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Legislative Update

Below is a list of legislation the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is tracking. We encourage you to become familiar with these proposals, as they are sure to affect Ohio's Latino community. To read a complete list of tracked legislation, [click here](#).

Education and Workforce Development

[Senate Bill 148](#) - Introduced by Senators Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) and Tom Sawyer (D-Akron), SB 148 aims to strengthen oversight and accountability of charter schools. SB 148 was featured in an April Legislative Update, and since then has received four hearings in the Senate Education Committee. While the bill received support from charter school managers at a May 6 hearing, superintendents of dropout recovery schools expressed concerns at the May 20 hearing, claiming the charter school overhaul proposals would threaten the viability of their operations. As of the May 27, Sen. Lehner was working to combine SB 148 with HB 2, which also addresses charter school oversight. HB 2, which has already passed the House, will become the vehicle moving forward for charter school regulations. Lehner said in an interview that she expects the measure to advance before summer recess.

Related Articles:

Columbus Dispatch -- [Senate's charter-school bill praised by past critic
of Ohio laws](#)

Columbus Dispatch -- [Ohio charter-school group calls for sponsor](#)

Cleveland Plain Dealer
[ResponsibleOhio registering voters, claims more than 550,000 signatures collected for marijuana amendment](#)

Associated Press
[House committee approves Ohio police training changes](#)

Columbus Dispatch
[Some Obamacare insurers boosting rates for Ohioans](#)

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[State to shut charter schools in Cleveland, Canton](#)

U.S. Senate Attempts to Overhaul No Child Left Behind Act

Two months ago the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions unanimously approved a measure to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Originally passed as part of President Johnson's "War on Poverty" campaign in 1965, and reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act in 2002, ESEA holds a key

[exclusions from proposed rules](#)

Business, Commerce and Labor

[House Bill 203](#) - Introduced by Rep. Michael Stinziano (D-Columbus), HB 203 establishes the startup Ohio initiative, which allows universities to partner with businesses to create a startup zone in the surrounding community. The initiative aims to create jobs, promote entrepreneurship, attract private investment, and add educational enrichment opportunities for students. The bill emphasizes that partnerships between universities and businesses should aim to improve the social and economic welfare of the neighborhood. This bill has been referred to the Economic & Workforce Development committee.

Health and Safety

[House Bill 249](#) - Introduced by Reps. Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) and Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), HB 249, also known as the "Good Samaritan" bill, would protect from prosecution individuals seeking emergency medical assistance due to a drug overdose. Drug dealers could still be prosecuted under the proposal. Overdose rates in Ohio have continued to soar over the past decade, with more than 2,000 drug overdose deaths in 2013 alone. HB 249 is a strongly bipartisan bill, with six Republican cosponsors and five Democratic cosponsors signing on to the measure. Similar legislation failed to pass in the previous General Assembly session. HB 249 has been referred to the Judiciary Committee where it awaits a hearing.

Related Articles:

Columbus Dispatch -- [Lawmakers continue crackdown attempts on drug abuse](#)

Cincinnati Enquirer -- [Ohio reconsiders Good Samaritan heroin law](#)

role in providing support to disadvantaged students, many of whom are students of color and/or English language learners...

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- Andrea Lewis, OCHLA



Upcoming Events:

Interpreter Training,
Columbus - June 13

Price Hill Pacer 5k/10k,
Cincinnati - June 13

Dayton Hispanic Festival
- June 14

Business Start-Up Class,
Fairborn - June 17

2015 Fiesta of Hope,
Cleveland - June 19

2015 Champions of
Children's Report - June
24

[Click here to view a](#)

Associated Press -- [New Ohio bill aims to reduce opiate overdoses](#)

Immigration, Justice and Civil Rights

[Senate Bill 162](#) -- Introduced by Senators Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland), SB 162 would prohibit the death penalty for seriously mentally ill individuals convicted of aggravated murder. The bill would also allow inmates on death row to seek resentencing if they can prove they have a serious mental illness. The bill comes in response to recommendations made by an Ohio Supreme Court task force on the death penalty in 2014. Ohio currently prohibits the execution of mentally disabled people, but not mentally ill people. This bill has bipartisan support, with six Republican cosponsors and six Democrat cosponsors. It has been referred to the Criminal Justice committee.

Related Articles:

Columbus Dispatch -- [Lawmakers want to exclude mentally ill from death penalty](#)

Cleveland Plain Dealer -- [Mentally ill murderers would avoid death penalty under new Ohio Senate bill](#)

Cleveland Plain Dealer -- [Death penalty should not apply to the seriously mentally ill: editorial](#)

[complete list of events.](#)

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