

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE NOVEMBER 13, 2020



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Senate Education Committee (9:00 am)
- House Insurance Committee (10:00 am)
- House Higher Ed Committee (10:30 am)
- Senate Gov. Oversight and Reform Committee (11:00 am)
- House Civil Justice Committee (11:00 am)
- House Session (1:00 pm)
- House Transportation and Public Safety Committee (3:00 pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Gov. Oversight and Reform Committee (9:00 am)
- House Primary and Secondary Ed Committee (9:00 am)
- Senate Judiciary Committee (9:30 am)
- Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee (11:00 am)
- House Session (1:00 pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- House Armed Services and Veterans Committee (3:00 pm)
- House Ag and Rural Development Committee (3:00 pm)

Thursday:

- House Civil Justice Committee (9:00 am)
- House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee (10:00 am)
- House Session (1:00 pm)
- House Commerce and Labor Committee (3:00 pm)

Friday:

Ohio Senate Announces Leadership Team

The majority Republican caucus made a formal announcement on Tuesday tapping Senator Matt Huffman from Lima as the next Senate President, beginning in January. Additionally, Senator Jay Hottinger of Newark will serve as president pro-tempore; Senator Kirk Schuring of Canton will be majority floor leader and Senator Rob McColley of Napoleon was named as majority whip. At this time, Senate Democrats have not set a date for their caucus election. The House GOP is set to have an informal meeting on Wednesday to vote on the next speaker.

COVID-19 Cases Surge in Third Wave

COVID cases have dramatically increased in Ohio, prompting the Governor to address the state outside of his normally scheduled Tuesday and Thursday press conferences. After highlighting the possibility of a vaccine from Pfizer becoming available as early as mid-December, Governor Mike DeWine went on to announce new mask regulations for retailers, and that he would be releasing an additional order with new limits on activities. The governor announced that the status of cars, restaurants, and fitness centers will be reevaluated late next week to determine if closures are necessary.

School Funding Proposal Debated

On Tuesday, the House Finance Committee accepted a substitute version of HB 305, which overhauls Ohio's K-12 education funding system. Committee members raised questions as to whether or not the plan addresses the school districts in the state with the fewest financial resources.

Senate Begins Informal Review of HB6 Repeal Bill

In the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, Representative Mark Romanchuk presented an informal hearing of HB 772, a proposal to repeal portions of HB 6. This was followed by the third hearing of SB 346, another proposal with an aim of repealing HB6 in its entirety.

Current COVID Stats

- Ohio: 267,338 confirmed cases, 21,856 hospitalizations, 5,354 confirmed fatalities
- United States: 10.21 million cases, 242,216 fatalities
- World: 52.49 million cases, 1.29 million fatalities

Introduced Bills

HB 784 – Law Enforcement (Abrams, C., Carruthers, S.): To increase penalties for certain assault, vandalism, and riot offenses, to allow peace officers to bring civil suits against persons participating in a riot, and to prohibit bias motivated intimidation of first responders.

HB 785 - Arts Grants (Smith, K., Callender, J.): To authorize grants for operators of performing arts venues, producers of performing arts, and promoters of performing artists, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

HB 786 - Wind Farms (Smith, T.): To temporarily suspend the certification of major utility facilities that are powered by solar or wind and economically significant wind farms.

HB 787 - Accessible Parking (Wiggam, S.): To make changes to the laws governing accessible parking

SB 376 - School Funding (Lehner, P.): To create a new school financing system for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, and to make an appropriation.

SB 377 - Prisoner Transfers (Sykes, V.): To eliminate the requirement that a sentencing court must assent to the transfer of a prisoner to a transitional control program.

SB 378 - Jefferson Court (Hoagland, F.): To include Cross Creek Township as one of the locations where the Jefferson County County Court holds court.

SB 379 - Road Naming (Hoagland, F.): To designate a portion of State Route 618 in the city of Belpre as the "World War II POW Johnny Buck Highway."

SB 380 - Falconry (Hoagland, F.): To authorize the use of owls in the sport of falconry.

SB 381 - Grant Fund (Sykes, V.): To establish the New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund in the state treasury.

SB 382 - License Plate (Blessing, L.): To create the "Brighter Days 4 Kids" license plate