

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 96

Modifies the state foundation funding formula to ensure no district receives less in state aid than its FY25 amount; provides additional aid to districts based off a calculation of their proposed FY26 and FY27 aid amounts, plus a per-pupil supplement for all schools and an additional per-pupil supplement for districts with growing enrollment.

Additional school funding formula amounts

FY26: +\$81,000,000

FY27: +\$145,000,000

Increases the categorical amounts for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship by 4.8% and increases Foundation Funding – All Students by \$3,000,000 in each year to support the increased scholarship amounts.

Increases the maximum amount of an Autism Scholarship from \$32,445 to \$34,000 for both FY26 and FY27 and increases Foundation Funding - All Students by \$8,000,000 in FY 2026 and \$9,000,000 in FY27 to support the increased scholarship amounts.

Establishes the Non-Chartered Educational Savings Account Program to provide eligible students with an educational savings account (ESA) beginning in the 2026-2027 school year with a maximum award of 75% of the EdChoice Scholarship.

Requires a County Budget Commission to reduce the property tax rates of residents within certain school districts if that district's carry-over balance exceeds 25% of the previous fiscal years' general fund expenditures.

Increases the State Share of Instruction by 2% in FY26 and FY27.

Authorizes the Ohio Treasurer of State's office to issue and sell bonds in the amount of up to \$600 million, deposited to the credit of the Cultural and Sports Facilities Building Fund administered by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, to help finance the Cleveland Browns stadium megaproject in the city of Brook Park. Tracks tax revenue from the project to ensure the taxpayers will be made whole if revenue proves insufficient.

Eliminates the 100% increase in the sports gaming tax rate.

Removes the increase in the excise tax rate on adult use marijuana, dedicates 20% of the tax revenue for five (5) years to the Host Community Cannabis Fund, which will be distributed to municipalities and townships that have at least one adult-use dispensary or the location of a provisional dispensary license issued before July 1, 2025. Directs all remaining revenue to the GRF.

Eliminates the increase in state tax on cigarettes, OTP, and nicotine-based vapor product and eliminates the prompt-pay discount for certain distributors and increases in penalties for selling these products without a tax license.

Removes provision authorizing DPS agents to enforce cigarette, OTP, and nicotine product distribution laws in certain instances.

Removes requirement for a vapor product retailer registration and the prohibition on the sale of flavored vapor products.

Maintains initial PFCC eligibility at 145% Federal Poverty Line (FPL) while expanding the Childcare Choice Voucher program to \$50m/FY. Clarifies that type A or B childcare providers do not need to participate in Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) to participate in the voucher program, aligning with existing law.

Creates the Child Care Cred Program within DCY which allows for the costs of childcare to be split between participating employees, employers, and DCY and appropriates \$10M in FY26.

Raises, from \$0.40 to \$0.60, the Next Generation 911 access fee.

Appropriates an additional \$21,750,000 in each FY to county reimbursement for indigent defense services. Requires the Auditor of State to conduct a performance audit on the state's indigent defense services.

K-12 Education

Increases the maximum educator expenses state income tax deduction to \$300.

Provides \$750,000 in FY 2026 to make payments under the Aim Higher Pilot Program.

Requires a school district to permit students to attend a released time course in religious instruction for at least one hour a week, but no more than two hours per week.

Qualifies for Quality Community School Support Program funding a dropout prevention and recovery community school that meets new criteria, including having a sponsor rated as "exemplary" or "effective".

Provides \$1.25 million each FY to establish the Financial Literacy and Workforce Readiness Programming Initiative within DEW.

Reduces membership to the State Board of Education (SBE) to a total of 5 members appointed by the governor.

Moves the State Board of Education into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund.

Removes from the executive version provisions exempting the following contracts from Controlling Board approval: construction management services, professional design services, etc.

Provides \$250,000 in each FY to support the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Program at the University of Cincinnati.

Provides \$150,000 each FY for the Fairfield County Workforce Center to support pre-apprenticeship program costs.

Provides \$750,000 in FY 2026 to make payments under the Aim Higher Pilot Program.

Removes from the Executive version language permitting a public authority to enter into an IDIQ contract without Controlling Board approval if the contract meets certain requirements.

Eliminates the requirement that permits an individual to pay cash for a ticket to a school-affiliated interscholastic athletic event.

Provides \$100,000 in each FY for Tech Corps to support career-connected rural computer science programming.

Qualifies an internet- or computer-based community school (e-school) for Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA).

Provides \$250,000 in each FY to the National Inventors Hall of Fame to expand STEM summer learning opportunities for students in grades K-6.

Limits the increase in operating expenditures that the Controlling Board may approve to 10% of annual amounts appropriated rather than 10% of anticipated total revenue to the State Lottery Fund.

Permits a community school that contracts with a qualifying operator and is not in its first year of operation to qualify as a Community School of Quality if the school opened on or after July 1, 2019.

Permits a classical school to administer state assessments in a paper format generally and requires a classical school to administer a state assessment in an online format to any student with an IEP or 504 plan.

Adds retired Ohio peace officers to the individuals whom a chartered nonpublic school may hire for security services using auxiliary services funds.

Requires the DEW Director to establish a workgroup on student transportation and develop recommendations.

Removes the executive provision that would have required public schools to spend a minimum percentage of their disadvantaged pupil impact aid (DPIA) on initiatives in reading improvement and intervention, as well as professional development in literacy.

Restores law that exempts public schools, on a case-by-case basis, from annually assessing the reading skills of students with significant cognitive disabilities as part of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

Restores law that makes the percentage of students promoted to fourth grade under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee a performance measure for the Early Literacy component of the state report card.

Removes the executive provision which would have revised the Educational Regional Service System (ERSS); removes the repeal of the ERSS regional advisory councils and the 16 statutorily established ERSS regions.

Provides \$50,000 each FY to The Legacy Project of Stark.

Requires DEW to maintain a list of Autism and Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarship-registered private providers and their locations on its publicly accessible website.

