OHIO COMMON GROUND RESEARCH CENTER

OCG Legislative Tracker

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Ohio Common Ground Legislative Tracker

Issue Index #5: Economic Opportunity and Good Jobs

Selected Enacted and Pending Economic-Opportunity and Good-Jobs Legislation in the 136th Ohio General Assembly

Status current through July 20, 2026

Prepared by the Ohio Common Ground Research Center

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Contents

Executive Summary

This report discusses a selected set of 12 bills across 10 legislative proposals introduced in the 136th Ohio General Assembly addressing economic opportunity and good jobs (Senate Bill 183 and House Bill 246 are companion measures addressing the same statutory change and are discussed together, as are Senate Bill 362 and House Bill 292). Two proposals were enacted as of July 20, 2026: **House Bill 246** (E-Verify Workforce Integrity Act, effective March 20, 2026) and **House Bill 292** (Ohio Defense and Space Advisory Commission and Defense and Aerospace Industries Expansion Program; signed by the Governor July 7, 2026, with its appropriation effective immediately and its remaining provisions effective October 6, 2026). A third proposal, **Senate Bill 328** (Education and Workforce Return on Investment Initiative), passed the Senate on May 20, 2026, and had received two House Education Committee hearings as of the status date, without a House committee vote. The remaining seven proposals had not passed either chamber, and several had no committee hearing identified as of the status date.

This report organizes that record into five categories: workforce development, training, and credentialing; education-workforce alignment and career pathways; job creation, business investment, and site-readiness incentives; wages, labor standards, and employment barriers; and talent retention and economic mobility tools. No bill identified in this report's research had a mechanism specifically targeting talent retention or reducing out-migration of working-age Ohioans. This is a preliminary finding, not a conclusion that no such legislation exists, and an expanded search is listed as a priority in Future Research.

As in other reports in this series, this report classifies each bill by its principal legal mechanism — what the bill's operative text actually requires, prohibits, authorizes, or creates — separately from the bill's title or sponsor framing. The most notable instance in this report: Senate Bill 462, titled the "Joining-Opportunities Business and Schools (JOBS) Act," identifies its education-employer partnership by name but not its financial mechanism, which is a tax credit administered through the Commercial Activity Tax.

This report does not evaluate whether any bill tracked here would, if enacted, be sufficient or appropriate to address the concerns Ohioans report about job access, wages, or economic mobility. It documents what each bill's text does, how far each has advanced, and where a bill's title or public framing diverges from its operative provisions. This is a selected set of bills meeting this report's inclusion criteria, not an exhaustive census of every measure touching Ohio's economy; see Limitations.

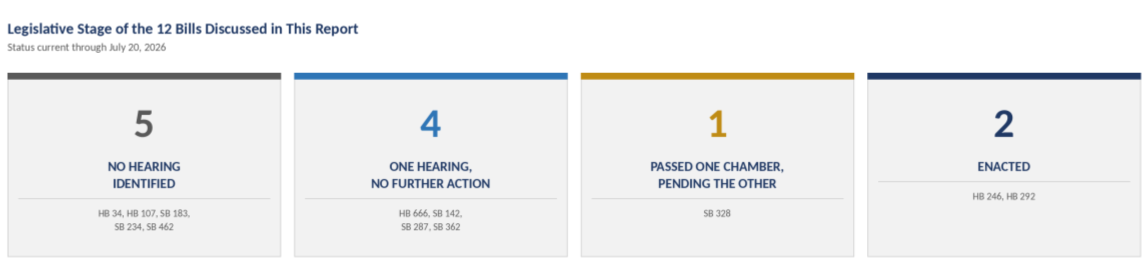
Key Findings

- **Two bills in this report's scope were enacted** as of July 20, 2026: House Bill 246 (E-Verify requirements for specified nonresidential construction employers, effective March 20, 2026) and House Bill 292 (Ohio Defense and Space Advisory Commission and Defense and Aerospace Industries Expansion Program, signed July 7, 2026). House Bill 246 passed both chambers unanimously (92–0 House, 33–0 Senate). House Bill 292 passed the Senate unanimously (33–0) but not the House, which passed it 82–10 and later concurred in Senate amendments 86–7.

