

THIS WEEK
AT THE
STATEHOUSE
JUNE 17, 2022



CURRENT COVID STATS

Ohio:

- 16,169 new cases
- 5 recent fatalities

United States:

- 105,016 new cases
- 597 recent fatalities

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

No Session
No Committees

Consumers' Counsel, Manufacturing Group Push For Investigation Into Power Outages

Facing the first calls for an investigation into forced outages in AEP Ohio's service territory this week, state utility regulators say they continue to monitor the situation.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Track Chair Jenifer French addressed the events at the outset of the panel's meeting – days into forced outages that, at their peak, impacted 250,000 AEP customers.

AEP, which has deemed the outages a last resort, said Thursday power had been restored to 93% of residents.

It indicated the outages were a necessary step to protect the grid in the wake of damage from Monday night's severe storms, which downed more than 350 poles and 2,100 spans of wire. The storm's aftermath, coupled with the subsequent heat wave that threatened to overload the system, prompted the company to act.

Education Board Reappoints Siddens As Interim K-12 Chief

The State Board of Education Track wasted little time in naming a temporary replacement for former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Steve Dackin, who resigned earlier this month.

The temporary stint as the state's K-12 chief is the second for Ms. Siddens, who previously served as senior executive director of the Department of Education's Center for Student Supports. She last led ODE on an interim basis between the September retirement of Paolo DeMaria and the June 3 resignation of Mr. Dackin.

Talks Continue Over Remaining \$1.9B In COVID Relief Dollars

On the question of how to spend the state's remaining share of federal coronavirus aid, Gov. Mike DeWine says Ohioans should expect more of the same.

Gov. DeWine said he and legislative leaders continue discussing how to dole out the remaining \$1.9 billion, which can be obligated through Dec. 31, 2024, and expended through 2026. Although no firm decisions have been made, he said officials remain in agreement in principle.

NEWLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION

(Road naming and license plate bills omitted from list)

HOUSE BILLS

HB 699 – Crimes and Corrections– To modify various aspects of the law regarding crimes and corrections, correctional officers and employees, coroner records, inmate internet access, civil protection orders, delinquent child adjudications, youthful offender parole review, OVI and other traffic offenses, and criminal record sealing and expungement.

HB 700 – Firearms Tax Revenue– To modify the allocation of state sales and use tax revenue from the sale of certain firearms and ammunition.

SENATE BILLS

No New Introductions