



GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GROUP, INC. RH RESOURCES

Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts *Legislative Report – April 2023*

State Operating Budget – F.Y. 2024-2025

The Ohio House passed the state operating budget for F.Y. 2024-2025 ([HB 33](#)) on Wednesday, April 26, with a vote of 77-19. The final plan was finalized just one day before in committee after adopting an [omnibus amendment](#) to the bill that included 186 different changes, corrections, and earmarks. The House version of the budget includes \$1.06 billion in tax cuts over the biennium, compared to Gov. Mike DeWine's proposed \$459 million. The plan also includes the collapse of the bottom two income tax brackets, which will result in \$500 million less revenues in FY24 and \$430 million less in FY25. In doing so, the House accounted for those cuts by freezing the indexing of the income tax by \$210 million in the first year and \$349 in the second year. House Finance Committee Chair Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) called the budget one "for every Ohioan." Chair Edwards highlighted several provisions including:

- \$500 million for the All Ohio Future Fund.
- Raising the eligibility for publicly funded childcare to 160% of the federal poverty level.
- Increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates to pay direct service professionals \$17 an hour in FY24 and \$18 in FY25.
- Implementation of the Fair School Funding Plan using 2022 inputs.
- Increasing the minimum salaries for teachers to \$40,000.
- Provides an additional \$15 million annually to the Ohio Association of Foodbanks.

The budget now officially heads to the Ohio Senate to begin formal hearings on the bill, although the Senate began informal committee hearings on the proposal mid-April. The Senate will continue to work on the bill over the next few weeks, and is expected to hold a full vote on their version of the budget by mid-June. Following the Senate's passage, HB 33 will head to a conference committee with both chambers to determine a final version of the bill. Once an agreement is made, the bill will head back to the governor for any final line-item vetoes and a signature before an effective date of July 1, 2023.

H2Ohio to Receive Funding Boost in Budget Proposal

Although House lawmakers made a host of changes to the two-year spending outline compared to the executive proposal initially introduced, a sizeable funding boost for the state's signature H2Ohio program remains intact. House members chose to keep an added \$137 million in water quality funding sought by Gov. Mike DeWine in his operating budget proposal, making the total amount nearly \$307 million over the next biennium for the fund. As detailed in budget bill, the proposed funding entails:

- \$53.05 million per year for ODNR – \$28 million (+112%) more per year than estimated FY23 spending.
- \$69 million per year for ODA – \$20 million (+40%) more than FY23.
- \$31.35 million per year for OEPA – \$21.4 million (+213.5%) more than FY23.
- \$132,000 for both years for the Lake Erie Commission.

Several witnesses testified before the House Finance Committee and Subcommittees in support of the H2Ohio funding throughout the House budget process. Proponents from agriculture and environmental groups praised the increase in funding during testimony, saying the H2Ohio initiative is, “one of the most comprehensive, science-based plans for clean water in state history.” The funding now has to survive any Senate changes made to the budget proposal before heading back to the governor’s desk for a signature.

New PUCO Member – Commissioner John Williams

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) officially welcomed its newest member to the team, Commissioner John Williams. Commissioner Williams was sworn in during the April 19th meeting to fill the vacancy left by former Commissioner Beth Trombold who resigned in February. Most recently, Mr. Williams, a political independent, was director of the agency's Transportation Department prior to applying for Ms. Trombold's seat. In his application for the job, Mr. Williams highlighted 20 years of experience in energy and transportation regulation, and another eight years of engineering experience in the natural gas and telecom industries, including six years employed by affiliates of Columbia Gas. Gov. Mike DeWine appointed Mr. Williams in February, but the new term did not formally begin until April. Mr. Williams has yet to be confirmed by the Senate.

Below is a list of legislation we are tracking on your behalf:

HB2 **LEGISLATIVE INTENT-STATE FUNDING** (CUTRONA A, UPCHURCH T) To declare the intent of the General Assembly to direct state funds to projects across the state for economic growth and community development.