- **Both enactments followed a broadly similar companion-bill pattern:** a House-originated bill became the vehicle that passed, while a related Senate-originated bill (Senate Bill 183, addressing the same statutory change as House Bill 246; Senate Bill 362, addressing the same general subject as House Bill 292) did not advance as far — Senate Bill 183 had no hearing identified, and Senate Bill 362 received one hearing.
- **Senate Bill 328** is the furthest-advanced bill not yet enacted. It passed the Senate on May 20, 2026, following six Senate Education Committee hearings, and had received two House Education Committee hearings (June 2 and June 8, 2026) as of the status date, without a House committee vote.
- **Two competing, non-identical minimum-wage bills** are pending: Senate Bill 234 (Sens. Smith and Craig) would raise the wage floor to $12/hour in 2026, reaching $15/hour by 2029; House Bill 34 (Reps. Jarrells and Mohamed) would raise it to $11/hour in 2026, reaching $15/hour a year later, in 2030. Neither bill has had a committee hearing identified as of the status date.
- **Senate Bill 462's short title describes its participants but not its mechanism.** The "Joining-Opportunities Business and Schools (JOBS) Act" does describe the education-employer partnership at the center of the bill; what the title does not reveal is that the partnership's operative incentive is a Commercial Activity Tax credit, not a direct hiring or job-creation mandate.
- **No bill identified in this report's research targets talent retention** or out-migration of working-age Ohioans specifically, though Senate Bill 328 and House Bill 666 have workforce-pipeline or career-pathway effects that may bear on retention indirectly. This is a preliminary finding, pending the expanded keyword search described in Future Research, and should not be read as a conclusion that no such legislation exists.
- **Committee hearings for three bills** (Senate Bill 142, Senate Bill 287, House Bill 666) are not reflected on those bills' official Status tab, which logs only introduction, referral, reporting, and passage actions, not hearings. This report confirmed each bill's hearing date directly against its official Committee Activity page: Senate Bill 142 (September 30, 2025), Senate Bill 287 (October 28, 2025), and House Bill 666 (May 12, 2026).

Legislative Stage at a Glance

The 12 bills discussed in this report span the full range of the legislative process, from bills with no recorded committee hearing to two enactments.



Why This Report Matters

Access to better-paying jobs, workforce training, and economic mobility shape whether young Ohioans build their futures in-state or leave. Wage levels, job-creation incentives, and the pipeline connecting Ohio's schools and colleges to Ohio employers are all subjects of active legislation in the 136th General Assembly, at very different stages of the legislative process, from unanimous enactment to bills that have not yet had a first hearing. This report documents that record so that Ohioans can see, in one place, what has actually passed, what remains pending, and what each bill's text does — as distinct from what its title or sponsor framing suggests.

Data and Methodology

Bill descriptions and statuses are drawn from the Ohio General Assembly's official legislative tracking system (legislature.ohio.gov), Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC) bill analyses and fiscal notes, the operative bill text, the Ohio Revised Code, sponsor and cosponsor testimony, proponent/opponent/interested-party testimony submitted to committee, vote records, and each bill's official Status and Committee Activity pages.

A bill is included in this report when at least one operative provision does one of the following: appropriates money specifically for workforce training or job creation; creates or modifies an employment standard, employment-eligibility requirement, or employment barrier; requires career exploration, planning, or workforce-outcome reporting; creates a tax expenditure conditioned on workforce or education-employer participation; or creates a state entity or program whose express statutory purpose includes employment, skills, commercialization, or job growth. The bill must also have been introduced in the 136th General Assembly (January 2025 through the status date). This report's scope excludes federal legislation, pure tax policy without a job-specific mechanism, general business regulation without a workforce tie, and broadband/infrastructure legislation without an explicit jobs component, all by OCG editorial scope decision. Readers interested in JobsOhio governance and oversight should consult OCG's companion Legislative Tracker, Issue Index #4 (Government Responsiveness & Accountability), which addresses House Bill 779, Senate Bill 397, and Senate Bill 420.

Each bill is classified by its principal legal mechanism, drawn from its operative text and the LSC bill analysis, independent of the bill's title or sponsor-provided framing. Where a bill's title or public description differs materially from its operative mechanism, this report states both and cites the relevant Revised Code section.

For enacted measures, descriptions are based on the enrolled text and the LSC's final bill analysis and fiscal note. For pending measures with a reported or passed substitute version, that substitute version — not the introduced version — controls the description; this report's Senate Bill 328 and House Bill 292 descriptions, for example, are drawn from their as-passed and enrolled text, respectively, not their introduced versions. For pending measures without a substitute version, the introduced version controls.

Status date: July 20, 2026.