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, requires each public school to report the causes of student absences by category in the EMIS.

Eliminates funding for the Stay in the Game! Network.

Provides \$150,000 in each FY to the Ohio Valley Youth Network to support its Sycamore Youth Center Education Enrichment and Life Skills After Schools Program.

Extends the operation of the Montgomery County Pupil Transportation Pilot Program to FY26 and FY27, with \$250,000 per fiscal year.

Eliminates the requirement for DEW to use Adaptive Sports Programs to support intercollegiate adaptive athletics programs.

Changes criteria to be designated as a Community School of Quality.

Requires a school district, prior to demolishing a building worth more than \$10,000, to offer that building for sale in a similar manner that a school district must offer real or personal property that the district plans to dispose under continuing law.

Removes the definition of "parent" and instead defines "eligible applicant" for the Autism Scholarship program; expands eligibility for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship (JPSN) to three and four-year-olds.

Reduces from 10 to 5 the number of days before which a community school sponsor must provide prescribed assurances to DEW in order to open a new building for its first year of operation.

Requires community schools' comprehensive plan to be included in the contract between the school's sponsor and governing authority.

Eliminates the July 1, 2028, sunset date for the prohibition on the State Board of Education limiting the subject areas for which an alternative resident educator license is issued.

Reduces the Commission on Service and Volunteerism Operations by \$37,407 in FY 2026 and \$53,115 in FY 2027.

Qualifies a program using the success sequence curriculum provided by Ohio Adolescent Health Centers as an approved evidence-based training program for instruction on mental health promotion, suicide prevention, and health and wellness outcomes.

Decreases Adaptive Sports Program by \$150,000 in each FY.

Requires DEW to maintain a universal list of approved evidence-based training programs for instruction on mental health promotion, suicide prevention, and health and wellness outcomes.

Prohibits any school district board of education from expending more than 15% of its annual operating budget on administrative salaries and benefits and other costs associated with the district's administrative offices.

Removes the Principal Apprenticeship Program and its appropriation.

Decreases School Management Assistance by \$332,220 in FY26 and \$374,596 in FY27.

Decreases Adult Education Programs by \$500,000 each FY.

Allows school districts to use funds from the Student Support and Academic Enrichment program for numeracy, literacy, a safe and drug-free learning environment, and healthy students through the use of the "Success Sequence".

Permits a community school to certify to DEW the cost of providing mass transit system passes to its students if the school district responsible for transporting those students elects to pay for the cost of the passes instead of directly transporting them for a school year.

Provides \$250,000 each FY for the Stark Education Partnership.

Eliminates an earmark for the career awareness and exploration fund.

Maintains current law regarding required uses for student wellness and success funds.

Restores the option for each school district, community school, STEM school, or college preparatory boarding school to adopt or adapt the youth suicide awareness and prevention in-service educator training curriculum developed by DEW.

Removes the requirement that public schools report the number of individuals who have completed Science of Reading training to DEW through EMIS.

Removes a requirement that districts utilize state-developed assessments in reading and math for grades K-3; removes the requirement that districts implement the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

Removes requirement that public schools report their math core curriculum and instructional materials for grades pre-K through 12 through EMIS.

Removes a provision that permits DEW to collect data from public schools on their use of artificial intelligence.

Removes requirement for DEW to collect school district employment and vacancy data annually.

Restores current law regarding approval of the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness (CCWMR) component of the report card.

Restores the current law requirement that students receive evidence-based social inclusion instruction.

Removes a requirement that a high school graduation plan identify post-graduation career goals and align the student's high school experience with those goals.

Restores current law regarding requirements for the DEW Director's industry-recognized credentials committee.

Removes a provision that requires each public school participating in the federal school breakfast or lunch program to provide free lunch or breakfast for all CEP-eligible students.

Reduces funding for the school bus driver training in FY27 to \$1,088,930.

Decreases funding in FY26 for the integrated model curriculum and eliminates delivery funds for that curriculum in FY27.

Eliminates the school bus safety grant program and funding.

Removes authorization for the LOT Director to certify and OBM director to transfer revenue in excess of that appropriated to Responsible Gambling to the Responsible Gambling Services Fund.

Removes provision revising the involuntary disposition of school district property law.

Higher Education

Allows qualified attorneys who practice civil law in underserved communities to receive tuition and educational expense reimbursement.

Provides \$1 million each FY for the establishment and administration of the Home Care and Hospice Workforce Program.

Provides \$20 million in FY26 to support the U.S. Route 30 Broadband Extension Project through the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD).

Increases Co-Op Internship Program by \$900,000 each FY for the following various public universities for a variety of public policy programs, institutes, and regional development centers.

Establishes the AI Integration in Community Colleges Pilot Grant Program and appropriates \$500,000 each FY through the Ohio Work Ready Grant.

Removes provision that would have eliminated the requirement that LSC publish rules adopted by a state institution in the electronic Administrative Code and eliminated the requirement that an institution file a copy of the rule before JCARR.

Establishes a December 31st, 2025, deadline for ODHE to establish a new level of attainment to achieve identified performance targets across a range of degrees and credentials.

Provides \$935,000 in FY26 for Ashland University's Military and Veterans Services program.

Authorizes certain community colleges to propose an operating levy.

Provides \$500,000 in each FY to support the Ohio Intern Academy Program.

Permits a public college or university to allow an employee electing to participate in an alternative retirement plan to change providers by electronic signature.

Clarifies that officially sanctioned student organizations may be located on or off campus.

Removes the SSI percentage distribution for the earmark of \$10 million each FY for public universities and regional campuses.

Provides \$200,000 each FY for the University of Dayton Statehouse Civic Scholars Program.

Prohibits each state university from charging a guaranteed amount of tuition and fees more than 3% above what was charged to the prior academic year's cohort for the 2025-2026 or the 2026-2027 academic years.

Requires each for-profit career college or school to submit information annually to the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools and ODHE, including accreditation status, student record preservation plans, a list of all degree programs, and more.

