

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE FEBRUARY 12, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 805,971 confirmed cases
- 48,269 hospitalizations
- 11,104 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 27.13million cases
- 470,110 fatalities

World:

- 107.42 million cases
- 2.36 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- House Ag and Conservation (9:00 am)
- Senate Energy and Public Utilities (10:30 am)
- Senate Local Gov. and Elections (10:30 am)
- Senate Ways and Means (11:00 am)
- House Health (11:00 am)
- House Transportation and Public Safety (11:00 am)
- Senate Gov. Oversight and Reform (2:00 pm)
- Senate Primary and Secondary Ed. (3:00 pm)
- House Civil Justice (3:00 pm)
- House Primary and Secondary Ed. (5:00 pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Transportation (9:00 am)
- House Commerce and Labor (1:00 pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- Senate Insurance (2:30 pm)

Thursday:

Governor Prioritizes Catching Ohioans Students Up

During Tuesday's regularly scheduled COVID-19 press conference, Governor Mike DeWine announced that Ohio schools should develop plans to assist students who have fallen behind due to the pandemic. The Governor asked that these plans be made public no later than April 1st, and that schools can use tools such as extending the school year or day, adding summer classes, tutoring, or additional summer enrichment.

Broadband Bills Prioritized in General Assembly

This week, the Senate priority broadband bill SB 8 was passed unanimously by the Senate. The bill would create the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program, which would appropriate \$20 million to broadband providers that would otherwise not pursue expanding their services in underserved areas. HB 2, the companion bill in the House chamber sponsored by Representatives Rick Carfagna and Brian Stewart, has also been met with support as it received two hearings in the House Finance committee this week.

Broadband Bills Prioritized in General Assembly

Budget language was released by the House this Thursday as hearings continued in the House Finance Committee. Testimony was given from a number of agencies and departments this week, including the Ohio Department of Transportation, Medicaid, Department of Job and Family Services, Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Education, Higher Education, and more. Questions from committee members touched on all aspects of the Governor's proposed budget, including school funding, early education, the state's COVID response, Medicaid demographic data for eligibility and services used, unemployment system improvements, and more. All testimony from House Finance can be found [here](#).

State Underreported COVID-19 Deaths

Due to an issue affecting the reconciliation and reporting of COVID-19 fatalities in Ohio that began in October, the state announced on Wednesday that as many as 4,000 deaths may have been missed. The Ohio Department of Health is working with State Auditor Keith Faber to begin an audit of data beginning in September to assure all data is being accurately reported.

Bill Introductions

SB 51 - Minimum Wage (Thomas, C., Craig, H.): To increase the state minimum wage and to allow municipalities, townships, and counties to establish higher minimum wage requirements.

SB 52 - Wind Farms (Reineke, B., McColley, R.): To require inclusion of safety specifications in wind farm certificate applications, to modify wind turbine setbacks, and to permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm and solar facility certificates.

SB 53 - Primary Candidacies (Manning, N.): To allow a primary candidate to become a candidate at the general election by being appointed to fill a ballot vacancy.

SB 54 - Telecommunications Fraud (Gavarone, T.): To include within the offense of telecommunications fraud providing misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, allow the Attorney General to prosecute offenses of unauthorized use of property and telecommunications fraud, and prohibit any person, entity, or merchant from violating the federal Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act.

SB 55 - Massage Therapy (Brenner, A.): To make changes to the laws governing massage establishments and massage therapy.

SB 56 - Design Contracts (Blessing, L.): To regulate the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts related to public improvements.

SB 57 - Housing Taxation (Hackett, B., Antonio, N.): To exempt from property taxation qualifying housing for individuals diagnosed with mental illness or substance use disorder.

SB 58 - Nursing Home Monitoring (Antonio, N., Brenner, A.): To permit a resident of a long-term care facility to conduct electronic monitoring of the resident's room, to designate this act as Esther's Law, and to make an appropriation.

SB 59 - War Relics (Schaffer, T.): To prohibit certain war relics located on public property or cemetery association property from being disposed of, and to designate this act as the Ohio Veterans' Heritage Protection Act.

SB 60 - Medicaid Applicants (Schaffer, T.): To require Medicaid applicants to certify that they have been notified about the Medicaid estate recovery program.

HB 69 - Minimum Wage (Kelly, B., Jarrells, D.): To increase the state minimum wage.

HB 70 - Bus Safety (Brown, R.): To make changes to the law governing passing a school bus.

