

# THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE APRIL 30, 2021



## CURRENT COVID STATS

### Ohio:

- 900,146 confirmed cases
- 56,272 hospitalizations
- 19,186 confirmed fatalities

### United States:

- 32.03 million cases
- 571,297 fatalities

### World:

- 150.11 million cases
- 3.16 million fatalities

## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Monday:

### Tuesday:

- Senate Primary and Secondary Education (9 am)
- Senate Financial Institutions (9:30 am)
- Senate Local Gov and Elections (10:30 am)
- Senate Health (2 pm)
- Senate Veterans and Public Safety (3 pm)
- Senate General Gov Budget (4 pm)

### Wednesday:

- Senate Health (9 am)
- Senate Transportation (9 am)
- Senate Local Gov and Elections (9:30 am)
- Senate General Gov Budget (10 am)
- House Session (1 pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)

### Thursday:

- Senate Health (9:30 am)
- House Session (1 pm)
- Senate Primary and Secondary Education (1 pm)

### Friday:

## Budget Update

After passing the House last week, the two-year spending bill is entering its second week of hearings in Senate committees. Hearings have occurred in Senate Primary and Secondary Education, Senate Local Government and Elections, Senate Health, Senate General Government Budget, and Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committees. The upper chamber plans to start accepting amendments the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>, and plans for passage in early June, according to Senate President Matt Huffman.

## Senate Passes COVID Relief Bill; Broadband Expansion

During Wednesday's Senate Session, legislators passed HB 167, a bill which authorizes \$565 million in COVID-19 housing support. The measure allows for \$465 million in FY 2021 to the Development Services Agency for an emergency rental assistance program, and \$100 million to the Department of Public Safety for COVID-19 relief. HB 167 now heads to the Governor for signature. The Senate also passed HB 2, which creates a Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program to help develop infrastructure challenges. The measure provides immediate funding of \$20 million to launch the program in FY 2021. The bill picked up an amendment the day before in the Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee which removed funding for FY 2022-23. Senators plan to address funding in the state operating budget. The bill is now slated for a House concurrence vote.

## Ohio to Lose Congressional Seat

Following Census results released this Monday, Ohio's U.S. House delegation will lose one seat, dropping from 16 to 15 members due to Ohio's 2% population growth rate falling below the nationwide rate of 7.4%. Seven states total have lost a seat, and six states will gain at least one seat. Additional redistricting data will be released by September 30<sup>th</sup> according to US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. Following this delay, Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman has brought forth a plan to amend the Ohio Constitution to provide a more lenient redistricting schedule. At this time, the Redistricting Commission is required to adopt a new redistricting plan via a bipartisan vote in September. The proposal from President Huffman would push this date back to November.

## **Bill Introductions**

SB 169 - Vaccination Prohibition (Brenner, A.): To prohibit mandatory vaccinations against the coronavirus, to prohibit requiring proof of vaccinations generally, and to declare an emergency.

SB 170 - Date Designation (Antani, N.): To designate May 21st as "Ohio Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development."

SB 171 - Brine Sales (Hoagland, F., Rulli, M.): To establish conditions and requirements for the sale of brine from oil or gas operations as a commodity and to exempt that commodity from requirements otherwise applicable to brine.

HB 273 - Consumers' Counsel (O'Brien, M.): To remove the prohibition on the Office of the Consumers' Counsel operating a call center and to make an appropriation.

HB 274 - Firearms (Upchurch, T., Jarrells, D.): To restore local authority to generally regulate firearms-related conduct.

HB 275 - Political Subdivision (Lampton, B.): To expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.

HB 276 - Prostitution (Powell, J., Schmidt, J.): To prohibit a person from receiving proceeds of prostitution.

HB 277 - Cosmetologists / Barbers (Powell, J.): To revise the law governing the regulation of cosmetologists and barbers.

HB 278 - MARCS (Hillyer, B.): To make changes to laws governing the multi-agency radio communications system (MARCS).