

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE MAY 28, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 921,199 confirmed cases
- 59,012 hospitalizations
- 19,748 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 33.02 million cases
589,547 fatalities

World:

- 168.51 million cases
- 3.51 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Senate Local Gov and Elections (10:30 am)
- Senate Finance (11:45 am)
- Senate Veterans and Public Safety (2 pm)
- Senate Primary and Secondary Education (3 pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Insurance (9 am)
- Senate Health (9:30 am)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- Senate Finance (3 pm)
- Senate Workforce and Higher Education (3 pm)
- Senate Select Committee on Gaming (4 pm)

Thursday:

- Senate Finance (9 am)

Friday:

Vaccination Bills Receive First Hearing

In both the House and Senate, legislation to prohibit mandatory vaccinations had their first hearing. SB 169 is described by sponsor Senator Brenner as a nondiscrimination bill aimed at COVID-19 vaccinations, prohibiting groups from requiring the COVID vaccination, making it an act of discrimination to segregate a person based on their COVID vaccination status, and outlawing the requirement that one must disclose their vaccination status. Sen. Brenner said that this bill differs from House Bill 248 on account of its scope. SB 169 focuses only on COVID-19 vaccinations, while HB 248 prohibits discrimination based on vaccination status of any type. These bills will continue hearings in House Health and Senate Health.

Vax-A-Million Impacts

The first winners of Ohio's Vax-A-Million lottery were announced Wednesday evening. Governor Mike DeWine announced the incentive when Ohio's vaccination rates were beginning to lag, and has since reported that vaccination numbers have risen since the program was announced. Over 44% of all Ohioans have received their first dose of the vaccine, with 39% of the state having completed both doses. The incentive program was praised by President Biden during a Cleveland visit, and has drawn criticism from those who question this use of federal Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars.

Municipal Tax Withholding Measure Passed by House

HB 157 was passed by the House this week, which would sunset a temporary rule that treated those working from a location other than their regular place of unemployment during the pandemic as working in the office for municipal tax income purposes at the end

of 2021. It would also require that municipalities approve employees' requests for a refund of taxes withheld under the rule on and after Jan. 1, 2021. The latter provision drew controversy due to concerns that it would harm the state's municipalities.

Bill Introductions

HB 321 - Auctioneer License (Kick, D., Young, B.): To eliminate the apprentice auctioneer and special auctioneer's license and to make other revisions to the law governing auctions.

HB 322 - Education Curriculum (Jones, D.): Regards the teaching of certain current events and certain concepts regarding race and sex in public schools.

HB 323 - Income Tax (Fowler Arthur, S.): To authorize a personal income tax credit for certain primary and secondary education expenses.

HB 324 - Hospital Visitation (Click, G., Lipps, S.): To permit hospital visitation during a public health emergency or outbreak of a contagious disease, to establish criteria for those visits, and to name this act Shirley and Wilma's Law.

HB 325 - Emergency Powers (Wiggam, S.): Regards a political subdivision's emergency powers when suppressing a riot, mob, or potential riot or mob and the preservation of rights regarding firearms during an emergency.

HB 326 - County Treasurer (Fowler Arthur, S.): To change the first day of office of a county treasurer from the first Monday of September next after the election to the second Monday of March next after the election.

HB 327 - Education Curriculum (Grendell, D., Fowler Arthur, S.): To prohibit school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and state agencies from teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts.

HB 328 - Office Of Drug Policy (Brown, R.): To establish the Governor's Office of Drug Policy.

HB 329 - Vaccine Lottery (Powell, J.): To prohibit the state from conducting a lottery dependent on an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status, to name the act the "Taxpayer Protection Against the Frivolous Vaccine Lottery Act," to make an appropriation, and to declare an emergency.

HR 65 - Corporate Personhood (Skindell, M., Smith, K.): To call on legislators at the state and federal level and other communities and jurisdictions to support an amendment to the United States Constitution that would abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as speech.

HB 330 - Bridge Designation (Lepore-Hagan, M.): To designate a bridge along State Route 46 in Mahoning County as the "Air Force 2nd Lt. William Vaughan Memorial Bridge."

HB 331 - Law Enforcement (Smith, K., Blackshear, W.): To require certain law enforcement officers to wear a clearly visible badge and identification on their person while on duty.

SB 185 - Emergency Powers (Schaffer, T.): Regards a political subdivision's emergency powers when suppressing a riot, mob, or potential riot or mob and the preservation of rights regarding firearms during an emergency.

SB 186 - Federal Actions (Lang, G., McColley, R.): Regards the constitutionality of federal actions and to declare an emergency.

SB 187 - Intercollegiate Athletes (Antani, N.): To allow intercollegiate athletes to earn compensation from their name, image, or likeness and to declare an emergency.

SCR 6 - Refugee Communities (Maharath, T., Craig, H.): To commend refugee communities in Ohio.

SB 188 - Bridge Designation (Rulli, M.): To designate a bridge along State Route 46 in Mahoning County as the "Air Force 2nd Lt. William Vaughan Memorial Bridge."

SB 189 - Court Of Common Pleas (Lang, G., McColley, R.): To change the venue in which appeal from an agency order is proper to the local court of common pleas.