses for the act's implementation and to pay certain expenses of Commission members.
Am. Sub. H.B. 163


Sens. Schaffer, Brown, Coley, Daniels, Hite, Hughes, Jordan, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Oelslager, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Stewart, Tavares, Turner, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: September 30, 2011

Requires an applicant for a coal mining operation permit, when the private mineral estate has been severed, to submit either the surface owner's written consent or a conveyance only if surface disturbance will result from the applicant's proposed use of strip mining.

Requires that the written consent be to surface disturbance that will result from the extraction of coal instead of to the extraction of coal.

Requires that the conveyance grant the right to extract coal by strip mining methods that cause surface disturbance rather than the right to use strip mining.

Requires that if the conveyance does not grant that right, the surface-subsurface legal relationship concerning surface disturbance be determined under state law.

Requires specified set-backs for coal mining operations to be measured horizontally.

Alters the calculation for determining whether an area has the potential to create acid or other toxic mine drainage.

Authorizes a permittee to provide for the funding of alternative financial security, as necessary to provide long-term water treatment or alternative water supply as required in law unchanged by the act, incrementally over a period of time, not exceeding five years, regardless of how the security is funded.

Requires a permittee semiannually to pay to the Division a fee that is 7.5% of the average balance of the alternative financial security if the security is being provided by reliance on the Reclamation Forfeiture Fund.

Authorizes the Chief to use money from alternative financial security as discussed above to complete reclamation that the operator failed to do.
Adds reclamation of water resources to the detailed accounting of expenditures from the Reclamation Forfeiture Fund that the Chief must maintain under continuing law.

Authorizes the Chief to collect through the Attorney General any additional amount applicable to water resources that the Chief believes will be necessary for reclamation in excess of the amount of the forfeited alternative financial security.

States that the Division of Mineral Resources Management has a priority lien against the assets of a permittee if the permittee fails to provide alternative financial security.

Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management to enter into a contract to provide long-term water treatment or alternative water supply on areas affected by coal mining on which a permittee has defaulted or not fully funded the alternative financial security.

Requires the Chief to use money in the Reclamation Forfeiture Fund to pay for the cost to complete reclamation to the standards established by the Coal Mining Law and rules adopted under it rather than the cost of the reclamation of the land as in former law.

Revises the purposes for which money in the Mined Land Set Aside Fund may be used.

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Sub. H.B. 231

**Reps.** Wachtmann, Booze, Peterson, Beck, Blair, Blessing, Brenner, Buchy, Danschroder, Dovilla, Hackett, Hall, Hottinger, Huffman, Johnson, Kozlowski, Maag, Martin, McClain, Newbold, Roegner, Sears, Slaby, Thompson, Young, Batchelder

**Sens.** Grendell, Schaffer, Coley, Daniels, Hite, Jordan

**Vetoed:** July 15, 2011

The Governor vetoed the act, which would have done all of the following:

For purposes of implementing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact), established a withdrawal and consumptive use permit program in the Lake Erie watershed, and required an assessment of cumulative impacts of withdrawals and consumptive uses from the Lake Erie watershed.
Withdrawal and consumptive use permits

Required the Chief of the Division of Soil and Water Resources to establish a program for the issuance of permits for withdrawals and consumptive uses of water from the Lake Erie watershed.

Required an owner or operator of a facility in the Lake Erie watershed, when the facility operated under intended operating conditions, to obtain a withdrawal or consumptive use permit if the following water withdrawal or consumptive use thresholds were met:

--5 million gallons per day averaged over a 90-day period for a facility with a new or increased capacity for withdrawals or consumptive uses from Lake Erie or a river or stream under the influence of Lake Erie;

--2 million gallons per day averaged over a 90-day period for a facility with a new or increased capacity for withdrawals or consumptive uses from any river or stream other than a river or stream under the influence of Lake Erie;

--2 million gallons per day averaged over a 90-day period for a facility with a new or increased capacity for withdrawals or consumptive uses from ground water;

--300,000 gallons per day averaged over a 90-day period for a facility with a new or increased capacity for withdrawals and consumptive uses from a high quality river or stream with a drainage area of less than 100 square miles measured at the point where the withdrawal or consumptive use occurred.

Specified that a withdrawal and consumptive use permit had to be issued only for the amount of withdrawal or consumptive use capacity of a facility that exceeded the threshold amounts, not amounts below those threshold amounts.

Established permit application requirements, including a requirement that the applicant submit a description of environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation methods to be utilized.

Specified that a permit was valid until a facility that was the subject of the permit was the subject of facility abandonment.

Required a certification of compliance with a permit every five years.

Specified that a permit had to include terms and conditions restricting the withdrawal and consumptive use by a facility to amounts not exceeding the capacity of the facility.
Required the Chief, in making a decision to issue or deny a permit, to apply the decision-making standard established in the Compact.

Required the owner or operator of a facility for which a withdrawal and consumptive use permit had been issued to utilize environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures.

Provided that the owner or operator of a facility could implement those measures in the form of best management practices and that the owner or operator had discretion to determine which practices were best management practices.

Established a series of irrebuttable presumptions that the Chief had to utilize when applying the decision-making standard under the Compact.

Applied the irrebuttable presumptions to withdrawals from all waters in the Lake Erie watershed other than high quality water.

For purposes of the irrebuttable presumptions, specified that a withdrawal and consumptive use would not cause a significant individual or cumulative adverse impact to the quantity or quality of waters and water dependent natural resources and the Lake Erie watershed if the withdrawal resulted in a consumptive use that did not exceed a specified percentage of the long-term mean annual runoff from the Ohio portion of the Lake Erie watershed.

Required the Chief to establish the long-term mean annual runoff and update it every ten years.

Prohibited the Chief from submitting an application for a withdrawal and consumptive use permit for regional review under the Compact unless regional review was agreed to by the permit applicant.

Established 13 categories of withdrawals and consumptive uses that would have been exempt from the act's permitting requirements, including withdrawals and consumptive uses in emergency, testing, or humanitarian situations, withdrawals and consumptive uses from a baseline facility, certain major utility facilities and public water systems, a facility regulated under the Industrial Minerals Mining Law, and withdrawals and consumptive uses made to comply with federal or state requirements.

Established procedures for the sale or transfer of a permit or a facility's withdrawal and consumptive use capacity.

Required the Chief to remove a facility from the baseline report when the facility was subject to baseline facility abandonment.
Provided that the owner or operator of a facility could petition the Chief for: (1) inclusion in the baseline report if the owner or operator believed that the facility was erroneously excluded from the report, or (2) the amendment of the amount of a withdrawal and consumptive use or other information included in the baseline report regarding the facility if the owner or operator believed that the information was incorrect.

**Preclusion against mandatory water conservation program**

Declared that nothing in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact or any law implementing the Compact authorized the Chief or the Director of Natural Resources to adopt rules requiring mandatory conservation of water resources.

Prohibited the General Assembly from enacting a law requiring a mandatory water conservation program without at least a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.

Precluded the Governor, the Department of Natural Resources, or any other state agency from adopting rules establishing a mandatory water conservation program without authorization from the General Assembly.

**Assessment of cumulative impacts**

Required the Chief of the Division of Soil and Water Resources to make an assessment every five years of the cumulative impacts of withdrawals and consumptive uses from the waters of the Lake Erie watershed for purposes of the Compact.

Required the Chief to prepare a report of the assessment and submit a copy of it to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate.

**Declarations**

Stated that for purposes of the act and the Compact, with respect to the definition of "source watershed" in the Compact, the General Assembly declared that "source watershed" meant the Lake Erie watershed.

Declared that the act's purpose was to protect private property rights associated with surface and ground water in Ohio, to promote good stewardship of Ohio's water resources, and to promote economic development and job creation in Ohio by recognizing that abundant fresh water is a highly desirable commodity.
Declared that nothing in the act limited a person's right to the reasonable use of ground water, water in a lake, or any other watercourse in contravention of the Ohio Constitution.

**Water Resources Review Commission**

Created the Water Resources Review Commission for purposes of hearing appeals of decisions of the Chief of the Division of Soil and Water Resources made under the act.

Authorized a person having a direct economic interest that was or could have been adversely affected by a decision or order of the Chief to appeal the decision, and established appeal procedures.

Authorized appeals of decisions of the Commission to be made to the applicable court of common pleas.

Prohibited the awarding of attorney's fees by the Commission or a court of common pleas regarding appeals made under the act.

**Enforcement**

Established procedures for the issuance of enforcement orders by the Chief of the Division of Soil and Water Resources and injunctive actions by the Attorney General.

**Continuing diversion permit program and the Compact**

Prohibited the Director of Natural Resources from approving a permit for a diversion of water under Ohio's diversion permit program if the proposed diversion did not qualify as an exception to the prohibition against diversions established in the Compact.

