

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE SEPTEMBER 24, 2021



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 1,373,275 confirmed cases
- 71,301 hospitalizations
- 21,596 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 42.5 million cases
- 680,000 fatalities

World:

- 219 million cases
- 4.75 million fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

Tuesday:

- Senate Session
- House & Senate committees

Wednesday:

- House Session
- House & Senate committees

Thursday:

Friday:

overall economy in the coming months and years.

New Vaccination Incentive Program

The Governor announced a new statewide initiative to incentivize students (ages 12-25) to get vaccinated. The Ohio "Vax-2-School" Program will kick off the week of October 11th. Prizes include five \$100,000 scholarships and fifty \$10,000 scholarships. These funds can be put toward any Ohio college or university, as well as career or technical education.

Senate Announces Criminal Justice Initiatives

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Nathan Manning (R) announced this week that the Senate Republicans will introduce a comprehensive package of criminal justice reforms in the coming weeks. The Chairman stated that he is basing many of his proposals on recommendations made in 2017 by the Criminal Justice Recodification Committee. He also indicated support for these initiatives and other criminal justice reforms from Senate President Matt Huffman. A timeline for introduction has yet to be announced, but the announcement itself is a significant step in continued Republican focus on criminal justice issues

Budish Calls for Permanent Sales Tax Increase

This week, Cuyahoga County Council Chairman and former Speaker of the Ohio House Armond Budish called for a permanent sales tax increase to finance the construction of additional county jail capacity. The announcement comes after a long period of harsh criticism of the county jail system, including investigations from the U.S. Justice Department. The proposed increase would need voter approval and the deadline for that action is 2022.

Economic Issues

This week the US Federal Reserve announced that transitory inflation could be more persistent as the economy deals with supply chain issues and a lack of labor supply. In an updated forecast the fed estimates inflation for next year could be as high as 2.3%, its highest level since 2007. At the state level the labor market continues to tight, especially in healthcare and service-related industries. This continued labor shortage could put pressure on the

Bill Introductions

HB 423 – State Racing Designation (Roemer, Young): To designate the All-American Soap Box Derby as the official state gravity racing program.

HB 424 – COVID-Vaccination Prohibition (Koehler): To prohibit a political subdivision, public official, public school, state agency, or state institution of higher education from taking certain actions related to the COVID-19 vaccine, to codify the qualified civil immunities under H.B. 606 of the 133rd General Assembly permanently, to repeal section 3792.05 of the Revised Code on the date that is two years after the effective date of that section, and to declare an emergency.

HB 425 – COVID-19 Prohibitions (Wiggam, Hall): To prohibit certain actions related to COVID-19 and genetic technologies.

HB 426 – Automatic External Defibrillators (Brown): To require the placement of automatic external defibrillators in each public and chartered nonpublic school and each public recreational facility and to require the Ohio Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of automated external defibrillators.

HB 427 – Human Trafficking (White, Manchester): To prohibit the use of a controlled substance or manipulation of controlled substance addiction as a method of human trafficking or to compel prostitution.

HB 428 – Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (Pavliga, Edwards): To establish the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Commission.

HB 429 – Energy Justice (Weinstein, Howse): To establish programs and state policies regarding clean energy jobs and energy justice, to create the Governor's Office of Energy Justice, to make changes to the environmental, electric utility, and other public utility laws, and to make an appropriation.

HB 430 – Property Development (Cross): Relates to property development.

HB 431 – Stroke Registry (Schmidt, Liston): To require the Department of Health to establish and maintain a stroke registry database.

HB 432 – Data Breach (Crossman, Sobecki): Regards data breaches on state agency computer systems.

HR 103 – Cuban People (Gross): Expressing solidarity with the Cuban people in their demands for freedom and respect for basic human rights.

HR 104 – Veteran Recognition (Schmidt): To recognize the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan, and to urge the United States Congress to investigate failures that led to the collapse of the government of Afghanistan.

HR 105 – Afghan Refugees (Weinstein): To urge Governor DeWine and the Ohio Congressional delegation to resettle refugees from Afghanistan in the State of Ohio.

HR 106 – Date Designation (Fraizer, Lightbody): To designate September 30, 2021, Ohio's Technology and Innovation Day.

HCR 24 – Fairness Doctrine (Miranda): To urge Congress to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

HCR 25 – Sports Mascots (Miller, Miranda): To encourage schools to retire the use of Native American sports mascots.

HCR 26 – Health Care Decisions (Brinkman): To affirm the right of patients and families to direct health care decisions.

HCR 27 – Agent Orange (Troy): To honor and recognize victims of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

HCR 28 – OSU Football (Stewart): To urge the National Collegiate Athletics Association to restore the vacated wins and records from the 2010 football season of the Ohio State University.

HCR 29 – National Memorial (Brent, Weinstein): To request an Act of the United States Congress to designate the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial, located in Zion Memorial Park in Bedford, Ohio, as a National Memorial.

HCR 31 – Transportation Extension (Stephens): To urge the Governor and the Director of Transportation to provide for the extension of I-73 and I-74 into Ohio.

SB 233 – School Nurses (Blessing): Regarding licensure and state retirement system membership for school nurses.

SB 234 – Grants for Arts (Lang): To authorize grants for certain performing arts organizations and operators of cultural arts museums impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and to make an appropriation.

SB 235 – Sales/Use Tax (Roegner): To exempt documentary service charges and income tax electronic filing fees from sales and use taxation.