Definitions

- **Good job.** This report does not impose a wage, benefit, or quality threshold to define this term. It uses "good jobs," as it appears in this Issue Index's title, to encompass legislation affecting compensation, employment stability, workforce credentials, career advancement, and access to employment. A bill's inclusion in this report does not mean OCG has determined that the jobs it affects meet any particular quality standard.
- **Principal legal mechanism.** What a bill's operative statutory text actually requires, prohibits, authorizes, or creates, as distinct from its title, name, or the framing offered in sponsor statements or press coverage.
- **Classification.** This report's short label for each bill's principal mechanism (for example, "Wage-floor increase," "Career-exploration and planning mandates," "New commission; grant program"), used to compare bills within and across categories.
- **Companion bill.** A bill introduced in the opposite chamber that would make the same or a related statutory change as another bill in this report. This report discusses companion bills together and states which, if either, became the vehicle that advanced further.
- **Career pathway program.** A sequenced set of coursework, credentialing, or work-based learning requirements, established or funded by statute, intended to connect students or workers to a specific occupation or industry sector.
- **Site-readiness / megaproject incentive.** A tax credit, grant, or infrastructure-funding mechanism conditioned on a qualifying capital investment or job-creation threshold by a specific business or site. This report's Job Creation, Business Investment & Site-Readiness Incentives category is named for this and related mechanisms; House Bill 292's grant program is sector-specific (defense and aerospace) rather than site-specific, and is classified separately as a grant program rather than as a site-readiness incentive.
- **Talent retention.** Legislative mechanisms whose stated or operative purpose is to reduce out-migration of working-age Ohioans or attract working-age residents from other states, as distinct from general economic-development or business-incentive legislation without a population/workforce-retention mechanism. This report identified no bill with this as its principal mechanism; see Key Findings and Future Research.
- **No hearing identified.** This report uses this phrase, rather than an unqualified statement that no hearing occurred, to mean that no committee hearing was found on a bill's official Committee Activity page or posted committee testimony as of the status date. A hearing may have occurred without being reflected in these sources by the status date.
- **Interested-party testimony.** Testimony submitted to an Ohio legislative committee that is neither in support of ("proponent") nor opposition to ("opponent") a bill, typically raising specific concerns, requesting amendments, or providing technical context.

Legislative Record: Workforce Development, Training & Credentialing

Two bills in the 136th General Assembly create or expand state-funded workforce training programs. Neither has been enacted as of the status date.

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
HB 107	Enacts the Platinum Providers Act, creating two distinct programs under the state's existing Individual Microcredential Assistance Program (IMAP): Institutional Platinum Provider Program (IPPP) — open only to state institutions of higher education already approved to participate in IMAP. Raises the combined annual advance-payment-and-reimbursement cap for a participating state institution from $500,000 to $1 million. Advance payments are performance-tied: an institution may draw up to 20% of its sought IMAP reimbursement per payment, with subsequent payments conditioned on at least 50% of a training cohort earning a microcredential (a shortfall requires a partial refund before the next payment). Platinum Provider Program (PPP) — open to training providers other than state institutions (Ohio technical centers, private businesses or institutions offering microcredential training). The PPP's combined advance-payment-and-reimbursement cap remains $500,000 per	Rep. Williams (as introduced)	Microcredential funding expansion (two programs, one cap raised)	Introduced 2/18/2025 Referred to House Workforce and Higher Education 2/26/2025 No hearing identified

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
	fiscal year; the bill does not raise this cap.			
SB 287	Creates the Farming and Workforce Development Program, providing training to Ohio residents "between sixteen years of age and thirty-five years of age" (the bill's own phrasing) to prepare them for seasonal crop-farming employment. Ohio State University Extension and Central State University Extension county offices administer the application process, coursework, and implementation. An individual with a prior felony conviction is eligible if the individual otherwise meets the age-and-residency definition of "eligible individual." Appropriates $500,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture to support the program.	Sen. Hicks-Hudson	New training program; appropriation	Introduced 10/8/2025 Referred to Senate Finance 10/15/2025 One hearing: 10/28/2025 (sponsor testimony, Sen. Hicks-Hudson) No further action as of 7/20/2026

Legislative Record: Education–Workforce Alignment & Career Pathways

Three bills connect Ohio's education system to workforce and career outcomes, through curriculum mandates, a coordinating institute, or a tax incentive for employer-education partnerships. One, Senate Bill 328, is the furthest-advanced bill in this report that has not yet been enacted.

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
SB 328	Creates the Education and Workforce Return on Investment Initiative. Requires a middle school	Sen. Koehler	Career-exploration and planning	Introduced Senate 11/18/2025

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
	career-exploration course. Requires school districts to develop student career and academic plans. Creates an interagency data framework, coordinated with the Department of Education and Workforce, for evaluating education and workforce outcomes, including the relationship between education programs, credentials, and subsequent employment outcomes. As passed by the Senate, the bill amends R.C. 3313.603, 3313.6020, 3313.617, 3314.03, 3317.014, 3326.11, and 3328.24; enacts new R.C. 3301.0733, 3301.14, 3301.141, 3301.142, 3313.6034, and 3313.6115; and repeals R.C. 3313.607, the state's existing (and narrower) career-plan-and-passport statute, which the bill's new sections replace with a more detailed career-exploration and planning framework.		mandates; ROI data framework	Referred Senate Education 11/19/2025 Six Senate Education hearings: 2/10/2026, 3/3/2026, 3/10/2026, 3/24/2026, 4/14/2026, 5/12/2026 Reported (substitute) 5/13/2026 Passed Senate 5/20/2026 Introduced House 5/26/2026 Referred House Education 5/27/2026 Two House Education hearings: 6/2/2026, 6/8/2026 No House committee vote as of 7/20/2026 — furthest advanced bill not yet enacted
SB 462	Enacts the Joining-Opportunities Business and Schools (JOBS) Act. Directs the Chancellor of Higher Education, with the Director of Development, to establish a qualified education partnership program under which an institution of higher education and a private-sector employer may jointly develop a degree or	Sen. Timken	Tax incentive for education-employer partnership	Introduced 6/25/2026 Not yet referred to committee

