



GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.
17 SOUTH HIGH STREET – SUITE 245
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3413
PHONE: 614-461-9335
FAX: 614-461-9336

**Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association
Legislative Activities Report
January 2010**

The General Assembly holiday recess started relatively late in December as an agreement on the budget impasse was finally reached in the days before the Christmas holiday. The bill at the heart of the debate and discussion was House Bill 318, which sought to freeze the final year of an Ohio Income Tax reduction and lower legislative salaries by 5%. The Ohio House agreed quickly to the Governor's proposed tax rate freeze, but the proposal met stiff opposition from the Ohio Senate where the bill languished for nearly two months. After weeks of inaction and the appearance that nothing was going to occur in the stand-off, the Governor threatened to call the General Assembly into special session on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day through New Year's Eve if necessary to resolve the matter.

In the end the Senate Democrats and a small number of the Senate Majority Leadership team provided the minimum number of votes to get the bill passed by the Chamber. House Bill 318 as signed by the Governor includes the governor's proposed postponement of the last of five planned 4.2% personal income tax cuts, which provides most of the revenue to fill the hole created by a stalled lottery slots plan, the legislature endorsed Senate GOP add-ons that: create three "construction reform" pilot projects at state universities; delay an all-day kindergarten mandate with provisos; earmark potential excess school-funding monies for chartered, non-public schools; and budget corrections for mental health and the State Employment Relations Board.

The General Assembly returned from their holiday recess on January 12th and began their hectic schedule, marching to their next break in late March/early April. Among the bills that they will consider is House Bill 190, the Ohio Dental Hygienists' joint venture bill with the Ohio Dental Association to address access to care issues in Ohio. The bill was reported out of Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee on January 27th and is now awaiting action by the full Ohio Senate. Prior to the bill being reported, the committee accepted two amendments. The first amendment was sought by ODHA and is a reciprocity mechanism for local anesthesia administration for hygienists who move to

Ohio and were previously practicing in other states and wanted to continue to administer LA in Ohio. A second amendment allows the Department of Health to resume operation of a fluoride mouthrinse program in schools around the state. ODHA requested and received language changes in the amendment prior to passage that require a participating school to obtain training from a dental hygienist in the administration of the fluoride mouthrinse before administering the mouthrinse to students. The amendments were added with no objection and the bill was reported from committee unanimously.

2010 kicks off an important election campaign year. All statewide offices, Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, and Attorney General are all up for election as well as half of the Ohio Senate and all 99 Ohio House seats. There are also a number of Ohio Supreme Court seats and the open seat of retiring U.S. Senator George Voinovich up for grabs. The statewide elections and the fate of the Ohio House Majority are especially meaningful this year as the winners of those races will determine the fate of the make-up of the Ohio Apportionment Board. The Apportionment Board draws the lines of Ohio Legislative seats. The makeup of that body coupled with the 2010 Census, which will show Ohio losing population, two U.S. Congressional seats will be lost meaning two current U.S. Representative Districts will be merged into other districts to account for the shrinking populations and the districts for Statehouse legislators will be drawn for races through 2022. Governmental Policy Group will keep ODHA apprised of the developments in all of these races and the candidates that will be on the ballot this year.

A final reminder that the ODHA Legislative Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2010. A continuing education unit session is scheduled from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm and the reception will occur from 6:00 pm -7:30 pm in the Statehouse Atrium. We are calling on all hygienists and students to attend this important event to share your story and thank the legislators for their efforts in advancing House Bill 190. Your attendance will make the difference with this event!

HB1 **BIENNIAL BUDGET (SYKES, V)** To make appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011 for the operation of state programs.

Current Status: 7/17/2009

SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

eff. 7/17/09 appropriations

other sections subject to referendum 10/16/09

HB60 **SCHOOL NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS (PILLICH, C)** To establish nutritional standards for food and beverages sold in vending machines in public schools,

Current Status: 1/12/2010

Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee

HB68 **HEALTHY FARMS/HEALTHY SCHOOLS (DODD, D)** To establish the healthy farms and healthy schools grant program for the purpose of providing grants to schools to establish nutrition and agricultural education programs for kindergarteners.

Current Status: 6/3/2009

Referred to Senate Education Committee

HB84 **INMATE HEALTH SCREENINGS (BOYD, B)** To require health-trained personnel to perform a medical, dental, and mental health screening on each inmate upon arrival at a jail, to establish procedures that health-trained personnel must follow if an inmate is taking xanax, ativan, valium, or any other benzodiazepine, and to provide that the sheriff ensure that health-trained personnel responsible for medical, dental, and mental health screening be trained as to symptoms and consequences of withdrawal from addictive drugs.

