

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE MARCH 26, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 854,450 confirmed cases
- 52,539 hospitalizations
- 18,388 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 29.83 million cases
- 542,584 fatalities

World:

- 124.87 million cases
- 2.74 million fatalities

Legislature Overrides Governor's Health Order Bill Veto

Following Governor Mike DeWine's veto of SB 22, both chambers overturned the veto on Wednesday by surpassing the three-fifths majority needed. This is the first veto override during Governor DeWine's term. The override started in the Senate chamber, where it received a () vote. In the House, the override received a 62-35 vote. Republican Senators Matt Dolan and Stephanie Kunze, and Republican Representative Andrea White joined the chamber's Democrats in opposing the override. The law will come into effect in 90 days, allowing the legislature to overturn executive action by concurrent resolution and enabling the creation of a joint oversight committee. Governor DeWine's five-page veto message can be found [here](#).

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

- Senate Energy and Public Utilities (10:00 am)
- Senate Select Committee on Gaming (11:00 am)
- Senate Local Gov and Elections (11:30 am)
- Senate Primary and Secondary Education (3:00 pm)
- Senate Workforce and Higher Education (3:00 pm)

Thursday:

Friday:

Nuclear Subsidy Repeal Heads to Governor

On Thursday, HB 128 was finalized by legislators and now heads to Governor Mike DeWine for signature. The proposal repeals up to \$150 million a year in nuclear plant support, and gets rid of two rate change laws related to decoupling and the significantly excessive earnings test. Additionally, it charges the Ohio Power Citing Board with conducting a study of rising transmission costs and provides administrative funding for the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority. In his comments, Speaker Cupp ruled out the possibility of restoring clean energy standards that were taken away in HB 6.

Unemployment Fraud Investigation Continues

Former U.S. attorney David DeVillers was tapped to serve as a liaison between the Department of Job and Family Services and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to assist the state in its effort to eradicate fraudulent unemployment claims. DeVillers previously served as the U.S. Attorney of the Southern District of Ohio, and resigned from his post at the request of the Biden administration. Ohio has also signed an agreement with Google for data analytics to work on outstanding unemployment applications in an attempt to identify legitimate claims and pay them quickly.

Bill Introductions

SB 140 - Property Tax Exemptions (Schaffer, T.): To modify the property tax exemption procedures applicable to community schools.

SB 141 - Day Designation (Schaffer, T.): To designate the first Saturday in May as "World's Largest Diaper Drive Day."

SB 142 - Occupational Regulation (Schaffer, T.): To license residential only construction contractors and to make changes to the law regulating specialty construction contractors.

SB 143 - Drinking Water Contaminants (O'Brien, S.): To require the Director of Environmental Protection to adopt a maximum contaminant level for aluminum in drinking water.

SB 144 - Consumer Protections (Rulli, M., Williams, S.): To enact the Consumer Protection Call Center Act regarding the eligibility of employers that relocate a call center to a foreign country to receive state grants, loans, and other benefits.

SB 145 - State Report Card (Brenner, A.): To revise the state report card system.

SCR 5 - Pandemic Discrimination (Maharath, T., Thomas, C.): To denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and discrimination occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SB 146 - Pavement Types (Antani, N.): To require the Director of Transportation to adopt rules that prevent any particular type of highway pavement from receiving priority in the highway construction bidding process.

SB 147 - Tax Exemption (Hottinger, J.): To exempt from sales tax memberships to gyms or other recreational facilities operated by nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations.

SB 148 - African Immigrants (Sykes, V.): To establish the New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund in the state treasury.

HB 224 - AAPI Affairs (Howse, S., Galonski, 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.

HB 225 - Income Tax (Edwards, J., Hall, T.): To grant income tax credits to persons who serve as volunteer peace officers, firefighters, or emergency medical service technicians.

HB 226 - Intimidation Offenses (Pavliga, G., Miller, A.): To expand intimidation offenses to include guardians ad litem and court appointed special advocates.

HB 227 - Concealed Weapons (Brinkman, T., Jordan, K.): To rename a concealed handgun license as a concealed weapons license, to allow a concealed weapons licensee to carry concealed all deadly weapons not otherwise prohibited by law, to expand state preemption of firearms regulation to include all deadly weapons, to repeal a notice requirement for licensees stopped for law enforcement purposes, to authorize expungement of related convictions, and to allow a person age 21 or older to carry a concealed deadly weapon without a license.

HB 228 - Municipal Corporation Tax (Roemer, B.): To make changes related to state-administered municipal net profits taxes.

HB 229 - Civil Immunity (Wilkin, S., Swearingen, D.): To provide a qualified immunity to camp operators for harm arising from a risk inherent to camping.

HB 230 - State Information Technology (Ray, S., Hall, T.): Regarding the state's information technology systems and shared services and to make an appropriation.

HR 35 - Property Tax Committee (Troy, D.): To authorize the creation of the temporary House Select Committee on Property Tax Education and Reform.

HB 231 - Vehicle Dealers (Fowler Arthur, S.): To prohibit the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or the Motor Vehicle Dealers Board from adopting rules regarding the hours of operation of a used motor vehicle dealer as a condition of licensure.

HB 232 - Wage Disparities (Howse, S., Miranda, J.): To enact the Ohio Equal Pay Act to address wage disparities in public and private employment.

HCR 8 - Unemployment Fraud (Grendell, D.)

To create the Joint Select Investigative Committee on Unemployment Compensation Fraud.

HB 233 - Civil Rights Commission (Boyd, J., Crawley, E.): To require the Ohio Civil Rights Commission to establish a system for individuals to anonymously report wage discrimination.

HB 234 - Commercial Activity Tax (Gross, J., McClain, R.): To repeal the commercial activity tax with a five-year phase-out.

HB 235 - High Hazard Training Certification (Swearingen, D., Baldrige, B.): To enact the High Hazard Training Certification (HHTC) Act regarding construction services performed under a contract at a stationary source.

HB 236 - Prescription Drugs (Fraizer, M., Lipps, S.): To regulate the processing, sale, and distribution of kratom.