

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE MAY 21, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 917,190 confirmed cases
- 58,396 hospitalizations
- 19,623 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 32.86 million cases
- 584,975 fatalities

World:

- 165.97 million cases
- 3.42 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- House Ag and Conservation (9 am)
- House Health (10 am)
- House Civil Justice (3 pm)
- Senate Primary and Secondary Education (3 pm)
- Senate Ag and Natural Resources (4 pm)

Wednesday:

- House Public Utilities (10 am)
- House Session (1 pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- House Commerce and Labor (2 pm)
- Senate Insurance (2:30 pm)

Thursday:

- House Session (1 pm)

Friday:

Governor Announces Staff Changes

On Thursday, Governor Mike DeWine announced that his current Chief of Staff Laurel Dawson will assume the role of Counselor to the Governor. Michael Hall, who currently serves as Policy Director, will take over as Chief of Staff. Ann O'Donnell will remain in her role as Chief Advisor to the Governor.

Utility Refund Bill Receives First Hearing

HB 260, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Representative Laura Lanese and Representative Daniel Troy that would require a full refund of utility charges the Ohio Supreme Court subsequently deems unlawful, received its first hearing in House Public Utilities this week. The sponsor testimony prompted a line of questioning concerning how to best tackle this issue, and what other methods can be used to address the problem.

Broadband Expansion Bill Signed

On Monday in Middletown, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 2, a law to boost broadband expansion funding. The legislation was signed as an emergency measure to establish the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program, dedicating \$20 million for Fiscal Year 2021 to the newly created program housed within the Development Services Agency. Future funding is expected to come through the operating budget.

Broadband Expansion Bill Signed

Two bills delivering \$682 million in business grants and other assistance was signed into law by the Governor on Monday. The measures, SB 108 and SB 109, were two of four bills introduced two months ago to distribute federal COVID relief money. HB 167, one of the other bills which contained money for rent and utility assistance, was signed last week. The final proposals, which contain funds for schools, are awaiting final passage.

Bill Introductions

HB 310 - Virtual Testimony (Kelly, B., Miller, A.): To require that a committee of the General Assembly establish a means of hearing virtual testimony.

HB 311 - EEG And TMS (Ghanbari, H., Miller, A.): To expand the Electroencephalogram (EEG) Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Pilot Program and to make an appropriation.

HB 312 - Date Designation (Boggs, K., Lightbody, M.): To designate November 23rd as "Women and Girls in STEM Day."

HB 313 - Redistricting (Hicks-Hudson, P.): To delineate the public records, public meetings, and other requirements with which the Ohio Redistricting Commission, the General Assembly, and the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, Reapportionment, and Demographic Research must comply during the redistricting process, to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

HB 314 - Taxation (Swearingen, D., Click, G.): To exempt from state and local use taxes certain watercraft seasonally stored or repaired in Ohio.

HB 315 - Bail (Leland, D., Hillyer, B.): To make changes regarding bail.

HB 316 - High School Education (Jarrells, D., Hillyer, B.): To establish the Supplemental School Year Program for the 2021-2022 school year and to declare an emergency.

HB 317 - Electric Laws (Wilkin, S.): To repeal electric security plans and make other changes to the law regarding competitive retail electric service.

HCR 20 - Policing Act (Lightbody, M., Brent, J.): To urge the United States Congress to enact H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021.

HB 318 - Anesthesiologist Assistants (Swearingen, D., Plummer, P.): To revise the law governing the practice of anesthesiologist assistants.

HB 319 - Human Trafficking (Galonski, T., Richardson, T.): To allow a victim of human trafficking to expunge certain criminal records and to name this act the Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act.

HB 320 - False 9-1-1 (Weinstein, C., West, T.): To permit the subject of a false 9-1-1 report made by a person for a discriminatory reason against the subject of the report to bring a civil action for damages against the person, and to name the act Darren's Law.

HCR 21 - Rescind Orders (Wiggam, S., Ferguson, R.): To rescind certain orders and rules in whole or in part.

SB 181 - Religious Expression (Gavarone, T.): Regards student religious expression in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities.

SB 182 - Bail (McColley, R., Huffman, S.): To make changes regarding bail.

SB 183 - Human Trafficking (Fedor, T., Kunze, S.): To allow a victim of human trafficking to expunge certain criminal records and to name this act the Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act.

SB 184 - Online Marketplaces (Lang, G., Rulli, M.): Regards transparency by large-volume third-party sellers in online marketplaces.