



**GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.**

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**Ohio Speech and Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition  
Legislative Activities Report  
October 2018**

The Ohio Senate returned to action in September to pass four relatively noncontroversial bills. Both chambers will now break until after the General Election in November. When lawmakers return, they will begin lame duck session, which we expect will be extremely active as Governor Kasich intends to push through numerous policy proposals before leaving office. Both legislative houses also have substantial pieces of legislation pending in their chambers, which leaders have identified as priorities before the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly comes to a close at the end of the year. After the election, the Senate will also likely fill the 20<sup>th</sup> District seat, which became vacant when Troy Balderson won a special election this summer for Congress.

For GAC, we will be closely watching HB 557 (art therapy) and SB 255 (occupational licensure board renewals) in lame duck. Additional legislation, which has yet to be introduced and will not likely materialize as an issue in lame duck, is the music therapy bill sponsored by Senator Kenny Yuko (D-Cleveland). GAC received a new draft of the bill recently. The redrafted version still creates several concerns, including:

- Referral language, which allows for referrals from family and friends among others, but does not mention referrals from other therapy providers;
- Language which specifically allows music therapists to treat communication disorders;
- Lack of provisions that would prohibit music therapists from billing under SLP or audiology reimbursement codes.

The new draft also still has the music therapists licensed under the Medical Board, which we understand is a concern for that entity. The bill may be introduced this session but will not likely move during lame duck.

Outside of the General Assembly, the Speech and Hearing Professionals Board has been working with the Council of State Governments (CSG) on a Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Interstate Compact. The draft compact is the result of work over the last year between CSG, the Board and other interested groups. (See draft compact as separate document). Now that the draft is complete, stakeholder will be given a chance to review and comment through mid-January 2019. After that, the drafting team will consider feedback and will present a final recommended compact in March of 2019. After the draft is finalized, CSG will begin the process of educating legislators and state executive branch officials about the compact and developing a comprehensive strategy for enactment.

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD – formerly known as RSC) recently announced that it will be holding a series of five regional meetings with providers in the coming weeks to help OOD identify areas within the Vocational Rehabilitation Fee Schedule that could be enhanced to further improve vocational rehabilitation services delivered statewide. GAC members who work in the vocational rehab arena are encouraged to participate. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Southeast Stakeholder Feedback Meeting**

October 19, 2018, 10 am – 12:00 pm

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

4300 E. Broad St., Ste. 200

Whitehall, Ohio 43213

Please RSVP by October 12<sup>th</sup> to Grace Alex at [grace.alex@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:grace.alex@ood.ohio.gov) or 614-914-2464

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**Northwest Stakeholder Feedback Meeting**

October 23, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Owens Community College (Findlay Campus)

3200 Bright Road

Findlay, OH 45840

Please RSVP by October 16<sup>th</sup> to Vicky Wiley at [vicky.wiley@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:vicky.wiley@ood.ohio.gov) or 419-861-8856

**East Central Stakeholder Feedback Meeting**

October 29, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Malone University (Johnson Center Dining Room)

2600 Cleveland Ave, NW

Canton, Ohio 44709

Please RSVP by October 22<sup>nd</sup> to Stephanie Mooney at [Stephanie.Mooney@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Mooney@ood.ohio.gov) or 330-915-2030

**Northeast Stakeholder Feedback Meeting**

November 1, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Oliver R. Ocasek Building

161 S High St.

Akron, Ohio 44308

Please RSVP by October 25<sup>th</sup> to Stephanie Cox [Stephanie.Cox@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Cox@ood.ohio.gov) or 216-227-3268

### **Southwest Stakeholder Feedback Meeting**

November 7, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Centennial Plaza III

895 Central Ave., 7th FL

Cincinnati OH 45202

Please RSVP by October 31<sup>st</sup> to Katherine McMahan at [Katherine.McMahan@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:Katherine.McMahan@ood.ohio.gov) or 513-768-6723

On the elections front, Democrat Rich Cordray and Republican Mike DeWine, the two major party candidates for governor, have concluded three scheduled debates prior to the election. Neither candidate held back in attacking his opponent, with Cordray going after DeWine's 42-year career in office and DeWine clamoring that the 2009 financial crisis occurred under Cordray's tenure in statewide office. The candidates have also sparred over numerous topics ranging from the state's opioid crisis, the ECOT scandal, and Issue 1. On the issue of Medicaid, DeWine said he would support a continuation of Medicaid expansion, but with work requirements to "get people back in the game." Mr. Cordray contends that Mr. DeWine joined a lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act and coverage for preexisting conditions.

State Representative Martin Sweeney recently announced that he is resigning from the Ohio House. The Cleveland Democrat served two terms in the Ohio House and previously served as the Cleveland City Council president. Most recently he lost in the Democratic primary election to serve in the Ohio Senate. House Democrats are expected to appoint Bride Rose Sweeney, Martin Sweeney's daughter, to the seat. She won the Democratic primary for the 14<sup>th</sup> House District and faces no Republican opposition.

