

# Representative Hambley's Highlights of the 133rd General Assembly

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69th District Representative Steve Hambley

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In the last half of 2019, members of the 133rd General Assembly have moved quickly to address many of the needs and concerns of our constituents. Bills increasing income tax deductions for teachers, exempting certain products from sales taxes, protecting our elections and businesses from Cyber attacks, improving the safety of amusement rides, as well as establishing an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Task Force found their way to the Governor's desk and were signed into law. Many other bills and legislative initiatives are in mid-process, as we mark the "Half-time" for the General Assembly, awaiting further action in the Ohio Senate.

A number of the bills, originated from constituents of Medina County bringing their concerns to me, Representative Darrell Kick, or Senate President Larry Obhof which are likewise pending in the Ohio Senate or in a House Committee. As always, if you have any interest or concerns with any of these, please feel free to contact my office.

God Bless You All, Merry Christmas and Have a Happy New Year!

*Steve Hambley*

## SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

### Senate Bill 24 (Wilson, Yuko) Establishes the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Task Force.

- Establishes within Ohio Department of Aging the Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias Task Force to make findings and recommendations on topics of concern pertaining to these conditions.
- Identify trends in Ohio's Alzheimer's disease and related dementias populations and service needs. Review existing resources, services, and capacity relating to the care of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.
- Provide recommendations for improving government programs, policies and services that assist individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias and their families.

### Senate Bill 26 (Kunze) Various changes to state income tax and sales tax deductions.

- State Income tax changes: Allows teachers to claim an income tax deduction of up to \$250 for amounts paid out-of-pocket for professional development and classroom supplies. To qualify, a public or private school teacher must be licensed in Ohio and be eligible for the federal deduction. SB 26 also repeals a provision that makes income earned from the practice of law ineligible for the business income deduction and 3% flat tax rate.
- Sales and use tax changes: Exempts from sales and use tax the sale of feminine hygiene products associated with menstruation (so-called "Pink Tax"); Exempts from sales and use tax the sale of prescription diapers or incontinence pads covered by Medicaid.

### House Bill 189 (Blessing, Patterson) Revises laws governing amusement ride operation and safety.

- Requires Department of Agriculture to enhance the existing amusement ride classification system so that those rides that need more comprehensive inspection and testing in addition to regular state inspections are identified.
- Requires an amusement ride owner to take photographs of major ride repairs, prepare a written description of each major repair, and include the photographs and the description in the repair record.
- Authorizes an inspector to request a repair record at any time and requires the owner to make the record available upon the request.

### Senate Bill 52 (Gavarone) Creates the Ohio Cyber Reserve within the Ohio Adjutant General's Department and improve election information integrity and security.

- Requires Governor to organize & maintain state civilian cyber security reserve forces (Ohio Cyber Reserve) to protect government, critical infrastructure, businesses, & citizens from cyber attacks.
- Requires the Secretary of State to appoint a chief information security officer to advise the Secretary on matters of information security.
- Requires county boards of elections to audit the official results of every general election and of every primary election held in even-numbered years. Appropriates \$75,000 for each of FYs 2020 and 2021 to the Secretary to reimburse local boards of election for costs incurred to conduct the audit.



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## PASSED BY HOUSE

### House Bill 164 (Ginter) Regards student religious expression (11/14/2019)

- Requires public schools to give students who wish to meet for the purpose of religious expression the same access to school facilities given to secular student groups, without regard to the content of the expression. Removes a current provision that permits a school district to limit the exercise or expression of religion to lunch periods or other noninstructional time periods.
- Assignment grades and scores shall be calculated using ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance, including any legitimate pedagogical concerns, and shall not penalize or reward a student based on the religious content of a student's work.

### House Bill 16 (Perales) Grant state college residency status to military and dependents (11/13/2019)

- Qualifies active duty military service members, and their spouses and dependents, for in-state tuition at state institutions of higher education.

### House Bill 65 (Carfagna) Regards parental notice of risks to children receiving child care (10/23/2019)

- Requires a child care provider licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to notify parents if the Department determines that an act or omission of the provider constitutes a serious risk noncompliance.

### HB 203 (Lipps) Improves Patient Access to Mobile Dental Facilities (11/6/2019)

- Will make the services provided by Mobile Dental Facilities (MDF's) more effective in order to allow greater access to proper oral health care. Requires the operator of a mobile dental facility to provide certain information to patients receiving services.
- Requires the operator of a mobile dental facility to inform the State Dental Board when the operator has a change of address or ceases to operate a facility.

## Noteworthy Comments on House Bill 6

### Speaker Larry Householder Issues

#### Statement On House Bill 6 (October 21, 2019)

"I am pleased that House Bill 6 will go into effect at midnight tonight and am confident it will produce positive results for Ohio.

First, HB 6 will save the operation of two Ohio nuclear power plants that produce 15 percent of Ohio's power, employ thousands of Ohio workers and generate 90 percent of all carbon-free electricity generated in Ohio.

House Bill 6 will also benefit Ohio's solar power industry. These solar projects that will be made possible by HB 6 will generate far more solar power than has been produced in all the years since the failed 'RPS' bill passed in 2008.

Ohio electric customers will save money because of HB 6, which will trigger a net reduction in charges on residential and business electric bills.

Despite the claims of a well-coordinated environmental lobby, the RPS approach – though well-intended – has not worked for Ohio as promised. To a great extent, utilities have diverted money from Ohio customers to renewable projects in other states, and expensive renewable energy credits paid by our businesses have gone to wind producers in Texas instead of making Ohio investments. Ohio needs to develop a better approach to achieve results in our state with respect to renewable energy.

We should be focused on energy policy that works for Ohio and Ohioans. That's what HB 6 begins to do.

**"When else do you get the opportunity save thousands of jobs, to cut rates to ratepayers by a billion dollars, and in the final version of the bill to actually preserve Green Energy standards for the next six years, and that combination to me sounds like a no brainer," Senate President Larry Obhof said.**

*Lake County Gazette Newspapers, "Perry community celebrates passage of HB 6 with officials." 12 Aug 2019*

## OTHER PENDING LEGISLATION

### Sponsor: Sub HB 24 (Hambley, Kick) Updates Humane Society Laws.

- Updates current humane society practices, ensure public accountability for these organizations and their agents, specifies that humane society agents are subject to the criminal statute on bribery, provides flexibility to County Commissioners for payment of services by humane agents and prosecution. Status: Passed House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee (14-0) passed Ohio House ( Pending in House Rules and Reference Committee (92-0) on 10/30/19; pending hearings in Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.