Provides clarity to contractual agreements regarding online program managers (OPMs) and requires each institution of higher education to report on its agreements annually to ODHE.

Requires that for-profit colleges and schools submit plans to preserve student records indefinitely to the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools.

Removes provision declaring the intent of the General Assembly to enact procedures, provide powers, and impose restrictions to assure the fiscal integrity of state institutions of higher education.

Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to consult with other appropriate stakeholders, in addition to JobsOhio, in developing the goals, structure, and parameters of the Co-Op Internship Program.

Reduces set-aside for Ohio Technical Centers by \$1 million each FY.

Requires the formula used to distribute \$100 million each FY from State Share of Instruction to be based on retention-rate outcomes of graduates and employment data. Applies this standard to the formula used to distribute \$10,000,000 each FY in State Share of Instruction for technician-aligned associate degrees.

Provides \$125,000 each FY for the Youngstown State University Excellence Training Center.

Removes the sunset date on the requirement that ODHE submit an annual report on College Credit Plus program outcomes.

Establishes the Higher Education Public Policy Research Consortium to develop and maintain a statewide research agenda. Establishes competitive research grants of up to \$10,000 and appropriates \$1 million each FY to award the grants.

Requires each state university to establish an accelerated 90-hour degree program that is aligned to an in-demand career area. Modifies the calculation for SSI to include 5% to support College Credit Plus pathways and 5% for student success.

Eliminates the requirement that the Salmon P. Chase Center within The Ohio State University be physically located in the college of public affairs.

Grants a state institution's board of trustees the final authority to establish new academic programs, schools, colleges, institutes, departments, and centers at that institution. Requires that a board of trustees update and submit its curricular approval process to ODHE every five years.

Requires that directors of the civics centers at various universities to approve the center's courses that meet the university's general education requirements.

Provides \$350,000 in FY26 for the purchase of manufacturing education equipment in Ohio's correctional institutions.

Provides \$800,000 in each FY for Cleveland State University's men's and women's wrestling programs.

Provides \$1,144,000 each FY for military student-connected scholarships, grants, and offices.

Defines "online program manager" (OPM) and applies the contractual agreement provision to all OPMs, regardless of accreditation status.

Moves management of the Aspire program from the ODHE to DEW.

Requires ODHE to create a report the spending of the Campus Security Support Program and the Campus Student Safety Grant Program.

Prohibits ODHE from limiting the number of students that can receive the Governor's Merit Scholarship from a qualifying public university.

Eliminates the Campus Community Grant Program and funding.

Removes funding for the *Ohio as America* social studies curriculum.

Decreases the GRF transfer by \$800,000 for the Ohio Digital Academy.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Allows a board of county commissioners to hire multiple deputy apiarists.

Authorizes the installation and operation of battery-charged fences on private, nonresidential property under certain conditions.

Removes appropriations of \$20 million in each FY from the State Park Land Royalties fund

Proves \$4 million each FY for the Ohio Maritime Assistance Program.

Details when a real estate broker or salesperson must enter into an agency agreement with a client and defines a "nonexclusive agency agreement" for real estate transactions.

Allows a landowner's parents to hunt and trap on the landowner's property without obtaining a hunting license.

Increases the burial permit fee to \$10 and requires a portion of it be allocated to the Cemetery Grant Program.

Creates the Oil and Gas Resolution and Remediation Fund (OGRRF) and requires the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management to use money in the OGRRF to plug orphaned wells in accordance with current law.

Eliminates the \$250 permit fee that is generally required when applying to plug an abandoned oil and gas well.

Creates the Pork Marketing Program and an associated Operating Committee, similar to the Grain and Soybean Marketing Programs.

Requires businesses with earned wage access (EWA) services to register with the Department of Commerce and establishes certain regulations, consumer rights, and protections.

Provides \$250,000 each FY for Mosquito Lake State Park.

Prohibits an electric distribution utility from owning or operating a publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging station with certain exceptions in an area of last resort.

Provides \$250,000 each FY for dredging at Lake Loramie.

Provides \$100,000 in each FY to support Ohio Education Programs at Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm and Grange Insurance Audubon Center.

Requires EPA to conduct a review within 18 months of the effective date of the bill to assess whether the current E-Check program is necessary and submit the report to the General Assembly.

Establishes that the taking of property for recreational trails does not satisfy the public use requirement of Ohio's eminent domain law.

Restores current law regarding the maximum fine for violation of a rule or order from the Ohio Racing Commission.

Allows qualified permit holders to sell alcoholic beverages within another permit holder's permit premises adjacent to a convention center in certain conditions.

Increases Waterways Improvements by \$1.25 million each fiscal year.

Allows licensed auctioneers to put money into client trust accounts for the express purpose of paying related bank fees to maintain the account.

Requires a petitioner of a local option election for alcohol sales to pay the entire cost of an election if it is not held at the same time as any other election.

Establishes requirements governing community air monitoring and prohibits community air monitoring unless otherwise agreed to by the owner or air operator and the EPA Director.

Requires that the standard oil and gas lease used by state agencies include an option to extend the primary term of the lease for an additional five years, rather than the current three years.

Requires a state agency, when entering into a lease for the exploration and development of oil and gas on state-owned land, to fully execute the lease within 30 days in addition to allowing the person bidding to offer an extra gross landowner royalty.

Abolishes the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority and transfers all of its duties to the newly created Authority to the Office of Air Quality Development under the Ohio EPA.

Allows two or more wineries or farm wineries to use the same premises and equipment to operate.

Removes provisions related to the Kids Internet and Data Safety Commission, required measures to prevent "foreseeable harms", and required third-party audits.

Restores the current requirement that money in the State Land Royalty Fund (SLRF) be transferred to the appropriate state agency fund within 30 days and clarifies that dollars be transferred to the appropriate fund depending on where the drilling occurred.

