## Legislative Watch



May 5, 2017

## Ohio House Passes Budget Bill

On Monday, May 1, the Ohio House Finance Committee passed House Bill (HB) 49, the state budget bill for Fiscal Years (FY) 2018 and 2019. Prior to passage, the committee accepted an omnibus amendment that contained over 120 changes and a handful of stand-alone amendments to the substitute bill. Amendments removing the sick leave reductions for higher education employees, removing certain charter school provisions and a proposal to restore transportation funding were all tabled.

After House floor deliberations on Tuesday, May 2, the Ohio House passed HB 49 by a vote of 58-37. New district-by-district spreadsheets detailing the House-passed version are currently unavailable. The bill now is pending in the Ohio Senate Finance Committee and subcommittees for consideration.

Details of the major changes from the House substitute bill to the House-passed bill are outlined below.

- Provides an offset for school districts that are on the gain cap and see a reduction in the reimbursement of TPP that equals the lesser of their total formula amount or the net decrease in funding from foundation aid and TPP reimbursement in FY 2018 and FY 2019
- Beginning in FY 2020, changes the phase-down from reimbursement payments to school districts for their TPP losses from an amount equal to 5/8 of a mill of the district's average property valuation to 1/4 of a mill per year
- If the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is unable to enroll a licensed individual in the retained applicant fingerprint database (RAPBACK) because of old, missing, or ineffective fingerprints, then ODE shall require the person to submit a new set of fingerprints by a date prescribed by the department. If the person fails to comply by the prescribed date, the department shall reject an application for a license or inactivate the person's license until a new set of fingerprints is submitted. The RAPBACK system is required by Ohio law and is used to make timely alerts to ODE of arrests or convictions that occur subsequent to an individual's last background check.

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- Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a workgroup on related services personnel, for the purposes of improving coordination of state, school and provider efforts to address the related services needs of students with disabilities.
- Requires the collection and publication of the current agricultural use value (CAUV) values by school district
- Appropriates \$98 million in FY 2018 and \$99 million in FY 2019 for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG). This represents a higher funding appropriation than what was included in the substitute House bill.

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