



Week of June 17, 2024

General Assembly tees up major work session for next week

House and Senate lawmakers are primed to produce a capital appropriations bill on Wednesday, as well as advance many other bills that have languished for months. Both chambers will have sessions on Wednesday, preceded by a flurry of legislative committees that will pass a multitude of bills, teeing up House and Senate sessions that will likely bleed well into Wednesday evening and even overnight into Thursday morning. This marks the final legislative session before lawmakers' summer recess.

The capital appropriations bill, which is being considered in multiple parts ([Senate Bill 288](#), [SB 292](#), and [House Bill 629](#)), will be combined next week into [HB 2](#). Additionally, movement is expected on [SB 168](#) (deregulation and flexibility) and [SB 29](#) (student technology records), with amendments on both bills and votes likely to occur on Tuesday. A full House vote on both bills is expected on Wednesday, followed potentially by a Senate concurrence vote that same day, which would send the bills to Gov. **Mike DeWine** for his signature. Meanwhile, the Senate may amend [HB 8](#) (Parents Bill of Rights) and [HB 147](#) (educator misconduct) on Wednesday and return them both to the House for a concurrence vote that same day.

Alliance members are encouraged to contact House and Senate members urging them to send SB 168 to DeWine before the summer recess so the bill's provisions can be effective for the upcoming school year.

This week's committee activity

- A new version of [HB 356](#), which deals with physicals for student athletes, was adopted this week. The bill now (1) requires, rather than permits, schools hold a preseason information meeting on sudden cardiac arrest, and (2) requires the removal, evaluation, and written clearance to return to play for a student athlete if they exhibit "difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness, or an abnormal racing heart rate."
- Combined sponsor and proponent testimony took place this week on [SB 112](#), which requires "protective door assemblies" in all public schools and private schools to comply with 2015 national standards or the standards in effect on the date the door was installed, requires annual inspections of protective door assemblies by a qualified inspector, and requires schools to fix noncompliant doors within 18 months of the bill's effective date or receive a citation. There is an effort to insert SB 112 into another bill further along in the legislative process that would effectively send the bill to the governor next week.
- Combined sponsor and proponent testimony took place this week on [SB 104](#), which revises the College Credit Plus program. SB 104 is marked for a vote on Tuesday and could head to the governor for his signature next week.
- The House Finance Committee amended [HB 312](#), which creates the Regional Partnership Program. The amendment reduces the program's funding to \$2 million, among other changes. The committee also held a first hearing for sponsor testimony [HB 585](#), which appropriates \$300,000 to provide competitive grants to K-12 schools and colleges and universities to promote food options for students with religious dietary restrictions.

Heard around the Statehouse

"I'm simply saying I'm going to enforce a statute. This is a democracy, and a majority of the caucus

should control how these funds are spent.” - Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge **Mark Serrott** writing in his issuance of a temporary restraining order that strips House Speaker **Jason Stephens** of his authority to control the House Republicans’ campaign spending account.

“The recommended capital appropriations are manageable and sustainable in our current and future budget capacity.” - **Kim Murnieks**, director of the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, in testimony to the House Finance Committee on the state’s financial health amid deliberations on the capital appropriations bill, a multi-billion-dollar bonded spending package.