

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE FEBRUARY 26, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 826,149 confirmed cases
- 49,951 hospitalizations
- 14,573 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 28.14 million cases
- 503,587 fatalities

World:

- 112.65 million cases
- 2.50 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

- House Finance Primary and Secondary Ed. Sub. (1:00 pm)

Tuesday:

- Senate Transportation (10:00am)
- Senate Local Gov. and Elections (10:30am)
- House Health (11:00 am)
- House Civil Justice (3:00pm)
- Senate Judiciary (3:30pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Transportation (9:00 am)
- Senate Health (9:30am)
- Senate Financial Institutions and Tech. (10:00am)
- House Session (1:00pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- House Commerce and Labor (4:00 pm)

Thursday:

- House Families, Aging, and Human Services (11:00 am)
- House Session (1:00 pm)

Friday:

Transportation Budget Overhauled

On Thursday, the House Finance committee adopted a substitute version of HB 74, the two-year transportation budget. A number of major changes were made to the bill, including the removal of language that designated distracted driving as a primary offense, increased funding to local transit programs to \$193.7 million over the upcoming biennium, and removed a number of proposed fee increases such as the \$10 vehicle registration fee increase. The new bill also provides additional funding to Regional Transportation Planning Organizations, updates rules for highway pavement bidding processes, removes language pertaining to landslide mitigation project bidding and provisions related to navigable airspace, and more. Speaker Bob Cupp anticipates the budget will be voted out of committee on Wednesday, and will receive a floor vote on Thursday.

Governor Details Potential Spring Reopening

During Thursday's COVID-19 press conference, Governor Mike DeWine updated Ohioans on what to expect as COVID numbers trend downward in Ohio. Outdoor sporting events will be able to operate at 30% of capacity, and indoor events can operate at 25%. While no formal guidance has been issued regarding fairs, festivals, parades and more, the Governor said expectations will be similar to those of sporting events. The State is also lifting restrictions on visitors at state behavioral health hospitals, and is beginning to readmit people to Ohio's Home for Veterans.

K-12 Funding Conversations Continue

The House Finance Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee has continued to meet to evaluate and redesign Ohio's system for funding education. Testimony has been given from a number of individuals, including Paolo DeMaria, the state superintendent of public instruction, administrators from districts across the state, and other miscellaneous education-related associations.

Bill Introductions

SB 72 - Officer Assault (Williams, S., Thomas, C.): To prohibit assault by a law enforcement officer.

SB 73 - Firearm Transfers (Thomas, C.): To require a firearm transfer to be made through a dealer, through a law enforcement agency, or pursuant to a specified exception, and to require a background check when a firearm is transferred.

SB 74 - Firearm Purchases (Thomas, C.): To raise the minimum age to purchase a firearm to age 21 and to increase the penalty for improperly furnishing firearms to an underage person.

SB 75 - Gun Shows (Thomas, C., Williams, S.): To regulate the transfer of firearms at a gun show.

SB 76 - Local Firearms Control (Thomas, C., Craig, H.): To restore local authority to generally regulate firearms-related conduct.

SB 77 - Firearm Alterations (Thomas, C.): To prohibit certain conduct regarding trigger cranks, bump-fire devices, and other items that accelerate a semi-automatic firearm's rate of fire but do not convert it into an automatic firearm.

SB 78 - Juneteenth Holiday (Craig, H., Brenner, A.): To establish the nineteenth of June as Juneteenth, a legal holiday for which government employees receive paid leave.

SB 79 - Storage And Towing (Hoagland, F.): To amend the law regarding self-service storage facilities and towing.

SB 80 - Judicial Candidates (Gavarone, T., Cirino, J.): To require certain judicial candidates to appear on the ballot with a party designation.

SB 81 - Confederate Flag (Maharath, T.): To prohibit the display of the Confederate battle flag inside or on the grounds of the Ohio Statehouse

SB 82 - Smoking (Maharath, T.): To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle if a child under six years of age is a passenger.

SB 83 - Brownfield Sites (Williams, S., Rulli, M.): To require the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study to determine where brownfield sites are located in this state and to make an appropriation.

SB 84 - Clean Ohio Fund (Williams, S., Rulli, M.): To make changes to the law relating to the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund.

SB 85 - Noncompete Contracts (Williams, S.): To prohibit the use of noncompete provisions in employment contracts in the broadcasting industry.

