



State Budget Process Begins

The first half of odd numbered years are dominated by debate on the state’s biennial budget bill. The process starts with the Governor’s proposal, which has been introduced as [House Bill 33](#). The House is the first chamber to consider the proposal and is expected to make significant changes before passing the bill to the Senate for consideration. The process will culminate with a conference committee in June to craft a final bill for enactment.

In the Governor’s State of the State address January 31, 2023, DeWine highlighted his priorities for the budget. These continue and expand upon his priorities during his first term as Governor. Those priorities include children’s initiatives like his student wellness and success funds and a fair school funding formula. He is also continuing his priorities regarding water quality through the H2Ohio programs and funds.

Below are items of interest to GOSA

GRF 700511 Ride Inspection	\$ 716,600	\$ 749,200
5780 700620 Ride Inspection	\$ 1,355,000	\$ 1,417,000

While the bill doesn’t propose any specific fee increases for amusement rides, it does propose allowing ODA to charge a reinspection fee if the reinspection is required under the minimum inspections laws and rules of Tyler’s law.

GRF 700501 County Agricultural Societies	\$ 379,673	\$ 379,673
--	------------	------------

The Ohio Fair Managers Association is advocating for a substantial increase in the Ohio Department of Agriculture budget line Item GRF 700501 that is used to reimburse county and independent agricultural societies for their Junior Fair activities.

In addition to the traditional appropriations for the Ohio Exposition Commission, the bill includes \$95 million per fiscal year for EXPO 2050. This will be used for the renovations to the State Fairgrounds, a priority project for the Governor.

Retail Cash Option Bill

Senator Bill Blessing has introduced [Senate Bill 38](#) regarding retail establishments. This legislation would require retailers who complete in person transactions to allow customers to pay with cash. The bill does provide for some exemptions including entertainment venues with a seating capacity of 10,000 or more

Youth Employment Bill Re-Introduced

Senator Tim Schaffer (R) has reintroduced [Senate Bill 30](#) regarding youth employment. The bill would allow those under 16 to be employed after 7pm during school year. It would state that with parent or guardian’s permission, those under 16 could work until 9pm. GOSA has formally supported this legislation and submitted testimony to that effect on February 22, 2023. The Ohio Senate has already favorably passed SB 30 by a vote of 25-7 and will now be considered by the Ohio House of Representatives.

4-H legislation

Legislation was introduced in 2022 to require schools to provide students with excused absences for participating in 4-H activities. [House Bill 643](#) is sponsored by Representatives Thomas Hall and Rodney Creech. The bill does not allow these excused absences to occur during scheduled state testing. The legislation did not gain much traction, but GOSA representatives have spoken with the sponsors, and it is expected to be reintroduced in 2023.

Motor Fuel Tax Legislation

Senator Steve Huffman has introduced [Senate Bill 48](#) regarding the tax on diesel fuel from the current 47 cents per gallon to 38.5 cents per gallon. This would align the diesel rate to that of gasoline. In a previous transportation budget, the legislature approved a gas tax increase, and also bifurcated the rate between diesel and gasoline. In the previous General Assembly, Senate Huffman has introduced legislation to revert to the pre-increase rate for all fuel, but this version of the legislation only addresses those fuels other than gasoline.

Minimum Wage Legislation

As is the case every General Assembly, legislation has been introduced to increase Ohio's minimum wage. This year it is [House Bill 96](#). HB 96 is sponsored by Representatives Dontavius Jarrells and Ismail Mohamed. Under the bill the minimum wage would increase \$1 per year until it reaches \$15 in 2028, after that the rate would increase based on inflation.

How to Contact Your Lobbyist

Amanda Sines
Government Advantage
17 South High Street, Suite 750
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-221-7157

amanda@gov-advantage.com