

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

January 31, 2020

Around the Square

School Voucher Fix

Late Thursday, the Ohio House voted to delay when families can apply for EdChoice tuition vouchers by sixty days. This temporary fix was created as the Ohio House and Senate have not been able to come to an agreement on which students should be eligible to apply for tax-funded private school tuition aid, as well as who should be responsible for footing the bill. Prior to this vote to extend the voucher-application period, lawmakers needed to have made a decision on a fix for EdChoice by tomorrow, February 1. If agreed upon by the Senate, lawmakers have until April 1 to create a fix. The Ohio Senate is in a late Friday session where they will vote to agree with or reject the extended deadline.

Political News and Notes

Minimum Wage Ballot Initiative

This week Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost approved the ballot language for the proposed amendment to Ohio's constitution that would raise Ohio's minimum wage gradually from the current rate of \$8.55 per hour until it reaches \$13 an hour in 2025. The Attorney General's office said that the criteria of having 1,000 signatures to submit the petition for approval was met, along with a petition that had a fair and truthful summary of the proposal. Next, the petition will go to the Ohio Ballot Board to examine if the petition includes on or multiple issues. Those working on this petition hope for it to be on the November 2020 ballot.

College Speech

This week the Ohio Senate Education committee, and later, the full Ohio Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 40, which was introduced by Senator Andrew Brenner of (R - Powell). SB 40, if later passed by the Ohio House and then signed by Governor DeWine, will ban state institutions from "encouraging" behavior that prevents any speaker from expressing their viewpoints. The legislation, known as the Forming Open and Robust Minds (FORUM) Act was created in response to a series of violent protests on college campuses, such as the University of California - Berkeley, that occurred in order to prevent controversial speakers like Milo Yiannopoulos from holding speeches at such schools. Additionally, the legislation removed a section of Ohio Coe that previously allowed for colleges to ban comment of seditious groups from using school property. Furthermore, the legislation will keep campuses from establishing "free speech zones," which designates certain locations as acceptable for protests. Opponents say that, if enacted, this legislation will cause confusion for universities and students and cause serious security concerns that public universities do not have enough funding to manage.

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.

This Week's Bills

HB 481 - Land Conveyance: To authorize the conveyance of state-owned real property.

HB 482 - Drug Pricing: To prohibit a pharmacy benefit manager from taking certain actions with respect to reimbursements made to health care providers that participate in the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program.

HB 483 - Road Naming: To designate a portion of State Route 795 in Wood County as the "Lake Township Veterans Memorial Highway."

HB 484 - Athletic Training: Regarding the practice of athletic training.

HB 485 - Cauv Renewals: To remove a requirement that owners of farmland enrolled in the CAUV program must file a renewal application each year in order to remain in the program.

HB 486 - Fraudulent Reproduction: To create the crime of fraudulent assisted reproduction and civil actions for an assisted reproduction procedure without consent.

HB 487 - Fortified Land Sales: To increase, from one to six years, the interval within which county auditors must offer tax-forfeited land for sale and to give county auditors more discretion as to how and where such sales are conducted.

HB 488 - Health Coverage: To require health plan issuers to cover treatments and services related to Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome.

HB 489 - Month Designation: To designate January as "Radon Awareness Month."

HCR 22 - Air Base: To urge the United States Department of Defense to select Youngstown Air Reserve Station as the home for the new C-130J Hercules aircraft.

HCR 23 - State of the State: To authorize a joint convention of the legislature at 12 p.m. March 31 for the purposes of receiving the State of the State Address from the governor.

SB 262 - School Funding: To require the direct payment of state funding to community schools and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics schools; to require the direct payment of K-12 state scholarships; and to make an appropriation.

SB 263 - Drug Pricing: To prohibit a pharmacy benefit manager from taking certain actions with respect to reimbursements made to health care providers that participate in the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program.

SB 264 - Loan Tax Credit: To authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for a business that assists an employee with the repayment of education loans.

SB 265 - Domestic Violence: To increase the penalty for the offense of domestic violence when the victim is a functionally impaired person.

SR 454 - E-check: To respectfully urge Congress and President Donald Trump to amend the Federal Clean Air Act to eliminate the requirement to implement the E-Check Program and direct the Administrator of USEPA to begin new rule-making procedures under the Administrative Procedures Act to repeal and replace the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; to respectfully urge Congress and President cont.

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