



Ohio Library Council Government Relations Legislation Overview

Revised 6/20/11

Legislation	Description	Current OLC Position	Outcome / Notes
HB 3	<p>Legislation that would eliminate the Estate Tax. In Ohio, 80% of the estate tax goes to local government entities such as townships and villages (not public libraries), while the remaining 20% of the revenue goes to the state and is included in the General Revenue Fund (GRF). Therefore, public libraries receive 1.97% of the state's portion (20%) of the Estate Tax revenue. Although not a significant source of revenue for public libraries, it does produce some revenue. <i>Sub bill implements elimination of estate tax in 2013.</i></p>	<p>Interested party. This legislation would not significantly impact the PLF.</p>	<p>Sub bill introduced 2/17/11 – House Ways and Means</p> <p>5/25/11 – The language from this legislation is now part of Am. Sub. HB 153, the state biennium budget bill.</p>
HB 69	<p>The Ohio House of Representatives' version of public pension reform. This bill was anticipated in the last General Session but it was never introduced. This version of the legislation seems to parallel the pension reforms recommended by the Ohio Retirement Study Commission. A summary of this proposal and a review of the executive summary are available online. The sponsor of this legislation, Rep. Wachtmann (R-Napoleon), has indicated that this bill is a "placeholder" bill. This means that they anticipate significant changes to this legislation. The OLC has been asked to participate in several meetings during the next few weeks to discuss various aspects of this legislation. There appears to be some speculation that the legislation will move quickly through the House and Senate.</p>	<p>The OLC supports aspects of the legislation that are endorsed by OPERS and/or the Ohio Retirement Study Commission as necessary to meet the 30 year fund solvency requirement.</p>	<p>Assigned to House Health and Aging. Multiple hearings</p> <p>5/25/11 – There have been no additional hearings on this legislation.</p>



Ohio Library Council Government Relations Legislation Overview

Legislation	Description	Current OLC Position	Outcome / Notes
<u>HB 88</u>	Legislation that clarifies that the prosecuting attorney of a county is the legal adviser of all tax-supported public libraries	Support.	Assigned House Judiciary and Ethics – 2 hearings 5/25/11 – There have been no additional hearings on this legislation. Instead, the companion bill SB 120 will be the legislative vehicle used to correct this problem.
<u>HB 153</u>	<p>Biennium Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the Public Library Fund (PLF) to 95 percent of the FY11 distribution. • Divert PLF funds to support OPLIN and Library Services to the Blind and Physically Disabled, reducing the PLF distribution to public libraries by an additional 1.5 percent. • Change the PLF language in permanent law. The current permanent law formula for the PLF is set at 2.22 percent of total tax revenue. The new formula from Am. Sub. HB 153, which will be in place for FY12-13, will reset the PLF to approximately 1.67 percent. • Change the Tangible Personal Property Tax and Kilowatt Hour Tax reimbursement from a declining percentage over an eight period to a two percent per year loss over a three-year period. 	Interested party	Assigned House Finance Committee 4/7/11 – Passed the House 5/25/11 – The Senate Finance Committee is expected to introduce its Sub Bill on June 1 and vote on the new version June 8 or 9. This will send the bill to a Conference Committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions. The bill must be signed into law by June 30, 2011. 6/20/11 – The House and Senate have formed a Conference Committee to work out the differences between the two versions of the budget



Ohio Library Council Government Relations Legislation Overview

Legislation	Description	Current OLC Position	Outcome / Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the prevailing wage threshold on both new construction and renovation to \$3.5 million. • Remove the proposed changes to the state's public employee retirement systems. (The Governor's budget proposed changing the current employer/employee share OPERS contribution from 14/10 to 12/12 for the purpose of saving state and local government employers money. The retirement systems raised concerns about how this change would impact the 30-year solvency of the retirement funds.) The language removed from Am. Sub. HB 153 has been added to the public employee retirement reform bill (HB 69 and SB 3). 		<p>bill. There are no differences between the House and Senate version on library funding or TPPT issues, so the Conference Committee will not make any additional changes in those sections of the bill. There is a difference in the prevailing wage proposals, so the Conference Committee will need to reach a compromise on that issue. The Conference Committee is expected to complete their work by June 30.</p>
<p><u>SB 3</u></p>	<p>The Ohio Senate's version of the public pension reform legislation.</p>	<p>Interested party.</p>	<p>Assigned Government Oversight and Reform Committee</p> <p>5/25/11 – No hearings. The Sponsor of this legislation has indicated that the language that was removed from Am. Sub. HB 153 that would alter the employer/employee share of OPERS from 14/10 to 12/12, will be amended into this legislation. There will be no further hearings on this bill until a new actuarial study can be completed to determine the</p>



**Ohio Library Council
Government Relations
Legislation Overview**

Legislation	Description	Current OLC Position	Outcome / Notes
			impact of this change on the system.
<u>SB 5</u>	A legislative proposal that seeks to reform collective bargaining for public employees in Ohio, as well as makes changes that will impact non-bargaining public employees.	The OLC has concerns that this legislation will weaken local control and decision making for public libraries with respect to staffing decisions.	<p>Passed Senate 3/2/11 Assigned House Commerce and Labor Committee Sub bill intro – 3/30/11</p> <p>5/25/11 – This legislation passed the Senate and House and was signed into law by Governor Kasich. The effective date of this legislation is July 1, 2011, unless enough signatures are gathered to place the issue by referendum on the November 2011 ballot. If enough signatures are collected, the legislation will not go into effect until after the issue is decided in the November election.</p>
<u>SB 120</u>	Legislation that clarifies that the prosecuting attorney of a county is the legal adviser of all tax-supported public libraries. Companion bill to HB 88	Support.	5/25/11 – This legislation unanimously passed the Senate without amendment. On 5/24/11, the legislation unanimously passed the House Local Government Committee without amendment. We are hopeful that the full House will vote before summer recess.



Ohio Library Council Government Relations Legislation Overview

Legislation	Description	Current OLC Position	Outcome / Notes
			6/20/11 – This legislation passed both the House and the Senate and will become law 90 days after the Governor signs the bill.
HB 194/ SB 148	<p>Legislation makes sweeping changes to elections laws. This is a significant bill and you can read the bill summaries at:</p> <p>HB 194 http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/h0194-rh-129.pdf</p> <p>SB 148 http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/s0148-rs-129.pdf</p> <p>The summary of the issues of greatest importance to public libraries is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate special elections in February and August. Last week, however, the Senate committee passed an amendment that reinstated these special election dates. (5/25/11 update) • Give final approval of ballot language to the individual county prosecutors, not the Secretary of State. • Move the primary election date during Presidential elections from March to May. 	<p>Opposes any additional charges for levies.</p> <p>Opposes elimination of special election options.</p>	5/25/11 – Each of these bills has passed in their respective Chambers. A Conference Committee will work out the differences between the two bills and vote within the next two weeks.



**Ohio Library Council
Government Relations
Legislation Overview**

Legislation	Description	Current OLC Position	Outcome / Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Require political subdivisions to pay to the county boards of elections 70 percent of the estimated special election cost prior to the date of the election.		