

# THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE MARCH 5, 2021



## CURRENT COVID STATS

### Ohio:

- 833,772 confirmed cases
- 50,695 hospitalizations
- 17,189 confirmed fatalities

### United States:

- 28.58 million cases
- 517,224 fatalities

### World:

- 115.29 million cases
- 2.56 million fatalities

## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Monday:

### Tuesday:

- House Financial Institutions (9:00 am)
- Senate Financial Institutions and Technology (9:30 am)
- Senate Transportation (10:00 am)
- House Finance (10:00 am)
- Senate Local Gov and Elections (10:30 am)
- House Health (11:00 am)
- House Transportation and Public Safety (11:00 am)
- House Public Utilities (1:00 pm)
- Senate Finance (2:00 pm)
- House Civil Justice (3:00 pm)
- Senate Primary and Secondary Education (3:00 pm)
- House Ways and Means (3:00 pm)
- House Primary and Secondary Education (4:30 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:

Friday:

## House Approves Transportation Budget

The House sent the biennial transportation budget to the Senate on Thursday after receiving an 87-8 vote during Thursday's session. The more than \$8 billion budget measure underwent a number of changes from its introduced version, including removal of distracted driving language, increasing funding for public transportation, and removing a \$10 increase in motor vehicle registration fees. A number of amendments offered by Democrats were tabled.

## DeWine Outlines Standards for Easing Restrictions

On Thursday evening, Governor Mike DeWine provided Ohio's plan to rescind all health orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic once the number of new cases drops to below 50 per 100,000 citizens over a two-week period. On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, new cases per 100,000 Ohioans was at 445, and as of Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, it was at 179. On the same day as the Governor's announcement, a press release announced a pending measure sponsored by Rep. Larry Householder that will allow county commissioners to overturn or modify orders issued by a county health board. Speaker Cupp said that the proposal will be treated as any other piece of legislation; at this time, a measure to move Representative Householder has not been brought to the floor.

## Ohio Fairness Act Effort Resumes

Bipartisan lawmakers in both chambers will introduce legislation to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive time. The introduction of the "Ohio Fairness Act" would join Ohio with 23 other states that protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation. Joint sponsors leading the introduction this time are Senator Nick Antonio (D – Lakewood), Sen. Michael Rulli (R – Salem), Rep. Michael Skindell (D – Lakewood), and Rep. Brett Hillyer (R – Uhrichsville). Proponents of the bill support the move toward equality and making Ohio a more business-friendly state, while

opponents express concerns over religious grounds and potential lawsuits.

## **Bill Introductions**

SB 100 - Crisis Assessments (Manning, N.): To authorize crisis assessments of certain minors without parental consent and to make an appropriation to support the employment of licensed independent social workers at educational service centers.

SB 101 - Vehicle Sales (Rulli, M.): To permit a manufacturer of all-electric motor vehicles to operate one or more dealerships in this state.

SB 102 - Liquor Laws (Roegner, K.): To exempt homebrewers of beer or home fermenters of wine from specified liquor control laws.

SB 103 - Death Penalty (Antonio, N., Huffman, S.): To abolish the death penalty and to modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment.

SB 104 - Week Designation (Maharath, T.): To designate the first week of May as "Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week."

SB 105 - Minority Businesses (Sykes, V., Schuring, K.): To require political subdivisions to recognize state certifications of minority business enterprises.

SB 106 - Week Designation (Maharath, T.): To designate the first week of May as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week."

SB 107 - Month Designation (Maharath, T.): To designate the month of May as "Maternal Mortality Awareness Month."

SB 108 - Business Grants (Huffman, S., Romanchuk, M.): To provide grants to bars and restaurants and the lodging industry and to make an appropriation.

SB 109 - Grant Program (Manning, N., Rulli, M.): To provide grants to businesses, local fairs, child care providers, and veterans homes and to make an appropriation.

SB 110 - Housing Support (O'Brien, S., Williams, S.): To provide rent and utility assistance and to make an appropriation.

SB 111 - School Support (Blessing, L., Brenner, A.): To provide assistance to schools and other entities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to make an appropriation.

SB 112 - Tax Foreclosures (Dolan, M.): To make changes to the law relating to tax foreclosures and county land reutilization corporations.

SB 113 - Fireworks (Rulli, M., Johnson, T.): To revise the Fireworks Law.

SB 114 - Sales Tax (Antani, N.): To exempt from sales and use tax the sale of child and adult diapers.

