



OEA Legislative Watch

March 23, 2012

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

Take action —
Become an OEA
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Questions?

Contact your
Governmental
Services Team

Ron Rapp
Director
rappr@ohea.org

Melissa Clark
Lobbyist
clarkm@ohea.org

Robert Davis
Lobbyist
davisr@ohea.org

Matthew Dotson
Lobbyist
dotsonm@ohea.org

Dan Ramos
UniServ Political
Advocacy Consultant
ramosd@ohea.org

Russ Harris
Education Research
Development
Consultant
harrisr@ohea.org

Senate Bill 316: Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) Legislation

Senate Bill 316 was introduced on Thursday, March 22. The 520-page measure contains the majority of the education-related provisions that were discussed by the Kasich administration during the MBR overview. The bill will receive its first hearing in Senate Education Committee on Tuesday, March 28. The “Cleveland Plan” is not included in the measure.

OEA is currently reviewing the provisions of the legislation to determine OEA positions. An OEA Legislative Watch will be sent out after Tuesday’s hearing detailing the provisions of the bill.

Mayor Jackson’s Cleveland Plan Legislation Expected to be Introduced Next Week

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson held a press conference this week with four legislators to announce the expected introduction of a bill next week that is based on his education reform proposals for the Cleveland Municipal School District. Also in attendance was Senate Education Committee Chair Peggy Lehner (R- Kettering), State Representative Amstutz (R-Wooster), Senator Nina Turner (D-Cleveland) and State Representative Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland). Sen. Lehner and Rep. Amstutz are expected to be sponsors of Senate and House versions of the bill. Sen. Turner and Rep. Williams have not announced whether they will be sponsors, citing concerns with parts of the plan impacting collective bargaining. However, both are also expected to sponsor the bill.

The Ohio Federation of Teachers and the Cleveland Teachers Union, along with the Ohio Education Association (OEA), are strongly opposed to Senate Bill 5-like proposals in Mayor Jackson’s Cleveland Plan that take away collective bargaining rights from teachers. Teachers are dedicated to students and want to be part of innovation that focuses on student achievement. We know that taking away the voice of teachers to advocate for the support and resources they need to be effective in the classroom will hurt student achievement. Governor Kasich strongly supports Mayor Jackson’s Cleveland Plan and has made it clear that he sees it as a model to spread to other school districts in Ohio.