Specifies that when ODNR has approved a third-party dredging company, no license, registration, or certification is required for an individual to operate the dredging equipment.

Reduces the severance tax rate on coal from ten cents per ton to eight cents.

Prohibits the State Fire Marshal from including certain accessory spaces in fire suppression system determinations regarding agricultural structures.

Excludes security personnel and contractors under an approved physical protection program at a nuclear power plant from the continuing law licensure requirement to engage in the business of security services.

Sets the fee for a certificate of free sale at \$50 and removes the ability to set the fee by rule.

Removes provision which would have made changes to pesticide laws and licensing.

Removes provisions that eliminated prohibitions and restrictions on issuing hemp cultivation or processing licenses based on felonies or convictions.

Removes provisions that modified unclaimed funds laws, civil penalties, late filings, reporting penalties, and claims from the estate of a deceased owner.

Removes provision that imposed fines for an employer's failure to maintain records related to wages and hours.

Requires the approval of the Controlling Board for cash transfers from the Real Estate Appraiser Recovery Fund (Fund 4B20) to the Estate Operating Fund (Fund 5490).

Removes provision that would have allowed the Air Quality Development Authority to access certain federal funds and non-profit funds.

Removes provision to change the annual amount of revenue that must be collected from retail electric customers for the Solar Generation Fund and accelerate the termination of this charge.

Removes provision that increased the maximum fine that the State Racing Commission could impose on a person who violates a rule or order of the Commission.

Removes provision that makes changes to oil and gas order appeals and procedures.

Removes provision that increases various watercraft fees.

Requires the EPA Director to immediately discontinue the E-Check program if the USEPA determines that the E-Check program is not necessary for Ohio to comply with the federal Clean Air Act.

Removes provision that allows the EPA Director to enter upon land without approval.

Extends various expiring EPA fees for a period of two years.

Removes provision that allows the EPA Director to take various actions regarding solid waste and construction and debris removal in the same manner that the director can remove scrap tires.

Removes provision that creates a new system for wetland mitigation.

Stipulates that a final order issued by PUCO is affirmed by operation of law within 90 days instead of 150 days, as currently in the bill.

Removes provision that allows for the expansion of net metering.

Removes the Executive provision that would have allowed an electric distribution utility to enter into an agreement with a mercantile customer or group of mercantile customers for the construction of a customer-sited green energy resource.

Removes provision which would have created a standard 6% tax rate on nonresident watercraft and outboard motor purchases.

Decreases the transfer into H2Ohio and cuts appropriations to Agriculture, EPA, and Natural Resources proportionately.

Clarifies that the ODNR Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management does not have to issue examination certificates for qualifications that are currently eliminated by the bill.

Removes provision that increases fees on the disposal of solid waste.

Clarifies that EPA is only charging one wastewater treatment works application fee instead of two.

Prohibits H2Ohio funds from being used to purchase land or conservation easements.

Economic Development and Workforce

Removes Executive provisions allowing for a refundable tax credit for rehabilitation of historic owner-occupied residential property

Increases the current historic building preservation rehabilitation tax credit annual cap from \$60 million to \$90 million.

Provides \$250,000 each FY for Freedom a la Cart.

Provides \$125,000 each FY for the Buckeye Lake Region Corporation.

Provides \$500,000 in FY26 for NewBridge Cleveland Center for Arts and Technology.

Includes shares, in addition to equity, as a type of ownership to meet Ohio public accounting firm requirements and reduces to 50% the percentage of total ownership that must be held by Ohio permit or foreign certificate holders.

Provides \$250,000 each FY for the Neighborhood Alliance to support the homeless shelter in Lorain County.

Prohibits public authorities from disqualifying a bidder for contracts on the basis that the bidder has not complied with an affirmative action program or a diversity, equity, and inclusion program.

Regarding Mechanic's liens, increases the default expiration of a notice of commencement from six (6) years to four (4) years, requires a specific notice statement, and includes affidavit changes.

Prohibits the Department of Development from using building vacancy or underutilization criteria for awarding historic rehabilitation tax credits and increases the percentage of rehabilitation costs that may be claimed as a credit from 25% to 35% for a project that is not located in Columbus, Cleveland, or Cincinnati.

Requires ODOT to establish the "Drones for First Responders" pilot program and appropriates \$4 million in FY 26.

Provides \$500,000 each FY to Baldwin Wallace University to expand the Northeast Ohio Flight Information Exchange (NEOFIX).

Provides \$2,000,000 in FY26 to the Eastern Ohio Military Affairs Commission for projects at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport, and the Camp James A. Garfield Military Training Center.

Allows taxpayers who receive an extension to file a refund claim within three years of the extended due date, in addition to the current refund and assessment periods under the law.

Creates a temporary window in which certain churches may apply to abate delinquent property taxes.

Includes U.S. Space Force members in the municipal income tax deduction for military pay.

Makes qualifying criteria changes to the Welcome Home Ohio program and transfers \$45 million from the GRF to the Welcome Home Ohio Fund to continue investing in housing for Ohioans.

Eliminates appropriation authority for the All Ohio Future Fund.

Increases funding for TourismOhio by \$2.5 million in FY26 and \$4.5 million in FY27 for increased tourism promotion.

Authorizes manufactured home park operators to provide the county auditor with notice that a manufactured home has been damaged for the purpose of initiating a refund or waiver of taxes.

Establishes procedures for abandoned manufactured homes.

Increases Demolition and Site Revitalization by \$20 million each fiscal year for continued investment in the program.

Provides \$250,000 each FY to the City of Coshocton for a water line extension.

Provides \$500,000 in FY26 for the Mahoning Valley Scrappers minor league baseball stadium.

Removes the sunset date for the Transformational Mixed-Use Development (TMUD) tax credit program.

Removes the Executive provision which would have made the CAT credit for certain net operating losses permanently nonrefundable.

Repeals the film and theater capital improvement tax credit and increases the total award cap for the film and Broadway theater production tax credit to \$75 million each FY.

