

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE FEBRUARY 19, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 816,057 confirmed cases
- 9,061 hospitalizations
- 14,132 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 27.67 million cases
- 489,067 fatalities

World:

- 109.59 million cases
- 2.42 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- House Ag and Conservation (9:00 am)
- Senate Energy and Public Utilities (10:00 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:

Senate Passes Health Order Oversight Bill

On Wednesday, the Senate passed SB 22, a measure enabling legislators to rescind public health orders. The bill passed 25-8 after receiving amendments that reduced the size of the proposed panel to six individuals (down from 10) and clarified that all executive orders issued during a public health emergency are subject to legislative oversight. Governor Mike DeWine said he plans to veto the measure if it reaches his desk. In the House, a similar plan in HB 90 is currently receiving hearings in the House State and Local Government Committee.

Nuclear Subsidy Repeal Conversations Continue

Both chambers have introduced proposals to repeal either portions or the entirety of HB 6. In the House, Representative Hoops introduced HB 128 in the committee he chairs, House Public Utilities. This plan repeals the \$170 million in HB 6 subsidies, eliminates decoupling provisions and the budget change that reworked the significantly excessive earnings test (SEET), and requires the Ohio Power Siting Board to issue a report to lawmakers by Dec. 1st on transmission projects and spending. In the Senate, SB 10 has been passed to eliminate a pair of provisions favoring FirstEnergy, and SB 44, which aims to repeal subsidies, has continue hearings. A number of other House plans have been introduced, including HB 10, HB 18, and HB 57.

Columbus Innovation District Announced

On Wednesday, Governor Mike DeWine announced that key public and private entities in Central Ohio will make a billion-dollar investment in a new Columbus Innovation District focused on gene and cell therapy, and STEM-related education and professions. The district centers on investments by Nationwide Children's Hospital, JobsOhio, and Ohio State University. This program is the third anchor, alongside Cincinnati and Cleveland, in Ohio's strategy to enhance its status as a world leader in medical research, health care, and technology innovation.

Bill Introductions

HB 106- Awareness Month (Cross, J.): To designate January as "Radon Awareness Month."

HB 10 - Elevator Law (Baldrige, B.): To revise the Elevator Law.

HB 108 - Adult Children (Galonski, T.): Regarding parental right of disposition for a deceased adult child.

HB 109 - Criminal Penalties (Abrams, C., Carruthers, S.): To increase penalties for certain assault, vandalism, and riot offenses, to allow peace officers to bring civil suits against persons participating in a riot, and to prohibit bias motivated intimidation of first responders.

HB 110 - State Budget (Oelslager, S.): To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

HB 111 - Distracted Driving (Lightbody, M.): To alter the law governing the use of a handheld electronic wireless communications device while driving.

HB 112 - Academic Commissions (Miller, J., Lepore-Hagan, M.): To require one-time performance audits of school districts with a current academic distress commission.

HB 113 - Law Enforcement (Upchurch, T., Miller, J.): To allow the chief of police of a municipal corporation to conduct training schools for prospective law enforcement officers.

HB 114 - Historic Site (Jarrells, D.): To require the Ohio History Connection to designate Poindexter Village as a state historic site.

HB 115 - School Property (Ingram, C., Bird, A.): To eliminate the right of first refusal for certain schools in the acquisition of school district real property.

HB 116 - Computer Crimes (Baldrige, B.): To enact the Ohio Computer Crimes Act and to amend the version of section 109.572 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect October 9, 2021, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that date.

HB 117 - School Territory (Brinkman, T.): Regarding school district territory transfers and to declare an emergency.

HB 118 - Wind Farms (Riedel, C., Stein, D.): 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.

HB 119 - License Plate (Sweeney, B., Holmes, A.): To create "The Ohio Aerospace Institute" license plate.

HB 120 - Compassionate Care Visits (Fraizer, M., Richardson, T.): To permit compassionate care visits in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 state of emergency, to establish criteria for those visits, and to declare an emergency.

HB 121 - Spousal Exceptions (Lanese, L., Boggs, K.): To eliminate the spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, and importuning and to permit a person to testify against the person's spouse in a prosecution for any of those offenses.

HB 122 - Telehealth (Fraizer, M., Holmes, A.): To establish and modify requirements regarding the provision of telehealth services.

HB 123 - Community Reinvestment Areas (Fraizer, M., Cross, J.): To modify the law governing community reinvestment areas and the terms under which property may be exempted in such areas.

