

# THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE JULY 9, 2021



## CURRENT COVID STATS

### Ohio:

- 923,497 confirmed cases
- 59,412 hospitalizations
- 19,912 confirmed fatalities

### United States:

- 33.13 million cases
- 592,776 fatalities

### World:

- 171.71 million cases
- 3.69 million fatalities

## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Monday:

### Tuesday:

### Wednesday:

### Thursday:

### Friday:

## PUCO Formalizes Refunds

Following an order made Wednesday by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, FirstEnergy will return close to \$30 million in decoupling charges over a one-month timeframe. This comes as a result of House Bill 128, which repealed several portions of the 2019 subsidies law in addition to requiring the returns. FirstEnergy is also under review regarding their Delivery Capital Recovery Rider. The final audit was expected this week, but an extension was granted that pushed the final deadline to August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## H2Ohio Grants; Federal Water Funding

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency announced more than two-dozen communities have been awarded grants to address aging water infrastructure. The \$9 million in state funding is set to target replacement and repair of water, wastewater, and sewage systems, which have been a focus of OEPA's H2Ohio program. Two Ohio communities – Nelsonville and Gallia – were granted a total of \$307 million in funding by the USDA for water infrastructure investment.

## Hazing Penalty Bill Signed

Senate Bill 126, Collin's Law, was signed by Governor Mike DeWine on Tuesday to establish greater consequences for hazing. The measure increase the criminal penalty for recklessly

participating in or permitting the activity from a fourth-degree misdemeanor to a second-degree misdemeanor. Hazing involving forced use of drugs or alcohol that leads to serious physical harm could lead to a third-degree felony charge. The legislation also expands the list of officials who must report the activity and sets penalties of up to a first-degree misdemeanor for failure to do so.

## State Troopers, National Guard Assigned to Southern Border

Governor Mike DeWine, at the request of Arizona and Texas governors, authorized 14 Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers to assist local law enforcement with border surveillance. They will join the 185 members of the Ohio Army National Guard who were authorized to be sent at the request of the US Department of Homeland Security and National Guard Bureau to provide non-law enforcement support to Custom and Border Protection. Deployment will occur in the fall.

## **Bill Introductions**

HB 369 - Property Tax Exemptions (Weinstein, C.): To enact the School Board Fairness Act, requiring school districts to approve certain residential community reinvestment area property tax exemptions.

HB 370 - Student Health (Bird, A.): To enact the "Seizure Safe Schools Act" to require public and chartered nonpublic schools to create a seizure action plan for each student with a seizure disorder.

HB 371 - Women's Health (Schmidt, J., Denson, S.): To revise the laws governing coverage of screening mammography and patient notice of dense breast tissue.

HB 372 - Building Inspections (Ray, S., Roemer, B.): To make changes to the law relating to building inspections.

SB 208 - Ohio Arts Council (Brenner, A.): To specify requirements for administering grants by the Ohio Arts Council.