



Week of October 30, 2023

Lawmakers introduce legislation to address ticket prices at school-affiliated events

House and Senate lawmakers on Monday unveiled legislation to address ticket prices at athletics and school events in response to concerns of ticket prices at events hosted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Reps. **Jay Edwards** and **Justin Pizzulli** introduced [House Bill 311](#) and Sen. **Shane Wilkin** introduced [Senate Bill 181](#), both of which do the following:

- prohibit school districts and the OHSAA from establishing different ticket prices for an event based on payment type (cash or online);
- require districts and the OHSAA to charge students a ticket price that is less than the adult price;
- permit charging a processing fee for any ticket purchased online;
- apply current law's cash acceptance requirement to OHSAA events.

Despite the concern from House Speaker **Jason Stephens** and others on OHSAA's ticket prices, the bill does not address a maximum ticket price amount. Meanwhile, the OHSAA on Monday revised its playoff ticket pricing as follows:

- Regional Football Adult Price= \$12 (gate or online) and Student Price=\$9 (gate or online)
- State Semifinal/Final Adult Price= \$16 (gate or online*) and Student Price= \$13 (gate or online*)

*Online sales only for state finals, held at non-school venue

A first hearing on either bill has not yet been scheduled.

Other updates

- The Senate Ways and Means Committee again did not meet this week and will likely not meet next week, meaning the first time it could hold a first hearing on House Bill 187 – property valuation modifications – would be during the week of Nov. 13.
- Representatives from three major school bus manufacturers spoke this Monday to the Ohio School Bus Safety Working Group. State and local law enforcement officials also briefed the panel on school bus safety and crash history.
- There has been no action on the Science of Reading lawsuit from a Franklin County judge. Defendants have filed a motion to dismiss the suit, but a decision has not yet been rendered on injunctive relief.

Committee action

- [HB 140](#), which enacts school bus safety measures, received opponent testimony in the House Transportation Committee from the Ohio Education Association (OEA).
- [HB 279](#), which requires seat belts to be installed on school buses within five years, received opponent testimony in the House Transportation Committee. No witnesses were present.
- [HB 257](#), which allows certain public bodies to hold, attend, and conduct meetings virtually, was amended during a third hearing in the House Government Oversight Committee. The bill does not apply

to boards of education but does apply to board-established committees, like district finance committees or curriculum committees.

On Tap – Active Bills Next Week

Most legislative committees, including the House and Senate education committees, will not meet next week, a common practice due to next week's November general election. It is expected the Senate Ways and Means Committee will also not meet next week.

Heard around the Statehouse

"Maybe we're getting to a point where we don't need the OHSAA. We're getting to a point where there has been such idiotic decision-making that is taking place at the Ohio High School Athletic Association that the state can sanction high school sports." - Rep. **Jay Edwards** [speaking to a reporter on](#) the issue of ticket prices at sporting events.