

EEA Legislative Report February 2024

Education Saving Accounts: [Ohio House Bill 339](#) would establish public funding for non-chartered (read completely unregulated) schools, most of which are religious. This backpack bill would expand Ohio's already egregious funding of non-public schools. It is sponsored by Republican Representative (& pastor) Gary Click, notorious for his [successful vocal and legislative attacks on trans children](#).

HB387: This [recently introduced bill](#) would eliminate the Ohio law permitting the state takeover of so-called "distressed" districts. The takeovers have long been criticized as ineffective.

Voucher Reality: In case you missed it, [ProPublica dropped a story](#) blowing up Ohio's voucher expansion for what it is, a blatant handout to wealthy kids who were already attending private schools. The state of Ohio is subsidizing religious education and private schools by funneling public money to families who may not need it, which in turn allows those schools to decrease financial aid and increase tuition. This funding comes at the expense of public education.

Republicans Override DeWine's Veto of HB68 placing a [ban on gender-affirming medical care](#) for minors & banning transgender athletes from participation in women's sports. Among advocates of kids, the bill is viewed as an attack on the availability of health care for children. The ACLU is [preparing a lawsuit](#) against the bill.

Teaching Free Market Capitalism: The General Assembly has passed Senate Bill 17, [requiring that free market capitalism be taught](#) as a component of Ohio's Financial Literacy standards. Governor DeWine is set to sign the bill that has been criticized as reductive and overly simplistic. No word yet on whether the lessons should involve capitalism's role (or the Governor's potential involvement) in the First Energy bribery scandal.



Governor DeWine with former House Speaker Larry Householder, currently serving a 20 year sentence for bribery in the \$60 million First Energy scandal.