Aligns the deadline for a long-term care insurance agent to complete the four hours of required continuing education with the agent's two-year license renewal period.

Removes the requirement that housing trust fund fees collected by the county recorder be deposited into the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

Earmarks \$85,000 in FY26 for the Stark County Minority Business Association to support the development and operation of the Kirk Schuring Business Development Center and Innovation Hub.

Provides \$45,000 in FY26 to provide a \$15,000 grant for one fire department in each of Geauga, Lake, and Portage counties for the installation of baby boxes.

Provides \$1,000,000 each FY to the Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers Coalition, \$500,000 each fiscal year for the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia, and \$250,000 each fiscal year for the FosterHub in Hocking County.

Appropriates \$5 million each FY for the Office of Aviation to provide matching funds for eligible airports.

Authorizes DAS to convey certain state-owned property in Madison County.

Requires a health plan issuer to offer at least one method of payment that does not require the health care provider to pay an associated fee.

Increases the Ohio-Israel Agricultural Initiative by \$250,000 in each fiscal year.

Creates the Ohio Airport Improvement Fund and appropriates \$4.65 million each FY of petroleum activity tax (PAT) receipts from the sale and use of aircraft fuel to administer the Ohio Airport Improvement Program.

Establishes appropriations of \$1.2 million in each FY under Workforce Development Grants and earmarks \$400,000 in each FY to support the Ohio Oil and Gas Career Jumpstart Program at Apollo Career and Technical Center, Mahoning Career and Technical Center, and Washington County Career Center.

Increases Rural Industrial Park Loan fund by \$7,521,860 in FY27.

Requires DAS to conduct a biennial study of all leased and state-owned property.

Eliminates certain affirmative action requirements for state and political subdivision contracts.

Expands the purposes of the existing Roadwork Development Fund to include funding for roads that provide access to professional sports facilities and funding improvements for access to tourism attractions.

Earmarks \$10,000 in FY26 for the Salem Worlds War Memorial Building Association to support the development of a job training center.

Modifies law relating to an existing community reinvestment area (CRA) agreement if the project is expected to be a megaproject supplier and establishes that a political subdivision that does not own the property subject to a CRA exemption, with an obligation to pay property taxes on that building, is not a required party to an agreement required for commercial CRA property tax exemptions.

Transfers \$250 million from the All Ohio Future Fund to the Brownfield Remediation Fund in FY26 and increases the appropriation authority by \$122,750,000 in each fiscal year to continue funding for brownfield remediation projects.

Removes the Executive provisions for the Ohio Housing Investment Opportunity Program.

Requires Controlling Board approval for the OBM Director to transfer up to \$3 million cash in each FY from the Research and Development Loan Fund to the Business Assistance Fund.

General Government

Restores funding to various Auditor of State line items.

For refunds of county sales and use tax, eliminates interest and extends the Department of Taxation's recovery time to six years.

Prohibits a state agency or any entity that manages the grounds or buildings under the control of a state agency, except the Ohio Statehouse, from displaying on the building any flag except for the official state flag, the U.S. flag, or the POW/MIA flag.

Authorizes Summit County to levy a county cigarette tax for the benefit of an arts and culture district.

Allows certain pass-through entities (PTEs) to claim an elective refundable tax credit against the PTE tax for purposes of circumventing the federal, state, and local taxes (SALT) cap.

Requires a public library to place material related to sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in a portion of the library that is not primarily open to the view of minors.

Maintains the requirement for the Controlling Board or OBM Director to release money appropriated to state agencies for capital projects and related procedures associated with the approval of capital expenditures.

Reduces the terms of office of board of trustee members of a school district free public library, county library district, or regional library district from seven to four years and modifies the terms of office for new members appointed to the board following the enactment of the bill.

Prohibits the Treasurer of State, the state board of deposit, the treasurer or the governing board of a municipal corporation, the investing authority of a county, or any person or entity to which the management and investment of public money is delegated from making an investment decision with the primary purpose of influencing environmental, social, personal, or ideological policy, unless expressly authorized by Ohio law.

Increases from 40,000 to 60,000 the population limit of a county at or under which the county may operate a non-emergency medical transport service organization, contract for such services, or furnish or obtain the interchange of such services.

Excludes from PERS membership any person whose only service as a public employee during a calendar year is as a precinct election official (election worker) and who received compensation

for that service during the calendar year, rather than excluding a person who is paid less than a specified amount as under current law.

Creates a temporary window in which certain municipalities and townships may apply to abate delinquent property taxes.

Requires Controlling Board approval for online subscription purchases by agencies that aggregate to exceed \$500 each FY.

Subjects chartered counties and municipal corporations to the requirements of an existing law that prohibits a political subdivision from using public funds to finance certain communications or from paying its staff for time spent on certain political activities.

Requires state employees to return to work on-site beginning January 1, 2026.

Makes changes to the membership of a board of park commissioners of a park district that was a township park district created before 1892 and converted into a park district.

Limits the total amount of cash awards per county employee per calendar year to 10% of the employee's annual compensation but allows county commissioners to approve a higher amount.

Abolish certain special committees and change membership of certain special committees.

Removes provisions that would have added state fire marshal law enforcement officers to PERS-LE or PERS-PS and created a temporary transfer window between PERS and OP&F for certain eligible retirees.

Requires elected county officers to appear in person at the officer's principal office location at least once every 30 days.

Modifies the requirements on political subdivisions filing Board of Revision complaints and counter-complaints to prohibit certain third-party filers.

Restores exempt employee salary schedules in statute, amended to conform with HB 2 (135th GA).

Removes provision shielding certain personal information from occupational license holders from disclosure under Ohio Public Records law.

Limits the amounts that can be transferred over the biennium from the Tangible Property Tax Replacement Funds to \$480 million.

Modifies the Executive proposal to decrease the Secretary of State's Address Confidentiality Program to \$200,000 each FY.

Removes authority for the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) to review occupational licenses and to require an occupational licensing board to report specified information regarding the occupational license's application processing time to CSI.

