

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE



OHIO FACT OF THE WEEK

On August 7, 1953, President Eisenhower signed a law backdating Ohio's official remittance into the Union after a procedural oversight by the 8th U.S. Congress failed to complete the originally-intended ratification in 1803.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

TBD*

Marathon Session Closes Out Lame Duck

The Ohio Legislature finalized its policy priorities just before 6 a.m. Thursday morning after lengthy discussions between the House and Senate. Here's a look at what is headed to the Governor's desk before the end of the year:

- \$6 billion in federal funding directed to K-12 education, childcare and workforce development, nursing homes, hospitals, rent and utility assistance, lead mitigation, and food banks, among other items.
- Criminal Justice policy reform including tougher penalties for certain crimes, pathways for inmates to receive credit and ease transition post-incarceration, record sealing and expungement, reducing the penalty for underage drinking, and enhancing penalties for distracted driving.
- Unemployment system changes designed to reduce fraud by tightening identity verification procedures.
- Preemptions on local flavored-tobacco fees and/or bans.
- Election reform including photo identification requirements, ending August special elections, clarifying county boards of elections can offer one absentee ballot dropbox, among other procedural items.

Proposals That Failed to Pass

- **HJR 6** - A resolution raising the threshold to 60% for ballot measures aimed at amending Ohio's Constitution.
- **SB 178** - Legislation to reform the name and operations of the Ohio Department of Education while simultaneously removing certain powers of the State Board of Education.
- **Abortion/Reproductive Rights** - A potential proposal to clarify Ohio's 6-week abortion ban following an injunction put in place by a Cincinnati-area judge.