

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE MAY 15, 2020



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 25,349 confirmed cases
- 4,791 hospitalizations
- 1,431 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 1.41 million cases
- 84,000 fatalities

World:

- 4.31 million cases
- 294,000 fatalities

Gov. DeWine Announces Additional Re-openings

This week, as part of the “Responsible RestartOhio” plan, Governor DeWine announced several dates for additional re-openings, each with specific safety protocols. The current schedule is:

- **May 15:** Outdoor dining at restaurants/bars, spas, salons and barbershops
- **May 21:** Indoor dining, campgrounds
- **May 22:** horse racing (no spectators)
- **May 26:** BMV locations, pools, low-contact sports leagues, gyms and fitness centers
- **May 31:** daycare centers and day camps



COVID Liability Protections

There are currently two efforts to provide COVID-related liability protections to Ohio businesses and healthcare providers – HB 606 and SB 308. The House Civil Justice Committee accepted substitute language for HB 606 that provides businesses with immunity from coronavirus-related claims except in cases of “reckless conduct”. The bill also provides expanded liability protections to healthcare providers for everything short of “willful and wanton misconduct.” HB 606 is expected to pass out of committee as early as next Tuesday.

Similar to the House’s version, SB 308 contains enhanced protections for healthcare providers beyond provisions for general businesses. Senate Judiciary Committee adopted a sub bill and will likely vote next week. The main issue now becomes resolving differences between the House and Senate versions. Both bills are retroactive to the beginning of the Governor’s emergency order. The House Bill would extend in perpetuity, while the Senate Bill is limited to 180 days after the end of the emergency.

NEXT WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday: House Session at 1 PM

Wednesday: House Session at 1 PM; Senate Session at 1:30 PM

Thursday: House Session at 1 PM

Friday:

Unemployment Claims

Last week, 51,125 Ohioans filed initial unemployment claims, marking the third consecutive week that claims have decreased. Over the past eight weeks, more than \$2.4 billion has been distributed to more than 587,000 claimants. Of the 1 million+ submitted claims, 90 percent have been processed.

This Week's Bills

HB 622 - Child Support: To suspend child support obligations for obligors who have lost income during the period of the state of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, and to declare an emergency.

HB 623 - Dental Expenses: To authorize a two-year income tax deduction for out-of-pocket dental expenses.

HB 624 - COVID-19 Testing: To require the reporting and release of certain COVID-19 testing and related information and to declare an emergency.

HB 625 - State Flower: To designate the hardy mum as one of the state's flowers.

HB 626 - School Transportation: To specify that a school district is not required to plan its transportation schedule based on the start and end times of those nonpublic schools to which it transports students, to require community schools and chartered nonpublic schools to provide certain information related to student transportation to school districts annually, and to declare an emergency.

HB 627 - Student Transportation: To exempt school districts and educational service centers from prohibitions against reductions in student transportation for the 2020-2021 school year and to declare an emergency.

HB 628 - Hand Hygiene: Regarding hand hygiene education for patients and residents of health care facilities.

HB 629 - Nurse Staffing: Regarding staffing ratios and other employment conditions for registered nurses employed by hospitals.

HR 333 - Senate Vote: Encouraging the Ohio Senate to reconsider its vote to not concur with the House amendments to S.B. 89 and, instead, to vote to concur in those amendments, encouraging the General Assembly to take all necessary actions to enact that legislation, and encouraging the Governor to promptly sign and file that act with the Secretary of State.

HCR 24 - Baseball Team: To urge Major League Baseball not to terminate its player development contract with the Mahoning Valley Scrappers Minor League Baseball Team.

HCR 25 - Childhood Trauma: Urging the Governor to declare a State of Emergency on Childhood Trauma in Ohio.

HCR 26 - Internet Service: To urge the Congress and the President of the United States to prohibit internet service providers from terminating internet service to residential customers and small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HCR 27 - Health Insurance: To urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately issue a special enrollment period through HealthCare.gov for uninsured Ohioans who may be unable to access COVID-19 testing and treatment.

HCR 28 - Pandemic Discrimination: To denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and discrimination occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HCR 29 - Drug Shortages: To urge the federal Food and Drug Administration and the United States Congress to take action to prevent drug shortages.

SJR 4 - Unemployment Compensation: Proposing to enact Section 18 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide for the issuance of obligations to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program of the state.

SB 311 – Health Orders: To rescind certain orders of the Director of Health regarding COVID-19, to require the approval of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review for Department of Health orders to be effective for more than fourteen days, to require statewide Department of Health orders to include the Governor's signature, to modify the Department's rulemaking authority, to allow in-person high school graduation ceremonies, and to declare an emergency.

SB 312 – Hardin Courts: To reallocate jurisdictional responsibilities of current judges of the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas and to create the Domestic Relations Division of the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas.

SB 313 – School Payments: To require the Department of Education to make an additional payment in fiscal year 2020 or 2021 to certain school districts that experience a decrease in the taxable value of the district's utility tangible personal property.

SCR 13 – Government Powers: To resolve that no branch of government, be it executive, legislative, or judicial, nor any subordinate department, agency, or entity thereof, may take or otherwise promulgate actions that exceed its authority to do so as expressly granted under the Ohio Constitution or United States Constitution.