

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE FEBRUARY 5, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 791,191 confirmed cases
- 47,110 hospitalizations
- 10,225 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 26.39 million cases
- 449,020 fatalities

World:

- 104.16 million cases
- 2.27 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee (1030 am)
- Senate Ways and Means Committee (11:00 am)
- House Health (11:00 am)
- Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee (2:30 pm)
- Senate Judiciary Committee (3:30 pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Health Committee (9:30 am)
- Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee (10:30 am)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- Senate Insurance (2:30 pm)

Thursday:

Friday:

Budget Hearing in House Finance

Budget Director Kimberly Murnieks testified on the DeWine Administration's two-year spending plan for the first time on Thursday in the House Finance committee (Director's testimony can be found [here](#)). The plan, which has not yet been introduced as a bill, allocates a total of \$85.7 billion in FY 2022 and \$85.8 billion in FY 2023 across all funds. The plan also highlights \$1 billion in one-time spending, details of which were unveiled by Governor DeWine at Monday's press conference.

Health Order Bill Receives First Formal Hearing

Over 200 individuals submitted testimony in favor of SB 22, which aims to establish checks and balances on the executive branch's ability to enact restrictions during public health emergencies. The legislation would also allow the General Assembly to rescind executive orders through concurrent resolutions and restrict the duration of emergency declarations to 30 days. The bill will receive more hearings in upcoming meetings of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee.

AG Announces Deal with FirstEnergy

On Monday, Attorney General Dave Yost announced a deal in which FirstEnergy will drop more than \$100 million in 2021 added revenue under decoupling provisions of the nuclear subsidies law. The company agreed to file an emergency motion with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to zero out the decoupling rider. This deal comes at the same time as the Senate plans to repeal the decoupling provisions in HB 6 (SB 10) had its first hearing in Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, as well as Sb 44, which would repeal the nuclear subsidies program portion of the bill.

Public-Private Partnership Announced to Help State Unemployment System

Governor Mike DeWine announced a collaboration with private sector experts to address communication issues, delay, and fraud within state unemployment system. In the last 46 weeks, the agency has sent more than 48.2 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 916,000 Ohioans. ODJFS hopes that this partnership will help the state deliver these benefits efficiently to Ohioans who need them.