

**THIS WEEK
AT THE
STATEHOUSE**
JUNE 11, 2020



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 37,120 confirmed cases
- 6,753 hospitalizations
- 2,263 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 2.06 million cases
- 115,000 fatalities

World:

- 7.27 million cases
- 413,000 fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

-Ohio Retirement Study Council at 10:00 AM

Friday:

Dr. Amy Acton Announces Resignation

Yesterday, Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, announced that she was resigning from her position effective immediately. Dr. Acton, who was appointed as the director in February 2019, cited personal reasons, such as the long hours required being unsustainable, as the leading factor in her decision to leave. Additionally, she found the level of criticism as an unelected official difficult to bear but was clear that was not her main reason for leaving. Governor DeWine has asked Dr. Acton to stay on as his Chief Health Advisor. In this role she will continue to focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, and work to address other health issues facing Ohioans. Lance Himes, effective immediately, will serve as the Interim Director of Health.



Legislative Update

This week both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate held marathon sessions in an aim to pass several pieces of crucial legislation before they plan to recess for the summer. Notable legislation includes HB 13, which establishes a broadband expansion program, and HB 65 which allows for emergency intervention without parental notification for a child believed to be at risk of harming themselves or others. The House worked late into the evening debating a number of bills including HB 425, which removes the requirement for concealed carry license holders to promptly notify law enforcement when they have a gun with them. Additionally, the House was in session past 1:00 AM debating amendments to HB 665, with the aim of stopping the display and sale of confederate flags at county fairs in the state. Such amendments were rejected, but the legislation as written passed.

Unemployment Claims

Last week, 35,430 Ohioans filed initial unemployment claims, which is the sixth straight week of decline in unemployment claims. In the last twelve weeks 1,327,843 Ohioans have filed for unemployment benefits. Nationally, 1,542,000 Americans filed initial unemployment claims. Over 44.2 million Americans have filed for unemployment since the coronavirus pandemic began.

Introduced Bills

HB 691: Prompt Pay - To amend the prompt pay requirements for providers and third-party payers and to include Medicaid managed care organizations.

HB 692: Estate Documents - To expand the laws on wills, declarations or living wills, durable powers of attorney for health care, and transfer on death designation affidavits by providing for their execution electronically.

HB 693: School Openings - To prohibit, for the 2020-2021 school year only, public and chartered nonpublic schools from opening for instruction prior to the Wednesday after Labor Day and to declare an emergency.

HB 694: Housing - To establish the Permanent Replacement Housing Program and to make an appropriation.

HB 695: Legislative Salaries - To enact the "Average Wage Fully Uniform Law (AWFUL)" to set the baseline compensation for General Assembly members equal to Ohio's median household income.

HB 696: Career-Tech Education - Regarding career information and career-technical education for middle and high school students in public schools.

HB 697: College Opportunity Grants - To maintain a student's Ohio College Opportunity Grant award amount in the 2020-2021 academic year if that student enrolls in a state institution of higher education and to declare an emergency.

HB 698: Drug Use - Regarding a proposal to establish addiction treatment facilities, to increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, to modify penalties for drug possession, to require an offender convicted of a drug possession or drug trafficking offense involving certain drugs to be subject to ten years of post-release control, to allow a criminal defendant who has a severe substance use disorder involving certain drugs to be confined by a state detoxification provider while awaiting trial, to create restitution work programs, and to make an appropriation.

HB 699: Prescription Opiates - Regarding reducing the abuse of prescription opiates

HB 700: Addiction Treatment – Regarding making addiction treatment widely available

HB 701: Social Impact Bonds – To establish the social impact bond fund and the social impact bond program to be administered by the department of rehabilitation and correction

HB 702: Reentry Ohio Programs - To create the reentry Ohio program and to make an appropriation

HB 703: Policing Practices - To express the intent of the General Assembly to study and implement professional police practices in Ohio.

SB 320: Education Laws - To require public and private schools to decide whether to be open for instruction in the 2020-2021 school year, to permit parents providing home instruction to determine whether a building in which they provide instruction has adequate safety measures to address COVID-19, to prohibit other public officials from closing schools in that school year, and to declare an emergency.

SB 321: Public Funds – To make changes regarding the circumstances in which county treasurers, township fiscal officers and deputy fiscal officers, and municipal treasurers may be held liable for a loss of public funds.

SB 322: Advance Business – To amend the law regarding the non-recourse civil litigation advance business.

SB 323: Election Law – To modify the law governing absent voting and online voter registration, to make other changes to the Election Law, and to declare an emergency.

SR 528: Internet Access – To urge the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to continue allowing Ohio to impose sales taxes on certain internet access services.

SCR 15: Space Command - To urge the United States government to select Ohio to host the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command.