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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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December 2025

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## Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission

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## Legislative Update

### December 2025

Consistent with [R.C. 181.23](#) through [181.26](#), the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission (“Commission”) staff regularly monitors, analyzes, and summarizes all bills that are introduced in the General Assembly that provide for new criminal offenses, change the penalty of any criminal offense, impact the sentencing or juvenile disposition structure in Ohio, and impact the number and type of offenders who are imprisoned or committed to the custody of the Department of Youth Services. Additionally, the Commission staff monitors, analyzes, and summarizes all bills that impact the provisions outlined in [R.C. 181.27](#).

#### UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS:

**House:** Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>

**Senate:** Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>



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**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
**- Enacted House and Senate Bills -**

**House Bill 96 (Stewart)**

**Make state operating appropriations for FY 2026-27 (State Budget Bill)**

**Status:** Enacted

[House Bill 96](#) (HB 96), the state's FY 2026-27 operating budget, was signed by Governor DeWine on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. While Governor DeWine did issue 67 line-item vetoes, the following provisions related to the Commission's statutory duties remained and are effective immediately.

**R.C. 2917.211** Dissemination of image of another person – HB 96 creates the new offenses of Nonconsensual Dissemination of Fabricated Sexual Images and Nonconsensual Creation of Fabricated Sexual Images, both felonies of the fourth degree. Offenders with prior convictions under this section are subject to the felony of the third-degree penalty level.

**R.C. 2921.13** Falsification – HB 96 adds statements “made to the department of children and youth in connection with the Ohio adoption grant program for the purpose of qualifying for or obtaining an adoption grant” to the list of false statements that, when made, constitute the offense of falsification.

**R.C. 2921.36** Illegal conveyance – HB 96 adds a new provision specifying that the offense of illegal conveyance is a felony of the third degree if the offender is an officer or employee of the department of rehabilitation and correction or the department of youth services or a contractor or employee of a contractor providing services to either of those departments

**R.C. 2151.356** Sealing of juvenile court records – HB 96 adds language requiring courts to find that the harm to the person in having the records pertaining to their case disclosed is not outweighed by the potential benefits to the public in having access to those records prior to issuing an order sealing juvenile records.

## 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The bills outlined below are listed in the order of their introduction and summarized as introduced. Bills that provide for new criminal offenses, change the penalty for existing criminal offenses, or impact sentencing are listed first, followed by an “Other Bills of Interest” section.

### - House Bills Awaiting Senate Action -

#### **House Bill 5 (Williams, Willis)**

##### **Enact the Repeat Offender Act**

**Status:** Passed House; In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Buckeye Firearms Association, Attorney General Dave Yost

**Opponents:** Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Fraternal Order of Police Ohio, Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

**House Bill 5** (HB 5) was introduced on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. HB 5 modifies the penalties for the R.C. 2923.13 offense of having weapons while under disability. Generally, the bill reduces the offense level from the felony of the third-degree level to the felony of the fourth-degree level; offenders who have prior convictions under this section remain subject to the felony of the third-degree penalty level. Violations of division (A)(2) of this section (offenders indicted for or previously convicted of a felony offense of violence) also remain subject to the felony of the third degree penalty level, with the addition of a presumption in favor of a prison term; division (A)(2) offenders who have prior convictions under this section are subject to the felony of the second degree penalty level.

HB 5 increases the mandatory prison terms for some firearm specifications and creates a new specification and mandatory 5-year prison term for offenders who discharge a firearm while committing an offense.

Additionally, HB 5 creates a new repeat offender classification requiring a mandatory 3-, 4-, or 5-year prison term for offenders classified as repeat offenders. The bill defines a “repeat offender” as an offender who is being sentenced for committing a violation of either having weapons under disability or a felony offense of violence and the present offense involved a firearm AND the offender has previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more having weapons under disability offense(s) or felony offense(s) of violence and the prior offense(s) involved a firearm.

#### **House Bill 20 (Hall, Plummer)**

##### **Prohibit harassing or impeding an emergency service responder**

**Status:** Passed House; In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, Ohio Attorney General, Ohio Professional Fire Fighters Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Ohio Fire Chief’s Association

**Opponents:** ACLU of Ohio

**House Bill 20** (HB 20) was introduced on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 20 creates the new R.C. 2927.31 misdemeanor of the first-degree offense of harassing an emergency service responder. This new offense

prohibits an offender from knowingly harassing an emergency service responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty when the offender has received a warning from the emergency service responder not to approach and the offender has approached or remained within 14 feet of the emergency service responder after having received the warning. The bill creates two definitions for “harass” under this new section. First, as engaging in a course of conduct that causes substantial emotion distress to, and interferes with, an emergency service responder performing a legal duty and the conduct is directed at an emergency service responder. Second, as interrupting, disrupting, hindering, impeding, or interfering with an emergency service responder’s ability to lawfully perform a legal duty.

