



Week of March 20, 2023

Subcommittee concludes budget testimony

The House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education this week concluded its review of [House Bill \(HB\) 33](#), the biennial budget bill. Tony provided proponent testimony, [accessible here](#), which outlined:

- support for Gov. **Mike DeWine**'s literacy strategies and associated funding, with a recommendation to ensure colleges and universities are training teachers in the literacy strategies aligned to the Science of Reading;
- a recommendation to increase the school-funding formula's minimum floor to 20% and update the formula's guarantee years; and
- a recommendation to increase the minimum floor to 25% in limited instances for facility funding under the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.



Prior to testimony, Tony attended [the "Literacy Matters" event](#) hosted by Ohio Excels, of which the Alliance for High Quality Education was a key sponsor. The event featured remarks Gov. DeWine, Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Stephanie Siddens**, former Mississippi state superintendent Dr. **Carey Wright**, and a panel of educators, administrators, superintendents, and higher education professionals who shared their experiences implementing literacy strategies aligned to the Science of Reading.

Gov. DeWine hints at HB 1 position, opposition testimony scheduled for next Tuesday

Speaking to reporters after a speech at the BASA/OASBO/OSBA State Legislative Conference, Gov. **Mike DeWine** provided insight into his thinking about [House Bill \(HB\) 1](#), the sweeping proposal to revise Ohio's property tax and income tax laws. Asked about what HB 1 will do to school budgets, the governor responded, "I think I've pretty much outlined where we should be in regards to funding our schools. Cupp-Patterson has passed. It set a goal. We need to meet those goals. And anything that takes us away from meeting those goals, I think, is a problem."

Meanwhile, House Speaker **Jason Stephens** discussed HB 1 with conference attendees. Responding to a question about inserting HB 1 into the budget bill, Stephens said, "The portions of HB 1 that deal with the income tax are much more doable because it doesn't press as many buttons as property taxes. The property taxation...It's a hard knot to untangle. It's hard to untangle it in a couple months."

He also referenced [a Columbus Dispatch story](#) about a projected property valuation increase of 30-35%. "It doesn't directly equate to 30%-35% increase in taxes, but it's going to be a significant property tax increase for taxpayers," said the Lawrence County Republican. "My concern is how do we ultimately balance the need for our local governments and the funding that is required with not taxing people out of our homes. That is the challenge we have."

A fifth hearing for opponent testimony on HB 1 will occur on Tuesday, March 28 at 2:30 p.m.

SB 1 redirected to non-education committee while witnesses oppose House companion bill

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 1](#) received sponsor testimony this Tuesday in the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, a diversion from the expected forum of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee. The reason for the switch was not discussed, but the political composition of the education committee may signal an inability by the education committee to pass the bill with its current composition.

Meanwhile, the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee held a fourth hearing featuring opponent testimony on [House Bill 12](#), the companion bill to SB 1, which creates the Department of Education and Workforce and revises the duties of the State Board of Education. The bill is not marked for a hearing next week.

Heard around the Statehouse

“House Bill 920 – that was tax policy 40 years ago. A lot of things have changed in Ohio in 40 years. I think it’s worthwhile that we look at that, and we do it in a way that doesn’t hamper our local governments...But we also have to understand the impacts that ever-increasing property taxes have on people who supported the schools for 30 years.” - House Speaker **Jason Stephens**, discussing property tax laws in Ohio amid the statewide discussion on House Bill 1.