HB 71 - Property Tax (Plummer, P., Hicks-Hudson, P.): To exempt from property taxation qualifying housing for individuals diagnosed with mental illness or substance use disorder and to declare an emergency.

HB 72 - Month Designation (Miranda, J., Cutrona, A.): To designate September 15 to October 15 each year as "Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month."

HB 73 - Education Laws (Manning, G., Crawley, E.): Regarding the college and work ready assessment system, to require school districts to form work groups to evaluate the amount of time students spend on testing, and to eliminate retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

HB 74 - Transportation Budget (Oelslager, S.): To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

HB 75 - BWC Budget (Oelslager, S.): To make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs.

HB 76 - IC Budget (Oelslager, S.): To make appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Commission programs.

HB 77 - University Trustees (Manchester, S., Sweeney, B.): To allow the board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to adopt a policy allowing the trustees to attend a board meeting via means of electronic communication.

HB 78 - Long-Term Care (Brent, J., Crossman, J.): To permit a resident of a long-term care facility to conduct electronic monitoring of the resident's room, to designate this act as Esther's Law, and to make an appropriation.

HB 79 - Caregiver Tax Credit (Russo, A., Boyd, J.): To authorize a refundable tax credit for certain expenses incurred by caregivers.

HB 80 - Road Naming (Sobecki, L.): To designate a portion of State Route 184 in Lucas County as the "Officer Brandon Stalker Memorial Highway."

HB 81 - Massage Therapy (Plummer, P., Manchester, S.): To make changes to the laws governing massage establishments and massage therapy.

HB 82 - College Tests (Cross, J., Jones, D.): To remove the requirement that students take a nationally standardized college and career readiness assessment for high school graduation.

HB 83 - Child Support (Russo, A., Manchester, S.): To make changes to child support laws with regard to caretakers.

HB 84 - Road Naming (Jones, D.): To designate a portion of State Route 60 in Washington County as the "U.S. Army Specialist Christian D. Ward Memorial Highway."

HB 85 - Road Naming (Jones, D.): To designate a portion of State Route 800 in Belmont County as the "Steven Lowell Cook Memorial Highway."

HB 86 - Tax Laws (Roemer, B.): To temporarily suspend provisions relating to bonus depreciation adjustments for a taxpayer with a federal net operating loss.

HB 87 - Utility Supply Contracts (Stephens, J., John, M.): To exempt county utility supply contracts entered into under a joint purchasing program from the 10-year maximum period for such contracts.

HB 88 - Roofing Contractors (Patton, T.): To require commercial roofing contractors to have a license.

HB 89 - Concealed Handguns (Wiggam, S.): To modify the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee must notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is authorized to carry a concealed handgun and is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped.

HB 90 - Health Orders (Wiggam, S., Edwards, J.): To establish legislative oversight of the Governor's executive orders, certain public health orders, and emergency rules, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

HB 91 - Public Facility Partnerships (Patton, T.): To authorize certain public entities to enter into public-private initiatives with a private party through a public-private agreement regarding public facilities.

HB 92 - Child Abuse Reporting (Abrams, C., Loychik, M.): To require public children services agencies to report child abuse or neglect in military families to the appropriate military authorities.

HB 93 - Recorder Fees (Abrams, C., LaRe, J.): To make changes to the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State and to make changes to county recorder fees.

HB 94 - Day Designation (Stoltzfus, R., Cross, J.): To designate June 14th as "President Donald J. Trump Day."

HB 95 - Tax Credit (Manchester, S., Lightbody, M.): To temporarily allow income tax credits for beginning farmers who participate in a financial management program and for businesses that sell or rent agricultural land, livestock, facilities, or equipment to beginning farmers.

HB 96 - Noncommercial Trailers (Merrin, D.): To provide for a permanent registration option for noncommercial trailers.

HB 97 - Commercial Trailers (Cross, J., Plummer, P.): To alter the annual registration tax for non-apportioned commercial trailers and semitrailers.

HB 98 - Window Tinting (Merrin, D.): To codify and modify rules related to the use of sunscreening and reflectorized materials on motor vehicles and to name this act the Legalize Window Tinting Act.

HB 99 - School Zones (Hall, T.): To expressly exempt persons authorized to go armed within a school safety zone from a requirement that peace officer basic training be obtained and to require that those persons successfully complete firearms training that meets or exceeds the training requirements for concealed handgun licensees for the exemption to apply.

HB 100 - Academic Commissions (Smith, K., Manning, G.): To dissolve existing academic distress commissions and to repeal the law on the creation of new commissions.