### **House Bill 88 (Abrams, Plummer)**

#### **Regards drug trafficking, human trafficking, fentanyl**

**Status:** Passed House; Introduced in Senate

**Proponents:** Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Task Force Commanders Association, Jack Quehl Foundation

**Opponents:** ACLU of Ohio, Office of the Ohio Public Defender

**House Bill 88** (HB 88) was introduced on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 88 creates the new R.C. 2905.321 offense of participating in an organization or operation for trafficking in persons, a felony of the first degree. The bill also extensively modifies R.C. 2925.03 (Trafficking, aggravated trafficking in drugs). The bill increases the existing third-degree felony offense level for trafficking in cocaine to the second-degree felony offense level and increases the existing second-degree felony offense level for trafficking in cocaine to the first-degree felony offense level. The bill increases the existing fourth-degree felony offense level for trafficking in heroin to the second-degree felony offense level, increases the existing third-degree felony offense level for trafficking in heroin to the first-degree felony offense level, and increases the existing second-degree felony offense level for trafficking in heroin to the first-degree felony offense level. The bill increases the existing fifth-degree felony offense level trafficking in a fentanyl-related compound to the second-degree felony offense level, increases the existing fourth-degree felony offense level for trafficking in a fentanyl-related compound to the first-degree felony offense level, increases the existing third-degree felony offense level for trafficking in a fentanyl-related compound to the first-degree felony offense level, and increases the existing second-degree felony offense level for trafficking in a fentanyl-related compound to the first-degree felony offense level. The bill creates the new offense of trafficking in methamphetamine. The bill creates a new specification applicable to indictments for R.C. 2903.04 (Involuntary manslaughter) when the victim’s death was consistent with opioid overdose or when a fentanyl-related compound was present in the victim’s body in lethal amounts, this new specification carries a mandatory 5-year prison term.



### **House Bill 132 (Craig, Miller, M.)**

#### **Enact Philip Wigal's Law**

**Status:** Passed House; In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, County Engineers Association of Ohio, Buckeye State Sheriffs Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 132** (HB 132) was introduced on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 132 increases the financial penalties for R.C. 4511.213 failing to slow down or change lanes when approaching specified stationary vehicles offenses and increases the financial penalties for both R.C. 2903.06 vehicular homicide and R.C. 2903.08 vehicular assault offenses resulting from the commission of the offense of failing to slow down or change lanes when approaching specified stationary vehicles.

### **House Bill 168 (Williams, Brennan)**

#### **Regards motivation or purpose to commit criminal child enticement**

**Status:** Passed House; In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 168** (HB 168) was introduced on March 12, 2025. The bill modifies the exiting R.C. 2905.05 offense of criminal child enticement by requiring that the offender act with either sexual motivation or an unlawful purpose.

### **House Bill 210 (Roemer, Plummer)**

#### **Regards the sale of used catalytic converters**

**Status:** Passed House; In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio Automobile Dealers Association, National Insurance Crime Bureau, Ohio Wholesale Marketers Association

**Opponents:** Recycled Materials Association

**House Bill 210** (HB 210) was introduced on March 31, 2025. Under the bill, offenders who commit R.C. 2913.02 theft offenses are subject to the felony of the fifth-degree penalty level if the property stolen is a catalytic converter. Additionally, if such offenders have previously been convicted of a violation of R.C. 2911. or 2913., theft of a catalytic converter is a felony of the fourth degree. The bill also creates the new R.C. 2913.51 offense of receiving a stolen catalytic converter, also a felony of the fifth degree. Offenders who are convicted of receiving a stolen catalytic converter are also subject to the felony of the fourth-degree penalty level if they have previously been convicted of a violation of R.C. 2911. or 2913.





**House Bill 393 (Click, Brewer)**

**Require certain facilities assist inmates in obtaining ID cards**

**Status:** Passed House; Introduced in Senate

**Proponents:** Ohio Community Corrections Association, Americans for Prosperity – Ohio, Center for Employment Opportunities, Catholic Conference of Ohio

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 393](#) (HB 393) was introduced on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 393 requires community-based correctional facilities to provide inmates with assistance in obtaining state identification cards prior to their release.



## **- Senate Bills Awaiting House Action -**

### **Senate Bill 55 (Manning)**

#### **Regards operating under the influence of marihuana, OVI evidence**

**Status:** Passed Senate; In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Bar Association, Americans for Prosperity – Ohio, ACLU of Ohio

**Opponents:** DUID Victim Voices

[Senate Bill 55](#) (SB 55) was introduced on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. SB 55 makes numerous revised code changes relating to marijuana concentrations for Operating Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs (OVI) offenses. The bill removes from the OVI law the sections involving per se violations relating to prohibited measurements of marijuana metabolites and adds an evidentiary standard that may be used by the trier of fact to infer that the operator of a vehicle is under the influence of marijuana.

### **Senate Bill 179 (Johnson)**

#### **Verify veteran status of imprisoned individuals**

**Status:** Passed Senate; In House Veterans and Military Development Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio State Bar Association, Ohio Justice & Policy Center

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[Senate Bill 179](#) (SB 179) was introduced on April 23, 2025. SB 179 creates a process by which the department of rehabilitation and correction, county and municipal jails, community-based correctional facilities, courts of common pleas, municipal and county courts, departments of probation, and pre-trial diversion programs must verify the veteran status of each individual served by the institution or entity. If an individual is verified as a veteran, those institutions or entities must note the individual's status as a veteran on all appropriate records and assist the individual in contacting the available local veteran-related services.

