



**GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC.**

17 SOUTH HIGH STREET - SUITE 245

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3413

PHONE: 614-461-9335

FAX: 614-461-9336

**Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association  
Legislative Activities Report  
April 2010**

The legislature has returned from enjoying its "Spring Break" for the two weeks surrounding the Easter holiday. The House has come back into session for the rest of April and will meet heavily throughout May before adjourning for an extended summer campaign season. It is speculated that the Senate will be meeting less frequently in April and will be meeting in the same heavy activity of May.

As the statewide and legislative campaigns heat up, it appears that national politics may be affecting polling for Ohio races, including incumbent Governor Ted Strickland. In a Quinnipiac University poll released on March 31, 2010, Governor Strickland has a lead of 43% to 38% over Republican challenger John Kasich.

The Democratic "mini-surge" also seems to be benefitting Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher and Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, both of whom are seeking the U.S. Senate nomination in the May 4<sup>th</sup> primary. The poll results showed both with leads over unopposed Republican candidate Rob Portman. Lt. Governor Fisher held a lead of 41% to 37% over Mr. Portman, while Secretary Brunner had a 38% to 37% lead over Portman. Interestingly, both Democrats had trailed Portman in a late February survey.

As for the legislature, when pollsters asked if voters approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job, 34% approved; 46% disapproved; and 20% were undecided. Interestingly, fifty percent of respondents said they would prefer that control of the House and Senate remain split between the political parties after the November 2, 2010 general election.

With the spring recess occurring between the last ODHA GR call and this report, the General Assembly has not been in Columbus to conduct hearings or legislative floor sessions. Therefore, House Bill 215, which seeks to modify the investigation efforts of the Ohio State Dental Board, has not had its first hearing before the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee after passage by the House in early March. ODHA is still pressing for a Senate floor vote on House Bill 190. Members are encouraged to contact their Senator to ask for a floor vote.

Please also note that the May Primary election is scheduled for May 4, 2010. GPG has prepared a list of all of the primary candidates and it should be available on the Members Only section of the ODHA website.

- HB1**      **BIENNIAL BUDGET** (SYKES, V) To make appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2011 for the operation of state programs.  
*Current Status:* 7/17/2009  
**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**  
eff. 7/17/09 appropriations  
other sections subject to referendum 10/16/09
- HB60**      **SCHOOL NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS** (PILLICH, C) To establish nutritional standards for food and beverages sold in vending machines in public schools,  
*Current Status:* 1/12/2010  
Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee
- HB68**      **HEALTHY FARMS/HEALTHY SCHOOLS** (DODD, D) To establish the healthy farms and healthy schools grant program for the purpose of providing grants to schools to establish nutrition and agricultural education programs for kindergarteners.  
*Current Status:* 6/3/2009  
Referred to Senate Education Committee
- HB84**      **INMATE HEALTH SCREENINGS** (BOYD, B) To require health-trained personnel to perform a medical, dental, and mental health screening on each inmate upon arrival at a jail, to establish procedures that health-trained personnel must follow if an inmate is taking xanax, ativan, valium, or any other benzodiazepine, and to provide that the sheriff ensure that health-trained personnel responsible for medical, dental, and mental health screening be trained as to symptoms and consequences of withdrawal from addictive drugs.  
*Current Status:* 7/1/2009  
House Criminal Justice Committee  
(Second Hearing)
- HB127**      **PROFESSIONAL LICENSES** (WILLIAMS, S) To revise the laws governing issuance of certain professional licenses.  
*Current Status:* 10/21/2009  
House State Government  
(Second Hearing) Committee

