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**Ohio Dental Hygienists Association
Legislative Activities Report
December 2009**

The Ohio General Assembly is quickly approaching its traditional holiday recess, which is slated to begin in mid-December; however, there are a number of issues that are still lingering that may delay the start of that recess. House Bill 318 was introduced in an effort to stop Ohio's ever-increasing budget deficit. The bill would enact Governor Strickland's proposal to delay implementation of the final 4.2% personal income tax decrease. House Bill 318 passed the House on October 21, 2009 after two quick committee hearings. The bill is now pending in the Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee and has been taking a much slower course.

Many Senate majority members have already gone on record stating that they believe the "rate freeze" is nothing more than a tax increase. Whatever bill the Senate passes it must fill the \$851 million hole left in the state budget as a result of the Supreme Court's decision to subject the video lottery terminal language from HB 1 to possible statewide referendum. Prior to Thanksgiving a proposal was floated that was a hodgepodge of cost savings measures that would have totaled \$851 million, but there was no support, even among Republicans, for their own plan. Since the Thanksgiving holiday the focus has been squarely on two additional items that were discussed during the state budget process, construction and prison sentencing reform. Construction reform would be for state funded building projects and seeks to eliminate multiple prime contractors as a standard of doing business. The projected costs savings is significant. The second proposal is taking Senate Bill 22, which would change how lower level criminal offenders could be rehabilitated in less expensive settings like halfway houses. Again, savings would be in the millions of dollars.

There is significant political posturing on these items and debate about being soft on crime, unfair to minority contractors in the construction trades and the debate of whether a tax freeze is an increase or not. The Administration has asked that HB 318 be passed and enacted so that 2009 tax forms can be prepared accordingly if a freeze is approved. The Senate Finance Committee has been meeting on and off most of this month and will try again before the recess to put together a package of cost savings.

The impasse over House Bill 318 has delayed the serious consideration of many other topics, including House Bills 190 and 215. However, some legislation is moving forward from the one chamber to another and some committees are continuing to meet. The House has advanced to the Senate House Bill 60 which establishes nutritional standards for food and beverages sold in public schools. ODHA was a proponent of the legislation and is supportive of efforts to address childhood oral health standards through these means. Additionally the House and Senate have introduced bills that are similar in nature to House Bill 60, in that they seek the same goals of limiting the types of food and beverages in schools, but add physical activity requirements and physical education requirements in the schools. ODHA is reviewing the legislation and will be taking a position soon.

The General Assembly has announced its schedule for the first six months of 2010. There will be heavy activity January through March with a two week spring “break”/recess in early April and solid activity from mid-April through Memorial Day. There are only two “if needed” days scheduled for June. The General Assembly will then recess for the summer to begin the campaign season. Please note that 2010 also begins the second year of the 128th General Assembly, which will conclude December 31, 2010. All current legislative efforts will need to be completed by the close of 2010 or face the need to be reintroduced in January 2011 in the 129th General Assembly.

Also as a reminder, the annual ODHA Legislative Coffee is being replaced by a Legislative Reception on the evening of February 23, 2010 following a CE opportunity that afternoon. ODHA invites professionals and students from around the state to attend this unique event.

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

effective 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: 12/16/2009

PASSED BY HOUSE

Vote 58-36

- 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 Committee
(Second Hearing)
- 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: 10/20/2009
Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee
(Third Hearing)
- HB215** **STATE DENTAL BOARD** (LETSON, T) To modify the law governing investigations and hearings conducted by the State Dental Board.
Current Status: 10/7/2009
REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED
House Health Committee
(Fourth Hearing)
- HB240** **MEDICAID PROGRAM** (SEARS, B) To modify the Medicaid program.
Current Status: 6/24/2009
Referred to House Health Committee

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: 10/6/2009

Referred to House Health Committee

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)

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: 12/2/2009

House Health Committee
(Second 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: 9/15/2009
Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee
- 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)