



Week of Jan. 8, 2024

House overrides DeWine's HB 168 veto

By a party-line vote of 65-28, the Ohio House of Representatives on Jan. 10 overrode Gov. **Mike DeWine's** veto of [House Bill \(HB\) 68](#). HB 68 would prohibit gender transitioning surgeries and services for minors and prohibit biological boys from playing on girls' sports teams in K-12 schools and colleges and universities.

The veto override was preceded by DeWine's Dec. 29 veto of the legislation, which the General Assembly sent him in mid-December of 2023. In addition to the veto, DeWine announced an executive order and state agency rules that would enact similar portions of the bill, likely an effort to thwart off a veto. But that did not sway House Republicans who convened an earlier-than-planned January meeting to successfully exercise their veto-proof majority.

An override vote by the Senate is likely to occur during its Jan. 24 session, and 20 votes are needed to override the veto in the Senate. The Senate previously passed HB 68 by a vote of 24-8.

Joint property tax committee holds first meeting

The Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform [held its inaugural meeting](#) on Jan. 10, featuring an overview of Ohio's property tax system from the Legislative Service Commission and the Department of Taxation. The ten-member committee is comprised of the following individuals:

House	Senate
Rep. Bill Roemer, co-chair	Sen. Bill Blessing, co-chair
Rep. Tracy Richardson	Sen. George Lang
Rep. Tom Young	Sen. Sandra O'Brien
Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney	Sen. Hearcel Craig
Rep. Dan Troy	Sen. William DeMora

The committee's work, which must produce recommendations by Dec. 31, 2024, comes amid continued inaction by the House to concur on [House Bill 187](#), which would temporarily expand the homestead expansion for income-eligible senior citizens. In December, the Senate narrowed the bill's focus from the original House proposal, which temporarily averaged three years' worth of property values for all property owners. The House has twice now opted not to place HB 187 on the agenda for a concurrence vote, which would send the bill to DeWine.

House committees alter bathroom bill and hear testimony on property tax complaints

A new version of [House Bill 183](#) – the bathroom bill – was adopted in the House Higher Education Committee this week. The changes include:

- prohibiting schools and colleges from constructing, establishing, or maintaining a multi-occupancy facility that is designated as nongendered, multigendered, or open to all genders;
- permitting an individual to use their official birth record to prove biological sex if it was issued at or near the time of the individual's birth.

HB 183 is likely to be passed out of committee later this month and passed by the full House at its next meeting on Feb. 7.

Meanwhile, the House Ways and Means Committee held proponent testimony on [House Bill 344](#), which would eliminate replacement levies and further curtail school districts' and individuals' ability to challenge property values. Another hearing for opponents and interested parties is likely to occur next week.

House sends budget correction measure to DeWine

Newly pending on Gov. **Mike DeWine's** desk is [House Bill 101](#), a bill that includes several budget correction items, among other provisions. Those items include a clarification that school facilities projects that receive conditional approval during 2023 are subject to the 16-month time period during which voters must approve bonds and tax levies for a project granted conditional approval from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. Another provision would clarify that the State Board of Education, rather than the Department of Education and Workforce, is responsible for criminal records checks and RAPBACK enrollment of holder of pre-service teaching permits. A final change increases the minimum state share percentage for joint vocational school districts from 5% to 10%.

Heard around the Statehouse

"If had a child who thought he was a bird, am I going to take him to a doctor who tells him the best thing to do is to let him explore being a bird? And oh, by the way, there's a five-story building next door – why don't you jump off and see if you can fly?" - Rep. **Beth Lear**, joint sponsor of [House Bill 183](#), speaking to House lawmakers during a committee hearing on the bathroom bill.