



OEA Legislative Watch

May 20, 2011

Do you know that the political process affects virtually everything in your school day?

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Become an OEA
Member Lobbyist

Questions?

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Budget Bill Continues to Get Hearings in the Senate

House Bill 153, the state budget bill, continues to receive hearings in the Senate Finance Committee. The Ohio Education Association (OEA) and several OEA members have testified in opposition to numerous provisions in the bill, including funding cuts, the inclusion of a number of Senate Bill 5 related provisions, as well as the expansion of charters schools and vouchers. The budget is expected to be passed out of the Senate the week of June 6. We are highly focused on eliminating anti-public education provisions still in this budget, many of them holdovers from Senate Bill 5 that represent an attempt to circumvent the decisions of Ohio voters in the referendum this November.

To advocate on budget issues go to <http://aces.ohea.org>

Special Elections Restored in Senate Bill

A Senate Committee reversed a proposal to eliminate special elections in a pending bill on election reform. The amendment to restore special elections in February and August was added to Senate Bill 148, sponsored by Senator Mark Wagoner (R-Ottawa Hills) on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 in the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. A substitute bill adopted by the Committee during a hearing the week before had called for doing away with special elections.

OEA opposes the elimination of the special elections and was joined in opposition by other stakeholder groups representing public education, libraries and local government. The amendment to restore special elections was offered by Senator Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville) and seconded by Cliff Hite (R-Findlay). The amendment passed 6-2. Joining Manning and Hite in supporting the amendment were Senators Keith Faber (R-Celina), Shirley Smith (D-Cleveland), Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Charleta Tavares (D-Columbus). Voting against the amendment were Senators Kris Jordan (R-Powell) and Tim Grendell (R-Chesterland).

SB 148 was voted out of committee on a party-line vote and is pending action by the full Senate.