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
	certificate program tied to local workforce needs. The bill's operative incentive is a Commercial Activity Tax credit for the private employer partner (amending R.C. 5751.98 and enacting R.C. 3333.46 and 5751.55) — not a direct hiring or job-creation mandate.			
HB 666	Establishes the Ohio Tech Institute as a statewide technology-transfer and commercialization coordination program administered by the Chancellor of Higher Education in partnership with the Ohio Federal Research Network — not a separate degree-granting institution. The Institute must operate a statewide database centralizing federal technology-transfer opportunities, facilitate partnerships between students/universities and companies interested in commercialization, and, per the LSC bill analysis, provide coaching for participants seeking federal matching funds, including Small Business Innovation Research programs and related federal tactical- and strategic-funding-increase programs.	Rep. T. Mathews	Coordinating institute; commercialization and federal-matching-funds support	Introduced 1/29/2026 Referred House Workforce and Higher Education 2/4/2026 One hearing: 5/12/2026 (confirmed against the official Committee Activity page) No further Status-tab action as of 7/20/2026 — see Limitations

Senate Bill 462 — partnership structure and tax-credit mechanism

Senate Bill 462's short name — the Joining-Opportunities Business and Schools Act — identifies the parties to the partnership it creates: an Ohio institution of higher education and a private employer. What the title does not itself reveal is the financial mechanism used to encourage that partnership: a Commercial Activity Tax credit for the participating employer, not a direct-hire obligation, wage subsidy, or job-creation requirement. This report notes the distinction because "JOBS Act" framing, standing alone, does not indicate which of several possible mechanisms — direct hiring incentive, training subsidy, or (as here) a tax credit tied to an education partnership — a reader should expect.

Legislative Record: Job Creation, Business Investment & Site-Readiness Incentives

One proposal in this category was enacted during the 136th General Assembly: House Bill 292, establishing a new state commission and a grant program for the defense and aerospace industry. A related Senate-originated bill, Senate Bill 362, did not advance as far.

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
HB 292	Establishes the Ohio Defense and Space Advisory Commission (nine unpaid members, reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses). Establishes the Defense and Aerospace Industries Expansion Program, under which the Department of Development may make grants to support economic development related to the defense and aerospace industry; unexpended or misused grant funds must be returned to the Department, and a grant recipient may be required to undergo an audit of project administration and implementation. Appropriates $5.0 million in FY 2027 under GRF line item 195462, Defense & Aerospace Industries.	Reps. T. Mathews and Santucci	New commission; grant program; appropriation — ENACTED	Introduced House 5/20/2025 Referred House Veterans and Military Development 5/21/2025 Five House committee hearings: 6/11/2025, 11/19/2025, 2/4/2026, 2/18/2026, 2/25/2026 Reported (substitute) 2/25/2026 (committee vote 12–0) Passed House 3/4/2026 (82–10) Introduced Senate 3/11/2026 Referred Senate Workforce Development 3/24/2026 Five Senate committee hearings: 4/14/2026, 5/12/2026, 5/19/2026, 6/2/2026, 6/9/2026

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
				Reported (substitute) 6/9/2026 (committee vote 6–0) Passed Senate 6/10/2026 (33–0) House concurred in Senate amendments 6/10/2026 (86–7) Sent to Governor 7/1/2026 Signed by Governor 7/7/2026 Appropriation effective immediately upon signature (7/7/2026); remaining provisions effective 10/6/2026
SB 362	Related Senate-originated bill addressing the same general subject as House Bill 292: would establish an Ohio Defense and Space Commission with a grant-making structure. This report has not performed a section-by-section comparison of the two bills' commission membership, eligible grantees, or audit requirements, and accordingly describes them as related rather than substantively identical. Did not advance further after House Bill 292 became the vehicle that was enacted.	Sen. Reineke	New commission; grant program (related bill — did not advance as far)	Introduced 2/10/2026 Referred Senate Workforce Development 2/11/2026 One hearing: 3/3/2026 (sponsor testimony only, Sen. Reineke) No further action as of 7/20/2026

House Bill 292 and Senate Bill 362 — a companion bill that reached enactment

House Bill 292 and Senate Bill 362 address the same general subject — a state commission and grant program supporting Ohio's defense and aerospace industry — through separate bills introduced in different chambers roughly nine months apart. Senate Bill 362 received a single committee hearing, sponsor testimony only, in March 2026, and had no further recorded action as of the status date. House Bill 292, introduced earlier in the House, received five committee hearings in the House Veterans and Military Development Committee before passing the House 82–10 in March 2026, then received five more hearings in the Senate Workforce Development Committee before passing the Senate unanimously and being signed by the Governor in July 2026. Testimony in the later Senate hearings included both continued proponent testimony from defense-industry, manufacturing, and higher-education organizations, and opponent testimony from several individuals and peace-advocacy organizations.

