



The Ohio House of Representatives today elected State Representative Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) to serve as Speaker of the House, filling a position that had been vacant since April 12th. Following the vote on the floor, Smith was sworn in as the 103rd Speaker in Ohio history. The House is now acting on the backlog of approximately 150 bills.

Legislation:

1. **SB 246: STUDENT REMOVAL** (LEHNER, P., MANNING, G.). To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre- kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. Now presented to the House of Representatives. Referred House Education & Career Readiness
2. **HB 686: DISTRESS COMMISSIONS** (BARNES, J.). To enact the "Student Transformative Academic Restoration Act" to abolish academic distress commissions and to instead require the creation of community learning centers for poor performing districts, to establish an office of grants and philanthropic gestures within the Department of Education, to create the State Business Intervention Fund, to create a teacher education advancement program, and to modify earmarked appropriations for academic distress commissions.
3. **SB 287: HEALTH EDUCATION** (Sykes, V.) To require the State Board of Education to develop and adopt health education standards for grades kindergarten through twelve and to require only venereal disease education standards and curriculum adopted by the State Board to be approved by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly. Committee Hearing in Senate Education.
4. **HB 630: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (GALONSKI, T.) To extend the alternative graduation requirements for two additional years. Introduced in House (5/3/2018)
5. **HJR 15 PRESCHOOL** (Fedor, T., West, T.) Proposing to enact Section 7 of Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require a universal preschool education program that is free and available to any four- or five-year-old child who resides in the state. Introduced in House
6. **HB 626: ACADEMIC COMMISSIONS** (Smith, K., Fedor, T.) To establish a moratorium on the creation of new academic distress commissions. Introduced in House
7. **HB 628: EDUCATOR LICENSES** (Stein, D., Retherford, W.) With regard to qualifications for obtaining a resident educator license. Introduced in House. Not yet assigned to committee.

Gongwer's Report on Sub SB 216: [Amendment Banning District Takeovers Stalls Education Overhaul Bill](#)

Discussions on a bill that would make dozens of changes to the state's education system ran into a roadblock Wednesday as Republicans failed to find a path forward on an amendment prohibiting additional state takeovers of troubled school districts. The

House Education & Career Readiness Committee, following about an hour's worth of caucus time, already had accepted a dozen amendments to the measure ([SB 216](#)) when [Rep. Kent Smith](#) (D-Euclid) offered language establishing a moratorium on the creation of new academic distress commissions. The lawmaker and [Rep. Teresa Fedor](#) (D-Toledo) previously introduced legislation ([HB 626](#)) that would accomplish the same goal. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, May 4, 2018](#)) Rep. Smith said the commissions, which appoint CEOs to oversee districts that receive the equivalent of three overall F grades on state report cards, "limit democracy" by overriding local control. He said the state's next governor also might take a different path regarding school accountability, leading him to question the appropriateness of additional state takeovers. Chairman [Rep. Andy Brenner](#), who objected to the amendment, said it was his understanding the State Board of Education already plans to review the policy and potential alternatives to academic distress commissions. The two lawmakers also differed on how many districts are set to possibly join Lorain and Youngstown, which already have seen state takeovers. While Rep. Smith put the number at five, Rep. Brenner (R-Powell) said he believes only two or three could face takeovers within the next year.

"I would also request that if you are representing one of those districts, come up with an alternative plan for that district and introduce it as separate legislation," Rep. Brenner said. While Rep. Brenner recommended the committee reject the amendment, a motion to table it failed as [Rep. Jim Butler](#) (R-Oakwood), [Rep. Steve Hambley](#) (R-Brunswick), [Rep. Ron Hood](#) (R-Ashville) and [Rep. Nathan Manning](#) (R-N. Ridgeville) voted with the panel's Democratic members.

After the motion failed, Rep. Brenner called for a second break to caucus. When committee members returned, he announced the panel would adjourn for the day without taking action on the amendment and the bill. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Rep. Brenner said committee members need more time to discuss the amendment and whether there are alternative provisions regarding state takeovers that would be acceptable to Republicans. The chairman said he does see the bill as an important measure but added the cancellation of the week's House sessions reduced the urgency to quickly move forward with the legislation.

[Chair: Major Policy Changes Not In The Cards For Senate Education Committee \(Gongwer\)](#)

As the House Education & Career Readiness Committee debates state takeovers and report cards ahead of summer recess, the leader of the Senate Education Committee has plans to avoid big, controversial topics in the near future.

Chairwoman [Sen. Peggy Lehner](#) (R-Kettering) said in an interview Monday she's hoping to stop the "constant churn of new policies," which she described as a "destructive" force within the state's education system.

"We're going to have a new governor in six months," she said. "Given that fact, I don't think this is the time to be making any major changes."

Status Summary:

Bill	Status	Summary/Title	Last Action ▼
SB246	Engross	Revise student expulsion procedures	2018-06-05 To House Education and Career Readiness Committee
HB628	Intro	Regards qualifications for a resident educator license	2018-05-15 To House Education and Career Readiness Committee
HJR15	Intro	Require free universal preschool education	2018-05-15 To House Education and Career Readiness Committee
HB591	Intro	Revise report card rating system for schools	2018-05-15 To House Education and Career Readiness Committee
SB287	Intro	Develop health ed standards for K-12; limit GA approval	2018-04-11 To Senate Education Committee
SB216	Engross	Enact Public School Deregulation Act-primary/secondary ed-testing	2018-04-10 To House Education and Career Readiness Committee

<u>Bill</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Summary/Title</u>	<u>Last Action</u> ▼
<u>SB240</u>	Intro	Regards teacher evaluations	<u>2018-03-21</u> <u>To Senate Education Committee</u>
<u>HB512</u>	Intro	Restructure education agencies and their duties	<u>2018-02-20</u> <u>To House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee</u>
<u>HB176</u>	Intro	Address school assessments and curricula and teacher evaluations	<u>2017-05-01</u> <u>To House Education and Career Readiness Committee</u>
<u>HB181</u>	Intro	Address academic content standards and assessments	<u>2017-05-01</u> <u>To House Education and Career Readiness Committee</u>
<u>SB34</u> and <u>HB549</u>	Intro	Open schools after Labor Day	<u>2017-02-08</u> <u>To Senate Education Committee</u> <u>To House Education and Career Readiness Committee</u>