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**Am. S.B. 22**

**Sens.** Schaffer, Sawyer, Seitz, Patton, Beagle, Gillmor, Stewart, Hite, Wilson, Brown, Schiavoni, Daniels, Faber, Jones, LaRose, Jordan, Manning, Wagoner, Obhof, Turner, Tavares, Oelslager, Widener, Smith, Lehner

Effective date: September 30, 2011

Requires the Director of Environmental Protection to consider ten factors before: (1) issuing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for publicly owned sewerage systems, (2) requiring and approving long-term control plans for wet weather discharges from publicly owned sewerage systems, and (3) enforcing the application of the federal Water Pollution Control Act to publicly owned sewerage systems.

Establishes the ten factors that the Director must consider, to the extent allowable under the federal Water Pollution Control Act and applicable federal regulations, prior to taking the above actions.
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Sub. H.B. 209


Sens. Hughes, Beagle, Bacon, Coley, Daniels, Eklund, Jordan, Niehaus, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Seitz, Skindell, Wagoner

Effective date: March 22, 2012

Expands state and political subdivision investment authority by permitting the state and political subdivisions to authorize a public depository, upon the deposit of public money with the depository, to arrange for the redeposit of the money with other federally insured financial institutions.

Requires that the full amount of the public money redeposited plus any accrued interest be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Modifies the law governing investment of certain public money in certificates of deposit.

Requires public depositories to provide certain information, including monthly account statements, to the state or a political subdivision about its public deposits.
HEALTH

H.B. 78


Sens. Jones, Jordan, Coley, Bacon, Daniels, Faber, Grendell, Hite, Niehaus, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Schaffer, Seitz, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: October 20, 2011

Post-viability abortions

Generally reinstates with modifications provisions regulating post-viability abortions held unconstitutional by federal court.

Prohibits purposely performing or inducing or attempting to perform or induce an abortion on a pregnant woman carrying a viable unborn child.

Provides affirmative defenses to a charge that a physician terminated or attempted to terminate a human pregnancy after viability based on the nonviability of the unborn child and protecting the life and health of the pregnant woman.

Conditions the applicability of the affirmative defense based on protecting the life or health of the pregnant woman on all of the following:

--The physician certifies in writing the available methods or techniques considered and the reasons for choosing the method or technique employed.

--The abortion is performed or induced or attempted in a facility with appropriate neonatal services for premature infants and generally in a manner that provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive.

--An additional physician provides an additional determination as to the necessity of the post-viability abortion, and that physician is not professionally related to the physician who intends to perform or induce the abortion.
Provides that the physician's good faith medical judgment used in making medical determinations pertaining to post-viability abortions must be based on the facts known to the physician at that time.

Requires the State Medical Board to revoke a physician's license to practice medicine if the physician violates the act’s provisions governing post-viability abortions.

Imposes civil liability on a physician who performs or induces or attempts to perform or induce a post-viability abortion conditioned on the physician having actual knowledge that the applicable affirmative defenses are not applicable or with heedless indifference as to whether the defenses are applicable, and permits courts in such actions to award injunctive or other appropriate equitable relief.

**Viability testing requirements**

Prohibits, except in a medical emergency, an abortion after the 20th week of gestation unless the physician determines, in the physician's good faith medical judgment, that the unborn child is not viable after performing required tests to determine the unborn child's viability.

Requires the physician to enter the determination and tests in the pregnant woman's medical record.

Requires the State Medical Board to suspend for a period of not less than six months a physician's license to practice medicine if the physician violates the act's provisions governing viability testing.

**Abortion reporting requirements**

Requires a physician who performs or induces or attempts to perform or induce an abortion to submit a report with specified information to the Department of Health within 15 days after the woman is discharged, and provides for penalties if the physician fails to submit a report within a certain period of time or in accordance with a court order.

Provides that if a physician fails to comply with the reporting requirements, the physician is subject to disciplinary action by the State Medical Board.

Prohibits a person from falsifying any required report, and provides that whoever violates the prohibition is guilty of abortion report falsification, a first degree misdemeanor.
Requires the Department of Health to annually issue a public report that provides statistics from compiled reports for the previous calendar year that include the information that physicians must certify in writing or determine under the act's viability testing requirements.

Requires that the Department’s annual report provide the statistics for each previous calendar year in which a report was filed, adjusted to reflect any additional information that a physician provides to the Department.

Requires the Department to ensure that none of the information included in the annual report could reasonably lead to the identification of any pregnant woman upon whom an abortion is performed.

 Requires the Department to adopt rules to assist in compliance with the act's reporting requirements within 90 days of the effective date of the act.

H.B. 79


Sens. Faber, Bacon, Hite, Jones, Jordan, Schaffer, Burke, Coley, Eklund, Oelslager, Wagoner, Widener

Effective date: March 22, 2012

Prohibits a qualified health plan from providing coverage for a nontherapeutic abortion.

Specifies that the act’s purpose is to affirmatively opt out of a provision of the federal healthcare reform law that would allow a qualified health plan covering nontherapeutic abortions to participate in Ohio’s health benefit exchange.
Am. Sub. H.B. 93


Sens. Bacon, Beagle, Brown, Cafaro, Cates, Daniels, Faber, Gillmor, Hite, Hughes, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Sawyer, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Smith, Stewart, Tavares, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: Emergency, May 20, 2011; certain provisions effective June 19, 2011

Pain management clinics

Requires the State Board of Pharmacy to license pain management clinics, and provides for the clinics to be licensed as terminal distributors of dangerous drugs with a pain management clinic classification.

Requires the State Medical Board to adopt rules establishing standards for physician operation of pain management clinics and standards to be followed by physicians who provide care at the clinics.

Authorizes the Pharmacy Board to impose a fine of up to $5,000, and authorizes the Medical Board to impose a fine of up to $20,000, for failure to follow the rules of operation or standards for pain management clinics.

Wholesalers and terminal distributors

Authorizes the Pharmacy Board to suspend, without a prior hearing, the license of a wholesaler of controlled substances or terminal distributor of dangerous drugs if the Board determines there is a danger of immediate and serious harm to others.

Provides that an application for a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs license may not be withdrawn without the approval of the Pharmacy Board.
Limits on prescriber-furnished controlled substances

Limits the amount of controlled substances that a prescriber, other than a veterinarian, may personally furnish to a patient, and provides for a $5,000 per instance fine for surpassing those limits.

Drug take-back program

Requires the Pharmacy Board, Attorney General, and Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services to develop a program under which drugs are collected from the community for destruction or disposal.

Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS)

Modifies the review, reporting, and retention of information in OARRS.

Establishes criminal penalties for improperly disseminating, seeking to obtain, or obtaining information from OARRS.

Prohibits a document obtained from OARRS from being used in a civil or administrative proceeding.

Requires the applicable licensing agency to adopt rules specifying when a prescriber or pharmacist is required to review information in OARRS.

Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway

Provides access to the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway to the Medical Board and Board of Nursing.

Medical Board disciplinary actions

Clarifies the Medical Board’s authority to suspend without a prior hearing a person’s authority to practice.

Permits the Medical Board to take disciplinary actions based on actions of other entities regulating any health care profession or service.

Allows the Medical Board to use a telephone conference call to ratify a consent agreement for the revocation or suspension of a license or to accept the surrender of a license.
**Nursing Board information**

Expands access to information collected by the Nursing Board in an investigation.

**Coroner notifications**

Authorizes a coroner to notify the Medical Board about a death caused by a drug overdose.

**Coordinated services programs**

Requires each Medicaid managed care organization and the Medicaid fee-for-service system to establish a coordinated services program for Medicaid recipients who obtain prescription drugs at a frequency or in an amount that is not medically necessary.

Requires the Bureau of Workers' Compensation to establish a coordinated services program similar to the programs to be established under Medicaid.

**Chronic pain**

Replaces provisions of prior law dealing with treatment of intractable pain by physicians with provisions on treatment of chronic pain.

**Medical Board patient safety and education programs**

Permits the Medical Board to solicit and accept grants and services to develop and maintain programs addressing patient safety and education, health care professional supply and demand, and information sharing.

**County hospital privatization**

Provides, with regard to the requirement that a county hospital employee be compensated for unused vacation leave when separating from service, that the requirement does not apply if the employee accepts employment with a private entity acquiring the hospital’s assets and the entity assumes the unused vacation leave.
Sub. H.B. 128


Sens. Patton, Coley, Schiavoni, Turner, Wilson, Bacon, Daniels, Hite, Hughes, LaRose, Manning, Obhof, Sawyer, Schaffer, Stewart, Tavares

Effective date: September 23, 2011

Revises the requirements for staffing an ambulance based on whether the ambulance is traveling to the emergency scene or from the emergency scene and carrying a patient and whether the emergency medical service that operates the ambulance substantially utilizes volunteers.