## **- Recently Introduced House and Senate Bills –**

### **House Bill 478 (Thomas, Synenberg)**

#### **Create jury tampering offense; revise court intimidation offenses**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 478](#) (HB 478) was introduced on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 478 creates the new R.C. 2921.06 offense of jury tampering.

Jury Tampering is a misdemeanor of the first degree of the offender: knowingly attempts to influence, intimidate, or hinder a juror in the discharge of the juror's duties, including in the juror's consideration of the facts or evidence presented at trial for which the juror has been impaneled.

Jury Tampering is a felony of the third degree if the offender: knowingly and by force, by unlawful threat of harm to any person or property, or by unlawful threat to commit any offense or calumny against any person, attempts to influence, intimidate, or hinder a juror in the discharge of the juror's duties, including in the juror's consideration of the facts or evidence presented at the trial for which the juror has been impaneled.

### **House Bill 487 (Williams, Plummer)**

#### **Create a repeat drug offender specification**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 487](#) (HB 487) was introduced on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. HB 487 creates the new R.C. 2941.1427 specification for repeat drug offenders. This new specification requires the sentencing court to impose a mandatory prison term of one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, or ten years.

The bill defines a repeat drug offender as a person about whom both of the following apply:

- (1) The person is being sentenced for committing a felony violation of section 2925.03 of the Revised Code.
- (2) The person previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more felony violations of section 2925.03 of the Revised Code.

### **House Bill 528 (Williams)**

#### **Require 7 year mandatory minimum prison term for forcible rape**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 528](#) (HB 528) was introduced on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 528 modifies existing R.C. 2907.02 by requiring the sentencing court to impose a mandatory minimum prison term of seven years for offenders convicted of a violation of R.C. 2907.02(A)(2) - engaging in sexual conduct with another when the offender purposely compels the other person to submit by force or threat of force.

### **House Bill 556 (Mathews, Williams)**

#### **Revise community control sanctions for felonies and misdemeanors**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 556](#) (HB 556) was introduced on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 556 modifies existing R.C. 2929.15 and provides that, with limited exceptions, the duration of all community control sanctions imposed on an offender shall not exceed five years for any felony of the first or second degree and three years for any felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree. In situations where felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree offenders have violated the terms of their community control, the maximum term they may be subject to community control sanctions can be extended beyond the general maximum term of three years if delineated circumstances are present. The bill further modifies existing R.C. 2929.15 by modifying the penalties a sentencing court may impose when an offender violates one or more community control sanctions under R.C. 2929.15(B)(1).

### **Senate Bill 270 (Manning, Hicks-Hudson)**

#### **Regards commitment of delinquent children to Youth Services**

**Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[Senate Bill 270](#) (SB 270) was introduced on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. SB 270 makes several changes to Ohio's juvenile justice statutes.

Among other changes, SB 270:

- Increases the minimum age for commitments of delinquent youth to the custody of the Department of Youth Services. Current law allows delinquent youth as young as 10 to be committed to DYS, SB 270 raises the minimum age to 14.
- Prohibits the commitment to DYS of youth who are first time felony of the fourth- or fifth-degree offenders when the fourth- or fifth-degree felony is not an offense of violence.
- Gives juvenile court judges discretion in committing delinquent youth to DYS for youth adjudicated of gun specifications.



**Senate Bill 291 (Manning, Reynolds)**  
**Revise community control sanctions for felonies and misdemeanors**  
**Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee  
**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided  
**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Senate Bill 291** (SB 291) was introduced on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. SB 291 modifies existing R.C. 2929.15 and provides that, with limited exceptions, the duration of all community control sanctions imposed on an offender shall not exceed five years for any felony of the first or second degree and three years for any felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree. In situations where felony of the third, fourth, or fifth degree offenders have violated the terms of their community control, the maximum term they may be subject to community control sanctions can be extended by one year, not to exceed five years, if delineated circumstances are present

**- Pending House Bills -**

**House Bill 36 (Stewart, Plummer)**

**Add nitrogen hypoxia as a method of execution**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Attorney General's Office, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 36](#) (HB 36) was introduced on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Among other related revised code changes, the bill adds nitrogen hypoxia as a method of execution for persons upon whom a death sentence was imposed.

**House Bill 47 (Williams, Santucci)**

**Enact the Human Trafficking Prevention Act**

**Status:** Passed House; In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Ohio Right to Life, Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, Akron Children's Hospital, Ohio Attorney General

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 47](#) (HB 47) was introduced on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The bill increases the special victim class for the R.C. 2905.01 offense of kidnapping to include all persons under the age of eighteen. HB 47 also increases the penalty for kidnapping offenses committed under circumstances where the victim was kidnapped for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity or involuntary servitude and specifies that such offenders shall be sentenced to an indefinite prison term consisting of a minimum term of 25 years and a maximum term of life imprisonment. Additionally, the bill increases the penalty for R.C. 2905.02 abduction offenses committed under circumstances where the victim was abducted and held in a condition of involuntary servitude or where the offender committed the offense with sexual motivation and increases the penalties for R.C. 2905.32 trafficking in persons offenses.

