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

In an effort to stop Ohio's ever-increasing budget deficit, HB 318, the legislation implementing Governor Strickland's proposal to delay implementation of the final 4.2% personal income tax decrease, passed the House on October 21, 2009 after two quick committee hearings. The bill is now pending in the Senate Finance Committee and is expected to take a much slower course.

Ultimately, it is still too early to say what the Senate will do with the measure. Many Senate majority members have already gone on record stating that they believe the "rate freeze" is nothing more than a tax increase. Whatever the Senate supports, 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. It is likely that any Senate passed version of HB 318 will include some measure aimed at controlling the growth and restructuring of state government. The Senate also appears to be looking at many ways in which to "decouple" from federal tax law changes in order to save money. No decision is expected until after the Thanksgiving holiday.

The General Assembly is anticipated to be in session for the majority of December and will break for a minimum of a two week recess around the holidays. A schedule for the first half of 2010 has not been established. With much focus effort in the Senate on solving the budget gap, many committees have not been meeting on a regular basis, including the Senate Health Committee. The Senate Health Committee is considering House Bill 190 and the delay is giving ODHA an opportunity to negotiate two amendments with the Ohio Department of Health. The first deals with a mouthrinse program in schools that are in areas without fluoridated water. The program has been in operation since the early 1980s, but had to discontinue operations because of a change in state law that prohibits the dispensing of certain "medication" in schools. The mouthrinse was determined to fall into that category. While the program has not had any opposition from hygienists in the past there is a concern raised about the training and administration of the mouthrinse. ODHA is not seeking to add extra costs to a program that has an already limited budget, but we are seeking to protect the students and the

profession from an erosion of duties being delegated to other untrained individuals. ODHA is negotiating a compromise that would not permit the schools to proceed until the school fluoride program coordinator was trained by an RDH. The Ohio Department of Health is considering your suggestion.

A second amendment that is proposed by the Department of Health is one that is being heavily considered by the Ohio Dental Association. The amendment would permit the dental sealant and fluoride varnish programs that occur at clinics funded by any type of government dollars and schools would not be subject to the reporting requirements of House Bill 190. ODHA was supportive in concept and was seeking clarification in the training requirements of hygienists working in those settings and the duties they were permitted to provide. Conversations of all parties are ongoing.

Finally, House Bill 215 has not been heard by the full House of Representatives yet, despite being reported from committee more than a month ago. An update to the membership will be provided when available and the position on the safe harbor provision will be shared with the sponsors.

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.

- PHC Rules, Procedures and Fees Radiation Sources
- Radiation Control Program Definitions
- Central Services Agency—Board Consolidation
- Dental Board Budget
- Dental Health Shortage Areas
- Dental Loan Repayment Program
- DOH Budget

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: 10/7/2009

REPORTED OUT

House Health Committee

(Fourth Hearing)

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: 11/18/2009
House Health Committee
(First 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: 11/18/2009

Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Aging
Committee