

## Overall Summary of Sub Bill 153

The House Finance and Appropriations Committee version of the budget, Sub HB153, came out on time Thursday, a tad heftier in terms of pages -- 3,224 pages to 3,490 pages -- and in terms of appropriations -- \$55.8 million more spent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 and nearly \$14 million more in FY13 for a biennial increase of \$69.8 million.

As House Finance Chair Rep. Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster) told reporters following Thursday's committee meeting, they "feel better doing it that way" while acknowledging that sentencing reform has a "budget component that we will have to keep in view." That approach of keeping an eye on what makes sense for policy development surfaced in a number of the discussions around the changes the House Republicans made in the bill. Major changes in the substitute bill include the following:

Adds \$40 million/year to the school foundation formula which translates to an increase for all districts of \$23/pupil with a "stop loss" provision assuring no district receives a cut in state aid of more than 20 percent. Another way to look at that, according to Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee Chairman Rep. John Carey (R-Wellston) is that "no district loses more than 7.6 percent of its total budget ... Every district gets an increase" from the as introduced budget.

Removes the proposal to shift 2 percent of retirement system contributions on to employees. Amstutz said there are a lot of policy implications to this proposal that merit much closer review. He also commented that this proposal does not fit in with the charge of the two legislative committees that are looking at pension reforms to "improve the sustainability of the funds. This budget proposal does not do that."

**Also notable is what is not in the budget with Amstutz saying that no provisions of SB5, the collective bargaining overhaul, were included. "SB5 like provisions were included," he added, referencing changes related to performance evaluations of teachers. He said that a version of Florida's approach is included with Carey adding that it makes clear there are other measures besides seniority on which to base an evaluation. But he expressed the belief that teachers will be more comfortable with the substitute bill provisions which allow each district to develop its own approach to performance pay.**

Among other changes proposed in the substitute version:

### **Higher Education**

Allows a high school graduate who has returned to Ohio within 10 years of their graduation to be eligible for in-state tuition rates regardless of their residency. Requires General Assembly authorization before a higher education institution may be designated as a charter university.

Allows students attending for-profit colleges and schools in the state to be eligible for Ohio College Opportunity Grant awards. Provides that the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents serves at the pleasure of the governor and that their terms coincide. Removes the requirement that faculty increase their workloads. □ □

**Human Services**- Increases PASSPORT funding by \$5 million in FY12 and \$10 million in FY13. Requires the Ohio Department of Health to apply for federal abstinence education funding. Increases the appropriations for children's hospitals by \$2 million/year and for Second Harvest Foodbanks by \$1 million/year- Increases the break in eligibility from six weeks to three months for the grandfathered children in child care in families with incomes between 125 percent and 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Reinstates current law governing agricultural labor camps and marinas. Requires rules for Medicaid reimbursement to go through the Chap. 119 rulemaking process.

**JobsOhio**- Revises and refines language governing the lease of the liquor enterprise to JobsOhio.

**Local Government**- Ends the proposed total phase-out in tangible personal property tax payments and electric generation assessment rate payments to local governments, including schools, after two years.

**Ohio Consumers' Counsel**- Proposes merging the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) call centers and prohibits the OCC from operating an individual call center. Removes OCC contact information from consumer utility bills. Provides for the lowering of consumer bills to reflect reduced costs in OCC operations. Prohibits the OCC from advocating a position contrary to development of competitive utility markets in Ohio.

**Primary and Secondary Education/Charter Schools** - Provides two new options for schools to make up missed calamity days: e-days and blizzard bags. Eliminates the cap on the total number of community schools a sponsor can operate. Increases the value of the Cleveland Voucher Program to the same level available under the EdChoice Scholarship Program and increases foundation funding appropriation by \$5 million for this purpose. Allows the State Board of Education to sponsor a community school and to grant a direct charter to the school. Clarifies that a community school building is a public school building for the purposes of taxation. Authorizes a joint superintendent for the Ohio Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Allows more than one charter school to operate in the same building. Reinstates the e-school moratorium.

**Privatization**

Limits the privatization of state assets to highway services, but gives the governor authority to do so. General Assembly authorization is required before expenditure of any sale proceeds that would also direct how and where those proceeds would be invested. Maintains the governor's plan to sell five prisons.

Source: Hannah News/Sub Bill 153