

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE SEPTEMBER 10, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 1,055,038 confirmed cases
- 67,694 hospitalizations
- 21,021 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 40.53 million cases
- 652,480 fatalities

World:

- 222.41 million cases
- 4.59 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Senate Finance (2 pm)

Wednesday:

- Senate Session (1:30 pm)

Thursday:

Friday:

Senate President Huffman Outlines Priorities

On Wednesday, Senate President Matt Huffman outlined some of the upper chamber's top priorities when they return next week. Priorities mentioned include congressional redistricting, sports gambling, higher education COVID-19 vaccine mandates, and criminal justice reform. Congressional redistricting has its first deadline for the General Assembly to pass maps with three-fifths of each chamber and at least half of each caucus by September 30th. If this deadline is not met, the commission is to draw a bipartisan map by the end of October, which will then go back to the legislature with a final Nov. 30th deadline. Sports gambling, which lawmakers had hoped to finalize prior to June 30, will also be a top priority as the Senate looks to make changes to the final proposal. Senate President Huffman addressed the criminal justice system as a priority, mentioning reducing collateral sanctions, strengthening the expungement law, and overhauling bail and sentencing systems. He said he will leave matters to members of the Judiciary Committee, but believes lawmakers may be best served by addressing those issues in an omnibus measure. Finally, he expressed concerns with universities in Ohio requiring students to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

Redistricting Update

On Thursday, the Ohio Redistricting Commission voted 5-2 to adopt the proposed majority-crafted legislative maps as their working document moving forward. This vote triggers the requirement for the Commission to hold three public hearings in advance of a potential final vote by the September 15th deadline. The first hearing will be held on September 12th in Dayton, the second will be held September 13th in Warrensville Heights, and the third will be held on September 14th in Columbus (additional onsite testimony can be offered in Marietta, which will be virtually relayed). The Commission will then meet on September 15th at 10 am in the Statehouse.

Bill Introductions

HB 409 - Resident Protection Advisory Boards (Boyd, J., Carruthers, S.): To require hospitals and long-term care facilities to establish patient or resident protection advisory boards.

HB 410 - Benefit Cliffs (Click, G., Jarrells, D.): To address public assistance benefits cliffs in Ohio and to designate this act as the Actionable Help And New Dignity for Upward Progression (A HAND UP) Act.

HB 411 - COVID-19 Vaccinations (Click, G., Grendell, D.): To prohibit mandatory disclosures related to an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status, to name the act the Individual Privacy and Anti-Discrimination Act, and to declare an emergency.

HB 412 - Taxation (Stoltzfus, R., Roemer, B.): To require mailing addresses to which certain tax complaints and appeals are filed to be published online.

HB 413 - Mental Health And Addiction Services (Loychik, M.): To require the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to collect certain data regarding alcohol and drug addiction services and recovery supports.

HB 414 - Not On My Walk Act (Click, G., Hall, T.): To enact the Not On My Walk Act.

HB 415 - Veterans (Miller, A., Jarrells, D.): Regards in-state tuition eligibility for veterans, their spouses, and dependents at state institutions of higher education.

HB 416 - Retirement Savings Plan (Howse, S., Brent, J.): To establish an auto-enrollment retirement savings program for private sector employees.

HB 417 - Highway Designation (Hillyer, B.): To designate a portion of U.S. Route 36 in Tuscarawas County as the "Robert E. Turney Memorial Highway."

SB 224 - Funeral Laws (Cirino, J.): To make changes to the laws that impact funeral homes, funeral professionals, funeral hearses, funeral escort vehicles, and preneed funeral contracts.

SB 225 - Tax Credits (Schuring, K.): To temporarily modify the historic rehabilitation and the opportunity zone investment tax credits.