

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE JANUARY 22, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 746,398 confirmed cases
- 44,315 hospitalizations
- 89,402 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 24.32 million cases
- 404,689 fatalities

World:

- 96.01 million cases
- 2.08 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Senate Judiciary Committee
(2:00 pm)

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Joint Committee Appointments

This week, Senate President Matt Huffman made a number of appointments to joint committees. On the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee are Senators Mark Romanchuk, Stephen Huffman, Niraj Antani, Nickie Antonio, and Cecil Thomas. On the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review are Senators Theresa Gavarone, Kirk Schuring, George Lang, Sandra Williams, and Hearcel Craig.

Phase 1B of State's Vaccination Plan Begins

Ohio began Phase 1B of its vaccination strategy this week, which includes Ohioans at the highest risk of detrimental effects if they contract COVID-19. In the staggered plan, individuals 65 years of age and older and those with serious health complications will become eligible to receive the vaccine. Staff members of schools who have agreed to returning to an in-person or partially in-person model by March 1st will also become eligible for the vaccination during this stage.

First Controlling Board Meeting of 134th GA Set

On Monday, the Controlling Board will have its first meeting of the 134th General Assembly. Agenda items for this meeting include a request from the Office of Budget and Management for \$100 million from the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 to go toward rent assistance, utility assistance, and administrative and operating expenses at the Development Services Agency. OBM is additionally requesting a transfer of CARES Act funds to Fiscal Year 2021 to allow for continued COVID-19 response work. OhioMHAS is also asking for a transfer of funds to continue to use grant money from last year to support an education campaign on prevention, treatment, and stigma reduction. The Ohio EPA

is requesting a transfer of FY 2019 surplus funds into the H2Ohio line item. The full agenda can be found [here](#).

State Unemployment Numbers Drop

The Department of Job and Family Services reported that Ohio's jobless rate fell to 5.5% in December, signifying a decrease in approximately 13,000 unemployed workers. In December of 2019, the rate was 4.1%. The current national average is 6.7%

Introduced Bills

SB 3 – Nursing Compact (Roegner): To enter into the Nurse Licensure Compact

SB 4 – Public Records (Roegner): To include emergency service telecommunicators and certain Ohio National Guard members as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law.

SB 5 – Physical Therapy Compact (Roegner, Blessing): To enter into the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

SB 6 – Medical Compact (Roegner, Huffman): To enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

SB 7 – Occupation Therapy Compact (Roegner): TO enter into the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

SB 8 – Broadband Services (McColley): Regarding broadband expansion, including access to electric cooperative easements and facilities, and to make an appropriation.

SB 9 – Regulations (McColley, Roegner): To require certain agencies to reduce the number of regulatory restrictions in their administrative rules.

SB 10 – Electric Rates (Romanchuk): To terminate any approved decoupling mechanism, to modify the significantly excessive earnings determination for an electric security plan, and to provide refunds to retail electric customers in the state.

SB 11 – Awareness Week (Brenner): To designate February 7 to 14 as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week."

SB 12 – License Plate (Brenner): To create the "Little Brown Jug" license plate.

SB 13 – Contract Limitations (Lang): To shorten the period of limitations for actions upon a contract; to make changes to the borrowing statute pertaining to applicable periods of limitations; and to establish a statute of repose for a legal malpractice action.