SB 86 - Attorney General (Williams, S.): Regarding the Attorney General's authority relating to deaths caused by peace officers.

SB 87 - Asian-American Commission (Antani, N., Maharath, T.): To create the Ohio Asian-American and Pacific Islander Affairs Commission and the Office of Asian- American and Pacific Islander Affairs and to make an appropriation.

SB 88 - Pedestrians (Brenner, A.): To alter the law governing yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.

SCR 4 - Racism (Craig, H., Williams, S.): To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.

SB 89 - Renewable Energy (Dolan, M.): To extend the renewable portfolio standard, increase solar energy benchmarks, and extend the property tax exemption for qualified energy projects that use renewable energy resources.

SB 90 - Domestic Violence (Kunze, S., Antonio, N.): To expand the offense of domestic violence to also prohibit a person from knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of a family or household member by applying pressure to the family or household member's throat or neck or blocking the family or household member's nose or mouth.

SB 91 - Road Naming (Antani, N.): To name a portion of State Route 725 in Montgomery County as the "SGT Gary Lee McKiddy Memorial Highway."

SB 92 - Road Naming (Antani, N.): To designate a portion of State Route 725 in the municipal corporation of Miamisburg as "Mayor Dick Church, Jr. Way."

SB 93 - County Sales Tax (Antani, N.): To require voter approval of any increase in the rate of a county sales tax.

SB 94 - Advance Business (Wilson, S.): To amend the law regarding the non-recourse civil litigation advance business.

SB 95 - Utility Refunds (Maharath, T.): To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged and to regulate certain resellers of utility service.

SB 96 - Utility Disruptions (Williams, S.): To prevent the disruption of utility service during the state of emergency declared regarding COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

SB 97 - Municipal Taxes (Roegner, K.): To modify municipal income tax employer withholding rules for COVID-19-related work-from-home employees

SB 98 - Tax Exemption (Antani, N.): To exempt from sales and use tax things used primarily to move completed manufactured products or general merchandise.

SB 99 - Parkinson's Registry (Rulli, M.): To establish a Parkinson's disease registry.

HB 141 - Public Transportation (Skindell, M., Upchurch, T.): To make appropriations related to public transportation.

HB 142 - Doula Services (Crawley, E., Brinkman, T.): Regarding doula services.

HB 143 - Clean Ohio Program (Hillyer, B.): Relating to the Clean Ohio Program and to make an appropriation.

HB 144 - Fuel Quality (Kelly, B., Hall, T.): To authorize a county to implement a motor fuel quality testing program.

HB 145 - Child Care (Lightbody, M., White, A.): Regarding eligibility for publicly funded child care.

HB 146 - Prevailing Wage (Riedel, C., Manchester, S.): To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects.

HB 147 - Bullying (Boggs, K., Lightbody, M.): To require the Department of Education to develop a process for requesting an investigation of a school's compliance with its policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

HB 148 - Voter Registration (Crossman, J., Brent, J.): To designate February 21 as "Congressman John Lewis Voter Registration Day" and to require the boards of elections to promote that day to encourage voter registration.

HB 149 - Judicial Candidates (Swearingen, D., Stewart, B.): To require certain judicial candidates to appear on the ballot with a party designation.

HB 150 - Public Defenders (Hillyer, B., Leland, D.): To establish the Ohio Public Defender State Loan Repayment Program, to establish a task force to study Ohio's indigent defense system, and to make an appropriation.

HB 151 - Teacher Mentorship (Jones, D.): To replace the Ohio Teacher Residency program with local new teacher mentorship programs beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

HB 152 - Unit Operation (Stewart, B., Ginter, T.): To revise the law governing unit operation.

HB 153 - Medication Switching (Liston, B., Carruthers, S.): Regarding prescription drugs and medication switching.

HR 22 - Voting Rights (Ingram, C.): To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act.

HB 154 - License Plate (Stewart, B.): To create the "Circleville Pumpkin Show" license plate.

HB 155 - Land Use (Upchurch, T., Smith, M.): To create the Land Reutilization Nuisance Abatement Program and to make an appropriation.

HB 156 - Food Workers (Skindell, M., Kelly, B.): To regulate employment practices of formula retail and food services establishment employers and contractors and to require the purchaser of a formula retail or food services establishment to retain certain employees.

HB 157 - Municipal Taxes (Jordan, K., Edwards, J.): To modify municipal income tax employer withholding rules for COVID-19-related work-from-home employees.