

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE MAY 14, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 912,682 confirmed cases
- 57,809 hospitalizations
- 19,439 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 32.64 million cases
- 580,837 fatalities

World:

- 160.69 million cases
- 3.34 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

- Senate Finance (10 am)

Tuesday:

- Senate Finance (9:30 am)
- House Financial Institutions (10:30 am)
- House Health (11 am)
- House Civil Justice (3 pm)
- Senate Ag and Natural Resources (4 pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Finance (9 am)
- Senate Small Business & Econ Opportunity (9 am)
- Senate Health (9:30 am)
- House Session (1 pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- Senate Select Committee on Gaming (4 pm)

Thursday:

- House Government Oversight (9 am)
- House Session (1 pm)

Friday:

Ohio to Stop Unemployment Bonus Payments

Governor Mike DeWine announced Thursday that the state will end participation in the federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program on June 26th, 2021. This unemployment bonus allowed jobless Ohioans to collect an additional \$300 in weekly payments. The additional benefits were originally set to expire in September, but were extended by action from the state. The State expressed concerns that the additional payments have discouraged Ohioans from returning to work, hence the decision to withdraw from the program.

Pandemic Health Orders Lifting June 2

During a statewide address on Wednesday evening, Governor Mike DeWine announced that a majority of Ohio's COVID-19 health orders will end on June 2nd, including the mask mandate and other social distancing restrictions as the vaccine becomes more widely available. Restrictions will still apply to nursing homes and assisted care facilities. This announcement followed the news that the Pfizer vaccination is now available for those ages 12-15. Businesses have the discretion to impose their own restrictions. The Governor also announced a number of vaccination incentives, including 5 four-year scholarships to any Ohio state college or university, and 5 Ohioans over the age of 18 a \$1 million prize. These lottery drawings will be conducted on a weekly basis, beginning May 26.

K-12 Funding Plan Update

Senate President Matt Huffman voiced concerns on the House-approved school funding formula and future funding impacts. House Bill 1 was incorporated into the state operating budget, House Bill 110, and is now undergoing discussions in the Senate. President Huffman has said that the chamber could retain some aspects of the House proposal, such as direct funding of charter schools and private school voucher programs, while abandoning other aspects.

Bill Introductions

HB 296 - Elections (Lepore-Hagan, M., Liston, B.): To modify the law governing voter registration and the method of conducting elections.

HB 297 - Firearms (Wiggam, S.): To establish the Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act.

HB 298 - State Board Of Education (Bird, A., Miller, J.): To change the voting membership of the State Board of Education to consist of only elected members.

HB 299 - Utility Billing (Skindell, M.): To enact "The Consumer Utility Billing Transparency Act" requiring the itemization of all riders, charges, taxes, and other costs on certain utility bills.

HB 300 - Natural Resources (Skindell, M.): To ban the taking or removal of oil or natural gas from and under the bed of Lake Erie.

HB 301 - Date Designation (Skindell, M., Ingram, C.): To designate the last Saturday of September as "Ohio Public Lands Day."

HB 302 - Wind Farms (Skindell, M., Smith, K.): To alter the minimum setback requirement for wind farms of five or more megawatts.

HB 303 - Community Reinvestment Areas (Swearingen, D.): Regards to career-technical education and the compensation of joint vocational school districts located in community reinvestment areas.

HB 304 - Smoke Alarms (Baldridge, B.): To amend the law regarding smoke alarms in residential premises.

HB 305 - Insulin Drugs (Liston, B., Manning, G.): To cap cost sharing for prescription insulin drugs.

HB 306 - Campaign Finance Law (Sweeney, B., Russo, A.): To modify the campaign finance law, and to name this act the Ohio Anti-Corruption Act.

HCR 19 - Federal Reserve Transparency (Jordan, K.): To urge Congress to pass the "Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2021."

HB 307 - Law Enforcement Quotas (West, T., Leland, D.): To prohibit law enforcement agencies from using quotas for arrests and citations.

HB 308 - License Plate (Brown, R.): To enact section 4503.703 of the Revised Code to create the "Loyal Order of the Moose" license plate.

HB 309 - Fair And Open Competiton (Brinkman, T.): To enact the Fair and Open Competition Act regarding project labor agreements in public improvement contracts.

SB 177 - Pregnant Workers (Maharath, T.): To enact the Ohio Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to generally require employers to make reasonable accommodations for employees who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

SB 178 - Education (Reineke, B.): To reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Department of Education.

SB 179 - Virtual Testimony (Thomas, C.): To require that a committee of the General Assembly establish a means of hearing virtual testimony.

SB 180 - Sewage Rates (Thomas, C.): To expand eligibility for county sewer discounted rates or charges.