HB 124 - Tax Rates (Roemer, B., Young, B.): To equalize the pass-through entity withholding and the business income tax rate.

HB 125 - Health Insurance (Crossman, J., Lightbody, M.): Regarding health insurance premiums and benefits.

HB 126 - Property Values (Merrin, D.)

To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners.

HB 127 - Business Violations (Merrin, D.): To establish relief for businesses that have violated COVID-19 orders by vacating and expunging the violations and by refunding fines to those businesses and to make an appropriation.

Text/Analysis

HB 128 - Electric Laws (Hoops, J., Stein, D.): To make changes regarding electric utility service law, to repeal certain provisions of H.B. 6 of the 133rd General Assembly, and to provide refunds to retail electric customers in the state.

HB 129 - Commercial Drivers (Hoops, J., Sobecki, L.): To establish the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid program and to make an appropriation.

HB 130 - Police Vacancies (Miller, J., Blackshear, W.): To allow a police department to fill a vacant position in the classified civil service without a competitive examination.

HB 131 - Road Naming (Brinkman, T.): To designate a portion of U.S. Route 50 in Hamilton County as the "Deputy Sheriff Emil Kleinwaechter Memorial Highway."

HB 132 - Storage And Towing (Hillyer, B., Jones, D.): To amend the law regarding self-service storage facilities and towing.

HB 133 - Tax Complaints (Hillyer, B.): Relating to commerce and property tax valuation complaints, and to repeal the version of section 1322.24 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect October 9, 2021.

HR 18 - Annie Glenn (Galonski, T.): A resolution urging Congress to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the late Senator John Glenn and the late Mrs. Annie Glenn.

HR 19 - Infrastructure Bank (Sobecki, L., Stephens, J.): To urge the United States Congress to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects.

HCR 4 - Credit Scores (Ingram, C.): To urge the United States Congress to review and evaluate credit reporting agencies and how credit scores and credit ratings create economic inequities.

HB 134 - Officer Training (Crawley, E., West, T.): To require peace officers to complete training on de-escalation techniques, implicit bias, procedural justice, mental health issues, and first aid and critical injuries, to require information regarding mental health resources and available support be provided to peace officers annually, and to make an appropriation.

HB 135 - Insurance Cost-Sharing (Manchester, S., West, T.): To prohibit certain health insurance cost-sharing practices.

HB 136 - Chiropractic Services (Lipps, S.): Regarding Medicaid coverage of chiropractic services.

HB 137 - Day Designation (Upchurch, T., Blackshear, W.): To designate March 29 as "Ohio Tuskegee Airmen Day."

HB 138 - Emergency Medical Services (Baldrige, B.): Regarding the scope of emergency medical services provided by emergency medical service personnel.

Text/Analysis

HB 139 - Unemployment Overpayments (Sobecki, L., Crossman, J.): To allow the Director of Job and Family Services to waive the collection of certain unemployment benefit overpayments and to declare an emergency.

HB 140 - Tax Levies (Merrin, D.): To enact the "Ballot Uniformity and Transparency Act" to modify the form of election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.

SB 61 - Planned Communities (Blessing, L., Antonio, N.): Regarding condominiums and planned community properties and to make changes to the New Community Law.

SB 62 - Commerce And Taxation (Hackett, B.): Relating to commerce and taxation.

SB 63 - County Payments (O'Brien, S.): To allow a board of county commissioners to authorize a county department of probation to accept payments by credit card.

SB 64 - Roofing Contractors (Hottinger, J., Lang, G.): To regulate and require the registration of roofing contractors.

SB 65 - Road Naming (Rulli, M.): To designate a portion of State Route 7 in Mahoning County as the "Clarence "Sonny" Smith, Jr. Highway."

SB 66 - Apprentice Program (Williams, S.): To establish a career pathways apprentice program.

SB 67 - African Americans (Williams, S.): To establish a committee to study the progress and challenges of African Americans in Ohio and to make an appropriation.

SB 68 - Employment Applications (Williams, S.): To prohibit private employers from including on an employment application any question concerning whether an applicant has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony.

SB 69 - Career-Tech Education (Williams, S.): Regarding noncredit career-technical programs at community colleges and state community colleges.

SB 70 - Salary History (Maharath, T.): To prohibit employers from seeking a prospective employee's wage or salary history.

SB 71 - Fuel Quality (Lang, G., Thomas, C.): To authorize a county to implement a motor fuel quality testing program.