

# THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE APRIL 2, 2021



## **CURRENT COVID STATS**

### Ohio:

- 863,980 confirmed cases
- 53,169 hospitalizations
- 18,611 confirmed fatalities

### United States:

- 30.28 million cases
- 549,098 fatalities

### World:

- 128.54 million cases
- 2.81 million fatalities

## **NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

## **Nuclear Payment Repeal Bill Signed**

Governor Mike DeWine signed HB 128 into law on Wednesday that eliminates the state's nuclear support program that was created with HB 6 from the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. The bill removes \$150 million a year in nuclear plant support, and eliminates two rate change laws related to decoupling and the significantly excessive earnings test. The law will go into effect in 90 days, and revenue gathered under both of these provisions is to be refunded. Debate over other portions of HB 6 are continuing in the legislature.

## **House Health Committee Expects Busy Post-Break Schedule**

House Health Committee Chairman Rep. Scott Lipps expects work in the committee to pick up following the break. Prior to break, the committee tried to limit controversial measures to assure that members were able to leave for budget meetings. In the near future, the committee plans to look at a bill regarding emergency prescription refills (HB 37), and well as a proposal to prohibit tanning services for those under 18 (HB 159). Debate over SB 3 in relation to nursing licenses will also continue.

## **Growth Capital Program Plans Detailed**

JobsOhio detailed their initiative to invest in start-up companies as part of the overall strategy for the state's economic recovery from COVID-19. They intend to put \$50 million per year toward its Growth Capital Program, which helps firms hire and scale in Ohio instead of leaving for other states.

## **Vaccination Plan Targets New Groups**

During his COVID-19 press conference, Governor DeWine announced plans to increase vaccine distribution in Ohio by partnering with college campuses, and allowing providers to partner with businesses to administer on-the-job vaccines. College campuses plan to provide the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine to all students who wish to receive it, with the hope that making it accessible before students leave for summer break will reduce transmission in the state. Vaccine providers will be allowed to put aside 25% of their weekly allocation for on-site vaccination clinics at businesses, labor unions, and other groups.

## **Bill Introductions**

SJR 2 - Water Quality Bonds (Gavarone, T., Yuko, K.): Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund clean water improvements.

SB 149 - Bias-Motivated Crime (Maharath, T., Antonio, N.): To rename the offense of ethnic intimidation to bias-motivated crime; to expand the scope of bias-motivated crime; to require peace officer training on bias-motivated crime; and to require data collection and reporting on bias-motivated crime

SB 150 - Physician Contracts (Johnson, T., Williams, S.): To prohibit the use of noncompete provisions in physician employment contracts.

SB 151 - Infant Medical Treatment (Johnson, T.): To establish standards for the medical treatment of certain infants and to name the act Emery and Elliot's Law.

HB 237 - County Recorders (Hillyer, B.): To require counties to provide an electronic means of recording instruments and accessing them, to allow county recorders to charge a document preservation surcharge, to increase recording fees for certain instruments, and to make an appropriation.

HB 238 - Date Designation (Hicks-Hudson, P., Crawley, E.): To designate July 28 as Buffalo Soldiers Day.

HB 239 - OSU Farm Institute (Creech, R.): With regard to the Ohio State University's Farm Financial Management Institute and to make an appropriation.

HB 240 - Sexual Education (Stoltzfus, R., Fowler Arthur, S.): To enact the Parents Right to Know Act to enforce school district compliance with venereal disease or teen pregnancy prevention instruction requirements.

HB 241 - Tax Foreclosures (Patton, T.): To make changes to the law relating to tax foreclosures and county land reutilization corporations.

HB 242 - Month Designation (Young, B., Weinstein, C.): To designate April as "Autism Acceptance Month."

HB 243 - Knife Regulation (Cutrona, A.): Regarding the regulation of knives.

HB 244 - Military Children (White, A., Lampton, B.): Regarding technology-based educational opportunities for, and the enrollment of, military children

HB 245 - Sewage Rates (Ingram, C.): To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges.

HB 246 - Highway Designation (Dean, B.): To designate a portion of State Route 123 in Warren County as the "Officer Ciera N. Greene Memorial Highway."