Legislative Record: Wages, Labor Standards & Employment Barriers

Four proposals in this category address wage floors, disability subminimum wages, and construction-industry hiring verification. One — House Bill 246 — was enacted; a related Senate bill, Senate Bill 183, did not advance as far.

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
HB 246	Enacts the E-Verify Workforce Integrity Act. Requires a nonresidential construction contractor, subcontractor, or labor broker to verify each new employee's work eligibility through the federal E-Verify program; retain the verification record for three years after the employee's date of hire or one year after the date employment is terminated, whichever is later (R.C. 4151.02(A)-(B)); and terminate an employee's employment after receiving a federal E-Verify final nonconfirmation for that employee. Establishes civil enforcement, including Attorney General investigation authority (new R.C. 4151.01–.07).	Reps. Swearingen and Fischer	E-Verify mandate for specified construction employers; civil enforcement — ENACTED	Introduced House 4/29/2025 Referred House Commerce and Labor 4/30/2025 Reported (substitute) 6/10/2025 Passed House 6/11/2025 (92–0) Introduced Senate 6/12/2025 Referred Senate Workforce Development 6/18/2025 Reported 10/29/2025 (favorable passage, committee vote 5–0) Passed Senate 11/19/2025 (33–0) Sent to Governor 12/9/2025 Signed by Governor 12/19/2025 Effective 3/20/2026

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
SB 183	Senate-originated bill enacting the same new Revised Code sections as House Bill 246, requiring E-Verify use by nonresidential construction employers. Did not advance further after House Bill 246 became the vehicle that was enacted.	Sens. Cirino and Reynolds	E-Verify mandate (related bill — did not advance as far)	Introduced 4/29/2025 Referred Senate Workforce Development 4/30/2025 No hearing identified No further action as of 7/20/2026
SB 142	Enacts the Ohio Employment First and Greater Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act. Phases out, on a fixed timeline from the bill's effective date, an employer's ability to pay a subminimum wage to an employee whose earning capacity is impaired by a physical or mental disability or injury: Beginning 90 days after the effective date, the Director of Commerce may not issue or renew a state subminimum-wage license, and an employer may pay a subminimum wage only if, on that date, it already employs the worker under an unexpired license (that license remains valid for up to five years from the bill's effective date). Beginning five years after the effective date, no employer may pay a subminimum wage to an employee with a disability, regardless of license status. Not later than 15 months after the effective date, each	Sen. Hicks-Hudson	Subminimum-wage phase-out; nonrefundable tax credit	Introduced 3/11/2025 Referred Senate Workforce Development 3/19/2025 One hearing: 9/30/2025 (sponsor testimony, Sen. Hicks-Hudson) No further action as of 7/20/2026

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
	licensed employer must submit a phase-out transition plan to the Director of Developmental Disabilities. Separately authorizes a nonrefundable tax credit, against either the state income tax (R.C. 5747.02) or the Commercial Activity Tax (R.C. 5751.02) as elected by the applicant, equal to 15% of the price of purchases a person makes from a state-certified nonprofit "qualified vendor" that employs individuals with disabilities. The Executive Director of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency administers certification and issues credit certificates, subject to an $8 million statewide annual cap and a $500,000 annual cap per qualified vendor.			
SB 234	Sets a statutory minimum-wage schedule above Ohio's constitutional wage floor (Article II, Section 34a, which remains independently controlling): $12/hour (2026), $13/hour (2027), $14/hour (2028), $15/hour (2029). After 2029, directs the Director of Commerce to adjust the statutory rate annually for inflation; because Section 34a continues to operate independently, the legally applicable minimum could not fall below the constitutional rate even if the two calculations were to	Sens. Smith and Craig	Wage-floor increase; repeal of apprentice subminimum-wage licenses	Introduced 7/9/2025 Referred Senate Workforce Development 10/1/2025 No hearing identified