Current Status: 2/16/2023 - Referred to Committee House Finance

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-2>

HB17 **STATE EMPLOYEE TIKTOK BAN** (SCHMIDT J, SWEARINGEN D) To prohibit state officials, employees, and contractors from using TikTok, WeChat, or any other application or service owned by an entity located in China.

Current Status: 3/29/2023 - House Technology and Innovation, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-17>



- HB23** **TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (EDWARDS J)** To make appropriations for programs related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.
Current Status: 3/29/2023 - Consideration of Conference Committee Report; House Accepts Conference Committee Report, Vote 93-2
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-23>
- HB31** **WORKERS' COMPENSATION BUDGET (EDWARDS J)** To amend Section 5 of S.B. 331 of the 133rd General Assembly to rename the Bureau of Workers' Compensation the Department of Workforce Insurance and Safety, to rename other entities who carry out workers' compensation functions in this state, to amend the version of section 3781.10 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on December 29, 2023, to continue the change on and after that date, and to make appropriations for the Department for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Department's programs.
Current Status: 3/29/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Finance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-31>
- HB32** **INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION BUDGET (EDWARDS J)** To make appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Commission programs.
Current Status: 3/29/2023 - **REPORTED OUT**, House Finance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-32>
- HB33** **FY24-25 OPERATING BUDGET (EDWARDS J)** To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.
Current Status: 3/30/2023 - House Finance, (Sixth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-33>
- HB41** **UTILITY BILLING TRANSPARENCY (SKINDELL M)** To enact "The Consumer Utility Billing Transparency Act" requiring the itemization of all riders, taxes, and other costs on certain utility bills.
Current Status: 2/16/2023 - Referred to Committee House Public Utilities
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-41>
- HB64** **EMINENT DOMAIN LAW CHANGES (KICK D, CREECH R)** To modify the law regarding eminent domain.
Current Status: 3/14/2023 - House Civil Justice, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-64>



- HB93** **LIMITATIONS ON RECOVERY, LIEN IMPOSITION** (JOHNSON M, MCCLAIN R) Regarding limitations on recovery and lien imposition by municipalities against property owners of non-owner-occupied properties for unpaid water, sewer, and disposal services rates and charges.
Current Status: 3/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-93>
- HB94** **RETIREMENT SERVICE CREDIT** (CLICK G, WILLIS B) Regarding transfers or purchases of certain retirement service credit.
Current Status: 3/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House Pensions
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-94>
- HB96** **INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE** (JARRELLS D, MOHAMED I) To increase the state minimum wage.
Current Status: 3/14/2023 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-96>
- HB101** **VILLAGE DISSOLUTION** (BIRD A, SCHMIDT J) To modify the law regarding village dissolution.
Current Status: 3/28/2023 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-101>
- HB105** **MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX RETURNS EXTENSIONS** (THOMAS J) To modify the law regarding extensions for filing municipal income tax returns and to limit penalties for late filings.
Current Status: 3/28/2023 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-105>
- HB106** **PAY STUB PROTECTION ACT** (JARRELLS D, LIPPS S) To enact the Pay Stub Protection Act requiring employers to provide earnings and deductions statements to each of the employer's employees.
Current Status: 3/22/2023 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-106>
- HB115** **EQUAL PAY ACT** (MIRANDA J, BRENT J) To address wage disparities in public and private employment and to name this act the Ohio Equal Pay Act.
Current Status: 3/22/2023 - Referred to Committee House Commerce and Labor
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-115>