Democratic candidates for statewide offices outraised their Republican opponents according to the most recent campaign finance reports. Democrat Richard Cordray raised \$2.23 million in September, well above Republican Mike DeWine's \$2.04 million in the race for governor. In the race for attorney general, Democrat Steve Dettelbach outraised Republican Dave Yost, reporting \$752,578 for the month compared to Yost's \$404,084. State Representative Kathleen Clyde outraised Republican Frank LaRose, bringing in \$321,865 compared with the Republican's \$255,181 in the race for secretary of state. Democrat Zack Space raised over \$250,000 for state auditor, almost \$50,000 more than his opponent, Republican Keith Faber. Democratic candidate for state treasurer Rob Richardson raised \$203,777 compared to Republican Robert Sprague's \$161,602.

We have been tracking the following legislation during the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly:

**HB49**      **OPERATING BUDGET (SMITH R)** Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.

*Current Status:* 8/22/2017 - Consideration of Governor's Veto

- HB51**      **DEPARTMENT REVIEW SCHEDULE** (FABER K) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.  
*Current Status:* 5/16/2017 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
- HB75**      **PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE-ARMED FORCES** (GAVARONE T, MERRIN D) To establish an expedited process to grant a professional license to an individual who is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or is the spouse of such an individual, and holds a valid license in another state.  
*Current Status:* 3/15/2017 - House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, (Second Hearing)
- HB85**      **ENTER HEALTH CARE COMPACT** (RETFERFORD W) To enter into the Health Care Compact.  
*Current Status:* 5/15/2018 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Federalism and Interstate Relations, (Second Hearing)
- HB98**      **CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS** (DUFFEY M, BOGGS K) Regarding the presentation of career information to students, the calculation of Ohio College Opportunity Grant awards, and career-technical educator licenses; to modify degree requirements for interim career-technical teachers; to provide an additional payment to school districts with nuclear power plants in their territories that meet specified criteria; and to modify the earmarked appropriations for certain payments to school districts.  
*Current Status:* 3/30/2018 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 6/29/18
- HB115**      **DATABASE-PERSONS WITH COMMUNICATION DISABILITY** (GAVARONE T, WIGGAM S) To establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification.  
*Current Status:* 5/2/2018 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 8/1/18
- HB131**      **PHYSICAL THERAPY LAWS** (GAVARONE T, REINEKE W) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.

*Current Status:* 6/26/2018 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid,  
(Third Hearing)

**HB150**      **LICENSE PLATE CREATION (PATMON B)** To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals.

*Current Status:* 6/7/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety,  
(Second Hearing)

**HB262**      **INDEPENDENT BUDGET PROCESS (BUTLER, JR. J, ROMANCHUK M)** To provide for the preparation of a state biennial budget independent of that submitted by the Governor and to authorize the Legislative Service Commission, upon the request of the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President of the Senate, to arrange for an independent actuarial review of a proposed bill, specified analyses of economic policy initiatives and state benchmarking data, and a study of the state's long-range financial outlook.

*Current Status:* 6/20/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government  
Accountability and Oversight

**HB280**      **MOTORCYCLE EARPLUGS (GOODMAN W)** To permit a person to wear earplugs for hearing protection while operating a motorcycle.

*Current Status:* 11/8/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety,  
(Second Hearing)

**HB289**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW (HOOD R, MCCOLLEY R)** To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, to require the Common Sense Initiative Office to review certain actions taken by occupational licensing boards, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.

*Current Status:* 1/30/2018 - House Government Accountability and  
Oversight, (Second Hearing)

**HB382**      **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW (SCHURING K)** To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of

benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law.

*Current Status:* 3/21/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Twentieth Hearing)

**HB399 HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS INCENTIVES** (HENNE M, BUTLER, JR. J) To enact the Ohio Right to Shop Act to require health insurers to establish shared savings incentive programs for enrollees.

*Current Status:* 6/6/2018 - House Health, (First Hearing)

**HB440 SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE** (FEDOR T, KENT B) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

*Current Status:* 1/31/2018 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)

**HB465 PRESCRIBED DRUGS BENEFIT-MEDICAID** (LIPPS S) To provide for the prescribed drugs benefit to be delivered under the Medicaid program through the fee-for-service system.

*Current Status:* 5/23/2018 - House Health, (First Hearing)

**HB491 SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS-SPECIFIED SERVICES** (EDWARDS J) To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel.

*Current Status:* 6/7/2018 - **PASSED BY HOUSE**; Vote 86-2

**HB529 CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (RYAN S) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

*Current Status:* 3/30/2018 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 6/29/18

**HB546 TELEMEDICINE-HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS** (PATTON T) To prohibit health benefit plans from treating telemedicine services differently from in-person health care services solely because they are provided as telemedicine services.

*Current Status:* 6/27/2018 - House Health, (Fourth Hearing)

**HB557 ART THERAPY LICENSURE** (ANIELSKI M) To require the licensure of art therapists and to require the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board to regulate the licensure and practice of art therapists.