- HB190**      **DENTAL PROCEDURES** (FENDE, L) To modify certain licensing procedures for dentists and dental hygienists and to establish the Public Oral Health Supervision Program for the provision of dental hygiene services.  
*Current Status:* 1/27/2010  
**REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED,**  
Health, Human Services and Aging Committee  
(Fourth Hearing)
- HB215**      **STATE DENTAL BOARD** (LETSON, T) To modify the law governing investigations and hearings conducted by the State Dental Board.  
*Current Status:* 3/9/2010  
Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee
- HB240**      **MEDICAID PROGRAM** (SEARS, B) To modify the Medicaid program.  
*Current Status:* 2/3/2010  
House Health Committee  
(First Hearing)
- HB287**      **MEDICAID** (BURKE, D) To require the Medicaid program to cover, subject to federal approval, all health benefits established as mandated health benefits under the state's insurance laws and to preclude application of additional mandated health benefits under those laws until the Medicaid program covers the health benefits.  
*Current Status:* 2/24/2010  
House Health Committee  
(First Hearing)
- HB308**      **MARGINAL INCOME TAX RATE** (FOLEY, M) To increase the marginal income tax rate applicable to individuals, estates, and trusts with taxable income greater than \$200,000.  
*Current Status:* 10/28/2009  
House Ways and Means Committee  
(First Hearing)
- HB318**      **INCOME TAX FREEZE** (SYKES, V) To postpone for two years the last of five scheduled income tax rate reductions, to create the Construction Reform Demonstration Project, to provide for the granting of a delay in implementing all-day kindergarten, and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 12/22/2009  
**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**  
Some sections eff. 12/22/09  
others 3/23/10

- HB373**      **NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS** (CARNEY, J) To establish standards for certain foods and beverages sold in public and chartered nonpublic schools, to require public school students to have periodic body mass index measurements; to require daily physical activity for public school students and to make other changes regarding physical education and to establish the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Council.  
*Current Status:* 3/24/2010  
House Health Committee  
(Third Hearing)
- SB1**      **BUILDING OHIO JOBS PART II** (HUGHES, J) To implement the additional debt authority for conservation and revitalization programs provided by Section 2q of Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution, to authorize the issuance of that debt, to make new appropriations for the purpose of continuing programs established by Am. Sub. H.B. 554 of the 127th General Assembly, the Bipartisan Job Stimulus Act, and to declare an emergency.  
*Current Status:* 3/5/2009  
Referred to House Finance and Appropriations Committee
- SB2**      **FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING** (CAREY, JR., J) To provide for the distribution of moneys received by the state from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by making appropriations and to declare an emergency.  
*Current Status:* 3/18/2009  
Referred to House Finance and Appropriations Committee
- SB34**      **HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS** (MILLER, D) To create a health insurance program that allows municipal corporations, small employers, and nonprofit corporations or associations to purchase for their employees the same policies provided to state employees.  
*Current Status:* 3/31/2009  
Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee  
(First Hearing)
- SB52**      **EXECUTIVE BRANCH-STATE GOVERNMENT** (GRENDALL, T) To reorganize the executive branch of state government.  
*Current Status:* 10/27/2009  
Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
(Sixth Hearing)

- SB59**      **HEALTHY STUDENTS ACT** (FEDOR, T) To enact the "Healthy Students Act" to establish standards for K-12 health education in public schools and to create the Office of Healthy Schools within the Department of Education.  
*Current Status:* 3/24/2009  
Senate Education Committee  
(First Hearing)
- SB136**      **INSURANCE AND MEDICAID COVERAGE** (MILLER, R) Regarding insurance and Medicaid coverage of telemedicine services.  
*Current Status:* 6/17/2009  
Referred to Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee
- SB158**      **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS** (MILLER, R) To require certain health care professionals to complete instruction in cultural competency.  
*Current Status:* 3/16/2010  
Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee  
(First Hearing)
- SB210**      **NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS** (COUGHLIN, K) To establish nutritional standards for certain foods and beverages sold in public and chartered nonpublic schools; to require public school students to have periodic body mass index measurements; to require daily physical activity for public school students and to make other changes regarding physical education; and to establish the Healthy Choices in Healthy Children Council.  
*Current Status:* 12/1/2009  
Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee  
(Second Hearing)