Removes allowing the Board of Motor Vehicle Repair to raise the current registration fee and remove the statutory cap of \$225 for motor vehicle repair registration certificates.

Appropriates \$485 million in FY 26 and \$495 million in FY 27 for the Public Library Fund (PLF), distributes these funds to counties based on a per capita distribution formula, and eliminates the requirement that a percentage of the General Revenue Fund be dedicated to the PLF.

Health and Human Services

Requires ODM to resume the prior authorization requirements for drugs, tests and diagnostic procedures, and medical procedures under the Medicaid program that were in effect June 29th, 2024.

Increases funding for the Behavioral Health Drug Reimbursement Program by \$2 million each FY.

Grants presumptive eligibility to individuals applying for PACE services.

Requires ODA to issue RFPs for entities to become PACE organizations in any unserved county.

Limits Medicaid coverage of doula services to the six counties with the highest infant mortality rates and requires total payments for doula services not to exceed \$500,000 in a given fiscal year.

Provides \$500,000 in FY26 for Birthing Beautiful Communities.

Permits individuals participating in the Medicaid Program to enroll in the Medicaid MCO plan of their choosing and, if the individual does not select a Medicaid MCO in which to enroll, requires ODM to randomly assign the individual to a Medicaid MCO plan without giving preference to a specific MCO.

Allows DCY to analyze childcare price information in each even-numbered year and removes other provisions from the DCY portion of the Executive version.

Removes provisions giving primary consideration to OCCRRA when DCY contracts to develop the Ohio Professional Registry.

Requires ODM to use third-party data sources to conduct eligibility checks.

ODM will submit a waiver that will eliminate mandatory hospital presumptive eligibility and restrict it to pregnant women and children.

Provides \$700,000 per FY to the Social Advocates for Youth (S.A.Y.) Program at Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau.

Provides \$500,000 per FY to Riveon Mental Health and Recovery to support primary care integration.

Grants county commissioners more discretion when establishing or maintaining county FCFCs.

Prohibits ODJFS from requesting or renewing a federal waiver for SNAP work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents.

Exempts funds in an ABLE account from collection under the Ohio Medicaid Estate Recovery Program to the extent permitted under federal law.

Prohibits ODJFS from granting exemptions to SNAP work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents.

Requires households receiving SNAP benefits to report any change in eligibility within 30 days.

Creates the Ibogaine Treatment Study Committee to study and evaluate the use of ibogaine treatment for various mental health and substance use disorders.

Provides \$150,000 per FY to the IConnect Program in Richland, Medina, and Cuyahoga counties.

Removes the requirement that the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence be given priority consideration when selecting an entity to administer autism and low-incidence disabilities programs.

Subjects the Children and Youth Advisory Council to Sunset Review.

Decreases the Tobacco Use Prevention, Cessation, and Enforcement fund by \$4 million each FY and eliminates a \$20 million cash transfer to the fund from the Pre-Securitization Tobacco Payments Fund.

Eliminates the law that requires ODM to seek approval to provide continuous Medicaid enrollment for Medicaid-eligible children from birth through age three.

Reduces the pharmaceutical technician registration renewal fee to \$65 biennially.

Requires DCY to calculate PFCC payments based on enrollment instead of attendance.

Provides a \$115,000 increase each FY to Children's Crisis Care.

Provides \$250,000 each FY for The Refuge.

Provides \$190,000 each FY to provide family support services and respite care for children with disabilities and their families.

Provides funds to help county departments of job and family services administer food and disability assistance programing.

Removes authorization of a refundable income tax credit for dependent children.

Provides \$150,000 each FY to support the Pilot Grant Program for Doctoral Psychology Internships.

Requires the Auditor of State to conduct a performance audit and fiscal audit of NextGen and to report its findings to JMOC no later than December 31, 2027.

Increases the maximum eligibility age for the Program for Children and Youth to 26 and appropriates \$500,000 in FY 2026.

Provides \$50,000 each FY for Shoes 4 the Shoeless.

Provides funds for a feasibility study to identify viable communities for Child Wellness Campuses.

Allows early learning and development program providers to appeal DCY decisions regarding the program's Step Up to Quality status.

Instructs ODM to conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility, legality and potential cost savings of establishing a Medicaid waiver component that establishes work requirements and includes additional supplemental workforce development requirements.

Establishes the Child Care Recruitment and Mentorship Grant Program to increase the number of childcare providers and earmarks \$3.2 million in FY26.

Requires both parents to pay their child support obligations, regardless of whether the parent is the residential parent and legal custodian of the child, and establishes new payment specifications based on this requirement.

Removes all Executive provisions related to the 340B program.

Increases the personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$75, instead of \$100, for single people and \$100 to \$150, instead of \$200, for a couple.

Within two years, ODM shall establish a waiver component to provide reentry services to Medicaid-eligible imprisoned individuals for 90 days before an imprisoned individual's expected release date.

Increases Adult Protective Services by \$2 million each FY.

Expands placement eligibility for Child Wellness Campuses to include children at-risk of entering PCSA custody.

Provides \$250,000 each FY to Flying Horse Farms.

Requires OMHAS and ODM to collaborate with county ADAMH boards to create a three-way data-sharing agreement.

Provides \$1.5 million each FY to La Soupe.

Creates a personal income deduction of up to \$750 per year for contributions made to certain pregnancy resource centers.

Requires General Assembly or Controlling Board approval for the use of money in the DBH Trust Fund.

Provides \$150,000 each FY to Challenge Ministries.

Provides \$5 million in FY26 to the State of Ohio Action Resiliency Network.

Adds nine Governor appointees to the new Children and Youth Advisory Council.

Decreases Imagination Library by \$2 million in each FY.

Decreases Help Me Grow by \$22,521,869 in FY 2027.

Eliminates the line item, Mental Health Support, from ODHE.