Current Status: 7/1/2009

House Criminal Justice Committee
(Second Hearing)

HB127 **PROFESSIONAL LICENSES (WILLIAMS, S)** To revise the laws governing issuance of certain professional licenses.

Current Status: 10/21/2009

House State Government Committee
(Second Hearing)

- HB190 DENTAL PROCEDURES** (FENDE, L) To modify certain licensing procedures for dentists and dental hygienists and to establish the Public Oral Health Supervision Program for the provision of dental hygiene services.
Current Status: 1/27/2010
REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED
Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee
(Fourth Hearing)
- HB215 STATE DENTAL BOARD** (LETSON, T) To modify the law governing investigations and hearings conducted by the State Dental Board.
Current Status: 10/7/2009
REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED
House Health Committee
(Fourth Hearing)
- HB240 MEDICAID PROGRAM** (SEARS, B) To modify the Medicaid program.
Current Status: 2/3/2010
House Health Committee
(First Hearing)
- HB287 MEDICAID** (BURKE, D) To require the Medicaid program to cover, subject to federal approval, all health benefits established as mandated health benefits under the state's insurance laws and to preclude application of additional mandated health benefits under those laws until the Medicaid program covers the health benefits.
Current Status: 10/6/2009
Referred to House Health Committee
- HB308 MARGINAL INCOME TAX RATE** (FOLEY, M) To increase the marginal income tax rate applicable to individuals, estates, and trusts with taxable income greater than \$200,000.
Current Status: 10/28/2009
House Ways and Means Committee
(First Hearing)
- HB318 INCOME TAX FREEZE** (SYKES, V) To postpone for two years the last of five scheduled income tax rate reductions, to create the Construction Reform Demonstration Project, to provide for the granting of a delay in implementing all-day kindergarten, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 12/22/2009
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR
Some sections eff. 12/22/09
others 3/23/10

- HB373** **NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS** (CARNEY, J) To establish standards for certain foods and beverages sold in public and chartered nonpublic schools, to require public school students to have periodic body mass index measurements; to require daily physical activity for public school students and to make other changes regarding physical education and to establish the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Council.
Current Status: 12/2/2009
House Health Committee
(Second Hearing)
- SB1** **BUILDING OHIO JOBS PART II** (HUGHES, J) To implement the additional debt authority for conservation and revitalization programs provided by Section 2q of Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution, to authorize the issuance of that debt, to make new appropriations for the purpose of continuing programs established by Am. Sub. H.B. 554 of the 127th General Assembly, the Bipartisan Job Stimulus Act, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/5/2009
Referred to House Finance and Appropriations Committee
- SB2** **FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING** (CAREY, JR., J) To provide for the distribution of moneys received by the state from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by making appropriations and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/18/2009
Referred to House Finance and Appropriations Committee
- SB34** **HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS** (MILLER, D) To create a health insurance program that allows municipal corporations, small employers, and nonprofit corporations or associations to purchase for their employees the same policies provided to state employees.
Current Status: 3/31/2009
Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee
(First Hearing)
- SB52** **EXECUTIVE BRANCH-STATE GOVERNMENT** (GRENDALL, T) To reorganize the executive branch of state government.
Current Status: 10/27/2009
Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
(Sixth Hearing)

SB59 **HEALTHY STUDENTS ACT** (FEDOR, T) To enact the "Healthy Students Act" to establish standards for K-12 health education in public schools and to create the Office of Healthy Schools within the Department of Education.

Current Status: 3/24/2009

Senate Education Committee
(First Hearing)

SB136 **INSURANCE AND MEDICAID COVERAGE** (MILLER, R) Regarding insurance and Medicaid coverage of telemedicine services.

Current Status: 6/17/2009

Referred to Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor
Committee

SB158 **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS** (MILLER, R) To require certain health care professionals to complete instruction in cultural competency.

Current Status: 9/15/2009

Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Aging
Committee

SB210 **NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS** (COUGHLIN, K) To establish nutritional standards for certain foods and beverages sold in public and chartered nonpublic schools; to require public school students to have periodic body mass index measurements; to require daily physical activity for public school students and to make other changes regarding physical education; and to establish the Healthy Choices in Healthy Children Council.

Current Status: 12/1/2009

Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee
(Second Hearing)