**House Bill 72 (Schmidt, Mathews)**

**Prohibit public funding for lethal injection drugs; death penalty**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 72](#) (HB 72) was introduced on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Among other statutory changes, HB 5 abolishes the death penalty in Ohio and states that no funds of the state or any political subdivision thereof shall be expended for the purpose of executing a death sentence through the use of lethal injection drugs.



### **House Bill 79 (Roemer, Miller)**

#### **Increase penalty for assault if the victim is a sports official**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio High School Athletic Association

**Opponents:** Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

**House Bill 79** (HB 79) was introduced on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The bill adds sports officials to the list of special victim classes for assault offenses. To qualify as a special victim, the sports official must be engaged in their official duties at the time of the offense, or the offense must be committed in retaliation for an action taken by the sports official when they were engaged in their official duties. Under the bill, assaults of this type are misdemeanors of the first degree and require courts to impose mandatory fines of \$1,500 and 40 hours of community service, in addition to other penalties allowed by law. When the offender has previously been convicted of assault with a qualifying sports official as the victim, the offense is a felony of the fifth degree. The bill also creates statutory definitions for “sports official” and “sports event”.

### **House Bill 82 (Click, Johnson)**

#### **Regards traffic offenses in construction zones**

**Status:** In House Public Safety Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 82** (HB 82) was introduced on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 82 creates new R.C. 4511.993 which requires additional penalties for certain traffic offenses if the offense is committed in a construction zone. Under the bill, for violations of these delineated offenses that occur in a construction zone, offenders are required to complete a driver safety course within 30 days of the conviction. For offenders who, within the previous five years, have been penalized once under this new section, the bill requires a 90-day driver’s license suspension. Offenders with two or more violations in a construction zone within the previous five years are subject to a 1-year driver’s license suspension.

### **House Bill 84 (Demetriou, Williams)**

#### **Enact the Innocence Act**

**Status:** In House Technology and Innovation Committee

**Proponents:** Catholic Conference of Ohio, Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, Ohio Attorney General, Center for Christian Virtue

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 84** (HB 84) was introduced on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The bill creates four new offenses: failure to verify age of person accessing materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles, use of false identifying information to access materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles, nonconsensual dissemination of fabricated sexual images, and nonconsensual creation of fabricated sexual images.



**House Bill 110 (Thomas, Williams)**  
**Increase the penalty for repeat voyeurism**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 110](#) (HB 110) was introduced on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 110 modifies the R.C. 2907.08 voyeurism penalty structure and states that offenders who have previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of this section are subject to the felony of the third-degree penalty level on subsequent offenses.

**House Bill 111 (Miller, K., Creech)**  
**Impose additional fine for high-speed drivers**

**Status:** In House Public Safety Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 111](#) (HB 111) was introduced on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. For speeding offenses exceeding 30 miles per hour over the statutory or posted speed limit, HB 111 requires courts to impose a fine that is \$200 more than the usual amount imposed for that violation. Under the bill, indigent offenders are excluded from being subject to this new additional \$200 fine.

**House Bill 203 (Hall, Williams)**

**Enact Aspen Runnel's Law**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Private Citizen Testimony Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 203](#) (HB 203) was introduced on March 26, 2025. HB 203 increases the penalties for both vehicular manslaughter and vehicular assault offenses committed within active school zones when the victim is in the active school zone at the time of the offense. For vehicular manslaughter offenses, the penalty level is increased to the felony of the fourth-degree level. For vehicular assault offenses, the penalty level is increased to the felony of the fifth-degree level. HB 203 also enhances the penalty for any traffic offense that is committed while in an active school zone by, generally, doubling the usual fine amount for those offenses.





**House Bill 208 (Lorenz)**  
**Enact the Courtroom Employee Protection Act**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee  
**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided  
**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 208](#) (HB 208) was introduced on March 31, 2025. HB 208 increases the R.C. 2903.13 assault penalty for offenses committed against a victim who is a judge, magistrate, prosecutor, or court official or employee. Under the bill, assault offenses committed against these victims are felonies of the fourth degree and the court may impose a fine of up to \$7,500.

**House Bill 211 (Humphrey, Williams)**  
**Require consideration of caretaker status in criminal cases**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee  
**Proponents:** Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Alliance for Safety & Justice  
**Opponents:** Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

[House Bill 211](#) (HB 211) was introduced on March 31, 2025. HB 211 requires a presentence investigation report to include information about the offender's status as the primary caretaker of a child when the offender files a motion that includes evidence of their status as the primary caretaker of a child. Under the bill, if that information is contained in a presentence investigation report, courts shall consider the offender's status as the primary caretaker of a child before imposing sentence. Additionally, if a hearing is held pursuant to a motion for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction (ILC), HB 211 allows offenders the opportunity to file a motion with the court that includes evidence that the offender is the primary caretaker of a child and, if the court determines that evidence is accurate, the court shall consider that fact in determining the offender's eligibility for ILC.