Decreases RECLAIM Ohio by \$11,505,972 in FY 2026 and \$2,528,981 in FY 2027.

Removes modifying the procedure after a DBH recommendation to terminate a person's commitment or to grant the first of any non-secured status.

Reduces the appropriation for Criminal Justice Services to \$26 million per FY but maintains the earmark for the Behavioral Health Drug Reimbursement Program.

Removes the establishment of the Pretrial Behavioral Health Intervention Pilot Program.

Reduces Infant Vitality to \$20 million each FY and reduces the earmark supporting community and local faith-based service provider programming to not less than \$6 million each FY.

Reduces Strong Families Strong Communities by \$5 million in FY26 and reduces the earmark for pediatric cancer research by the same amount.

Sunsets the Unemployment Technology and Customer Service Fee after two years.

Removes the reduction of the time from ten working days to ten calendar days for an employer to respond to a request for information relative to an individual's application for unemployment benefits.

Removes provisions allowing ODJFS and MCD to be related to transfers between line items for public assistance programs, SCHIP, and local transportation for certain Medicaid enrollees.

Removes provision which allowed OBM to transfer funds for the administration of the Access Success II Program.

Reduces the transfer to the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Fund to \$2.5 million each FY.

Makes TANF earmarks to several entities and programs, including: the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; the ScoutReach program; Bethany House Services; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio; Child Focus Inc.; Dads2B; the Foundry Row, Sail, Dream program; Ohio Guidestone; Open Doors Academy; Produce Perks; Ohio YMCA day camps and before/after school programming; etc.

Appropriates \$20 million each FY for the 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Hotline and eliminates its predecessor fund, 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis and Response.

Requires that JMOC approve any new state directed payment program.

Modifies the Group VIII trigger such that ODM will establish a phased transition plan to assist individuals who are no longer Medicaid eligible by redirecting them to private insurance subsidies or charity care programs that provide medical assistance and that ODM can establish a temporary hospital assessment to offset the cost of uncompensated care that may result from providing medical care to former members of Group VIII.

Requires ODM to share certain data with the JMOC actuary every six months.

Requires the Directors of OBM and ODM to request and propose multiple Medicaid health care services.

Requires that ODM enter into a data-sharing agreement with the executive director of JMOC and to make ODM staff and actuaries readily available to JMOC and the JMOC actuary.

Requires ODM, ODJFS, and CDJFS provide the JMOC executive director and staff to access and view information and systems used for determining eligibility for public assistance benefits, as

well as for billing payments, and tracking for providers, and provide training to the executive director and staff on how to use the systems.

To the extent permitted by federal law, prohibits the Department of Medicaid from paying for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

ODM shall conduct an annual financial audit of the administrative costs and total expenditures of managed care organizations and submit a report to JMOC and the General Assembly.

Permits a court to order 200% restitution for those who commit Medicaid fraud.

Modifies the executive trigger language to state that if the trigger is activated, Group VIII services will cease immediately, and ODM must report the total actual expenditure for Group VIII for the most recently completed month to OBM, JMOC, and the legislature.

Decreases the health and human services fund appropriation by \$500 million each FY.

Moves the Medicaid in Schools program from DEW to ODM.

Removes permitting ODM to increase appropriation via Controlling Board in excess of the statutory cap.

For FY26 and FY27, ODM is required to provide a rate add-on of \$110 per treatment for dialysis services provided in a nursing facility to an individual enrolled in the MCD program.

Specifies the terms of a contract between ODM and Medicaid MCO require the MCO to conduct certain internal cross-checks of its data systems.

When determining eligibility for the Medicaid buy-in for workers with disabilities program, requires that \$ 20,000 of an individual's unearned income be disregarded.

Prohibits Medicaid providers from receiving payment rates exceeding the median rate paid by private insurers and imposes penalties on those who violate this prohibition.

Requires ODM to submit a report to JMOC on September 1 of each year that provides specified details about state agencies budgeted, actual, and forecasted number of full-time equivalent employees and related expenditures.

Requires ODM to publish a directory of all residential facilities licensed by DBH on OBM's website.

Requires ODM to notify the JMOC and committee chairs if CMS takes certain actions related to the Quarterly Medicaid Statement of Expenditures Form submitted by ODM, including if CMS determines the form has a variance of 8% or less.

Establishes duties on, and grants authority to, ODM and MCOs in the event the ODM director establishes an electronic visit verification (EVV) system in rule.

During FY27, requires ODM to establish an outreach program to help Medicaid recipients obtain private insurance.

Limits the private room incentive rate for nursing homes to 5,000 rooms.

Decreases the transfer to a maximum of \$2.2 million each FY from Medicaid Services-Recoveries to Behavioral Health Care.

Reduces the maximum transfer to \$9.3 million each FY from Medicaid Services-Long Term to Ombudsman Support.

Removes provisions requiring the ODM director to deposit \$2.5 million each FY into Medicaid Services-Recoveries from the first installment of assessments and intergovernmental transfers made under the Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP).

Removes authority for OBM director to increase Medicaid Services-Recoveries and appropriate additional funds.

Removes provision allowing the OBM director to authorize additional expenditures for the Home and Community-based services appropriation lines.

Eliminates the \$5 million each FY of performance-based payments provided by ODM to local CDJFS offices.

Removes allowing the ODM to establish rates for community behavioral health services.

Removes the prohibition on leasing certain REIT facilities by nursing homes or hospitals.

Decreases the appropriation for the OhioSee program.

Provides \$800,000 each FY to support Brain Injury research, earmarks \$300K each FY for the Brain Injury Association of Ohio.

Clarifies that school-based health centers must obtain consent from a parent before providing medical care to children, except in certain emergency situations.

Prohibits any earmarked funds for youth homelessness to be used for gender affirming care.

Removes the exception allowing ODH Genetic Services funds to be used to counsel or refer for abortion in the case of a medical emergency.

Defines that there are only two sexes.

Eliminates ODH's Lead Safe Home Program and Lead Abatement program.

