

**THIS WEEK  
AT THE  
STATEHOUSE**  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2020



**CURRENT COVID STATS**

Ohio:

- 139,632 confirmed cases
- 15,051 hospitalizations
- 4,414 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 6.92 million cases
- 201,411 fatalities

World:

- 32.11 million cases
- 980,031 fatalities

**NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

Monday:

Tuesday:

-Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

**Elections Bill Stalls in Senate**

After the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee recessed on Tuesday with the potential to amend HB 680 the next day, the committee instead immediately adjourned. There will be no further hearings of the bill, effectively killing it in committee. Chairman Coley cited potential voter confusion concerns and stated that many of the rules in the controversial bill would not have taken effective for the upcoming election.

**Unemployment Bill with Federal Pandemic Funds Heading to Governor**

HB 614, a bill that originated as a way to examine the state's unemployment system, cleared the Senate and House on Wednesday after picking up an amendment that designates \$650 million of federal CARES Act funds to go to local governments. The bill passed 87-2 in the House and passed with unanimous support in the Senate.

**Presidential Race Polls Show Tight Race in Ohio**

Polls conducted by both [Quinnipiac University](#) and [Fox News](#) show President Trump and former Vice President Biden in a tight race in anticipation of November's election. Quinnipiac's poll found Mr. Biden polling at 48% and Mr. Trump at 47% among likely voters, with a 3% margin of error. Fox News found Mr. Biden polling at 50% and Mr. Trump at 45%, also with a 3% margin of error among likely voters.

**Absentee Ballot Applications Requests Up**

Secretary of State Frank LaRose has announced that absentee ballot requests are up by a substantial margin in Ohio when compared to the 2016 election. At this time, Ohio has received 1, 784, 004 absentee ballot requests- this number is up from the 805,844 absentee ballot requests that had been received at this same time four years ago. Secretary LaRose also encouraged Ohioans to sign up as poll workers, as Ohio is currently sitting at approximately 44,000 poll workers out of its 55,588 person goal.

## **Introduced Bills**

**HB 762 – Campaign Finance:** To modify the campaign finance law and to declare an emergency.

**HB 763 – State of Emergency:** To terminate the COVID-19 state of emergency in Ohio and to declare an emergency.

**HB 764 – Handgun Licenses:** To extend valid concealed handgun licenses until December 31, 2021, and to permit Ohio residents to apply for or renew concealed handgun licenses in any county.

**HB 765 – Nurse Licensure:** To enter into the Nurse Licensure Compact.

**SB 369 – Crime Victims:** To revise the eligibility standards and procedure for awarding reparations to crime victims.

**SB 370 – Arson Penalties:** To increase penalties for arson offenses and related offenses and to make an appropriation.