**House Bill 236 (Williams)**  
**Regards crimes committed while masked or disguised**

**Status:** Introduced  
**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided  
**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 236](#) (HB 236) was introduced on April 15, 2025. The bill modifies the R.C. 2917.02 offense of aggravated riot by creating a felony of the fifth-degree offense when the offender participates in an aggravated riot and is wearing a mask or disguise. Additionally, offenders who participate in an aggravated riot with purpose to commit or facilitate an offense of violence while wearing a mask or disguise are subject to the felony of the third-degree penalty level. HB 211 creates the new R.C. 2917.10 offense of masked harassment, a misdemeanor of the first degree. This new offense prohibits a person from purposely harassing, intimidating, abusing, or threatening another person while wearing a mask or other device that hides or conceals the person's face or identity for the purpose of placing another person or group in reasonable fear of physical harm or mental distress. Additionally, the bill creates a new specification of wearing a mask or disguise and requires an additional one-year prison term for offenders convicted of a felony offense and that new specification.

**House Bill 249 (King, Williams)**

**Enact the Indecent Exposure Modernization Act**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Center for Christian Virtue, Mission America, Ohio Value Voters

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 249** (HB 249) was introduced on April 29, 2025. HB 249 modifies R.C. 2907.09 public indecency by prohibiting persons from recklessly exposing their private area unless the person is a woman who is breastfeeding and the private area that is exposed is the woman's breast. Additionally, the bill creates the new offense of unlawful adult cabaret performance. This new offense prohibits a person, with knowledge of its character or content, from recklessly engaging in an adult cabaret performance in a location other than an adult cabaret. The bill includes a statutory definition for an adult cabaret performance:

"Adult cabaret performance" means a performance in a location other than an adult cabaret where minors may be present, that is harmful to juveniles or obscene, regardless of whether or not the performance is for consideration, and that features any of the following: (i) Topless dancers; (ii) Go-go dancers; (iii) Exotic dancers; (iv) Strippers; (v) Performers or entertainers who exhibit a gender identity that is different from the performer's or entertainer's biological sex using clothing, makeup, prosthetic or imitation genitals or breasts, or other physical markers; (vi) Other similar performers or entertainers who provide entertainment that appeals to a prurient interest.

**House Bill 252 (Click, Bird)**

**Modify offenses of burglary, breaking and entering, and trespass**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

**Opponents:** Office of the Ohio Public Defender

**House Bill 252** (HB 252) was introduced on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 252 removes the "by force, stealth, or deception" element language from the following offenses: R.C. 2911.11 Aggravated Burglary, R.C. 2911.12 Burglary and Trespass in a Habitation When a Person is Present, and R.C. 2911.13 Breaking and Entering



### **House Bill 282 (Williams)**

#### **Add immigration status as required factor for sentencing, bail**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 282** (HB 282) was introduced on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 282 adds the following factor to R.C. 2929.12(B) that courts must consider as indicating that the offender's conduct is more serious than conduct normally constituting the offense: "the offender's immigration status, and whether the offender is unlawfully present in the United States or has a current or previous federal immigration detainer."

Additionally, HB 282 requires courts to consider "the offender's immigration status, and whether the offender is unlawfully present in the United States or has a current or previous federal immigration detainer" when determining the length of the community control sanction or combination of community control sanctions imposed pursuant to R.C. 2929.15

As it relates to misdemeanor sentencing, the bill also modifies R.C. 2929.22 and R.C. 2929.25 and requires courts to consider "the offender's immigration status, and whether the offender is unlawfully present in the United States or has a current or previous federal immigration detainer" when imposing a period of incarceration or community control sanctions or combination of community control sanctions.

### **House Bill 296 (Miller, M.)**

#### **Delay offender financial sanctions until 180 days after release**

**Status:** Reported - House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Justice & Policy Center, ACLU of Ohio, Ohio Poverty Law Center, Alliance for Safety & Justice, Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Ohio Community Corrections Association,

**Opponents:** Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

**House Bill 296** (HB 296) was introduced on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 296 modifies existing law and prohibits courts from requiring offenders to pay outstanding court-assessed fines, fees, financial sanctions, or costs during either the 180 days following the offender's release from a sentence of imprisonment of one year or more or during the 180 days following the offender's completion of a period of transitional control. The bill states that the 180-day delay does not apply to restitution.

### **House Bill 305 (Deeter, Williams)**

#### **Enact Logan's Law**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 305** (HB 305) was introduced on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 305 creates the new R.C. 2925.03 offense of Trafficking in Pressed Pill Fentanyl. The penalty range for this new offense ranges from the felony of the third-degree level to the felony of the first-degree level.



### **House Bill 343 (Lorenz)**

#### **Regards delinquent adjudications for felony theft or vandalism**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 343** (HB 343) was introduced on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 343 requires a mandatory period of secure confinement at a department of youth services facility for certain juvenile offenders who are adjudicated delinquent for committing acts that are felony violations of either R.C. 2913.02 Theft or R.C. 2909.05 Vandalism. Juvenile offenders subject to this mandatory period of secure confinement at a department of youth services facility must be at least 14 years of age and have two or more prior adjudications for felony theft or vandalism offenses. The bill specifies the mandatory minimum period of confinement based on the felony offense level of the adjudication.

