

# THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE DECEMBER 2, 2022



## Ohio Fact of the Week

Ohio was the first state to be formed entirely from the public domain, achieving statehood in 1803. It was then used as the model for Congressional implementation of the Federal Rectangular Survey System.

## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

- House & Senate Committees

### Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

- House & Senate Committees
- Senate Session – 1:30PM EST

### Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

- House Committees

## DeWine Administration Announces Staff Changes

On Tuesday, Governor DeWine announced the following changes to his staff, effective January 1, 2023:

- **Stephanie McCloud** will become DeWine's new Chief of Staff, replacing Michael Hall who will be returning to the private sector. McCloud currently serves as Administrator & CEO to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.
- **John Logue** will replace McCloud as Ohio BWC Administrator & CEO. Logue previously served as BWC's Chief of Strategic Director & Interim BWC CEO.
- **LeeAnne Cornyn**, DeWine's current cabinet director, will serve as Deputy Chief of Staff, formerly held by Michael Murry.
- **Michael Murry** will transition into the DeWine Administration's Chief Operating Officer.
- **Anne Vogel** will serve as Chief of Staff to the Ohio Public Utilities Commission. Vogel currently serves as a policy advisor to Governor DeWine with a focus on energy and natural resources (January 3, 2023\*).

## Education Department & Criminal Justice Reform Packages Considered

The Ohio Senate passed SB 288, a 975-page bill aimed at reforming Ohio's criminal justice laws including changes to record-sealing and expungement, inmate job training and drug programs, and changes to criminal penalties for certain offenses. The legislation now heads to the House for consideration before the end of the year.

Lawmakers are also considering SB 178, which seeks to create a cabinet-level agency known as the Department of Education and Workforce while limiting the powers of the State Board of Education. Governor DeWine announced his support for the legislation as a method for improving accountability in education. The Senate is eyeing December 7<sup>th</sup> for a floor vote on the measure.

## Governor DeWine Announces Continued Focus on Mental Health

On Wednesday, Governor Mike DeWine offered insight into one priority component of his executive budget proposal, which is expected to be released for the Legislature's consideration by mid-February. His Administration plans to invest in mental-health treatment through the expansion of community-based services, enhanced research, and workforce development. The proposal will include funding for an Ohio-based behavioral health research hub tasked with studying mental health and addiction root-causes and treatment opportunities.

## **NEWLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION**

(Road naming and license plate bills omitted from list)

### **HOUSE BILLS**

**\*No new introductions**

### **SENATE BILLS**

**SB 368 – Education** – To enact the Parent Educational Freedom Act to expand eligibility for Educational Choice scholarships, to cease the operation of the Pilot Project Scholarship Program on July 1, 2023, and to increase the existing income tax credit for homeschooling expenses from \$250 to \$2000.