

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE JANUARY 29, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 771,743 confirmed cases
- 45,786 hospitalizations
- 9,803 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 25.46 million cases
- 427,626 fatalities

World:

- 100.82 million cases
- 2.18 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Senate Local Government and Elections Committee (10:30 am)
- Senate Ways and Means Committee (11:00 am)
- Senate Primary and Secondary Ed. Committee (3:00 pm)
- Senate Judiciary Committee (3:30 pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee (10:30 am)
- House Session (1:00 pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)

Thursday:

Friday:

Health Order

Senate Bill 22 was introduced Tuesday by Senators Rob McColley and Terry Johnson. The measure would create an Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee that would have the authority to rescind executive orders during public health emergencies and would allow the General Assembly to rescind executive orders issued by the Governor through concurrent resolutions. The bill would also create a limit for the duration of emergency declarations, capping them at 30 days unless extended by legislative action. Bill sponsors cite a need for restoring checks and balances as their motivation for introducing the legislation.

Governor Announces Creation of Cleveland Innovation District

Governor DeWine announced Monday the creation of the Cleveland Innovation District – a partnership between the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, the MetroHealth System, Case Western Reserve University, and Cleveland State University. The \$565 million investment, coming from the state, JobsOhio, and the Cleveland Clinic, aims to create over 20,000 new jobs in the area over the next decade, and support research and innovation in the area.

Regulatory Reduction Bill Reintroduced

Senators Kristina Roegner and Rob McColley introduced Senate Bill 9 this week, which aims to reduce administrative regulations. The legislation was a priority in the previous General Assembly, but was not voted upon in the house. A number of changes have been made in SB 9, including narrowing the types of rules under the review of JCARR, and allowing agencies to ask for an adjustment if they are unable to reduce rules by 10% within three years.

State Unveils Multiyear Smart Transportation Partnership

Spectrum, US Ignite, and the state announced their partnership to support technology-focused solutions to transportation issues across Ohio, with the first project being based out of Lima. This initial project involves the installation of 'smart' technology devices at the city's numerous railroad crossings to improve safety and efficiency.

Introduced Bills

SB 14 - Voter Registration Systems (Rulli, M.): To require state approval of voter registration systems for use in Ohio and to modify the law governing protests against candidate filings.

SB 15 - Fiscal Officers (Wilson, S.): To change the circumstances in which certain fiscal officers may be held liable for a loss of public funds.

SB 16 - Civil Actions (Schaffer, T.): Regarding a civil action for an emergency service responder based on a civil rights abridgement or false complaint, and certain crimes regarding conduct directed at an actual or perceived emergency service responder, public servant, family member, co-worker, or BCII investigator or at a public emergency.

SB 17 - Benefit Eligibility (Schaffer, T.): Regarding eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid, work and education requirements for certain Medicaid recipients, requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program electronic benefit transfer cards, and eligibility for and overpayments of unemployment compensation.

SB 18 - Tax Laws (Roegner, K., Schaffer, T.): To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since March 27, 2020, into Ohio law and to declare an emergency.

SB 19 - Tax Exemption (Schaffer, T.): To establish a property tax exemption for certain property used for wetland mitigation projects.

SB 20 - Utility Supply Contracts (Hackett, B.): To exempt county utility supply contracts entered into under a joint purchasing program from the 10-year maximum period for such contracts and to declare an emergency.

SB 21 - Stroke Protocols (Antonio, N., Manning, N.): Regarding emergency medical services and stroke patient protocols.

SB 22 - Health Orders (Johnson, T., McColley, R.): To establish legislative oversight of the Governor's executive orders and certain public health orders, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

SB 23 - Bus Safety (Gavarone, T.): To impose a civil penalty when a driver who illegally passes a school bus cannot be identified, to designate the month of August as "School Bus Safety Awareness Month," and to designate this act as the School Bus Safety Act.

SB 24 - Home Purchases (Gavarone, T., Peterson, B.): To enact the First-time Home Buyer Savings Act, authorizing income tax deductions for contributions to and earnings on savings accounts designated for the purchase of a home.

SB 25 - Drug Offenses (Gavarone, T.): To enhance penalties for certain drug trafficking offenses committed in the vicinity of a substance addiction services provider, to prohibit defrauding an alcohol, drug, or urine screening test, and to name the act's provisions the Relapse Reduction Act.

SB 26 - Road Naming (Hottinger, J.): To designate a portion of State Route 93, in Perry County, as the "Crooksville Firefighters David Theisen and Stephen Carletti Memorial Highway."

SB 27 - Deferred Compensation (Hottinger, J.): To authorize automatic enrollment of new state government employees in the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program.

SB 28 - Falconry (Hoagland, F.): To authorize the use of owls in the sport of falconry

SB 29 - Aggregation Programs (Hoagland, F.): To eliminate automatic enrollment in governmental electric and natural gas aggregation programs.

SB 30 - Awareness Day (Dolan, M.): To designate August 31 as "Ohio Overdose Awareness Day."

SB 31 - Historic Site (Craig, H.): To require the Ohio History Connection to designate Poindexter Village as a state historic site.

SR 3 - Capitol Protest (Maharath, T.): To condemn the insurrection at the United States Capitol Building on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, instigated by white nationalists and white supremacists that resulted in the deaths of United States Capitol Police Officer Brian D. Sicknick and four others in an effort to prevent the certification of Joseph R. Biden and Kamala D. Harris as President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States.