



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

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Questions?

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Senate Unveils Substitute Version of Budget Bill

On Tuesday, June 9, 2015, the Senate Finance Committee adopted a substitute version of House Bill 64, the state budget bill. The bill makes significant changes to school funding, taxation, and education policy. Overall, the Senate version spends less on K-12 education as compared to the bill passed by the House and increases funding for higher education significantly. Of concern in the substitute bill is a provision that would eliminate the ability of school districts to seek levies via a February special election. OEA opposes this provision.

A detailed list of the major education-related changes made by the substitute bill can be [viewed here](#).

A spreadsheet of funding by school district under the substitute bill can be [viewed here](#).

It is expected that the Senate Finance Committee will adopt an omnibus amendment with additional changes next week and the bill will be voted out by the full Senate on June 17th. The House and Senate will then have a conference committee work out the differences between the versions of the bill passed by each chamber. By Ohio law, the final version of the budget is to be completed by June 30th.

House Concurrent Resolution Introduced To Urge Changes to the Federal Home and Community Based Services Rules

This week, House Concurrent Resolution 22 (HCR 22) was introduced with approximately 20 sponsors and referred to the House Health and Aging Committee for consideration. HCR 22 urges Congress to request that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) revise their guidance on employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Specifically, the resolution requests that County Boards remain as service providers and maintains the rights for individuals with developmental disabilities to choose to participate in programs offered by facility-based day programs, training centers and sheltered workshops.



This is in response to concerns raised by clients and advocates about Ohio's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) transition plan that was submitted in March 2015 to CMS for approval. This follows the release, in 2014, of new rules from CMS regarding federal funding for HCBS waiver services. The rule states that federal funding no longer can be used to pay for services that are offered in an institutional setting or any settings that are adjacent to public institutions. CMS outlined in its supporting documents that compliance with the new rule is required within five years.

OEA is supportive of HCR 22 as we are concerned that Ohio's final draft plan does not preserve individuals' access to a broad choice of providers and programs, including those quality services provided by County Boards.