

**THIS WEEK
AT THE
STATEHOUSE
DECEMBER 03, 2021**



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 1,761,008 confirmed cases
- Hospitalizations are up 28% over the last 14 days
- 27,011 confirmed fatalities

United States:

- 49, 628, 788 million cases
- 793,227 fatalities

World:

- 269, 724, 000 million cases
- 5,229,000 fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday:

None

Tuesday:

Senate Committees

Wednesday:

Senate Committees

Thursday:

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Friday:

None

Legislature Passes Pandemic Relief funding

Yesterday, the House concurred on Senate amendments to HB 169 which will now allocate more than \$4 billion in federal pandemic relief funds. The buck of which will go to schools.

Other allocations by agency include:

- \$687 million to the Department of Job and Family Services, including \$639 million to supplement child care;
- \$529 million to the Department of Medicaid for home and community-based services;
- \$250 million to the Department of Public Safety for community violence intervention;
- \$91.1 million for the Department of Health, including \$32 million for crisis response workforce support;
- \$4 million for the Department of Higher Education.

Sykes To Step Down as Minority Leader

House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes will be stepping down at the end of the year. Representative Thomas West is the only Member to confirm his intent to seek the post.

Members have pointed toward Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington) and Phil Robinson (D-Solon) as potential replacements, as well. However, both have refused to confirm their intentions.

Sports Wagering Heads to Governor's Desk

After three years of work, HB 29 will legalize sports betting both online and at brick-and-mortar locations no later than January 1, 2023. The overall tax rate will be 10% for gaming receipts and the allocation of money slated to go towards education, sporters predict will total tens of millions of dollars

The final version enables the commission to expand the number of mobile wagering licenses issued beyond the bill's limit of 25 licenses at any one time. Those license-holders are required to operate a sports gaming facility in Ohio.

NEWLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION

HOUSE BILLS

HB 501 – School Resource Officers - To authorize property taxes for school resource officer services and to make various township law changes.

HB 502 – P.A.W.S. - To Create the "P.A.W.S." license plate

HB 503 – Byers Brothers – To designate Byers Brothers Memorial Highway.

HB 504 – Worship - To increase the penalty for "disturbing a lawful meeting" when committed with the intent to disturb or disquiet an assemblage for religious worship or to prevent, disrupt, or interfere with a virtual meeting or gathering for religious worship.

HB 505 – Concealed Carry - To rename a concealed handgun license a concealed weapons license, to allow a concealed weapons licensee to carry a concealed deadly weapon, and to allow a person who is age 21 or older to carry concealed deadly weapons without a license.

HB 506 – Solicitor General – To codify the Office of the Solicitor General within the Office of the Attorney General and to create the Tenth Amendment Center within the Office of the Attorney General.

HB 507 – Poultry– To revise the number of poultry chicks that may be sold in lots.

HB 508 – Parental Rights - Regarding the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities to grant equal time and responsibility for a child.

HB 509 – Occupational Regulations - To revise and streamline the state's occupational regulations.

HB 510 – State Vendors - To allow the Attorney General to debar a state vendor.

SENATE BILLS

SB 273 – Internet Lottery Games - to amend the law governing the Ohio Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association.