Revises the priorities for distributing grants for emergency medical services.

Permits a contract between a township and another entity for the provision of ambulance, emergency medical, and nonemergency patient transport services to provide that the other entity may collect and retain any fee that the township may charge for each run involving such services.

Specifies additional titles for certain emergency medical service personnel.

Extends until December 15, 2015, a general moratorium on the issuance of a license as a fireworks manufacturer, a license as a fireworks wholesaler, and the geographic transfer of those licenses.
Am. Sub. H.B. 65


Sens. Coley, Jordan, Wilson, Turner, Patton, Bacon, Beagle, Brown, Cafaro, Daniels, Faber, Gillmor, Grendell, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Kearney, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Skindell, Smith, Stewart, Tavares, Wagoner, Widener

Effective date: September 23, 2011

Designates 24 memorial highways, relocates one previously designated highway, and designates 6 memorial bridges.

Creates "Honor Our Fallen" license plates, with a $15 contribution to be paid to the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society.

S.B. 80

Sens. Cates and Hughes, Patton, Cafaro, Wilson, Grendell, Stewart, Lehner, Seitz, Turner, Obhof, Schiavoni, Bacon, Manning, Brown, LaRose, Smith, Oelslager, Schaffer, Jones, Niehaus, Faber, Widener, Kearney, Sawyer, Wagoner, Hite, Gillmor, Tavares, Jordan, Daniels, Beagle, Skindell

Effective date: July 13, 2011

Designates a portion of the road known as U.S. Route 322 within the municipal corporation of Cleveland Heights, running in an easterly and westerly direction between the intersection of that road and Coventry Road and the intersection of that road and Warrensville Center Road, as the Officer Thomas F. Patton II Memorial Highway, and authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect suitable markers along the road indicating its name.

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S.B. 132

Sens. Patton, LaRose, Lehner, Wilson, Turner, Bacon, Beagle, Cafaro, Cates, Daniels, Faber, Gillmor, Hite, Hughes, Jordan, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Schaffer, Seitz, Stewart, Tavares, Wagoner, Widener


Effective date: September 15, 2011

Designates the bridge that will span the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga County and will be part of Interstate 90 the "George V. Voinovich Bridge," and authorizes the Director of Transportation to erect markers along the bridge or its approaches indicating its name.

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Sub. S.B. 187

Sens. Grendell, Patton, LaRose, Coley, Jordan, Lehner, Wilson, Turner, Schiavoni, Beagle, Brown, Cafaro, Daniels, Faber, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Schaffer, Seitz, Skindell, Stewart, Tavares, Wagoner, Widener


Effective date: October 27, 2011; emergency for certain provisions effective July 27, 2011

Designates a portion of United States Route 322 within Geauga County only as the "Chief Warrant Officer Christopher R. Thibodeau Memorial Highway."
Designates part of Interstate 71 within southern Franklin County as the "Deputy Marty Martin Memorial Highway."

Modifies the designation of part of Interstate 77 in Stark County from the "Heath Warner Memorial Highway" to the "U.S.M.C. Pvt. Heath Warner Memorial Highway."

Allows a truck hauling minerals, hot mix asphalt, concrete, lawn products, or wood products in accordance with certain specified requirements to exceed the gross vehicle weight provisions of the law by 7.5%, rather than 5.0%, before a penalty is imposed.

Imposes a penalty if any such truck or a unit of farm machinery, a farm truck, or a truck hauling logs, coal, or solid waste that is operated in accordance with certain specified requirements exceeds the wheel or axle-load limits of the law by more than 7.5%.
Sub. S.B. 264

Sens. Jones, Niehaus, Burke, Lehner, Widener, Patton, Balderson, Beagle, Coley, Daniels, Eklund, Hite, Manning, Sawyer, Schaffer, Smith, Tavares, Wagoner


Effective date: March 22, 2012; Sections 1 to 4 effective July 1, 2012

Revises the law governing quality incentive payments paid to nursing facilities under the Medicaid program.

Requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, as part of the process of determining the amount of the quality incentive payment to be paid to a nursing facility, to award the facility one point for each accountability measure the facility meets.

Establishes 23 accountability measures.

Provides for the per Medicaid day amount of a quality incentive payment to be the product of the number of points a nursing facility is awarded for meeting accountability measures and $3.29, except that no quality incentive payment is to exceed $16.44 per Medicaid day.

States the intent of the General Assembly periodically to amend the law governing quality incentive payments in a manner that increasingly provides for the payments to: (1) serve as opportunities for nursing facilities to earn portions of their total Medicaid rates by satisfying accountability measures, and (2) help differentiate among nursing facilities regarding quality.

Provides for a qualifying nursing facility to receive a quality bonus in addition to its quality incentive payment if the residual budgeted amount for quality incentive payments for the fiscal year is greater than zero.

Provides that a nursing facility qualifies for a quality bonus if the facility is awarded more than five points for meeting accountability measures.
Provides that the total quality bonus to be paid to a qualifying nursing facility is to equal the product of the facility’s quality bonus per Medicaid day and the number of the facility’s Medicaid days.
INSURANCE

Am. Sub. H.B. 122


Sens. Bacon, Daniels, Faber, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Lehner, Obhof, Sawyer, Schaffer, Tavares, Wagoner, Wilson

Effective date: June 17, 2011

Conforms Ohio's law regulating surplus lines products with the federal Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act.

Specifies that Ohio's law regarding unauthorized insurance and surplus lines brokers applies only when Ohio is the home state of the insured.

Requires the Superintendent of Insurance to conduct a fiscal analysis of the impact of entering into a multi-state agreement or compact concerning unauthorized insurance.

Allows the Superintendent to enter into the Surplus Lines Insurance Multi-State Compliance Compact if advantageous to Ohio.

Requires the Superintendent to request that the General Assembly authorize the Superintendent to enter into a different multi-state agreement or compact if it is in Ohio's financial best interest.

Makes changes to the surplus lines broker, individual procurement, and unauthorized insurer taxes while maintaining the 5% tax on gross premiums.

Allows the Superintendent to waive the tax late penalty in certain situations.

Exempts from the tax requirements political subdivisions and insureds that are exempt from premium or franchise taxes under state or federal law.

Revises the surplus lines broker record filing requirements.

Allows only licensed property and casualty insurance agents to perform due diligence requirements.
Exempts insurance agents and surplus lines brokers from due diligence requirements for an exempt commercial purchaser.

Removes from service of process requirements for unauthorized insurance transactions an exemption for contracts of insurance issued to an employer insured.

Makes other conforming and clarifying changes.

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**Sub. H.B. 218**


**Sens.** Beagle, Bacon, Burke, Coley, Hughes, Lehner, Patton, Schaffer, Wagoner

**Effective date:** December 26, 2011

Consolidates the process of disputing a denied benefit claim and submitting the claim for external review under one chapter of state law, and makes conforming changes to bring Ohio law into compliance with federal law and regulations related to external reviews.

Expands the definition of "adverse determination" to encompass a larger class of claim denials, including the imposition of exclusions, decisions not to issue health insurance, and decisions to rescind coverage.

Expands the express requirement for health issuers to have an internal appeal process from health insuring corporations only to also include sickness and accident insurers and public employee benefit plans.

Permits an independent review organization to reverse an adverse benefit determination if the health plan issuer does not timely provide specified information.

Stipulates that the new processes and requirements related to external reviews are effective for those adverse benefit determinations provided on or after January 1, 2012.
Increases the situations under which health plan issuers must provide notifications to covered individuals, and specifies what must be included in the notifications.

Authorizes de minimis violation of the 30-day, internal appeal exhaustion deadline if it can be demonstrated that the violation does no serious harm to the covered person and is part of ongoing, good faith communications between the covered person and the health plan issuer.

Prohibits health plan issuers offering individual health insurance coverage from requiring more than one level of internal review before an external review may be requested.

Specifies that independent review organizations are not bound by any conclusions reached by the health plan issuer during a utilization review or an internal appeal.

Enables non-terminal cases involving an experimental or investigational review to be eligible for external review.

Requires health plan issuers to record data related to requests for external reviews and to report the information to the Superintendent of Insurance upon request.

Specifies that health plan issuers are required to pay for the costs of an external review, including any secondary external reviews initiated by the Superintendent of Insurance.

Reduces the time in which an independent review organization must make a decision on an expedited review from seven days to 72 hours.

Removes the external review cost threshold of $500, enabling claims to be eligible for external review regardless of cost.