### **House Bill 345 (LaRe)**

#### **Increase the penalties for voyeurism**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 345** (HB 345) was introduced on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. HB 345 increases the penalties for R.C. 2907.08 Voyeurism offenses. The existing misdemeanor of the second-degree offense level is increased to the felony of the fifth-degree level, the existing misdemeanor of the first-degree offense level is increased to the felony of the fifth-degree level, and the existing felony of the fifth-degree offense level is increased to the fourth-degree level. Additionally, the bill specifies that offenders who have prior convictions under this section are subject to the next highest offense level on subsequent convictions.

### **House Bill 372 (Abrams, Plummer)**

#### **Enact the Larry Henderson Act**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, National Police Association, Northern Ohio Fire Fighters, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

**Opponents:** Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Office of the Ohio Public Defender

**House Bill 372** (HB 372) was introduced on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. HB 372 modifies existing law and provides that the penalty for aggravated murder is death or life without the possibility of parole if the victim is a peace officer, prosecutor, first responder, or military member. In so doing, the bill modifies R.C. 2903.01 Aggravated Murder by substituting “peace officer” for the existing “law enforcement officer” special victim class and adding “prosecutor” as a special victim.

**House Bill 417 (Plummer, Young)**  
**Regards animal abuse offenses and penalties**

**Status:** In House Public Safety Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**Opponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**House Bill 417** (HB 417) was introduced on August 19, 2025. The bill creates new R.C. 955.55, which prohibits offenders convicted of any felony animal abuse offense from subsequently owning, possessing, having custody of, or residing in a residence with any dog. New R.C. 955.55 also prohibits offenders convicted of any misdemeanor animal abuse offense from owning, possessing, having custody of, or residing in a residence with any dog for a period of two years after their release from incarceration or, if the person is not incarcerated, from the date that the person was convicted or plead guilty. Offenders who violate either of these new prohibitions are guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

The bill also creates a new R.C. 959.131 section prohibiting persons from knowingly treating a companion animal corpse in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities. This new offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree on a first offense and a felony of the fifth degree on a second or subsequent offense. Additionally, offenders convicted of this new offense are required to undergo psychological evaluations or counseling in addition to any other criminal penalty.

**House Bill 425 (Hoops)**  
**Prohibit trespass and unauthorized recording by drones**

**Status:** In House Transportation Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**Opponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**House Bill 425** (HB 425) was introduced on August 28, 2025. The bill creates 6 new R.C. 4561.54 offenses related to the operation of unmanned aerial vehicle systems. Each new offense is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

New R.C. 4561.54:

(A) No person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly operate an unmanned aerial vehicle system in the air space above the land or premises of another.

(B) No person, without privilege to do so, shall recklessly operate an unmanned aerial vehicle system in the air space above the land or premises of another when a notice against unauthorized access to such land or premises is given through one of the following:

- (1) Actual communication to the person;
- (2) A notice that is posted in a manner reasonably calculated to come to the attention of potential intruders;
- (3) By fencing or another form of enclosure manifestly designed to restrict access.

(C) No person, without privilege to do so, shall negligently continue to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle system in the air space above the land or premises of another after being given a direct notification to leave that air space by the owner or occupant of the property.

(D) No person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly use an unmanned aerial vehicle system to videotape, film, photograph, broadcast, stream, capture audio, or otherwise record another person, in a place where that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

(E) No person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly use an unmanned aerial vehicle system to videotape, film, photograph, broadcast, stream, capture audio, or otherwise record another person's private property, including any animals or objects on another person's private property.

(F) No person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly use an unmanned aerial vehicle system to deploy any substance, material, projectile, or object.

#### **House Bill 457 (Daniels, Williams)**

##### **Regards penalties for politically motivated criminal offenses**

**Status:** Introduced

**Proponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**Opponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**House Bill 457** (HB 457) was introduced on September 17, 2025. The bill creates a new R.C. 2941.1428 specification applicable to felony offenses of violence that are politically motivated. The new specification provides for the imposition of varying degrees of mandatory prison terms pursuant to new R.C. 2929.14(B)(2). This new mandatory prison term shall be the maximum prison term allowed for the underlying offense and an additional mandatory prison term of ten years.

The bill also modifies R.C. 2903.01 Aggravated Murder by prohibiting persons from purposely causing the death of an elected official (new R.C. 2903.01(G)) or by purposely causing the death of another person if the offender's motivation for the killing is based on political affiliation, association, belief, or ideology, whether or not the offender was mistaken as to that motivation (new R.C. 2903.01(H)).



**House Bill 459 (Gross, Williams)**

**Enact Katelyn's Law**

**Status:** Introduced

**Proponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**Opponents:** Testimony not yet provided

[House Bill 459](#) (HB 459) was introduced on September 17, 2025. The bill creates the new R.C. 2941.1427 specification providing for a mandatory 5-year prison term or, if the offender is a juvenile, a mandatory commitment to the custody of the department of youth services for not less than one and not more than three years. This new specification applies to offenders that move or removed human remains to prevent the discovery of an unlawful act, the discovery of the death, the discovery of the cause of death, or the discovery of the human remains.

