

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE

JUNE 19, 2020



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 39,973 confirmed cases
- 7,104 hospitalizations
- 2,401 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 2.23 million cases
- 120,000 fatalities

World:

- 8.24 million cases
- 446,000 fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

-Possible Senate Session and Committees

Wednesday:

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Thursday:

-Weekly Unemployment Report

Friday:

Policing Reform Proposals

Elected leaders at various levels of government have announced plans to overhaul policing. In the wake of several instances of brutality across the nation and subsequent protests throughout the state, officials have detailed proposed changes in law enforcement.

- The Ohio Mayors Alliance announced on Wednesday the formation of the Police Reform Support Network to address racial bias and improve community-police relations in cities.
- House Bill 703 – Policing Practices was introduced last week to express the intent of the General Assembly to study and implement professional police practices.
- Governor DeWine and Attorney General Yost held a press conference on Wednesday to outline several policing proposals, including mandatory psych evaluations, additional de-escalation and implicit bias training, independent investigations and prosecutions, licensing, and a state oversight board.

General Election Preparation

Secretary of State Frank LaRose convened another hearing of the Ready for November Task Force to discuss best practices and anticipate possible hurdles for the upcoming election. Election experts told the task force on Tuesday that Ohio' three-pronged approach to voting (mail-in ballots, early in-person, and traditional day-of) will help to prepare the state up for a safe and successful general election. The task force is examining several changes to voting timelines, polling location capacity, and system security in the wake of COVID. HB 680, which allows a mail election and changes to absentee voting in the case of a public health emergency, was passed in the House two weeks ago. As the Senate is now poised to debate the measure, local and state Democratic elected officials have called for further protections for voters and additional opportunities for casting ballots.

Supreme Court Decisions

The U.S. Supreme Court issued decisions on two major cases this week. On Monday, the high court ruled 6-3 that federal civil rights law prohibits employers from discriminating against workers based on sexual orientation. On Thursday, a 5-4 majority ruled against the current administration's bid to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, citing its violation of the Administrative Procedure Act. The ruling allows more than 650,000 undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S.

Introduced Bills

HB 704: Redevelopment Areas - To modify the law governing Community Redevelopment Areas and the terms under which property may be exempted in such areas.

SB 324: Long-Term Care - To permit long-term care projects to be initiated during a public health emergency without approval through the Certificate of Need Program.

SB 325: Building Inspections - To make changes to the law relating to building inspections.