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
	diverge. Separately repeals the Director of Commerce's authority under R.C. 4111.07 to issue temporary licenses permitting specified apprentices to be paid not less than 85% of the otherwise applicable minimum wage for up to 90 days; the bill's introduced text does not enact a replacement licensing authority in its place (amending R.C. 4111.02, 4111.05, 4111.09, 4111.14).			
HB 34	Sets a statutory minimum-wage schedule above Ohio's constitutional wage floor (Article II, Section 34a, which remains independently controlling): \$11/hour (2026), \$12/hour (2027), \$13/hour (2028), \$14/hour (2029), \$15/hour (2030). After 2030, directs the Director of Commerce to adjust the statutory rate annually for inflation; because Section 34a continues to operate independently, the legally applicable minimum could not fall below the constitutional rate even if the two calculations were to diverge. Separately repeals the Director of Commerce's authority under R.C. 4111.07 to issue temporary licenses permitting specified apprentices to be paid not less than 85% of the otherwise applicable minimum wage for up to 90 days; the bill's introduced text	Reps. Jarrells and Mohamed	Wage-floor increase; repeal of apprentice subminimum-wage licenses	Introduced 2/3/2025 Referred House Commerce and Labor 2/5/2025 No hearing identified

Bill	Principal Legal Mechanism	Sponsor(s)	Classification	Status (through 7/20/2026)
	does not enact a replacement licensing authority in its place (amending R.C. 4111.02, 4111.05, 4111.09, 4111.14).			

HB 246 and SB 183 — a second companion pair, broadly similar pattern to HB 292/SB 362

As with the defense-and-space commission bills discussed above, the E-Verify requirement reached enactment through its House-originated version. Senate Bill 183, introduced by Sens. Cirino and Reynolds the same day as House Bill 246, enacts the identical Revised Code sections but never received a committee hearing and had no further action recorded after its April 2025 referral. This report discusses SB 183 together with HB 246 because they enact the same statutory change, consistent with this series' treatment of companion legislation (see, e.g., Issue Index #4's discussion of SB 350/HB 683).

Senate Bill 234 and House Bill 34 — two minimum-wage bills, not one

Both bills are commonly described as "minimum wage increase" legislation, but their operative schedules differ in both starting point and endpoint. Senate Bill 234 would raise the wage floor by $1 more in its first year ($12 vs. $11) and reach $15/hour one year sooner (2029 vs. 2030) than House Bill 34. Neither bill repeals or replaces Ohio's constitutional minimum-wage provision; each sets a statutory rate above that constitutional floor. Both bills also repeal the same existing apprentice subminimum-wage licensing statute, R.C. 4111.07. Neither bill had a committee hearing identified as of the status date.

Legislative Record: Talent Retention & Economic Mobility Tools

This report identified no bill in the 136th General Assembly whose principal legal mechanism specifically targets talent retention or reduces out-migration of working-age Ohioans, using the inclusion test and the keyword and committee-docket searches described in Data and Methodology. This is a preliminary finding of this report's current research, not a conclusion that no such legislation exists. Senate Bill 328 (career-exploration and planning mandates, discussed above) and House Bill 666 (Ohio Tech Institute, discussed above) have plausible indirect effects on retention — connecting students to Ohio employers and Ohio-based commercialization opportunities — but neither bill's operative text or LSC analysis frames retention or out-migration as its purpose. An expanded keyword search, described in Future Research, is a priority before this finding is treated as more than preliminary.

Interpretive Considerations

- **Two companion-bill pairs, a broadly similar advancement pattern.** Both bills enacted in this report's scope reached passage through a House-originated vehicle while a related Senate-originated bill advanced less far — Senate Bill 183 with no hearing identified, Senate Bill 362 with one. This report notes the pattern as a factual observation about which chamber's version ultimately passed; it does not assess why, and has not performed a full textual comparison confirming that each pair is identical in every respect.

- **Unanimous passage was not universal among enacted bills.** House Bill 246 passed both chambers unanimously (92–0 House, 33–0 Senate). House Bill 292 passed the Senate unanimously at both its committee vote (6–0) and floor vote (33–0), but its House votes were not unanimous: 12–0 in committee, 82–10 on passage, and 86–7 on concurrence in Senate amendments. Later Senate committee hearings on House Bill 292 also drew opponent testimony from several individuals and peace-advocacy organizations, alongside continued proponent testimony from defense-industry and business groups.
- **Minimum-wage bills are not interchangeable.** Senate Bill 234 and House Bill 34 are both accurately described as "minimum wage increase" bills, but they specify different schedules and reach $15/hour in different years. A reader relying on the short description alone would not know which bill moves faster.
- **Sponsor rationale presented, not adopted.** This report's description of Senate Bill 142 draws on the bill's own statutory findings and its sponsor's testimony; this report has not independently reproduced or verified the disability-subminimum-wage figures cited in that testimony against primary federal Department of Labor data.
- **Legislative stage varies widely.** Two bills are enacted, one has passed one chamber and had multiple committee hearings in the second, four have had a single hearing with no further action, and five have had no hearing identified — several more than a year after introduction (Senate Bill 234, House Bill 34, House Bill 107, Senate Bill 183). A bill's inclusion in this report reflects that it meets the report's substantive inclusion criteria, not that it is likely to be enacted.
- **Scope boundary: JobsOhio governance.** This report's exclusion of JobsOhio governance and oversight legislation is an OCG editorial scope decision; readers interested in that subject should consult OCG's companion Legislative Tracker, Issue Index #4.

