

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE MAY 7, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 906,928 confirmed cases
- 57,118 hospitalizations
- 19,337 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 32.36 million cases
- 576,238 fatalities

World:

- 155.51 million cases
- 3.25 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Senate Financial Institutions (9:30 am)
- Senate Finance (10 am)
- Senate Ag and Natural Resources (4 pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Energy and Public Utilities (9 am)
- Senate Small Bus. And Econ. Opportunity (10 am)
- House Session (1 pm)
- Senate Session (1:30 pm)
- House Commerce and labor (2 pm)

Thursday:

- Senate Finance (9 am)
- House Session (1 pm)

Friday:

Budget Update

House Bill 110, the two-year spending plan, underwent a full week of testimony regarding miscellaneous aspects of the bill. Testimony was given by mental health groups, health districts, higher education advocates, and a number of departments including JFS and Medicaid. The amendment deadline for the Senate-version of the bill is Wednesday, May 12th.

Plan to Legalize Sports Wagering Unveiled

During a press conference on Thursday morning, members of the Ohio Senate released details of SB 176, legislation to legalize sports gambling in Ohio. The bill creates two types of licenses- Type A licenses for those who can “bank the bet” and mobile wagering, and Type B licenses for brick-and-mortar locations with sports books. Each license will cost \$1 million and has a duration of three years. All transactions will be taxed at a 10% rate, with revenue generated going toward public and private education and problem gaming services. Senator Kirk Schuring hopes to have the legislation on the Governor’s desk for signature by the end of June.

Election Law Legislation Introduced

House Bill 294 was introduced on Thursday by Representative Sharon Ray and Representative Bill Setiz. The bill, which sponsors refer to as a “comprehensive elections modernization bill”, is a broad update to Ohio election laws. Provisions in the bill include enabling online absentee ballot requests through a two-factor authentication system, codifying automated voter registration via the BMV, removing in-person voting on the Monday before an election, barring the mailing of absentee ballots fewer than 10 days before an election, expanding the definition of “active voter”, and adding electronic bank statements and utility bills to the list of voter identification methods. The bill has raised criticism from a number of groups.

Bill Introductions

HB 279 - Wrongful Death (Brown, R., Oelslager, S.): To revise the law regarding wrongful death claims.

HB 280 - MARCS (Cross, J., Plummer, P.): To alter the law governing user fees for the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System.

HB 281 - Mental Health And Disabilities (Jarrells, D., Young, T.): To modify terminology in the Revised Code regarding people with mental illnesses and people with disabilities and to name this act the Mental Health and Disability Terminology Act.

HB 282 - Brine Sales (Young, B., Jones, D.): 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 283 - Distracted Driving (Abrams, C., Lampton, B.): To expand the texting while driving prohibition to a general prohibition against using an electronic wireless communications device while driving, with certain exceptions, and to create data collection requirements based on associated violations of the distracted driving laws.

HB 284 - Hygiene Education (Brent, J.): Regards hand-hygiene education and guidelines for patients and residents of health care facilities.

HB 285 - Attorney General (Seitz, B.): Regards intervention and legal representation in actions challenging statutes and to require the Attorney General to seek legislative approval before settling certain actions.

HB 286 - Court Of Common Pleas (Seitz, B.): To change the venue in which appeal from an agency order is proper to the local court of common pleas.

HR 56 - E-Check (Grendell, D.): To respectfully urge the United States Congress and the President to amend the Federal Clean Air Act to eliminate the requirement to implement the E-Check Program and direct the Administrator of USEPA to begin new rule-making procedures under the Administrative Procedure Act to repeal and replace the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; to respectfully urge the United States Congress and the President to pass legislation to achieve improvements in air quality more efficiently while allowing companies to innovate and help the economy grow; to urge the Administrator of USEPA to alleviate burdensome

requirements of the E-Check Program and the Clean Air Act if the United States Congress and the President fail to act; and to encourage OEPA to explore alternatives to E-Check in Ohio.

HR 57 - Supreme Court (Click, G., Bird, A.): To urge the protection of the integrity and independence of the United States Supreme Court, and to declare that "Nine is Fine."

HCR 17 - Pandemic Discrimination (Brent, J., Russo, A.): To denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and discrimination occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HCR 18 - Supreme Court (Schmidt, J.): Urging the Congress of the United States to adopt the "Keep Nine" amendment to the United States Constitution.

HB 287 - Law Enforcement (Lepore-Hagan, M., Galonski, T.): To create the offense of strangulation by a law enforcement officer.

HB 288 - SNAP (Koehler, K.): To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

HB 289 - Foster Care (McClain, R., Pavliga, G.): To provide for continuation of a child's placement and limit kinship preference in foster care.

HB 290 - Education Funding (McClain, R., John, M.): To establish a school funding formula that allows families to choose the option for all computed funding amounts associated with students' education to follow them to the public and nonpublic schools they attend.

HB 291 - State Route Designation (Callender, J., Troy, D.): To designate a portion of State Route 86 in Lake County as the "Staff Sgt. Kyle R. McKee Memorial Highway."

HB 292 - Electric Vehicles (Sobecki, L., Cutrona, A.): To create a temporary sales tax exemption for electric vehicle production parts and to create the Electric Vehicle Commission.

HB 293 - Law Enforcement (Boggs, K., Galonski, T.): To prohibit the use of tear gas by peace officers.

HB 294 - Election Laws (Seitz, B., Ray, S.): To enact the Ohio Election Security and Modernization Act to create an automated voter registration and verification system, to modify the law governing absent voting, and to make other changes to the Election Law.

HB 295 - Federal Actions (Jordan, K.): Regards the constitutionality of federal actions.

SB 172 - Municipal Corporation (Schaffer, T.): To require municipal corporations with more than \$100 million in annual income tax collections to provide a tax credit to nonresident taxpayers.

SB 173 - State Route Designation (Rulli, M.): To designate a portion of State Route 224 in Mahoning County as the "Joseph K. Vrabel 'Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame' Memorial Highway."

SB 174 - License Plate (Maharath, T., Brenner, A.): To create the "On Our Sleeves" license plate.

SB 175 - Fair And Open Competition (Lang, G.): To enact the Fair and Open Competition Act regarding project labor agreements in public improvement contracts.

SB 176 - Sports Gaming (Antani, N., Manning, N.): To legalize and regulate sports gaming in this state, to levy a tax on businesses that provide sports gaming, and to make other changes to the Gambling Law.