

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE SEPTEMBER 4, 2020



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 120,471 confirmed cases
- 13,663 hospitalizations
- 3,939 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 6.24 million cases
- 189,000 fatalities

World:

- 26.3 million cases
- 869,000 fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday: OFF – Labor Day

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

-Senate Session at 1:30 pm

Thursday:

-House Select Committee on Energy & Policy Oversight at 1:00 pm

Friday:

COVID Liability Immunity Headed to Governor

This week, the Ohio Senate voted along party lines 22-8 to approve House Bill 606 after being passed by the House the day before. The House Bill grants immunity through September 30th of 2021 to businesses, schools, health-care providers, and other employers, in addition to health-care workers, against lawsuits claiming they helped transmit COVID-19.

The legislation allows lawsuits for circumstances related to “reckless disregard of the consequences or intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.” Proponents of the legislation include Ohio Republicans and business groups citing the language will keep businesses open without fear of legal ramifications.

Householder Returns, Defends Controversial HB6

Former House Speaker Larry Householder surprised colleagues on Tuesday when he attended House Session for the first time after being charged with involvement in a \$60 million bribery scandal related to HB 6. In press interviews, Householder continued to maintain his innocence while defending the merits of the nuclear bailout legislation.

Meanwhile on Thursday, Householder pleaded not guilty to federal racketeering charges after identifying new legal counsel following a motion to withdraw from Householder’s previous legal counsel, citing a conflict of interest. If convicted, Householder faces up to 20 years in prison.

House Select Committee to Address Energy Issues

On Monday, Speaker Bob Cupp announced the creation of the House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight, Chaired by Representative Jim Hoops and tasked with deliberating proposals related to the potential repeal and replace of HB 6.

The select committee will hold its first hearing next Thursday, September 10th, for a sponsor hearing on HB 746, legislation to repeal HB6 sponsored by Representatives Laura Lanese and Dave Greenspan.

Senate Approved \$650M in Local Government Aid

In unanimous Senate approval, SB 357 which would appropriate an additional \$650 million in federal aid dollars to local governments as the Federal CARES spending deadline approaches at the end of the year, now heads to the House for consideration.

Introduced Bills

HB 753 - To create a new negligent assault offense and to name this act Parker's Law.

HB 754 – To modify municipal income tax employer withholding rules for COVID-19-related work-from-home employees.

HB 755 - To make changes to the law relating to tax foreclosures and county land reutilization corporations.

HB 756 - To provide for discretion to school districts regarding educational requirements of substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year and to declare an emergency.

HR 311 - To declare that Ohio is a Second Amendment Protective State.

HR 354 - To urge the United States Congress to convene oversight hearings regarding Russian military intelligence offering bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing American and coalition forces.

HR 355 - To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act.

HR 367 - To urge the Department of Housing and Urban Development to restore the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulations.

HCR 32 - To urge the United States government to select Ohio to host the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command.

HCR 33 - To urge the United States Congress to pass and the President of the United States to sign legislation to designate June 19th as a national holiday, to be known as Juneteenth Independence Day, in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which the news of the end of slavery reached enslaved people in the southwestern states.

HCR 34 - To urge the United States Congress to review and evaluate credit reporting agencies and how credit scores and credit ratings create economic inequities.

HCR 35 - To encourage representation of African Americans on the boards and in senior management of Ohio companies and institutions.

HCR 36 - To urge Congress to pass legislation requiring corporations and labor organizations that make political expenditures to disclose the identities of their donors.

SB 360 - To generally bar public officials from prohibiting all federally licensed firearms dealers in the state or a specified geographic area from the commercial sale or transfer of firearms or their components or ammunition.

SB 361 - To create the adoption linked deposit program.

SB 362 - To increase the total amount of tax credits that may be awarded to insurance companies that invest in rural business growth funds.

SB 363 - To eliminate automatic enrollment in governmental electric and natural gas aggregation programs.