Limitations and What This Report Does Not Claim

- **Selected bills, not an exhaustive census.** This report covers a selected set of bills meeting its stated inclusion criteria across five economic-opportunity categories. It is not a complete census of every bill touching jobs, wages, or workforce policy introduced in the 136th General Assembly. This report's research did not identify apprenticeship-specific legislation, occupational-licensing-reform legislation, childcare-as-workforce-barrier legislation, reentry-employment legislation, or talent-retention-specific legislation, and has not reviewed the state's operating budget act for enacted Opportunity-relevant provisions; a future revision may identify bills or provisions in these areas. Readers should not treat this report's title as a claim of comprehensive coverage of Ohio economic-opportunity legislation.

- **Descriptive, not evaluative.** This report does not rate, grade, or conclude whether any bill, if enacted, would be sufficient to address the concerns Ohioans report about job access, wages, or economic mobility. Its title/mechanism comparisons state what a bill's text does relative to its title or framing; they are not judgments about whether that gap is appropriate, intentional, or improper.
- **"No hearing identified" is not a claim that no hearing occurred.** As defined above, this phrase means no hearing was found in this report's sources as of the status date, consistent with this report's use of the same qualified language throughout the OCG Legislative Tracker series.
- **Committee-docket and keyword searches may not be exhaustive.** This report's bill list was assembled through committee-docket review and keyword searches ("workforce development," "apprenticeship," "career pathway," "minimum wage," "site readiness," "talent retention," and related terms) against the 136th General Assembly's status report. A relevant bill using different terminology may exist and not have been identified; readers aware of one are invited to bring it to OCG's attention for a future revision.
- **Sponsor and witness testimony not independently verified.** Figures or characterizations attributed to sponsor or witness testimony (for example, national subminimum-wage worker counts cited in Senate Bill 142 testimony) are reported as attributed to that testimony and have not been independently reproduced from primary federal data unless this report expressly states otherwise.

Future Research

- Track Senate Bill 328 through House Education Committee action and, if reported, a House floor vote, given it is the furthest-advanced bill in this report not yet enacted.
- Monitor Senate Bill 462 for committee referral and hearing activity, given it was introduced only weeks before this report's status date.
- Revisit Senate Bill 234's and House Bill 34's status if either receives a first committee hearing, and monitor whether the two competing minimum-wage proposals converge into a single vehicle.
- Complete an expanded keyword search for talent-retention and out-migration-specific legislation (e.g., "brain drain," "population retention," "student loan repayment incentive," "remote worker incentive," "return-to-Ohio") before treating this report's current talent-retention finding as more than preliminary.
- Expand this report's bill search to apprenticeship-specific, occupational-licensing-reform, reentry-employment, childcare-as-workforce-barrier, and military-spouse-credential-recognition legislation, none of which this research identified in the current legislative record.
- Review the state's operating budget act for enacted workforce, credentialing, or economic-development provisions within this report's scope, since an omnibus budget bill can contain substantive Opportunity-relevant provisions this report's bill-by-bill search would not surface.
- Perform a section-by-section comparison of House Bill 292 and Senate Bill 362, and of House Bill 246 and Senate Bill 183, to confirm the degree of textual identity between each companion pair.

- Track implementation of House Bill 246 (Attorney General enforcement activity) and House Bill 292 (Commission appointments, grant program rulemaking) as a distinct question from enactment itself.

Sources

- Ohio General Assembly, official bill-tracking system (legislature.ohio.gov), consulted for status, committee activity, votes, and full text of each bill discussed.
- Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC), bill analyses and fiscal notes for House Bill 107, House Bill 246, House Bill 292, House Bill 666, Senate Bill 142, Senate Bill 287, Senate Bill 328, and Senate Bill 362.
- Operative bill text (as introduced, as passed, and enrolled, as applicable) for each bill discussed, including the specific Revised Code sections cited in this report's bill-table mechanism descriptions.
- Ohio Revised Code, Sections 4111.07 and 3313.607 (codes.ohio.gov), consulted to confirm the content of provisions repealed by Senate Bill 234, House Bill 34, and Senate Bill 328.
- Sponsor and cosponsor testimony submitted to House and Senate committees for the bills discussed in this report, obtained directly from committee records.
- Ohio General Assembly, official Committee Activity pages for House Bill 292, Senate Bill 142, and Senate Bill 287, confirming committee hearing counts and dates.
- Proponent, opponent, and interested-party testimony submitted on House Bill 246, House Bill 292, Senate Bill 328, and House Bill 666, obtained directly from committee records.
- Ohio General Assembly, House Bill 246 and House Bill 292 official Votes pages, confirming chamber-by-chamber, stage-by-stage vote tallies.
- Internal editorial and external peer review of this report's draft; all resulting factual corrections were independently verified by OCG against the primary sources listed above before adoption.

