



**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  
June 2009**

As June begins to wind down and summer gets started there is a flurry of activity that is going on at the Statehouse. As we have provided updates over the past few months the state budget process is winding down and looking to finish before the June 30<sup>th</sup> constitutional deadline. Since House Bill 1, the budget bill has been pending in the joint House-Senate Conference Committee the Governor has announced that there is a \$3.2 billion deficit for the next two years that needs to be addressed before the bill is signed to keep with the constitutional budget requirement. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Governor Strickland announced a budget framework in which he proposed \$2.4 billion in cuts/reductions and gave his support to adding video lottery terminals (VLTs) at the state's seven racetracks. The cuts were deep to some line items and kept some agencies relatively unscathed as past cuts have already exposed the frailty of the agencies. Of interest and deep impact to the ODHA are proposed reductions in community provider rates, which could include adult dental Medicaid rates and noted reductions in dental services to the uninsured. Because of a gag order among the Governor, Speaker and Senate President, it is unclear as to the depth, if any, of the impact of the provider rate cuts, but the cuts to the Access to Dental Care line items were over 50%. These reductions could have an impact on the implementation of House Bill 190 because the funding stream for paying for services would be severely strained.

However, on a positive front, the ODHA has been a key player in helping to pass House Bill 190, which seeks to create a Public Oral Health Supervision Permit for hygienists and dentists to allow services to be provided in public health "facilities" outside of the dental office. Additionally, the bill contains the CE requirement increase from 12 to 24 hours over the biennium of a licensee's registration period to begin during the 2010-2011 registration cycle that ODHA has been seeking for two years. Attached to this report is a copy of the bill analysis and the legislation for members to review. The bill was favorably reported from the House Healthcare Access and Affordability Committee on June 17<sup>th</sup> unanimously and then again unanimously by the entire House 97-0 on June 24, 2009. House Bill 190 now will move to the Senate for its consideration, likely to start in the fall after the summer recess. Of consideration for the Senate process on House Bill 190 is possible agreement with the ODA on changes to local anesthesia reciprocity

language and how the Senate will respond to the opposition testimony presented by Dr. Larry Hill representing the Ohio Coalition of Oral Health (OCOH). Of course the ODHA will be intimately involved with the developments as the bill moves forward.

**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:* 6/10/2009 – Pending Action in Joint Conference Committee

**HB60**      **SCHOOL NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS** (PILLICH, C) To establish nutritional standards for food and beverages sold in vending machines in public schools,

*Current Status:* 6/24/2009 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**  
House Health Committee  
(Second 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:* 5/13/2009  
House Criminal Justice Committee  
(First Hearing)

**HB127**      **PROFESSIONAL LICENSES** (WILLIAMS, S) To revise the laws governing issuance of certain professional licenses.

*Current Status:* 5/6/2009  
House State Government Committee  
(First 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:* 6/24/2009

**PASSED BY HOUSE**

Vote 97-0

- HB215 STATE DENTAL BOARD (LETSON, T)** To modify the law governing investigations and hearings conducted by the State Dental Board.  
*Current Status:* 6/24/2009  
House Health Committee  
(Second Hearing)
- HB240 MEDICAID PROGRAM (SEARS, B)** To modify the Medicaid program.  
*Current Status:* 6/24/2009  
Referred to House Health Committee
- 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:* 5/26/2009

Senate State and Local Government and Veterans  
Affairs Committee  
(Third 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