The bill also creates the new R.C. 29221.322 offense of Moving or Removing Human Remains, a felony of the third degree with a presumption of prison. This new offense prohibits any person, unless otherwise authorized by law, from purposely moving or removing human remains for any of the following purposes: 1) to prevent the discover of an unlawful act; 2) to prevent the discovery of the death; 3) to prevent the discovery of the cause of death; or 4) to prevent the discovery of the human remains.

### **- Pending Senate Bills -**

#### **Senate Bill 5 (Brenner, Huffman)**

##### **Expedite unauthorized occupant removal; prohibit fraudulent deeds**

**Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Senate Bill 5** (SB 5) was introduced on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. The bill modifies the R.C. 2909.07 offense of criminal mischief by prohibiting persons from unlawfully detaining, occupying, or trespassing upon a residential dwelling and causing at least one thousand dollars in damage to the dwelling; under the bill, offenders who cause such damage are subject to the felony of the second-degree penalty level. SB 5 also creates the new R.C. 2913.53 offense of title fraud. The new offense of title fraud is a misdemeanor of the first degree if the offender knowingly presents to another person a false document purporting to be a valid lease agreement, deed, or other instrument conveying real property. The new offense is a felony of the first degree if the offender knowingly lists or advertises residential real property that the purported seller has to legal title or authority to sell or knowingly rents or leases residential real property that the purported owner has no lawful ownership in to another person.

#### **Senate Bill 16 (Wilson)**

##### **Establish road rules around distressed stationary vehicles**

**Status:** In Senate Transportation Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Trucking Association, AAA

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Senate Bill 16** (SB 16) was introduced on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. SB 16 modifies existing R.C. 4511.213 approaching stationary public safety vehicle displaying emergency light. The bill adds “vehicle in distress” to the list of vehicles that drivers of motor vehicles must proceed with due caution around or changes lanes when passing. SB 16 defines “vehicle in distress” as any disabled vehicle that is indicating its disability pursuant to R.C. 4513.28, as any vehicle near which a fuse, flare, or other emergency sign is displayed, and as any vehicle that is displaying flashing emergency or hazard lights.





### **Senate Bill 64 (Cutrona)**

#### **Increase penalties for companion animal cruelty offenses**

**Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[Senate Bill 64](#) (SB 64) was introduced on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The bill increases the penalty level for cruelty to companion animal offenses. Generally, existing misdemeanor offenses increase one penalty level (misdemeanor of the second-degree offenses increase to misdemeanor of the first-degree offenses, misdemeanor of the first-degree offenses increase to fifth degree felony offenses). Additionally, existing fifth degree felony offenses increase to third degree felony offenses. For violations of existing R.C. 959.131, SB 64 also requires courts to impose a mandatory prison or jail term that is the maximum term allowed for the degree of the offense.

### **Senate Bill 97 (Craig, Wilson)**

#### **Double fines for failing to yield to a funeral procession**

**Status:** In Senate Transportation Committee

**Proponents:** Ohio Funeral Directors Association

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[Senate Bill 97](#) (SB 97) was introduced on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. For violations of existing R.C. 4511.451, SB 97 requires courts to impose a fine of two times the usual amount imposed for failing to yield the right of way to a funeral procession.

### **Senate Bill 98 (Craig, Weinstein)**

#### **Prohibit firearm possession – certain domestic violence offenses**

**Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

[Senate Bill 98](#) (SB 98) was introduced on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. SB 98 adds persons charged with or convicted of misdemeanor of the first-degree domestic violence to the list of disabilities under R.C. 2923.13 having weapons while under disability offenses.



### **Senate Bill 124 (Craig, Patton)**

#### **Increase assault penalty if victim is a transit system operator**

**Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Senate Bill 124** (SB 124) was introduced on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. SB 124 adds operators of an Ohio transit system bus or Ohio transit system rail car or a contracted employee providing those services to the list of special victims under R.C. 2903.13 assault. Under the bill, assaults against this special victim class are felonies of the fifth degree for first offenses and felonies of the fourth degree if the offender has committed any prior assault or homicide offense against the new special victim class. The bill also increases the penalty level for evading the payment of the known fares of a public transportation system under existing R.C. 2917.41 from the misdemeanor of the fourth-degree penalty level to the misdemeanor of the second-degree penalty level.

### **Senate Bill 185 (Blessing)**

#### **Revise dog law, including dangerous and vicious dogs**

**Status:** Introduced

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Senate Bill 185** (SB 185) was introduced on April 29, 2025. SB 185 modifies many aspects of existing dog registration laws and existing laws regarding dangerous or vicious dogs. The bill creates new requirements for owners, keepers, or harborers of vicious or dangerous dogs. Additionally, the bill regulates owners, keepers, or harborers who fail to present a valid dangerous dog registration, fail to obtain a dangerous dog registration, fail to affix a tag identifying the dog as a dangerous or vicious dog, or fail to ensure that the dangerous or vicious dog wears a collar and tag at all times. Owners, keepers, or harborers that fail to comply with any of the delineated requirements are subject to penalties ranging from simple fines to misdemeanor of the third-degree penalties. The bill also creates a new minor misdemeanor prohibition against recklessly owning, keeping, or harboring a dog that is wearing a fictitious, altered, or invalid registration tag.



