Governor DeWine Press Briefing
3/23/2020

- There are currently 442 confirmed cases in Ohio in 46 counties. There have been 6 confirmed deaths.
- Stay At Home Order (attached) goes into effect at 11:59 PM tonight
  - Reiterated that essential businesses that are operating are **required** to operate under the outlined provisions
- Daycare
  - Daycare spots will go to priority workers 1st
  - List of all daycare centers that have received licenses can be found at Jfs.ohio.gov/cdc
- State Government Savings
  - Ordering immediate hiring freeze in state government with exception to those fighting coronavirus
  - Freeze on new contract services in State of Ohio government
  - Instructed all cabinet directors to find cuts of up to 20 percent in their budget
  - Pulled back requests from state controlling board to reduce spending

Ohio General Assembly Update

**Gongwer: House, Senate Still Finalizing Plans Prior To Sessions**

House and Senate leaders on Monday were still hammering out details for this week, when both chambers are expected to act on a coronavirus-related measures, capital reappropriations and a potential short-term fix for school voucher eligibility.

In the House, leaders over the weekend circulated some suggestions for possible inclusion into a COVID-19 bill. Members were still discussing those policy issues via conference calls.

That omnibus measure is expected to include language aligning Ohio's tax filing day with the new July 15 federal deadline, establishing a primary election deadline and revising open meeting requirements in light of the ongoing emergency.

Among the points of debate is apparently whether the state should adopt the election plan pushed by Secretary of State Frank LaRose, which entails an in-person voting option for June 2, or go with a vote-by-mail deadline of April 28.

Other items could also be on the agenda for legislative action, according to a House source, although the situation remains fluid.

Those potential items include possibly separate measures for capital reappropriations and the EdChoice Scholarship Program, eligibility for which is set to dramatically expand without action prior to April 1. Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said over the weekend he is in agreement on scrapping mandated tests for primary and secondary education students, who are potentially done for the year given the spate of government-ordered closures.
A process matter of debate is whether to accomplish everything in one measure or more.

Senate members, meanwhile, have been notified to remain on notice for a voting session anytime this week. Members were told they will receive three hours' notice and could possibly convene Monday, although later in the week is more likely, according to officials familiar with the discussions.

Whatever day is chosen for action by either chamber is likely to be the only time they will meet this week. Officials are discussing how to conduct the sessions with an eye toward limiting unnecessary contact per health agency guidelines, and Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) has indicated a preference for limiting exposure opportunities for staff and members as much as possible.

Senate Democrats on Monday were participating in a caucus conference call to discuss next steps. Both chambers could suspend rules to forgo the committee process in order to act on the emergency legislation.

- Senate Session: Wednesday, March 25 at 1:30 PM
- House Rules: Tuesday, March 24 at 10:00 AM
- House Session: March 24, 25, 26, 31 and April 1 and 2 all at 1:00 PM