Requires health insurers providing prescription drug benefits to utilize the standard medical reference compendia adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when determining if a drug is safe and effective for treatment of an indication.
Sub. H.B. 250


Sens. Beagle, Bacon, Lehner, Wagoner

Effective date: March 22, 2012

Requires vendors to hold a limited lines license to offer, sell, or solicit coverage under a policy of portable electronics insurance.

Requires the Superintendent of Insurance to issue a license to a vendor that meets the continuing law requirements for resident or nonresident insurance agents, as applicable, and certain additional requirements.

Requires the Superintendent to collect a filing fee from all vendors that engage in portable electronics insurance transactions.

Requires each vendor or supervising entity to provide a training and education program for all endorsees who sell or offer portable electronics insurance.

Requires vendors to provide to customers specified information and disclosures.

Regulates the allotment of proceeds from the sale of portable electronics insurance.

Requires notice for changing or terminating a contract for portable electronics insurance except when the contract is terminated by the customer.

Allows the Superintendent to adopt rules to implement the act's provisions.

Authorizes the Superintendent to take administrative or other action as provided in the act and continuing law, including a hearing process, with regard to any violation, and establishes penalties for violations.

Adds, to the list of eligible claims on the assets of a liquidated insurer's estate, interest on the amount owed for claims with greater priority, with that interest being the second-to-last claim in terms of priority.
Am. H.B. 63


Sens. Faber, Bacon, Balderson, Coley, Daniels, Hite, Jones, Jordan, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Schaffer, Seitz, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: February 3, 2012

Continues to allow a minor or next friend who makes an application for a court order for the minor to consent to an abortion to file the application in the county of the minor's residence or legal settlement or a county that borders that county, and eliminates the option of filing the application in the county where the facility in which the abortion would be performed or induced is located.

In a hearing to permit a pregnant minor to consent to an abortion or by which a court may give judicial consent to an abortion, requires the court to do all of the following:

--Specifically inquire about the minor's understanding of the possible physical and emotional complications of abortion and how the minor would respond if the minor experienced those complications after the abortion;

--Specifically inquire about the extent to which anyone has instructed the minor on how to answer questions and on what testimony to give at the hearing; and

--Make its findings regarding whether or not the minor is sufficiently mature and well enough informed to decide intelligently whether to have an abortion and whether or not the abortion is in the best interests of the minor by clear and convincing evidence.
Am. Sub. H.B. 92


Sens. Coley, Tavares, Bacon, Beagle, Daniels, Gillmor, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Kearney, Lehner, Niehaus, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Sawyer, Seitz, Smith, Stewart, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: September 30, 2011

Permits the adoption of an adult if the adult is the child of the petitioner's spouse, had established a kinship caregiver relationship with the petitioner as a minor, or was at the time of the adult's 18th birthday in a planned permanent living arrangement with a public children services agency or private child placing agency and the adult consents to the adoption.

Allows the adoption of an adult if the adult is totally or permanently disabled instead of totally and permanently disabled as under prior law.

Extends to a grandparent's husband or wife the exemption from certain requirements for adoption placement.

Sub. H.B. 121


Sens. Tavares, Turner, Daniels, LaRose, Bacon, Beagle, Brown, Cafaro, Coley, Faber, Grendell, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Kearney, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Obhof,
Effective date: June 9, 2011

Prohibits a court from finding that past, present, or possible future active military service is a change in circumstances that justifies modifying an existing custody order.

Provides that a temporary custody order based on a parent’s active military service terminates within ten days of notice that the parent’s active military service has ended.

Authorizes a parent who has court-ordered visitation to apply for a temporary order that: (1) delegates the parent’s visitation rights to a relative or to another person with a close and substantial relationship with the child, (2) requires the other parent to make the child available for visitation when the parent is on leave, and (3) requires the other parent to facilitate contact between the parent and child while the parent is on active military service.

Requires a service member seeking a temporary parenting time order to notify the child’s other parent and apply to the court as soon as reasonably possible and include the date on which active military service begins on the application.

Provides that an order delegating parenting time does not create standing for a person to claim visitation or companionship rights independent of the order.

Requires a court to permit a parent who is called to active military service to participate in custody or visitation proceedings and present evidence by electronic means to the extent permitted by rules of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Clarifies what constitutes active military service.

Adds reserve components of the armed forces to the group of persons classified as uniformed services.
S.B. 122

Sens. Oelslager, Wagoner, Seitz, Tavares, Kearney, Bacon, Coley, Daniels, Gillmor, Hite, Hughes, Lehner, Manning, Patton, Smith, Turner


Effective date: Emergency, June 30, 2011

Repeals the Interstate Compact on Juveniles, and adopts the Interstate Compact for Juveniles.
Am. Sub. H.B. 243


Sens.  Bacon, Faber, Sawyer, Hughes, Hite, Beagle, Balderson, Brown, Burke, Cafaro, Coley, Eklund, Gentile, Jordan, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Patton, Seitz, Skindell

Effective date:  March 22, 2012

Sale of beer by A-1 permit holders

Allows an A-1 liquor permit holder to offer for sale beer or beer products manufactured on the premises at retail for consumption on the premises where sold.

A-3a liquor permit

Eliminates the restriction on the number of A-3a liquor permits that may be issued per county.

Eliminates the restriction on the issuance of an A-3a permit in a county with a population of 800,000 or less.

Specifies that a new A-3a permit issued after the act's effective date is subject to local option election.

Authorizes an A-3a permit holder to offer for sale to each person each day not more than four servings of not more than a quarter ounce of spirituous liquor as tasting samples.

Eliminates an inconsistency in the Liquor Permits Law regarding the A-3a permit fee.

Issuance of D-5j liquor permits in community entertainment districts

Allows a D-5j liquor permit, which is applicable to community entertainment districts, to be issued to a retail food establishment or food service operation located in either of the following:
--a municipal corporation that meets certain conditions related to population, date of incorporation, and other factors; or

--a township that meets certain conditions related to population and financial investment.

**Issuance of D-5l liquor permits in revitalization districts**

Authorizes the D-5l liquor permit, which is applicable to revitalization districts, to be issued to the owner or operator of any business establishment rather than only to a retail food establishment or a food service operation as in former law.

Removes a restriction in prior law that provided that a D-5l permit could only be issued to a premises that had gross annual receipts from the sale of food and meals that constituted not less than 75% of its total annual gross receipts.

Increases the number of D-5l permits that may be issued within a single revitalization district from five to fifteen.

Prohibits a D-5l permit from being issued to an adult entertainment establishment.

**Dispensing of beer into growlers by D-8 liquor permit holders**

Allows a D-8 liquor permit holder to dispense beer from containers that have a capacity equal to or greater than five and one-sixth gallons into glass growlers, which are containers not exceeding one gallon, for purposes of off-premises consumption if certain conditions are met.

**Tasting samples of spirituous liquor**

Allows tasting samples of spirituous liquor to be sold at agency stores under certain conditions.

Requires the owner of an agency store to obtain a D-8 permit authorizing the sale of spirituous liquor samples at the agency store.

Establishes requirements and procedures governing the sale of such tasting samples.

**Issuance of F-9 liquor permits**

Creates the F-9 liquor permit to be issued to a nonprofit corporation that operates a city park or provides or manages entertainment for a nonprofit corporation that
operates a city park to allow the sale of beer and intoxicating liquor by the individual drink.

Establishes requirements governing the issuance of an F-9 permit, and specifies that the permit may be issued only with respect to a park that is located in a county with a specified population.

 Allows a person to have in the person's possession on an F-9 permit premises an opened or unopened container of beer or intoxicating liquor that was not purchased from the holder of the permit if certain conditions are met.

Miscellaneous

Eliminates a provision that limited the transfer of a C-1, C-2, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4, or D-5 liquor permit from a municipal corporation or township to an economic development project located in another municipal corporation or township only if the transferor municipal corporation or township had exceeded its quota for such a permit.

S.B. 73

Sens. Manning, Turner, Skindell, Tavares, Bacon, Beagle, Daniels, Gillmor, Hughes, Jones, Lehner, Niehaus, Oelslager, Sawyer, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Stewart, Wagoner, Wilson, Faber, LaRose, Patton, Widener, Hite, Obhof, Seitz, Cates


Effective date: July 22, 2011

Allows manufacturers of nonbeverage food products to purchase at wholesale beer and intoxicating liquor from A and B liquor permit holders.
Sub. H.B. 225


Sens. Daniels, Coley, Eklund, Hite, LaRose, Lehner, Niehaus, Seitz

Effective date: March 22, 2012

Direct deposit payroll

Authorizes a county auditor, the legislative authority of a municipal corporation, or a board of township trustees to adopt a direct deposit payroll policy for all their employees.

Allows the policy to exempt from the direct deposit requirement those county, municipal, or township employees who cannot provide, by written authorization, an account number designating a financial institution for the direct deposit or for other reasons specified in the policy.