Removes a provision that establishes supported decision-making plans for certain adults with developmental disabilities.

Provides \$7.8 million in each FY for Ohio Adolescent Health Centers.

Requires DODD to consult with certain entities prior to authorizing a pilot project.

Eliminates funding to the Lupus Foundation of American, Ohio Chapter.

Expands Program for Children and Youth eligibility to 26 years old and increases the appropriation by \$500,000 each FY.

Creates a voluntary donation check-off for the Save Our Sight Fund during the professional licensure or renewal process.

Requires a superintendent of a county board of developmental disabilities to ensure that certain employees complete web-based training program.

Permits the TOS to invest certain money from the Medical Quality Assurance Fund.

Decreases funding for Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention, and Drug Overdose and reduces earmarks.

Prohibits ODH from adopting rules requiring a soil evaluator or soil scientist to evaluate the soil type and slope for household sewage treatment systems.

Provides \$62,500 each FY to the Domestic Violence Project, Inc.

Removes the authority to rollover unexpended funds from ODH's Infectious Disease Prevention and Control line item.

Removes the provision eliminating notification by certified mail from DODD for certain adjudication orders.

Requires DODD to send notices via certified mail when terminating a supported living certificate.

Justice and Public Safety

Provides \$250,000 in each FY for reimbursement to counties for certain costs associated with the prosecution of felonies in state correctional facilities.

Requires DRC to make every effort to acquire lethal injection drugs from the U.S. Attorney General and requires a biannual status report.

Requires the clerk of courts to make criminal and probate dockets available online.

Reduces the fees that the clerk of courts can charge for deposit into the computerization fund if a court of common pleas of a county fails to make civil dockets available online.

Provides \$450,000 in FY26 and \$300,000 in FY27 to provide Frederick Douglass Project for Justice programming at state prisons.

Makes elected and appointed clerks of the courts of common pleas eligible to apply for grant funding under the Ohio Courts Technology Initiative.

Prevents expiration of peace officer certificate resulting from a lapse of employment as a peace officer so long as “refresher” training is completed: (1) 1-4 years, 40 hours; or (2) +4 years, 80 hours.

Provides \$500,000 each FY to support recruitment, hiring, and training of peace officers and grants for: (1) First Responders’ Bridge, (2) Save a Warrior Foundation, and (3) Tri-State Peer Support Program.

Requires the clerk of the court of common pleas to determine and implement the best methods for storing, maintaining, and retrieving all papers delivered to the clerk.

Applies a balancing test to seal certain juvenile records.

Provides \$200,000 each FY for Ohio State Highway Patrol to procure noise-reduction hearing protection.

Allows the Ohio EMA to use up to \$1 million each FY for community police partnerships.

Reappropriates Local Jail Grant funds from H.B. 33 (135th GA) under the original distribution requirements.

Allows a person who owns mineral rights to bring a civil action against certain individuals who unlawfully trespasses on the owner’s land.

Provides \$75,000 each FY to the Ohio Mortuary Operational Response Team for maintenance and training.

Provides \$15,000 in each FY to support the Northwestern Ohio Volunteer Firemen's Association Fire School.

Creates a pilot program at Ross Correctional Institution to have state employees provide food service and requires all state correctional employees and contractors to undergo screening prior to entering the facility.

Allows the AGO to appoint a special prosecutor for the prosecution of offenses in state correctional facilities.

Prohibits a law enforcement agency or a prosecutor from charging a fee for a video record when the requester is a victim, their legal counsel, or their insurer. Authorizes a prosecuting attorney's office to assess certain charges for preparing a video public record.

Specifies that a court cannot impose a requirement that the offender admit guilt as any condition of a sentence or a community control sanction.

Earmarks \$10,500,000 each FY to reduce the MARCS subscriber fees paid by local entities.

Mandates a new timeline for an agency to initiate and complete the rulemaking process when JCARR finds that an agency is improperly relying on a policy that should have been stated in administrative rule.

Eliminates funding to create a new law enforcement training facility.

Decreases the Parole and Community Operations line item by \$4,658,771 in FY26 and \$14,249,137 in FY27.

Requires Controlling Board approval of cash transfers from the State Fire Marshal Fund to the Small Government Fire Department Services Revolving Loan Fund.

Removes the provision which would have modified penalties for sales and use tax, criminal fraud, and licensure offenses.

Codifies existing case law that exempts personal notes from public records law.

Creates a public records exemption for records created by a person using an assistive device.

Removes the provision that shortens the deadline to appeal orders from the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Removes the provision which terminates the requirement for proof of financial responsibility at the time of vehicle registration.

Increases the issuance fee for special "blackout" license plates from \$20 to \$40.

Removes the provision that marks the failure to use a seat belt (and failure to secure a child properly) a primary offense.

Eliminates the Driver Training in Schools Grant Program and funding.

Removes the provision adding two new circumstances that would constitute violations of ignition interlock device.

Removes the provision authorizing the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to print a statement on licenses that a user's vehicle is subject to an ignition interlock device.

Removes the provision that adds failure to control a vehicle as an additional offense when a driver violates the distracted driving law.

Provides \$500,000 each FY to support local law enforcement narcotics task forces.

Removes the cash transfers for capital upgrades to the Shipley Building.

Extends the proposed mandatory prison sentence requirement for conveying weapons or communications devices into a state correctional facility to include both state employees and contractors.

Removes the reappropriation of remaining funds for Local Disaster Assistance.

Revised the definition of "specific investigatory work product" in the Public Records Law.

Creates an exemption under the Public Records Law for attorney work product records.

Clarifies that trial preparation records are exempt from the Public Records Law until after the conclusion of all direct appeals or the expiration of the time during which an appeal may be filed.

Removes the authorization of a public office to designate a public records officer.

Removes the proposed increases in the vehicle registration fee (+\$10) and the certificate of title fee (+\$3).

This summary has been compiled by staff. For full details of each amendment, please refer to the appropriate LSC documents and bill text.