

Legislative/System Improvements Committee

Zoom Meeting Summary
Friday, December 15, 2023
9:30 a.m.

In attendance on video conference: Tony Podojil, legislative consultant William Schwartz and member representatives from 35 school districts.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. The primary focus of the meeting was to update Alliance members regarding the most recent legislative activity listed below:

I. MAJOR BILLS UNDER CONSIDERATION

a. HB 8 (Carruthers/Swearingen) Parents Bill of Rights

The bill was tied up for a Senate vote and House concurrence vote before the year's end, but the Senate Education Committee opted not to vote on the bill at its final 2023 hearing.

b. HB 68 (Click) SAFE Act and Save Women's Sports Act

The legislature passed HB 68 and sent it to Gov. DeWine for his signature. It is unknown whether DeWine will sign the legislation.

c. HB 47 (Fowler Arthur/Miller) Educator Misconduct

The bill passed the House in December and will receive hearings in the Senate in January.

d. HB 183 (Lear/Bird) Single-Sex Bathrooms

The bill did not receive a committee vote before the year's end. It is likely that the House will bring the bill up for a vote prior to the March primary election. Doing so would allow House Republicans with primary election challengers to show voters their conservative credentials with a vote in support of the bill. Timing will be key as only one House session is scheduled for January and then not again until April.

e. B 187/SB 153 (Hall/Bird, Lang/Johnson) Property Tax Valuation Changes

The House did not act on the Senate's changes to HB 187 before the year's end. The debate on how to address property taxes and valuation increases will continue into 2024.

f. HB 206 (Click/Robb Blasdel) - Expulsion Policies

The House did not bring up HB 206 for a floor vote, but the bill was passed by the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. It's expected the House will pass the bill soon.

g. HB 214 (Holmes) – Professional Standards for School Staff

The bill passed the House by a vote of 64-30 and is now pending in the Senate.

h. SB 17 (Wilson) - Capitalism and financial literacy

The bill was passed out of House committee in November and awaits a full House vote.

i. SB 29 (S. Huffman) - Student Technology Records

The Senate passed the bill in November and the bill is pending in the House.

j. SB 49 (Reynolds) - Religious Expression Days

A veto was threatened by the administration on the bill if it included provisions excluded certain excused absences from the chronic absenteeism report card component. Additional conversations and interested party meetings are expected to take place in January.

k. SB 162 (Brenner) – Academic Intervention Plans

The Senate passed the bill unanimously and is now pending in the House. The Senate also added various requirements for school districts relative to math improvement plans for students and building-wide requirements. Hearings are expected to begin in the House in January.

l. SB 168 (Reynolds) – Deregulation and Flexibility

The bill also passed the Senate but, on a party-line vote. The bill is now pending in the House where committee hearings will begin in January.

m. SB 104/HB 219 - College Credit Plus

No action has occurred due to joint sponsor Sen. Cirino's focus on another bill, SB 83, that has commanded his focus. Future action is uncertain.

II. RECENTLY INTRODUCED BILLS

a. House Bill 279 – Seat belts on school buses

b. House Bill 310 – Purchasing STRS credit for veterans.

c. House Bill 311 – Cash payments at school events

d. House Bill 312 – Regional Partnership Program

e. House Bill 339 – Non-chartered Schools ESA Program

- f. House Bill 344 – Replacement levies and HB 126 clarifications
- g. House Bill 348 – Student Attendance Pilot Program
- h. House Bill 356 – Healthy Cardiac Monitoring Act
- i. House Bill 361 – 40-hour teaching permit
- j. Senate Bill 181 – Cash payments at school events
- k. Senate Bill 205 – Drug education

III. DEW/STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- a. DEW

Steve Dackin was confirmed by the Ohio Senate in December to be the first director of the Department of Education and Workforce

- b. State Board of Education

Paul Craft, superintendent with the Buckeye Valley Local School District, was selected to be the Superintendent of Public Instruction

IV. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is January 26, 2024.
The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.