*Current Status:* 6/6/2018 - **REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED**, House Health, (Fifth Hearing)

- HB583**      **LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING LIMITS** (HENNE M) To limit the occupational license and registration requirements and fees that a political subdivision may impose on state-regulated occupations, to establish a waiver exempting certain persons from paying occupational license or registration fees, and to revise the licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.  
*Current Status:* 5/22/2018 - House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)
- HB620**      **REGULATION REDUCTION** (ROEGNER K, RIEDEL C) To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions.  
*Current Status:* 5/15/2018 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight
- HB658**      **CUSTODY-GENDER BASED TREATMENT** (BRINKMAN T, ZELTWANGER P) To prohibit a court from using a parent, guardian, or custodian's refusal to allow a child to undergo gender-based treatment as a basis for determining custody of the child.  
*Current Status:* 6/20/2018 - House Community and Family Advancement, (First Hearing)
- HB716**      **TEMPORARY LICENSING-MILITARY** (BUTLER, JR. J, PERALES R) To require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military and spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for active duty.  
*Current Status:* 7/30/2018 - Introduced
- HCR5**      **SUPPORT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT** (SYKES E) To urge the Congress of the United States, and in particular the Ohio Congressional delegation, to support the preservation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.  
*Current Status:* 4/11/2018 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)
- HCR6**      **REPEAL AFFORDABLE CARE ACT** (GOODMAN W, FABER K) To urge congress to continue its efforts to fully repeal the affordable care act and to recommend that future federal health care policies restore power to the states, fund the Medicaid program through block grants to individual states, and permit the sale of health insurance across state lines.  
*Current Status:* 3/7/2017 - Referred to Committee House Government Accountability and Oversight

- HJR4 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BONDS (SCHURING K)** To allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program.  
*Current Status:* 3/21/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (Twentieth Hearing)
- SB3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T)** To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.  
*Current Status:* 11/6/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; Eff. 2/5/2018
- SB27 DEAF HISTORY MONTH DESIGNATION (BEAGLE B)** To designate the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15 as "Ohio Deaf History Month."  
*Current Status:* 10/19/2017 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. 1/18/2018
- SB48 HEARING IMPAIRED-DRIVING (WILLIAMS S)** To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals and to require the registrar to include an identifying symbol on a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or state-issued identification card of a hearing-impaired individual, if requested.  
*Current Status:* 3/7/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
- SB59 BICYCLE USE-HELMETS (SKINDELL M)** To require bicycle operators and passengers under 18 years of age to wear protective helmets when the bicycle is operated on a roadway and to establish the Bicycle Safety Fund to be used by the Department of Public Safety to assist low-income families in the purchase of bicycle helmets.  
*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
- SB79 STATE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE (JORDAN K)** To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

*Current Status:* 4/10/2018 - House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)

**SB91**      **OHIO HEALTH CARE PLAN (SKINDELL M, TAVARES C)** To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.

*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

**SB93**      **HEALTH INSURANCE-HEARING AIDS (BROWN E)** To require health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

*Current Status:* 3/28/2017 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)

**SB99**      **MEDICAID EXPANSION-NEW ENROLLMENT (COLEY W)** To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group.

*Current Status:* 3/21/2017 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (First Hearing)

**SB110**     **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS-IDENTIFICATION (TAVARES C)** To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient.

*Current Status:* 1/23/2018 - Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid, (First Hearing)

**SB168**     **MEDICAID EXPANSION (JORDAN K)** To prohibit the Medicaid program from covering the expansion eligibility group and to require aggregate General Revenue Fund appropriations for state agencies to be reduced by specified amounts for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2019.

*Current Status:* 6/28/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

**SB174**     **WAGE PROTECTIONS-FAIR ACT (TAVARES C)** To enact the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required (FAIR) Act" and to revise the enforcement of the prohibitions against discrimination in the payment of wages.

*Current Status:* 9/7/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce

- SB177**      **VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE-IMMUNITY** (LEHNER P) To expand the circumstances in which qualified immunity from civil liability applies with respect to volunteer health care services provided to indigent and uninsured persons.  
*Current Status:* 4/10/2018 - Senate Judiciary, (Second Hearing)
- SB255**      **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS REVIEW** (MCCOLLEY R) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.  
*Current Status:* 6/27/2018 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 24-8
- SB266**      **CAPITAL BUDGET** (OELSLAGER S) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.  
*Current Status:* 3/6/2018 - Senate Finance, (Third Hearing)
- SB293**      **REDUCTION OF AGENCY REGULATIONS** (PETERSON B, MCCOLLEY R) To require agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions.  
*Current Status:* 6/27/2018 - **PASSED BY SENATE**; Vote 23-9
- SB320**      **TEMPORARY LICENSES-MILITARY** (BEAGLE B, LEHNER P) To require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military and spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for active duty.  
*Current Status:* 8/1/2018 - Introduced
- SB321**      **REQUIRE DEPOSITS TO GRF** (LAROSE F) To require state agencies to deposit all fines, penalties, and late fees into the state treasury to the credit of the General Revenue Fund unless the law specifically provides otherwise.  
*Current Status:* 8/9/2018 - Introduced