Provides that the written authorization is not a public record under Ohio’s Public Records Law.

Balance increase in county and township rainy day accounts

Authorizes counties and townships to increase the amount of money credited to rainy day reserve balance accounts.

Purposes for which other reserved balances may be used

Expands the types of insurance plans and programs, and what a subdivision may pay for, out of reserve balance accounts established for self-insurance or workers' compensation payments.

Changes for New Community Authorities

State and county investment authority

Permits the Treasurer of State to invest state interim funds in obligations of a political subdivision if the obligations mature within one year of issuance.

Permits a county to invest inactive moneys and public-library money in obligations of a political subdivision not located within the same county as the investing authority.

Increases, from five to ten years, the time in which an investment of inactive moneys or the public-library money must generally mature.

Permits an investment of up to 25% of a county’s total average portfolio of investments of inactive moneys and public-library money to mature after ten years upon majority approval from the county investment advisory committee.

Joint county department of job and family services

Permits, but does not require, the boards of county commissioners of Hocking, Ross, and Vinton counties, by entering into a written agreement, to form as a pilot project a joint county department of job and family services.

Requires the joint county department to perform the duties, provide the services, and operate the programs required under all laws that pertain to a single county department of job and family services.

Mandates some of the terms and conditions of the agreement, but also allows other terms and conditions to be established in the agreement.

Requires that the joint county department be managed by a board of directors composed of all of the county commissioners of the counties forming the department.

Establishes who appoints the director, employees, and administrators of the joint county department.

Establishes criteria to determine which county auditor serves as the fiscal officer of, and which county treasurer serves as the treasurer of, the joint county department and which prosecuting attorney serves as the legal advisor of the board of directors of the department.

Creates a process whereby a county that formed the joint county department may withdraw from the agreement or may be removed from the department.
Authorizes a board of county commissioners to designate the joint county department as the workforce development agency for the county.

**Changes affecting or relating to county auditors**

Authorizes the county auditor, rather than the Tax Commissioner, to review and approve property tax exemption applications for certain public property.

Prohibits boards of county commissioners from adopting quarterly spending plans to limit spending from county real estate assessment funds, which funds primarily cover a county’s real property tax administration expenses and defray certain costs of county auditors.

Prohibits county centralized services regarding purchases using moneys from the real estate assessment funds.

**Competitive sealed proposals and bids**

Permits a county contracting authority to give notice of a request for proposals and to receive proposals through an electronic system that is uniform, interactive, and secure.

Requires that competitive sealed bids be submitted to a county contracting authority in the manner mentioned in the notice published by the authority rather than in a sealed envelope.

**Electronic filing of county tax complaints**

Permits a county board of revision to authorize a policy for the electronic filing of tax valuation or assessment complaints and applications subject to the approval of the Tax Commissioner.

**Township and county employee benefits**

Clarifies that a board of township trustees may offer deferred compensation plans or programs to all of the township's officers and employees.

Authorizes a board of county commissioners to offer any qualified benefit available under a cafeteria plan, and a health and wellness benefit program, to county officers, employees, and their immediate dependents, and requires that, if provided, the benefits must be issued by an insurance company or administered by a board of county commissioners or a contractor.
Authorizes a board of township trustees to offer a health and wellness benefit program to township officers and employees and their immediate dependents.

Permits the county auditor or the township fiscal officer, as appropriate, to deduct from an employee's salary or wages the amount authorized to be paid by the employee for qualified and existing benefits.

**County elected officers**

Requires the written consent of a county elected officer in order for: (1) the officer to be required to perform a duty under a shared-services agreement, and (2) the county to enter into a shared-services agreement for the performance of a duty of the officer.

**Regional council of governments 9-1-1 PSAP**

Authorizes a regional council of governments to operate a public safety answering point (PSAP) as part of a countywide 9-1-1 system under an adopted or amended final plan.

Requires a regional council of governments operating a PSAP to pay all costs associated with the PSAP and to allocate costs among itself and the subdivisions served by the PSAP based on the allocation formula in the final plan.

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**Sub. H.B. 371**


Sens. Balderson, Beagle, Coley, Eklund, Faber, Hite, Kearney, LaRose, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Sawyer, Tavares, Turner, Wagoner

**Effective date:** March 22, 2012; Sections 4 and 5 effective December 21, 2011

Modifies the application process for loans and grants under the Local Government Innovation Program.

Modifies the criteria used to evaluate proposals under the Program.

Modifies the appointment duty of the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents regarding the Local Government Innovation Council.
Includes in the Local Government Innovation Fund the repayments of principal and interest on loans made from the Fund.

Modifies the amount of money that may be awarded to political subdivisions by the Council.

Modifies the manner in which awards are to be divided between larger and smaller political subdivisions.

Makes an appropriation.

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**S.B. 120**

**Sens.** Beagle, Seitz, Schaffer, Wagoner, Tavares, Brown, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Sawyer, Stewart, Wilson


**Effective date:** September 30, 2011

Clarifies that the prosecuting attorney of a county is the legal adviser of all tax-supported public libraries in the county and must prosecute and defend all suits and actions that any tax-supported public library directs or to which it is a party.
Am. Sub. S.B. 5

Sen. Jones

Effective date: As the result of the referendum vote on November 8, 2011, Am. Sub. S.B. 5 is void.

Public Employees' Collective Bargaining Law

Strikes

Would have prohibited public employees from striking.

Would have required a public employer to deduct from the compensation of a striking employee an amount equal to twice the employee's daily rate of pay for each day or part thereof that the employee engaged in a strike.

Ability to bargain

Would have expanded the definition of "supervisor" with respect to members of a fire or police department.

Would have expanded the definitions of "supervisor" and "management level employee" with respect to faculty of a state institution of higher education to include those involved in certain decisions.

Would have prohibited employees of community schools from collectively bargaining, except for conversion community schools.

Would have allowed the governing authority of a conversion community school to opt out of collectively bargaining with the community school's employees.

Would have limited the ability of specified other employees to collectively bargain with their public employers, including regional council of government employees and certain members of the unclassified civil service, to allow the employees to bargain only if the public employer elected to do so.

Right to bargain

Would have removed continuation, modification, or deletion of an existing collective bargaining agreement from the subject of collective bargaining.
Bargaining units and exclusive representatives

Would have changed the time limitations within which the State Employment Relations Board had to act on a request for recognition.

Would have prohibited an appropriate unit of firefighters from including rank and file members with members who were of the rank lieutenant and above.

Would have revised recognition procedures.

Would have permitted certain groups to file a decertification petition demonstrating that 30% of the employees in the described bargaining unit supported the petition.

Subjects of collective bargaining

Would have expanded the list of subjects that were inappropriate for collective bargaining.

Would have permitted public employers to not bargain on any subject reserved to the management and direction of the governmental unit even if the subject affected wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment.

Would have prohibited an existing provision of a collective bargaining agreement that was modified, renewed, or extended that did not concern wages, hours, and terms and conditions from being a mandatory subject of collective bargaining.

Would have allowed a public employer to engage in specified employment related actions at the employer’s discretion unless the public employer specifically agreed otherwise in an express written provision of a collective bargaining agreement, with certain exceptions concerning equipment.

Provisions of a collective bargaining agreement

Would have prohibited a public employer that was a school district, educational service center, conversion community school that collectively bargains, or STEM school from entering into a collective bargaining agreement that did specified things such as establishing a maximum number of students who could be assigned to a classroom or teacher.

Would have required collective bargaining agreements between such an education-related public employer and public employees to comply with all applicable state or local laws or ordinances regarding wages, hours, and terms and conditions of
employment unless the conflicting provision established benefits that were less than provided in the law or ordinance.

Would have prohibited a collective bargaining agreement from prohibiting a public employer that was in a state of fiscal emergency from serving a written notice to terminate, modify, or negotiate the agreement.

Would have prohibited a collective bargaining agreement from prohibiting a public employer that was in a state of fiscal watch from serving a written notice to modify a collective bargaining agreement so that salary or benefit increases, or both, were suspended.

Would have prohibited an agreement from containing a provision that required as a condition of employment that the nonmembers of the employee organization pay to the employee organization a fair share fee.

Would have prohibited a collective bargaining agreement entered into or renewed on or after the act’s effective date from containing provisions limiting a public employer’s ability to privatize operations.

Would have prohibited a collective bargaining agreement entered into or renewed on or after the act’s effective date from containing provisions for certain types of leave to accrue above listed amounts or to pay out for sick leave at a rate higher than specified amounts.

Would have prohibited a collective bargaining agreement entered into or renewed on or after the act’s effective date from containing certain provisions regarding the deferred retirement option plan.

Would have limited the grievance procedure required under continuing law to unresolved grievances that were based on the disputed interpretations of the written provisions of the agreement.

