

SPEAKER OUTLINES SHORT-TERM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

House Priorities: Also on Monday, [Speaker Armond Budish](#) (D-Beachwood) urged action on several bills that he said would generate employment growth, as well as a Democratic proposals to eliminate more than 100 obscure agencies ([HB 494](#)) and require more financial disclosure from candidates ([HB 504](#)).

The speaker said the latter measures, along with a plan to increase restrictions on candidates' transition accounts ([HB 5](#)), would ensure greater government accountability and transparency.

"We have a few short weeks before the legislative session concludes and we must use this time to help get Ohioans back to work," he said in a news release. "We have been focused on legislation that will create jobs and promote entrepreneurial success, and there is still more work to do before we break for the summer."

At the top of his list of legislative priorities, Speaker Budish called for action to extend the Ag-Link Linked Deposit Program by \$200 million to help farmers obtain operating loans ([HB 483](#)) and a working capital measure to increase small businesses' access to credit. The latter measure is expected to be introduced on Tuesday.

"Small businesses and family farmers can't grow and create jobs if they don't have access to capital," he said. "By working together, we have identified a strong solution to the credit crunch that will free up access to capital for Ohio's family-owned businesses and farmers."

Speaker Budish also voiced support for legislation that would overhaul the reapportionment process ([HJR 15](#)) and revise elections administration ([HB 260](#)).

"We have made significant progress and it would be a shame to squander that work now," he said. "I believe that the House and Senate have been working diligently on resolving the differences between their two bills, and I'd very much like to move forward on legislation before we break."

Also on the speaker's list of priorities are proposals to: implement Ohio's casinos amendment; reduce the tangible personal property tax on wind and solar facilities ([HB 464](#)), revise telecommunications law ([HB 276](#)); and ease business regulations ([HB 230](#)).

Meanwhile, he called on the Senate to pass bills designed to: ban texting while driving ([HB 415](#)); address the high rate of foreclosure ([HB 3](#) & [HB 9](#)); mandate insurance coverage for autism ([HB 8](#)) and diabetes ([HB 81](#)); prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation ([HB 176](#)); and protect victims of domestic violence ([HB 167](#); [HB 391](#)).

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