Conclusion

This report is intended as a factual description of a selected set of economic-opportunity and good-jobs bills introduced during the 136th Ohio General Assembly. It does not evaluate whether these measures were sufficient, only what they did, how far they advanced, and where a bill's title or public framing diverges from its operative text. This report discusses 12 bills across 10 legislative proposals. Two — House Bill 246 and House Bill 292 — were enacted as of July 20, 2026, both after a related Senate-originated bill advanced less far; House Bill 246 passed both chambers unanimously, while House Bill 292 passed the Senate unanimously but drew opposition in both House votes. A third, Senate Bill 328, passed the Senate and remained pending in the House. The remaining seven proposals had not passed either chamber. This report identifies one bill, Senate Bill 462, whose short title describes its participants but not its Commercial-Activity-Tax-credit mechanism, and offers a preliminary finding that no bill in its current scope specifically targets talent retention or out-migration, pending the expanded search described in Future Research. Future editions of this report may expand its scope, complete that search, review the state operating budget, or update bill statuses as the 136th General Assembly continues to act.

Revision History

This is a living tracker rather than a fixed monograph. It is reviewed and reissued periodically as the 136th General Assembly acts on economic-opportunity-related legislation, on a cadence set jointly by OCG's Research Center and organizing leadership rather than a fixed calendar interval. Each revision is logged below, and superseded versions are preserved in the OCG Research Library.

Version 1.0 — July 22, 2026 — Initial publication. Corrections made during pre-publication review, independently verified by OCG against primary sources, included: confirmed Senate Bill 142 and Senate Bill 287 committee-hearing dates; confirmed House Bill 292's full vote record, correcting an earlier statement that both enacted bills passed unanimously (House Bill 292's House votes were not unanimous, though its Senate votes were); corrected House Bill 246's record-retention requirement to match its statutory citation; corrected Senate Bill 183's introduction date relative to House Bill 246; clarified the constitutional and statutory minimum-wage mechanisms in Senate Bill 234 and House Bill 34, and identified that both bills repeal R.C. 4111.07, governing temporary apprentice subminimum-wage licenses; corrected Senate Bill 328's statutory section list to include the repeal of R.C. 3313.607 and reclassified the bill's mechanism; distinguished House Bill 107's two Platinum Provider programs, only one of which has a raised funding cap; added Senate Bill 142's phase-out timeline and tax-credit mechanics; narrowed Senate Bill 462's title/mechanism framing; and added House Bill 292's appropriation amount and commission composition. Added "Selected" to the report's subtitle and Executive Summary to state plainly that this report covers a selected set of bills, not an exhaustive census.

Appendix A. Bills Discussed in This Report

Ohio General Assembly, official bill-tracking system, accessed through July 20, 2026. Each bill's official page follows the pattern legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/[bill], e.g. legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/hb246. For each bill, this report relied primarily on the source noted in parentheses below, in addition to the bill's own Status, Votes, and Committee Activity pages.

Enacted

- HB 246 — enrolled text; LSC final analysis and final fiscal note; official Votes page.
- HB 292 — enrolled text; LSC bill analysis (as reported by Senate Workforce Development) and final fiscal note; official Votes and Committee Activity pages.

Furthest advanced (passed one chamber, pending the other)

- SB 328 — as-passed-by-Senate text; LSC bill analysis (as passed by the Senate); official Status and Committee Activity pages.

Workforce development, training & credentialing (pending)

- HB 107 — as-introduced text; LSC bill analysis (as introduced).
- SB 287 — as-introduced text; LSC bill analysis (as introduced); official Committee Activity page.

Education–workforce alignment & career pathways (pending, beyond SB 328 above)

- SB 462 — as-introduced text.
- HB 666 — as-introduced text; LSC bill analysis (as introduced); official Committee Activity page.

Job creation, business investment & site-readiness incentives (related bill, did not advance as far)

- SB 362 — as-introduced text; LSC bill analysis (as introduced) and fiscal note; official Committee Activity page.

Wages, labor standards & employment barriers (pending)

- SB 183 — as-introduced text (related bill to HB 246, did not advance as far).
- SB 142 — as-introduced text; LSC bill analysis (as introduced); official Committee Activity page.
- SB 234 — as-introduced text.
- HB 34 — as-introduced text.