**Dispute resolution**

Would have eliminated the ability of the parties to submit disputes to an agreed-upon dispute resolution procedure.

Would have extended the timelines involved in the dispute resolution process.

Would have expanded the list of factors that a fact-finder had to consider in resolving disputes, and would have required the fact-finder to consider as the primary factor the interests and welfare of the public and the ability of the public employer to finance and administer the issues proposed.
Would have eliminated the final offer settlement procedure.

Would have required the legislative body of the public employer to be the final decision-maker with respect to any dispute that was unresolved during the fact-finding process, and would have prescribed procedures and requirements for the legislative body to make a determination.

Would have required any agreement determined by the legislative body to be in effect for three years.

Would have required, if the legislative body failed to select a last best offer, the public employer's last best offer to become the agreement between the parties.

Would have allowed, for certain public employers, if the legislative body selected the last best offer that cost more and the chief financial officer of the legislative body determined insufficient funds existed or refused to determine whether sufficient funds existed to cover the agreement, the last best offers to be submitted to the voters for selection.

Would have prescribed procedures to place the last best offers on the ballot and for that election.

**Unfair labor practices**

Would have expanded the list of unfair labor practices that could be committed by an employee organization, its agents, or public employees and the remedies that could be applied for unfair labor practices committed by those entities.

Would have revised the procedures regarding hearings on unfair labor practice charges.

**Miscellaneous changes**

Would have required a public employer to report certain information about compensation that was paid to public employees under a collective bargaining agreement.

Would have repealed the provision requiring the Public Employees’ Collective Bargaining Law to be liberally construed.

**Public employee pay**

Generally would have eliminated statutory salary schedules and steps.
Would have required performance-based pay for most public employees, including board and commission members, and would have made other, related changes.

Would have required performance-based pay for teachers based, in part, on evaluations conducted under a policy that was based on a framework for teacher evaluations recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and adopted by the State Board of Education.

**Public employee benefits**

Would have limited public employer contributions toward health care benefit costs to 85%.

Would have required health care benefits provided to management level employees to be the same as any health care benefits provided to other employees of the same public employer.

Would have required health care benefits provided through a jointly administered trust fund to be the same as the health care benefits provided to other public employees.

Would have required boards of education to adopt policies to provide leave with pay for school employees, and would have abolished statutorily provided leave for those employees.

Would have abolished continuing contracts for teachers, except for those continuing contracts in existence prior to the effective date of the act, and would have revised the law relating to limited contracts.

Would have prohibited a public employer from paying employee contributions to the five public employee retirement systems.

Would have required death benefits paid under the Police and Fire Pension Fund to be paid in accordance with salary schedules and increases that were in existence prior to the effective date of the act.

Would have capped vacation leave for certain public employees at 7.7 hours per biweekly pay period, and would have limited total accrual for those public employees accruing 9.2 hours per pay period on the act's effective date.

Would have reduced sick leave accrual for most public employees from 4.6 hours to 3.1 hours per biweekly pay period.
Reduction in force

Would have removed consideration of seniority and length of service, by itself, from decisions regarding a reduction in work force of certain public employees.

Ohio Commission for Excellence in Public Service

Would have created the Ohio Commission for Excellence in Public Service to establish and guide programs that fostered best practices in public service workplaces.
Am. Sub. H.B. 1


Sens. Faber, Patton, Daniels, Gillmor, Hughes, Seitz, Jones, Bacon, Schaffer, Beagle, Cates, Hite, Lehner, Obhof, Oelslager, Widener, Niehaus, Manning

Effective date: February 18, 2011

JobsOhio formation; articles; board of directors

Requires the Governor to form a nonprofit corporation to be named JobsOhio.

Sets forth the requirements of the JobsOhio articles of incorporation, including the creation of a board of directors consisting of the Governor and eight directors, to be appointed by the Governor, and a provision for the appointment of a chief investment officer.

Requires the articles of incorporation to require the board to adopt a resolution providing for compensation of the chief investment officer and to approve an employee compensation plan.

Prohibits the directors from receiving any compensation from JobsOhio, except for actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with services performed for JobsOhio.

Requires the board of directors to establish an audit committee to be comprised of directors.

Authorizes the Governor to remove a director for misconduct.

Describes the characteristics that an individual must satisfy to qualify for appointment to the JobsOhio board of directors and how the evidence of qualification may be demonstrated.

Requires each individual appointed to the board of directors to be United States citizens and at least six of the individuals appointed to the board to be residents of or domiciled in Ohio.
Permits JobsOhio to indemnify the board of directors, officers, and employees from liability arising from JobsOhio duties and functions and to purchase civil liability insurance for that purpose.

Requires the Director of Development to execute a contract, and specifies terms of the contract, with JobsOhio for JobsOhio to assist the Director and the Department of Development with providing services or otherwise carrying out the functions or duties of the Department.

Specifies that the contract executed by the Director must not negate, impair, or otherwise adversely affect the obligation of the state to pay debt charges or to abide by any related pledge or covenant regarding debt charges on certain securities executed or issued by the state.

Requires that prior to execution, all contracts between the Director of Development and JobsOhio are subject to Controlling Board approval.

**Applicability of laws governing state agencies, officers, and employees**

States that the JobsOhio corporation is not a state or public department, agency, office, body, institution, or instrumentality for the purposes of certain laws that otherwise govern state agencies and other entities performing governmental functions.

Prescribes alternative rules governing the corporation, its board, and its employees in the performance of governmental functions.

Specifies that the state's public officer ethics laws generally do not apply to JobsOhio directors or employees.

Imposes the more limited financial disclosure requirements applicable to public university trustees and some lower-paid officials to the chief investment officer, any other officer or employee with significant administrative, supervisory, contracting, or investment authority, and any governor-appointed director of JobsOhio.

Requires the board to adopt a conflict of interest policy recommended by the Internal Revenue Service for tax-exempt organizations.

Specifies that employees, officers, and directors of JobsOhio, other than the Governor, are not public servants under the offenses against justice and public administration provisions of the Criminal Code.

Prohibits bribery of directors, officers, or employees of JobsOhio.
Specifies that the state’s open meetings law does not apply to JobsOhio, but that the JobsOhio board must open its in-person meetings to the public and prepare, file, and maintain minutes of the meetings except for executive sessions held to consider certain matters.

Requires the JobsOhio board to establish a method to notify a person, upon request and payment of a reasonable fee, of the time and place of the board’s in-person public meetings.

Specifies that the state’s public records law does not apply to JobsOhio, but requires the contract between the Department of Development and JobsOhio to designate certain records of the corporation to be made public through the Department.

Requires any person who lobbies JobsOhio, and the lobbyist’s employer, to comply with the same lobbying registration and reporting requirements that apply to lobbyists of executive agencies.

Prohibits any state elected officer or staff member from receiving compensation other than from the agency with which the person serves for any service rendered personally in any matter that is before JobsOhio.

Prohibits JobsOhio from making campaign or political contributions.

Specifies that JobsOhio is not subject to the law governing state contracting and procurement.

Specifies that JobsOhio is not subject to the collective bargaining law that applies to public employees, or to laws governing state employee whistleblower protection, civil service, compensation, work hours, leave, and benefits.

Specifies that directors or employees of JobsOhio are not members of the Public Employees Retirement System and that former state employees, upon employment with JobsOhio, are not considered public employees.

Specifies that JobsOhio must be audited by an independent public accountant.

Requires JobsOhio officers and employees to comply with certain procedures regarding the handling of public funds, and provides that the officers and employees are liable for mishandling of such funds.

Specifies that JobsOhio is subject to the jurisdiction of the state Inspector General on the same terms as a state employee or an entity doing business with the state, but not as a state agency.
Exempts JobsOhio from specified provisions of the general law governing nonprofit corporations.

**Reporting**

Requires the Director of Development to submit a report to the General Assembly recommending statutory changes that are necessary:

--to improve the functioning and efficiency of the Department; and

--to transfer specified powers, functions, and duties of the Department to other existing state agencies or to JobsOhio or eliminate specified powers, functions, or duties.

Requires the chief investment officer of JobsOhio to prepare and submit an annual report of JobsOhio's activities for the preceding year.

Prevents any public money in the possession of JobsOhio from being commingled with other money of the corporation.

Requires any funds of the corporation that hold public money to be maintained and accounted for separately and independently from other funds of the corporation.

**Legal actions**

States that the venue for any legal action by JobsOhio against a director or former director is the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas.

States that the Ohio Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional claims arising from the act or actions undertaken under the act's authority.

**Appropriation**

Makes an appropriation not to exceed $1 million to the Department of Development, from the Department's FY 2011 appropriation, to fund establishment and operation of JobsOhio.