- HB116** **TAXPAYER DEDUCTIONS (PETERSON B, CLAGGETT T)** To allow taxpayers to deduct in a single year the full bonus depreciation and enhanced expensing allowances the taxpayer deducts for federal income tax purposes.
Current Status: 3/28/2023 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-116>
- HB121** **REMOTE WORKERS - MODIFIED MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX (ROBB BLASDEL M, MATHEWS A)** To allow businesses with remote workers to use a modified municipal income tax apportionment formula.
Current Status: 3/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-121>
- HB126** **TAX EXEMPTION - MILITARY PAY (MATHEWS A, MILLER A)** To expand a municipal income tax exemption for military pay.
Current Status: 3/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-126>
- HB134** **REQUIRE NOTICE TO LIENHOLDERS (DELL'AQUILA R, GALONSKI T)** To require notice to lienholders in tax certificate sales.
Current Status: 3/28/2023 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HB-134>
- HCR4** **TRAINS - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (BIRD A, PLUMMER P)** To urge the United States Congress to pass legislation requiring railroad companies and the U.S. Department of Transportation to inform local and state government officials when trains carrying potentially hazardous materials travel through their respective jurisdictions.
Current Status: 3/14/2023 - House Government Oversight, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HCR-4>
- HJR1** **REQUIRE 60 PERCENT VOTE-CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (STEWART B)** Proposing to amend Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require a vote of at least 60% of the electors to approve any constitutional amendment and to modify the procedures for an initiative petition proposing a constitutional amendment.
Current Status: 3/22/2023 - House Constitutional Resolutions, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HJR-1>



- HR33 TRAINS - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** (ROBB BLASDEL M, MCNALLY L) To urge the United States Congress to pass legislation requiring railroad companies to inform local and state government officials when trains carrying potentially hazardous materials travel through their respective jurisdictions.
Current Status: 3/23/2023 - **ADOPTED BY HOUSE**; Amended on Floor, Resolution Vote 94-1
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-HR-33>
- SB3 COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM** (SCHURING K) To create the Ohio Community Revitalization Program, authorizing nonrefundable income tax credits for undertaking community projects.
Current Status: 1/17/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways and Means
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-3>
- SB10 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE CHANGES** (BLESSING III L) To amend section 5701.11 of the Revised Code and to amend Sections 225.12, 265.10, 265.20, and 701.10 of H.B. 45 of the 134th General Assembly to expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 17, 2022, into Ohio law, to make changes to the Emergency Rental Assistance program, to revise an existing earmark, to modify the requirements for a temporary arts economic relief grant program, and to declare an emergency.
Current Status: 3/15/2023 - **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**; eff. immediately
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-10>
- SB23 PURCHASING AUTHORITY-CONSTRUCTION SERVICES** (LANG G) To expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.
Current Status: 3/8/2023 - Senate Government Oversight, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-23>
- SB47 LEAVE USE PROHIBITION-UNION ACTIVITIES** (HUFFMAN S) To prohibit a public employer from providing paid leave or compensation for a public employee to engage in certain union activities.
Current Status: 2/8/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-47>
- SB85 SEWER DISCOUNTED RATE ELIGIBILITY** (INGRAM C) To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges.
Current Status: 3/21/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Local Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-85>



- SB87** **ELECTIONS-STATE LEGAL HOLIDAY (SMITH K)** To establish the day of each general election as a legal holiday for which government employees receive paid leave.
Current Status: 3/23/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate General Government
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-87>
- SB88** **AGGRAVATED MENACING EXPANSION-UTILITIES (SMITH K, CIRINO J)** To expand the offense of aggravated menacing to prohibit threatening a utility worker, cable operator worker, or broadband worker with intent to obstruct the operation of a utility.
Current Status: 3/23/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Judiciary
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-88>
- SB91** **PUBLIC FUNDS ABUSE, WASTE (SCHAFFER T)** Regarding fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds.
Current Status: 3/23/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Government Oversight
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-91>
- SB94** **STATE TREASURER, JUDICIAL PRACTICES (BRENNER A, LANDIS A)** Regarding the Treasurer of State, recorded instruments, powers of attorney, judgment liens, mortgage subrogation, law enforcement towing laws, and state stock banks, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 3/29/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Financial Institutions and Technology
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-94>
- SB96** **LABOR LAW NOTICES-POSTING (LANG G, WILSON S)** To allow employers to post certain labor law notices on the internet.
Current Status: 3/29/2023 - Referred to Committee Senate Workforce and Higher Education
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SB-96>
- SJR2** **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE-60 PERCENT REQUIREMENT (MCCOLLEY R, GAVARONE T)** Proposing to amend Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require a vote of at least 60% of the electors to approve any constitutional amendment.
Current Status: 3/29/2023 - Senate General Government, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA135-SJR-2>

