

THIS WEEK AT THE STATEHOUSE JANUARY 6, 2023



Ohio Fact of the Week

Ohio's official state bird is the Cardinal and can be found in all 88 Ohio counties. However, the Cardinal is also the state bird of 6 other states including Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 17th

Senate Rules & Reference

Senate Judiciary

Senate Education

Senate Government Oversight

Senate General Government

Senate Ways & Means

Merrin Supporters Caucus Following Stephens Speakership Vote

Representative Derek Merrin and nearly 40 Republican legislators met in the Statehouse Wednesday, declaring after the lengthy caucus meeting that despite the official election of Rep. Jason Stephens as speaker, Merrin is the leader of the House majority party intent on pursuing conservative legislation in the 135th General Assembly. Following the meeting, the group introduced a new version of last year's HJR 6, the proposed constitutional amendment that would require a 60% vote to enact constitutional amendments.

Governor DeWine Announces More Staff Changes

The Governor's Office announced that Christine Morrison, House Chief of Staff under former Speaker Bob Cupp, will serve as the Administration's new Cabinet Affairs Director. She replaces LeeAnne Cornyn, who will serve as Deputy Chief of Staff. Further, Scott Partika was promoted to the Governor's Policy Director, Kara Wente will lead the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives, and Haylee Dunahay will become the new Director of Boards and Commissions.

Governor Highlights Priorities in Second Inaugural Address

In his second inaugural address, Governor Mike DeWine reiterated his prioritization of mental health and addiction treatment and recovery initiatives, noting his next budget proposal will include mental health service support, research, and workforce development. DeWine also noted his Administration's work to improve Ohio's infrastructure, criminal justice reform efforts, and expanding access to broadband, clean water, and childcare. He was officially sworn-in on Sunday, January 8th at his home in Cedarville. A ceremonial swearing-in event was held the following day in the Statehouse Rotunda.

NEWLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION

(Road naming and license plate bills omitted from list)

HOUSE BILLS

***No new introductions**

SENATE BILLS

SB1 REFORM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

To rename the Department of Education as the Department of Education and Workforce; to create the position of Director of Education and Workforce; and to reform the functions and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

SB10 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE CHANGES

To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 17, 2022, into Ohio law and to declare an emergency.

SB11 PARENT EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM ACT

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 income tax credit for homeschooling expenses.

SB12 VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

To establish a veteran-owned business enterprise certification program and to allow duly certified veteran-owned business enterprises to compete for purchases set aside by state agencies.

SB13 HOMEMADE SPIRITUOUS LIQUOR

To allow a person to distill, serve, and ship homemade spirituous liquor without a liquor permit.

SB14 VETERANS' ELIGIBILITY AS TEACHERS

To expand eligibility for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces to be employed as teachers without licenses.

SB15 VETERAN REGISTRATION-MILITARY PLATES

To authorize a permanent motor vehicle registration option with a waiver of specified fees and taxes for retired military veterans under the Military License Plate Program.

SB16 FOOD DONATIONS-LIABILITY PROTECTION

To alter the law governing immunity from liability for donations of perishable food.

SB17 FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION-CAPITALISM

To incorporate free market capitalism content into the high school financial literacy and entrepreneurship standards and model curriculum.

SB18 STATE AGENCY DATA STORAGE

To modify the law governing data storage and notifications issued by state agencies.

SB19 NON-RECOURSE CIVIL LITIGATION

To amend the law regarding the non-recourse civil litigation advance business.

SB2 LOCAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

To authorize certain subdivisions to designate areas within which certain residential property is wholly or partially exempted from property taxation.

SB20 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE CHANGES

To expressly incorporate changes in the Internal Revenue Code since February 17, 2022, into Ohio law and to declare an emergency.

SB3 COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

To create the Ohio Community Revitalization Program, authorizing nonrefundable income tax credits for undertaking community projects.

SB4 FILM, THEATER TAX CREDITS

To modify the film and theater tax credit and to authorize a tax credit for capital improvement projects relating to the film and theater industries.

SB6 ESG POLICIES-STATE ENTITIES

Regarding environmental, social, and corporate governance policies with respect to the state retirement systems, Bureau of Workers' Compensation, and state institutions of higher education.

SB7 POWERBOAT SAFETY MONTH, EDUCATION

To designate April as "Powerboat Safety Month" and to increase, from \$30,000 to \$60,000, the maximum annual grant amount that the Division of Parks and Watercraft may award to certain entities for boating safety education programs.

SR3 IN MEMORY-CHARLES HORN

In memory of Charles Frederick Horn.

SR4 IN MEMORY - JEAN-JULES BOTOMOGNO

In memory of Jean-Jules Leopold Botomogno.

SR5 HONORING KEAGAN MCLAUGHLIN-SOCCER

Honoring Keagan McLaughlin as the 2022 Big Ten Goalkeeper of the Year in men's soccer.

SR6 HONORING KATIE CLUTE-CROSS COUNTRY

Honoring Katie Clute on winning the 2022 Division I State girls cross country championship.

SR7 IN MEMORY - STEVEN MAURER

In memory of Steven Maurer.

SB9 LAW CHANGES-MEDICAL MARIJUANA

To amend the law related to medical marijuana.

SB5 WORKFORCE VOUCHER PROGRAM

To establish the Workforce Voucher Program, to terminate the provisions of the Voucher Program two years after the bill's effective date by repealing sections 122.157, 122.158, and 3313.473 of the Revised Code on that date, to authorize tax credits for graduates of the Voucher Program, and to make an appropriation.

SB8 MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER LIABILITY

To generally exempt a motor vehicle dealer from liability for the contents of a third-party motor vehicle history report.

SB21 APPEAL PROCESSES, LEGISLATIVE ACTION

To generally change the venue in which appeal from an agency order is proper to the local court of common pleas, to revise the law governing claim preclusion in zoning appeals, to revise the law governing the referral of cases to the Hamilton County Drug Court, to transfer Perry Township in Wood County from the territorial jurisdiction of the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court to the territorial jurisdiction of the Bowling Green Municipal Court, to allow the General Assembly to intervene in certain actions, and to allow the General Assembly and the Governor to retain special counsel.