Requires the Department to submit to the Controlling Board biannual reports of the use of funds appropriated, until all funds are used.
Establishes the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission to study the Ohio Constitution, promote an exchange of suggestions regarding desired changes in the Ohio Constitution, consider the problems of constitutional amendment, and make recommendations for amendments to the Ohio Constitution.

Requires the Commission also to make recommendations on organizing a constitutional convention, if the voters call for such a convention, and to make recommendations to the convention regarding possible constitutional amendments.

Provides for a 32-member Commission, with 12 members appointed by the leaders in the General Assembly and the remaining 20 members appointed by the 12 initial members.

Permits the Commission to employ professional, technical, and clerical employees as needed to successfully and efficiently carry out the Commission’s purposes.

Requires the Commission to make its first report to the General Assembly not later than January 1, 2013, and requires biennial reports thereafter.

Requires the Commission to complete its work on or before July 1, 2021, and specifies that the Commission ceases to exist on that date.
Sub. H.B. 277


Sens. Beagle, Hite, Niehaus, Schiavoni, Seitz

Effective date: October 17, 2011

Permits a horse-racing permit holder who is eligible to become a video lottery sales agent to apply to the State Racing Commission to move its track to another location.

Changes the disclosure threshold that a casino operator, management company, or holding company license application must contain regarding the identity of persons having a direct or indirect interest in the applicant.

Specifies that the Ohio Casino Control Commission may assess a renewal fee for casino-related licenses in the amount necessary to cover the Commission’s costs in reviewing renewal applications.

Permits a casino facility to be opened in phases.

Prohibits the Commission from requiring the use of a central system by casino operators if the casino operator is in compliance with the Casino Law.

Creates the Casino Operator Settlement Fund.

Specifies that casino operators and management companies may provide promotional gaming credits to their patrons.

Treats casino gaming receipts of casino operators the same under the commercial activity tax as they are treated under the gross casino revenue tax.

Establishes that a card for the purchase of gasoline is a redeemable voucher for a skill-based amusement machine.

Am. Sub. S.B. 2

Sens. Hughes, Faber, Beagle, Daniels, Gillmor, Hite, Jones, Jordan, Bacon, Oelslager, Patton, Schaffer, Seitz, Stewart, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson, LaRose, Cates, Manning, Obhof

Effective date: June 7, 2011; certain provisions effective January 1, 2012

Establishes a new rule review process to assess whether proposed or existing administrative rules of certain state agencies have an adverse impact on businesses and to mitigate that impact.

Eliminates the former small business rule review process.

Creates the Common Sense Initiative Office (CSIO) within the Office of the Governor to evaluate rules that may have an adverse impact on businesses.

Creates the Small Business Advisory Council composed of small business representatives to advise the CSIO on adverse impacts of draft rules.

Requires the CSIO to develop standards to evaluate a draft rule's impact on businesses.

Authorizes the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review to recommend invalidation of a draft rule on the grounds that the agency proposing the rule failed to demonstrate that the regulatory intent justifies the rule's adverse impact on businesses.

Requires the CSIO to create a public comment system for rules it reviews.

Requires state agencies to develop customer service performance standards for the agencies and their officers and employees.

Requires the CSIO to annually report certain information to the Governor and specified members of the General Assembly.

Sub. S.B. 4

Sens. Schaffer, Daniels, Hughes, LaRose, Brown, Turner, Bacon, Beagle, Cates, Faber, Gillmor, Grendell, Hite, Jones, Jordan, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Obhof, Patton, Seitz, Stewart, Tavares, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson
Requires the Auditor of State to conduct performance audits of at least four state agencies each biennium.

Exempts the Attorney General, Auditor of State, Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, and agencies of the legislative and judicial branches from the performance audits.

Requires an audited state agency to accept comments regarding a performance audit from interested parties.

Requires a state agency to implement the recommendations of a performance audit and to file a report and provide testimony if it does not do so.

Requires the Auditor of State to submit an annual report to the Governor and certain members of the General Assembly describing whether state agencies have implemented the performance audit recommendations and the cost savings achieved as a result.

Creates the Leverage for Efficiency, Accountability, and Performance Fund to be administered by the Auditor of State.

Authorizes the Auditor to make loans from the Fund to state agencies and local public offices to pay for performance audits.

Sub. S.B. 38

Sens. Hughes, Brown, Jones, Kearney, Manning, Schaffer, Seitz, Smith, Stewart, Tavares, Turner, Bacon, Cafaro, Faber, Hite, Jordan, LaRose, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

Reps. Goodwin, Fende, Antonio, Barnes, Burke, Carney, Celeste, Duffey, Gardner, Garland, Hollington, Hottinger, Johnson, McKenney, Ramos, Schuring, Yuko, Batchelder
Effective date: January 13, 2012

Designates May as ALS Awareness Month.

S.B. 101

Sens. Patton, Wagoner, Schaffer, Grendell, Turner, Cafaro, Gillmor, Tavares, Bacon, Brown, Cates, Daniels, Faber, Hite, Hughes, Kearney, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Smith, Widener, Wilson


Effective date: January 13, 2012

Designates May as "Substance Abuse Awareness and Education Month."

Am. S.B. 155

Sens. Cates and Sawyer, Wilson, Brown, Turner, Bacon, Oelslager, Gillmor, Wagoner, Jones, Beagle, Grendell, Obhof, Hughes, Kearney, Tavares, Daniels, Balderson, Burke, Cafaro, Coley, Eklund, Faber, Hite, Jordan, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Patton, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Skindell, Smith, Widener

Effective date: Emergency, December 21, 2011

Designates February 20 as "John Glenn Friendship 7 Day."

Sub. S.B. 171

Effective date: Emergency, June 30, 2011

Abolishes, retains, terminates, transfers, and modifies various agencies in accordance with the Sunset Review Law six-year cycle for evaluation of agencies.

Re-establishes the Sunset Review Committee during calendar years 2015 and 2016 to continue agency review in the 131st General Assembly.

Repeals the Sunset Review Law on December 31, 2016.
TAXATION

Sub. H.B. 58


Sens. Schaffer, Patton, Daniels, Faber, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Stewart, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: Emergency, March 7, 2011

Incorporates into Ohio income tax law changes to federal tax law taking effect since December 15, 2010.

Temporarily changes the formula used to trigger state extended unemployment benefits based on the total unemployment rate for the current time period the federal government is fully paying for those benefits for claimants of most private sector employers.

Expands the job retention tax credit program to include a new, refundable job retention credit available to businesses that meet continuing program requirements and additional criteria.

Requires recipients of the new refundable credit to have received an offer of financial incentives from another state in 2010 that may induce the recipient to relocate and to have agreed to invest at least $25 million and retain at least 1,000 employees in Ohio.

Authorizes the new credit only temporarily by limiting eligibility to projects that the Director of Development, Director of Budget and Management, Tax Commissioner, and, if necessary, Superintendent of Insurance recommend before July 1, 2011.

Limits the total of such credits to $8 million in any calendar year.

States that municipal corporations may provide a similar refundable job retention tax credit against the municipal income tax.
Am. H.B. 167


Sens. Schaffer, Tavares, Skindell, Turner, Bacon, Balderson, Beagle, Brown, Coley, Daniels, Eklund, Hite, Hughes, Jones, Kearney, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Obhof, Oelslager, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Widener, Wilson

Effective date: Emergency, December 9, 2011

Authorizes an income tax deduction for the otherwise taxable portion of a federal Pell grant or Ohio College Opportunity Grant used to pay room and board for a post-secondary student.

Am. S.B. 71

Sens. Manning, Schaffer, Wagoner, Widener, Bacon, Beagle, Daniels, Hite, Hughes, LaRose, Obhof, Patton

Reps. Letson, Barnes, Beck, Blessing, Boose, Fende, Goyal, Luckie, Lundy, Milkovich, Murray, Williams, Yuko

Effective date: September 15, 2011

Exempts from property taxation a public recreational facility constructed in 2008 or later, owned by a municipal corporation, and used primarily by a professional minor league baseball team not affiliated with a major league team.
Am. Sub. H.B. 95


Sens.  Daniels, Wilson, Coley, Hite, Jordan, Niehaus, Seitz, Wagoner

Effective date:  September 9, 2011

All utilities

Reduces from three to two the number of consecutive weeks of newspaper publication for notices of applications for rate increases.

Alters public notice requirements, for both applications for rate increases and public hearings on those applications, by requiring that the first notice be published in its entirety and permitting the second to be abbreviated if:

--the abbreviated notice for applications is one-quarter the size of the first notice and, for public hearings, half the size;

--the first notice is published on the newspaper's and the Public Utilities Commission's (PUCO's) web sites; and

--the abbreviated notice contains instructions for accessing the electronic postings.