SB 115 - Pooled Collateral (Schuring, K.): To make changes to the Ohio Pooled Collateral Program.

SB 116 - Unemployment Compensation (Hackett, B., Reineke, B.): To require a person to provide proof of identity at a local employment office before receiving unemployment compensation or pandemic unemployment assistance and to declare an emergency.

HB 158 - Firefighting Foam (Baldrige, B.): To prohibit the use of class B firefighting foam containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals for testing and training purposes.

HB 159 - Tanning Services (Hillyer, B., Lightbody, M.): To prohibit the provision of sun lamp tanning services to individuals under age 18.

HB 160 - Health Estimates (Holmes, A.): Regarding the provision of health care cost estimates.

HB 161 - Child Abuse (Lampton, B.): To include certain child abuse-related offenses in the violent offender database and to name the act Jacob's Law.

HB 162 - Disability Terms (Galonski, T.)

To express the General Assembly's intent to remove from the Revised Code derogatory terminology regarding individuals with disabilities.

HB 163 - Nurse Overtime (Cutrona, A., Sweeney, B.): To prohibit a hospital from requiring a nurse to work overtime as a condition of continued employment.

HB 164 - Road Naming (Ghanbari, H.): To designate a portion of State Route 795 in Wood County as the "Lake Township Veterans Memorial Highway."

HB 165 - Ethanol Fuel (McClain, R.): To temporarily authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for the retail sale of high-ethanol blend motor fuel.

HB 166 - Criminal Sentencing (Boggs, K., Carfagna, R.): To modify the Criminal Sentencing Law with respect to non-life felony indefinite sentencing, to modify the process for felony appeals as a matter of right, to modify the Corrections Law regarding a Department of Rehabilitation and Correction reentry program for certain offenders, maximum workload and caseload standards for parole and field officers, GPS monitoring of offenders released from prison, and entry into LEADS of specified information about GPS-monitored offenders, and to require the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission to appoint an Offender Supervision Study Committee.

HB 167 - Housing Support (Oelslager, S.): To provide rent and utility assistance and to make an appropriation.

HB 168 - Business Grants (Fraizer, M., Loychik, M.): To provide grants to businesses, local fairs, child care providers, and veterans homes and to make an appropriation.

HB 169 - Business Grants (Cutrona, A., Swearingen, D.): To provide grants to bars and restaurants and the lodging industry and to make an appropriation.

HB 170 - School Support (Bird, A., Richardson, T.): To provide assistance to schools and other entities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to make an appropriation.

HB 171 - License Plate (Lanese, L.): To create the "Keep Ohio Beautiful" license plate.

HB 172 - Fireworks (Baldrige, B.): To revise the Fireworks Law.

HB 173 - Family Commission (Click, G., Pavliga, G.): To establish the Ohio Family Stability Commission.

HB 174 - Tax Deduction (Cross, J., Lanese, L.): To authorize an income tax deduction for capital gains received by investors in certain Ohio-based venture capital operating companies.

HB 175 - Water Pollution (Hillyer, B.): To deregulate certain ephemeral water features under various water pollution control laws.

HCR 5 - Elections (Hall, T.): To urge the United States Congress not to adopt H.R. 1 of the 117th Congress.

HB 176 - Athletic Training (Carfagna, R., Hall, T.): To revise the law governing the practice of athletic training and to amend the version of section 4755.62 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 9, 2021, to continue the changes to that section on and after that date.

HB 177 - Ledger Technology (Carfagna, R., Fraizer, M.): To allow a governmental entity to utilize distributed ledger technology, including blockchain technology.

HB 178 - Swimming Pools (Schmidt, J., Miller, A.): To limit the water pressure of water features at swimming pools and to name this act Makenna's Law.

HB 179 - Long-Term Care (Ginter, T., Fraizer, M.): To modify the laws governing expedited licensure inspections and reviewing plans for long-term care facilities and to license providers of home health services.

HB 180 - Road Naming (Abrams, C.): To designate a portion of I-71 in Hamilton County as the "Officers Dennis Bennington and Robert Seiffert Memorial Highway."

HB 181 - Apprentice Program (Powell, J.): To require a licensing authority to issue an occupational license to an applicant who completes a registered apprenticeship program and meets other requirements.

HB 182 - Rental Housing (Upchurch, T., Miller, A.): To prohibit discrimination in rental housing based on lawful source of income.

HB 183- Death Penalty (Schmidt, J., Miller, A.): To abolish the death penalty and to modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment.