

# Amended Substitute House Bill 197

## Senate Floor (Omnibus Amendment) Summary

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1. Amends emergency clause already in the bill and makes applicable to every provision of the bill. In order to continue essential operations of state government, maintain the continuity of the state tax code and to respond to the declared pandemic and global health emergency related to COVID-19
2. Prohibits public water disconnections during the pandemic since they are not governed by PUCO non disconnect orders (*see note*)
3. Suspends the staff to child ratio requirements and maximum group sizes at child-care centers (*see note*)
4. Exempts schools and other entities from food processing requirements to allow for continued student meal delivery (*see note*)
5. Extends the validity of licenses issued by state agencies and political subdivisions and provides a 90-day window for renewal. Still allows for disciplinary actions during this time (*see note*)
6. Permits state boards & commissions, local & county governments, and higher education boards to operate meetings electronically so long as the public is aware and can participate electronically (*see note*)
7. Allows recently retired state employees to be rehired. This is limited to the following agencies: DRC, DYS, MHA, DVS and DDD (*see note*)
8. \$20M (non-GRF) fund shift for DAS operation of state agency capital facility projects. Money to be repaid after upcoming bond sale.
9. Gives the Director of Medicaid additional flexibility to support the health care workforce and providers during this time of crisis. Additional program flexibility is necessary to avoid a significant workforce shortage and patient provider access shortages at the end of the COVID-19 emergency. Drafted for future cases up to 6 months. Temporary provision expires December 1, 2020.
10. Permits school districts, STEM schools, and community schools other than e-schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to use distance learning to make up for any missed days or hours of instruction caused by the ordered closure of Ohio schools
11. Allows licensed special education providers to utilize tele-health and electronic communication methods to serve students who are receiving special education services through their school district or through the Autism Scholarship or Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarships (*see note*)
12. Waives state testing and report cards for the 2019-2020 school year & creates a safe harbor from sanctions for schools; permits seniors to graduate if school determines on track to do so prior to the COVID-19 emergency; local school determine promotion for Third-Grade Reading Guarantee; makes evaluations permissive and prohibits the use of value-added data; excludes academic performance data from

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being used in sponsor ratings this year; allows Chancellor and State Supt to waive College Credit Plus timelines/requirements during the COVID-19 emergency

- 13.** Limits the number of Ed Choice designated school buildings for the 2020-21 school year to those buildings previously eligible in the 2019-20 school year; allows siblings of current scholarship recipients, incoming Kindergarten students, and rising high school students to receive a performance-based scholarship for the 2020-21 school year if the building they attend or would attend meets these criteria
- 14.** Allows JFS to continue making payments to publicly funded child care providers during the emergency – all this is done within existing appropriations - and is done to maintain the system so it may quickly return to full operation
- 15.** Codifies the governor’s executive order relative to Unemployment Compensation.  
*(see note)*
  - a. Waives first week waiting period
  - b. Changes eligibility to include COVID-19 related unemployment situations
  - c. Waives work search requirement
- 16.** Makes several changes, all due to Feds moving the tax filing deadline from April 15<sup>th</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Extends date for estimated payments
  - b. Waives interest payments (penalties already able to be waived)
  - c. Not withstands the “20-day rule” under municipal income tax for employees working from home during the health emergency plus 30 days
  - d. Extends due date of the state-administered municipal net profit tax
- 17.** Temporary law that tolls statute of limitations for criminal & civil cases and administrative acts that would expire between March 9<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- 18.** Allows public retirement system boards to delay board member elections until December 1, 2020. This applies to OPERS, OP&F, STRS, SERS, OSHP
- 19.** Provides an extra 45 days for a county central committee to fill a vacancy. Current law is 45 days. This is temp law change and not permanent law
- 20.** Allows the Auditor of State to waive certain requirements regarding procedure audits if the audit period overlaps this health emergency
- 21.** Delays the requirement that child care centers participate in Step Up to Quality in order to receive public funding from July 1, 2020 to September 1, 2020
- 22.** Allows Ohio Public Works Commission, Ohio Water Development Authority and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to waive penalties and fees from outstanding loans and provides for additional flexibilities. Temporary provision expires December 1, 2020.

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- 23.** Specifies that all county offices required to transfer property and process titles that aren't made available online must remain open. Suspends a provision of law regarding liability of a county recorder for failure to perform certain duties
- 24.** Allows a transfer (subject to controlling board) from the BSF in order to balance the FY 20 books. Additionally, requires at least 2 votes from each chamber to approve such a request
- 25.** Grants certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), under certain conditions, the authority to perform additional duties or services related to anesthesia care, including ordering and administering drugs and IV fluids, ordering diagnostic tests and directing nurses to administer drugs. This is a permanent law change
- 26.** Allows for recent nursing graduates to obtain a temporary license to practice prior to passing the licensure examination. Temporary licenses expire either 90 days after the duration of the COVID-19 emergency or 90 days after December 1, 2020, whichever comes sooner.
- 27.** Extends absentee voting by mail for the March 17, 2020 primary election to April 28, 2020, authorizes \$7.0M (from Emergency purposes fund) to pay associated costs
- 28.** Adds a severability clause for the provisions of the bill

\*\*\* Several items above contain a provision sun-setting the amendment to the earlier of Dec. 1, 2020 or the rescission of the Governor's March 9<sup>th</sup> Executive order and are noted accordingly with **(see note)**