Reduces what must be contained in each notice by:

--removing a requirement that a notice of public hearings summarize the major issues in contention; and

--requiring publication of notice of an application for a rate-increase rather than the substance and prayer of the application.

Gas, natural gas, and electric major utility facilities

Requires the PUCO to hold a public hearing on a long-term forecast report only upon the showing of good cause by an interested party.
Natural gas companies

Permits the date certain for property valuation in natural gas company rate cases to be not later than the end of the test period.

Permits, in natural gas company rate cases, the use of projected property valuation as of the date certain and, during and one year after the test period, expected revenue and expense adjustments.

Requires a reconciliation, under which only downward adjustments are permitted, for any projected property valuation or expected revenue and expense adjustments incorporated into a rate determination, and permits a final reconciliation after the initial reconciliation.

Expressly permits the PUCO to grant a natural gas company an automatic adjustment mechanism or device in connection with an application for a rate case, an alternative rate plan, or an application specifically for an automatic adjustment mechanism or device.

Removes the requirement of notice before implementation of an alternative rate plan.

Requires that alternative rate plans be just and reasonable, and removes the requirement, for those plans, of a PUCO determination of just and reasonable rates.

Requires hearings for alternative rate plans only at the discretion of the PUCO.

Requires that both of the following applications be considered applications not for increases in rates:

--an application to continue an alternative rate plan; and

--an application for an alternative rate plan proposing to initiate or continue a revenue decoupling mechanism.

Expressly permits the filing of an application for an alternative rate plan proposing to initiate or continue a revenue decoupling mechanism.

Expressly permits a natural gas company to apply for an automatic adjustment mechanism.

Permits a natural gas company to apply to implement a capital expenditure program for infrastructure expansion, upgrade, or replacement; installation, upgrade,
or replacement of information technology systems; or any program necessary to comply with governmental regulation.

Permits a natural gas company with an approved capital expenditure program to defer or recover program costs for incremental depreciation, property tax expense, and post-in-service carrying costs, but limits applications for recovery of those costs in certain cases to no more than one time each calendar year.

Requires natural gas companies to file long-term forecast reports every three years rather than annually.

Exempts natural gas companies that do not sell natural gas under a purchased gas adjustment clause from the purchased gas adjustment rule.

Limits management or performance audits of natural gas companies under the purchased gas adjustment rule, or hearings related to such audits, by restricting their frequency to once every three years and their scope to production and purchasing policies.

**Am. Sub. H.B. 364**


**Sens.** Bacon, Balderson, Beagle, Brown, Coley, Daniels, Eklund, Faber, Gentile, Hite, Hughes, Jones, LaRose, Lehner, Patton, Sawyer, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Smith, Tavares, Turner, Wagoner, Widener

**Effective date:** March 22, 2012

Permits an electric distribution utility (EDU) to apply to the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) for a financing order authorizing the issuance of bonds to recover uncollected phase-in costs, which include carrying charges incurred before, on, or after the act’s effective date, authorized by the PUCO for securitization or deferral before, on, or after the act’s effective date.

Excludes from the definition of "phase-in costs,” thereby prohibiting securitization of, both of the following:
--For an electric generating facility owned wholly or partly by the EDU on and after the act’s effective date, certain costs that are recoverable under an electric security plan (ESP); and

--For any electric generating facility, certain costs incurred after the act’s effective date related to the ongoing operation of the facility, except for certain environmental clean-up or remediation costs for which the PUCO approves recovery.

Requires that ESP phase-in costs be securitized only in accordance with the act.

Permits an EDU under a financing order to impose and collect phase-in-recovery charges on customers as long as they remain customers, or if they receive distribution from another EDU operating in the same service area, in accordance with a PUCO-approved adjustment mechanism, to recover the uncollected phase-in costs and financing costs on the bonds.

Requires the EDU not to proceed with the securitization if, after a financing order is issued or becomes final, but before bonds are issued, market conditions are such that customers will not realize cost savings.

Specifies that the phase-in-recovery charges are nonbypassable as long as bonds are outstanding and phase-in costs and financing costs have not been recovered in full.

Requires a financing order to be consistent with Ohio's electric services policy.

Requires the PUCO to find that, at the time of a financing order's issuance, the issuance of the bonds and phase-in-recovery charges results in, consistent with market conditions, measurably enhancing cost savings to customers and mitigating customer rate impacts as compared with traditional financing or recovery methods or a previously approved recovery method.

Specifies that financing orders are irrevocable and remain in effect until the bonds and financing costs on the bonds have been paid in full.

Specifies that for regulation and ratemaking purposes, the phase-in-recovery charges are not to be considered revenue of the EDU, the bonds are not to be considered debt of the EDU, and the phase-in costs or financing costs are not to be considered costs of the EDU.

Specifies that phase-in-recovery bonds under a financing order do not involve a pledge of full faith and credit by the state or its subdivisions.
Exempts imposition, charging, collection, and receipt of the phase-in-recovery revenues and the transfer and ownership of phase-in-recovery property from taxation and similar charges by the state, counties, municipal corporations, school districts, local authorities, and other subdivisions.

Provides for the creation of phase-in-recovery property, meaning the property, rights, and interests of an EDU or an assignee under a financing order, and contains provisions regarding transference, conveyance, pledging of property for payment of bonds, and perfection of security interests.
Listed on the following pages is the legislative history of each bill enacted in 2011. The legend at the top left-hand corner of the following pages contains abbreviations for various actions taken on the bills. The committees of the House of Representatives and Senate are abbreviated as follows:

**House**

- ANR  Agriculture & Natural Resources
- CJ   Criminal Justice
- ED   Education
- FA   Finance & Appropriations
- FHD  Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development
- HA   Health & Aging
- INS  Insurance
- JE   Judiciary & Ethics
- LG   Local Government
- PU   Public Utilities
- RR   Rules & Reference
- SGE  State Government & Elections
- TSS  Transportation, Public Safety & Homeland Security
- VA   Veterans Affairs
- WM   Ways & Means

**Senate**

- AER  Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources
- FIN  Finance
- GOR  Government Oversight & Reform
- GV   State & Local Government & Veterans Affairs
- HHA  Health, Human Services & Aging
- HT   Highways & Transportation
- ICL  Insurance, Commerce & Labor
- JCR  Judiciary - Criminal Justice
- JCV  Judiciary - Civil Justice
- WME  Ways & Means & Economic Development
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**Note:** Sequence numbers for Senate and House Bills do not necessarily indicate passage order or priority.
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Listed below are all sections* of the Revised Code affected by acts of the 129th General Assembly during 2011. Most listed sections were amended, enacted, enacted new, or repealed using the same section number. Some sections were renumbered. For the renumbered sections, the old number and the new number are listed separately. The new number also appears in parentheses underneath the old number.

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* Some sections that were affected by acts are not listed, and some sections, although listed, do not show all of the actions affecting them. Excluded from the list are sections for which the affecting action was postponed to a future date by legislation enacted during 2011 and sections for which the affecting action is subject to a future referendum. The list also excludes sections vetoed in full by the Governor and sections for which the affecting action was nullified by referendum.
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0165.031 H 0153  Repeal  0187.12  H 0001  Enact  0307.88  H 0225  Amend
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0167.03  H 0225  Amend  0189.01  H 0153  Enact  0307.932  H 0086  Enact
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0173.03 S 0171  Amend  0189.02  H 0153  Enact  0309.09  S 0120  Amend
0173.04 S 0171  Amend  0189.03  H 0153  Enact  0309.18  H 0086  Amend
0173.14 H 0153  Amend  0189.03  H 0371  Amend  0311.29  H 0153  Amend
0173.21 H 0153  Amend  0189.04  H 0153  Enact  0311.31  H 0153  Amend
0173.26 H 0153  Amend  0189.04  H 0371  Amend  0313.212  H 0093  Enact
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0173.351 H 0153  Amend  0189.06  H 0371  Amend  0319.301  H 0153  Amend
0173.351 H 0153  Old Number (5119.691)  0189.07  H 0153  Enact  0319.54  H 0153  Amend
0173.351 H 0153  Old Number (5119.692)  0189.08  H 0371  Amend  0321.18  H 0153  Amend
0173.36 H 0153  Amend  0189.09  H 0153  Enact  0322.02  H 0153  Amend
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0173.40 H 0153  Amend  0323.73  H 0153  Amend
0173.401 H 0153  Amend  0323.75  H 0153  Amend
0173.403 H 0153  Amend  0324.02  H 0153  Amend
0173.404 H 0153  Amend  0324.021  H 0153  Amend
0173.41 H 0153  Enact  0301.02  H 0153  Amend  0325.19  H 0093  Amend
0173.42 H 0153  Amend  0301.15  H 0153  Amend  0325.20  H 0153  Amend
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