

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE OCTOBER 8, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 1,452,096 confirmed cases
- 74,943 hospitalizations
- 22,490 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 44.2 million cases
- 710,000 fatalities

World:

- 219 million cases
- 4.55 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

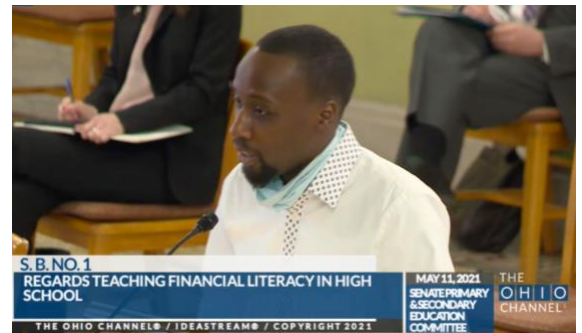
- House Session

Thursday:

Friday:

COVID Provisions Included in Financial Literacy Bill

A bill originally concerned with teaching Ohio high school students financial literacy is headed to the Governor after a litany of changes from both the House and Senate. The Senate voted to concur with House amendments this week, including language that relaxed certain requirements for substitute teachers, as the COVID-19 pandemic has created an educator shortage with certain certification barriers in place. The legislation, Senate Bill 1, had been an educational policy priority for the upper chamber throughout the past few months. The Governor is expected to sign the bill shortly, after which it will be immediately enacted due to the included emergency clause.



Controlling Board Approves Federal Funding

On Monday, the Controlling Board approved hundreds of millions of dollars in funding from the federal government to be put towards education and childcare. The Department of Job and Family Services was authorized to receive \$161.5 million for childcare efforts. The Department of Education received \$100 million for school aid. Additional funding provided to the state through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), including more than \$700 million in stabilization grants, will be approved through forthcoming legislation.

State Revenue Reports Positive

The Office of Budget and Management released a report detailing the financial status of the state through the first quarter of the fiscal year, and all signs point to positive. Ohio's sales and personal income taxes both exceeded expectations, and total tax receipts were up 2.1 percent over the quarter. Director Kim Murnieks noted that the state was continuing to recover well from the pandemic.

Bill Introductions

HB 441 – Censorship (Wiggam, Cutrona): Relates to the censorship of users' expressions by interactive computer services and social media platforms.

HB 442 – Adoption and Foster Care (Stephens, Ray): Regards qualifications for adoption and foster care home assessors and professional treatment staff.

HB 443 – Health Plan Premiums (Koehler): To authorize a refundable tax credit for a portion of employer group health plan premiums.

HB 444 – Highway Designation (Patton): To change the name of the "Officer David Fahey Memorial Highway."

HB 445 – 9-1-1 (Carfagna, Smith): To make changes to the law governing 9-1-1 service and to repeal program requirements for emergency-service-telecommunicator training.

HB 446 – Universal Health Care (Skindell): To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

HB 447 – Worker's Compensation (Lampton): Regards workers' compensation and employees who work from home.

SB 243 – Police Profiling (Williams): To prohibit biased policing and other status-based profiling.

SB 244 – Elevators (Williams): To amend the law regarding elevators

SB 245 – Psychologist License (Williams): To modify the supervised professional experience requirement to obtain a psychologist license.

SB 246 – Income Tax Credit (Rulli, Lang): To levy a tax on a pass-through entity's income apportioned to Ohio and to authorize a refundable income tax credit for an owner for such tax paid.

SB 247 – Income Tax (Lang, Roegner): To exempt from income tax certain gains from the sale of an ownership interest in a business.

SB 248 – Moment of Silence (Antani): To require rather than permit school districts to provide a moment of silence each school day.

SB 249 – Financial Regulation (Wilson): To create a regulatory sandbox program for novel financial products and services.

SB 250 – Highway Designation (Hoagland, Gavarone): To designate the portion of U.S. 20 in Ohio as the "Ohio Medal of Honor Highway."

SB 251 – Youth Employment (Schaffer, Maharath): To allow a person under sixteen years of age to be employed after 7 p.m. during the school year.

SB 252 – Asbestos Claims (Lang): To require a plaintiff in a tort action alleging an asbestos claim to file a sworn statement of specified disclosures.

SCR 9 – Housing Inequality (Williams): To urge the state of Ohio to take steps to address housing inequality.