### **Senate Bill 188 (Patton)**

#### **Regards failure to comply with an order of law enforcement**

**Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** United States Marshals Service, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Fraternal Order of Police

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Senate Bill 188** (SB 188) was introduced on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025. SB 188 modifies the existing R.C. 2921.331 Failure to Comply section by prohibiting persons from taking “a position in a physical location that prevents immediate access by any law enforcement officer and refuse or resist orders to exit the location, or comply with other lawful order or direction, when that person knows or reasonably should know that the law enforcement officer is attempting to apprehend the person in connection to an alleged felony offense or misdemeanor offense of violence.” This new offense is, generally, a felony of the third degree. If, in taking “a position in a physical location” as described, the offender creates a risk of serious physical harm to any person, indicates to the law enforcement officer that they have a weapon, or prevents a third party from safely leaving the physical location, the offense is a felony of the second degree.

### **Senate Bill 242 (Johnson)**

#### **Regards the sale of used catalytic converters**

**Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**Opponents:** Testimony not yet provided

**Senate Bill 242** (SB 242) was introduced on July 30, 2025. The bill creates the R.C. 2913.02 new offense of Theft of a Catalytic Converter, a felony of the fifth degree. For offenders with previous convictions for violations of Chapter 2911. or Chapter 2913., Theft of a Catalytic Converter is a felony of the fourth degree. The bill also creates the R.C. 2913.51 new offense of Receiving a Stolen Catalytic Converter, also a felony of the fifth degree. Again, for offenders with prior convictions for violations of Chapter 2911. or Chapter 2913., Receiving a Stolen Catalytic Converter is a felony of the fourth degree.

**- Other Pending Bills of Interest -**

**House Bill 29 (Humphrey, John)**

**Regards inmates' access to feminine hygiene products and showers**

**Status:** Delivered to Governor 12/9/2025

**Proponents:** Ohio Justice & Policy Center, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio, Office of the Ohio Public Defender

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 29** (HB 29) was introduced on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Among other changes, HB 29 requires county and municipal correctional facilities and state correctional institutions housing female inmates to provide inmates experiencing a menstrual cycle with an adequate supply of feminine hygiene products at no cost to the inmates. Additionally, the bill prohibits those facilities or institutions from denying access to feminine hygiene products and requires those facilities or institutions to provide inmates experiencing menstruation with a minimum of one hot shower per day.

**House Bill 177 (Williams, Tims)**

**Allow motion for new trial, other relief based on new evidence**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 177** (HB 177) was introduced on March 17, 2025. HB 177 creates pathways for potential post-conviction relief for offenders who produce newly discovered evidence that, were it to be considered at a new trial, would establish a strong probability of a different result at trial. For motions filed seeking post-conviction relief of this type, the bill creates a pre-hearing judicial review process by which courts determine whether the motion is patently frivolous. If a court makes the pre-hearing finding that a motion of this type is patently frivolous, the court shall dismiss the motion.

**House Bill 571 (Bird, Williams)**

**Regards juvenile court transfer to juvenile's home county**

**Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Proponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**Opponents:** Testimony Not Yet Provided

**House Bill 571** (HB 571) was introduced on November 4, 2025. The bill repeals R.C. 2151.271, eliminating the option for juvenile courts to transfer proceedings against a juvenile to the county where the juvenile resides.

## House Judiciary Committee

Roster – 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Representative Jim Thomas (Jackson Township), *Chair*

Representative D.J. Swearingen (Huron), *Vice Chair*

Representative Eric Synenberg (Beachwood), *Ranking Member*

Representative Jamie Callender (Concord)

Representative Ismail Mohamed (Columbus)

Representative Mike Odioso (Green Township)

Representative Scott Oelslager (North Canton)

Representative Phil Plummer (Dayton)

Representative Brian Stewart (Ashville)

Representative Adam Matthews (Lebanon)

Representative Beryl Piccolantonio (Gahanna)

Representative Desiree Tims (Tims)

\*Representative Josh Williams (Sylvania Township)

\* Designates Commission member

## House Public Safety Committee

Roster – 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

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Representative Kevin D. Miller (Newark), *Vice Chair*

Representative Cecil Thomas (Cincinnati), *Ranking Member*

Representative Juanito O. Brent (Cleveland)

Representative Darnell T. Brewer (Cleveland)

Representative Rodney Creech (West Alexandria)

Representative Haraz N. Ghanbari (Perrysburg)

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\*Representative Latyna M. Humphrey (Columbus)

Representative Jeff LaRe (Violet Township)

Representative Diane Mullins (Hamilton)

Representative Phil Plummer (Dayton)

Representative Bernard Willis (Springfield)

\* Designates Commission member

## Senate Judiciary Committee

Roster – 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

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Senator Michele Reynolds (Canal Winchester), *Vice Chair*

Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson (Toledo), *Ranking Member*

Senator Louis W. Blessing (Colerain Township)

Senator Al Cutrona (Canfield)

Senator Theresa Gavarone (Bowling Green)

Senator Kent Smith (Euclid)

\* Designates Commission member