

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE SEPTEMBER 3, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 1,022,497 confirmed cases
- 66,253 hospitalizations
- 20,866 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 38.34 million cases
- 631,440 fatalities

World:

- 213.75 million cases
- 4.46 million fatalities

Ohio Pays Off Federal Unemployment Loan

Governor Mike DeWine announced that the State of Ohio has initiated the repayment of nearly \$1.5 billion borrowed from the federal government to pay unemployment benefits to eligible Ohioans during the pandemic. The repayment is being paid from funds from the American Rescue Plan. It is being paid in full by September 6th to avoid the 2.2777% interest, which would have led to an increase in unemployment taxes for Ohio employers. The repayment was approved as a provision in HB 168, which was signed into law on June 28th following a recommendation from Governor DeWine in April.

Redistricting Update

The Ohio Redistricting Commission did not submit an initial drawing of maps by the September 1st deadline. This was expected, as delays in the delivery of census map data put the commission on a tight turnaround. The commission did adopt rules on Tuesday, which requires three hearings on separate days on the final map. The panel has until September 15th to adopt a map- if it receives bipartisan support, it will last for ten years, while one lacking bipartisan support will last four.

Extension Granted in House Bill 6 Criminal Case

While prosecutors and defense attorneys signaled that the ongoing criminal case involving Larry Householder and others will soon be nearing its next phase, attorneys for defendants

Householder and Marr Borges have been granted an additional 30 days to wrap up review of discovery they continue to receive from federal prosecutors. Householder and Borges are the only remaining defendants in the case, following their arrest in July 2020 on charges of racketeering related to the 2019 energy law, House Bill 6. Three other defendants reach plea agreements, and charges were dismissed for one defendant following his passing.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Bill Introductions

HB 403 - Teacher Investigations (Fowler Arthur, S., Miller, A.): To require a school district superintendent or administrator of a public or chartered nonpublic school to file a report with the Department of Education regarding a teacher that retired under threat of disciplinary investigation.

HB 404 - License Plate (Boggs, K., Smith, K.): To create the "Equality Ohio" license plate.

HB 405 - Appointing Authority (Stewart, B., Johnson, M.): To clarify the nature of the appointing authority for boards of county hospital trustees.

HB 406 - Voyeurism (Schmidt, J.): To make changes to the offense of voyeurism.

HB 407 - Veterans (Gross, J., Miller, A.): To establish the Safe Shelter Initiative Program for Ohio veterans.

HB 408 - Catalytic Converters (Young, B.): Regards the sale of catalytic converters.

SB 220 - Insulin Drugs (Craig, H., Manning, N.): To cap cost sharing for prescription insulin drugs.

SB 221 - Sales Tax Holiday (Antani, N.): To expand the class of products exempt from the sales tax if bought during a sales tax holiday.

SB 222 - Sales Tax Holiday (Antani, N.): To provide a three-day sales tax "holiday" each March during which sales of qualifying Energy Star products are exempt from sales and use taxes.

SB 223 - Public Records (Antani, N.): To allow for the sealing of charges dismissed through intervention in lieu of conviction when those charges are connected to a conviction for operating a vehicle under the influence and to allow a clerk of court to spend computerization funds upon request.

SR 175 - PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (Romanchuk, M.): To memorialize PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to urge the preservation of the Minimum Offer Price Rule for the PJM capacity market.

SR 176 - Gas And Oil Industry (Schaffer, T.): To urge Congress to protect the natural gas and oil industry from disproportionate tax increases or other punitive measures.

SCR 8 - Pro Football Hall Of Fame Introduction (Hottinger, J., Romanchuk, M.): To promote the induction of Dick Schafrath into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.