

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE MARCH 19, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 847,505 confirmed cases
- 51,993 hospitalizations
- 18,114 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 29.43 million cases
- 55,213 fatalities

World:

- 121.21 million cases
- 2.68 million fatalities

Special Election Set for 11th Congressional District Seat

During Thursday's press conference, Governor Mike DeWine announced that the special election to fill the vacancy in the 11th Congressional District Seat will be held on November 2nd. The vacancy was created after former U.S. Representative Marcia Fudge resigned to become President Joe Biden's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, following her confirmation in the position last week. The primary election will be held August 3rd. Announced candidates include former state Sen. Nina Turner, former state Sen. Jeff Johnson, Cuyahoga County Council member and Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Chair Shontel Brown, and former state Rep. John Barnes.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- House Ag and Conservation (9:00 am)
- Senate Transportation (10:30 am)
- Senate Local Gov and Elections (10:30 am)
- House Health (11:00 am)
- House Civil Justice (3:00 pm)
- Senate Primary and Secondary Education (3:00 pm)

Wednesday:

- House Primary and Secondary Education (9:00 am)
- Senate Finance (9:00 am)
- Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity (10:00 am)
- Senate Government Oversight and Reform (10:45 am)
- House Economic and Workforce Development (11:00 am)
- House Session (1:00 pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- Senate Select Committee on Gaming (4:00 pm)

Thursday:

- House Finance (9:00 am)

Friday:

Transportation Budget Sub Bill Accepted

On Wednesday, the Senate Transportation Committee accepted a substitute version of HB 74, the two-year transportation budget. Changes in the bill include increasing the GRF for public transit by \$13.85 million each year, reverting the state's driver's license renewal to a four-year cycle, requiring ODOT to reopen closed weigh stations as overnight parking for commercial vehicles, clarifying the definition of "plug in electric hybrid" and "hybrid motor vehicles" to exclude vehicles with battery assist, restores language for the executive proposal on "navigable airspace", reduces the amount of capital improvement bonds ODOT is authorized to issue, and requires the director of ODOT to adopt rules to prevent any type of highway pavement from receiving priority in the bidding process.

Copay Accumulator Bill Advances

After a number of hearings in House Health committee, HB 135, which would prohibit the practice of insurers not counting third-party payments toward a patient's cost-sharing requirement, was unanimously reported out of committee. Testimony was given by a pharmacy benefit manager industry group opposing the bill, claiming that it would lead to higher prices in the long-term. Last week, proponents of the bill said the accumulators lead to high out-of-pocket costs for those who need high-cost specialty drugs.

Bill Introductions

HB 207 - Homestead Exemption (Troy, D.): To increase the amount of and expand the income qualifications for the homestead exemption.

HB 208 - Discrimination (Hillyer, B., Skindell, M.): To enact the Ohio Fairness Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, to add mediation as an informal method that the Ohio Civil Rights Commission may use, and to uphold existing religious exemptions under Ohio's Civil Rights Law.

HB 209 - Ballot Boxes (Sweeney, B., Lepore-Hagan, M.): To require boards of elections to provide secure ballot drop boxes and to declare an emergency.

HB 210 - Marihuana (Upchurch, T., Denson, S.): To allow for the cultivation and possession of marihuana, to modify possession and cultivation penalties, and to allow for expungement of certain marihuana convictions.

HB 211 - State Property Protection (LaRe, J., Plummer, P.): To provide in specified circumstances for the Attorney General's prosecution of criminal activity committed at, or on, certain specified state facilities, buildings, premises, or property and to name the act the State Property Protection and Prosecution Act.

HB 212 - Public Assistance (Fraizer, M., Liston, B.): To expand eligibility for the Program for Medically Handicapped Children to individuals up to age 26.

HB 213 - Flag Designation (Miller, J., Sheehy, M.): To designate the Honor and Remember flag as the symbol of Ohio's concern and commitment to honoring and remembering the lives of all fallen service members and their families and to require that the flag be displayed at the statehouse in Columbus on Memorial Day.

HB 214 - Public Officials (Crossman, J., Lepore-Hagan, M.): To prohibit a person who is currently charged with a public corruption offense from taking office as a member of the General Assembly, to require a current member who is charged with a public corruption offense to repay certain amounts to the state, and to declare an emergency.

HB 215 - Business Fairness Act (Wilkin, S., Cross, J.): To enact The Business Fairness Act and to declare an emergency.

HB 216 - Military License Plates (Galonski, T.): To allow an applicant for a military license plate to present to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, as evidence of an honorable discharge, a county-issued veterans identification card in lieu of a DD-214 form issued by the United States Department of Defense.

HB 217 - Highway Designation (Baldrige, B.): To designate U.S. Route 52 in Adams County the "Adams County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway."

HB 218 - Statewide Curfews (Cutrona, A.): To temporarily extend bar hours of operation, exempt bars from statewide curfews, and declare an emergency.

HB 219 - License Plate (Stephens, J.): To create the "Marshall University" license plate.

HB 220 - License Plate (Bird, A.): To create the "University of Alabama" license plate.

HB 221 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (Brinkman, T., Gross, J.): To modify the laws governing the practice of advanced practice registered nurses and to designate these provisions as the Better Access, Better Care Act.

HB 222 - Nonprofits (Wilkin, S., Upchurch, T.): To specify that a nonprofit formed or acquired by a county hospital or joint township district hospital is a separate entity from the hospital.

HB 223 - Sales Tax (Hillyer, B.): To allow vendors to deduct sales tax remitted for certain bad debts charged off as uncollectible by credit account lenders.

HCR 6 - Racism (Howse, S., Crawley, E.): To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.

HCR 7 - Air Fleet (John, M., Kick, D.): To urge the United States Congress and the United States Department of Defense to maintain the C-130 fleet at the United States Transportation Command's 2018 Mobility Capabilities and Requirements Study's recommendation of 300 aircraft and to recapitalize the Reserve Component C-130H fleet to the C-130J.

SJR 1 - Involuntary Servitude (Thomas, C.): Proposing to amend Section 6 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit involuntary servitude in Ohio for the punishment of crime.

SB 129 - Nurse Overtime (Schaffer, T., Antonio, N.): To prohibit a hospital from requiring a nurse to work overtime as a condition of continued employment.

SB 130 - Lost Animals (Antani, N.): To grant a person immunity from the crime of theft, and a licensed veterinarian civil immunity, for possessing a lost domestic animal under certain circumstances, and to name this act Khloey's Law.

SB 131 - Occupational Licensing (Roegner, K., McColley, R.): To require an occupational licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has satisfactory work experience in another state under certain circumstances and to amend the version of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on April 12, 2023, to continue the changes on and after that date.

SB 132 - Women's Sports (Roegner, K.): To enact the "Save Women's Sports Act" to require schools, state institutions of higher education, and private colleges to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex.

SB 133 - Cosmetologists (Roegner, K.): To revise the law governing the regulation of cosmetologists and barbers.

SB 134 - Business Act (Lang, G.): To enact The Business Fairness Act and to declare an emergency.

SB 135 - Higher Education (Cirino, J.): Regarding the operation of state institutions of higher education and regarding free speech in public universities, colleges, and schools.

SB 136 - Week Designation (Williams, S.): To designate the fourth week of June as "Postpartum Cardiomyopathy Awareness Week."

SB 137 - Maternal Morbidity (Kunze, S., Antonio, N.): To modify the laws governing the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board and to require birthing facilities to report data on severe maternal morbidity.

SB 138 - Protection Orders (Williams, S.): To enact the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

SB 139 - Employer Agreements (Lang, G.): To amend the law regulating multiple employer welfare arrangements.