



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

July 2025

Legislative Update July 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: Sept. 23rd (if needed), Sept. 30th (if needed), Oct. 1st, Oct. 8th

Senate: Sept. 23rd (if needed), Sept. 30th (if needed), Oct. 1st, Oct. 8th



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136th 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 30th, 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.



136th 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.

- Recently Introduced House and Senate Bills –

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 30th, 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 20th, 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: In House Judiciary Committee

Proponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Opponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

[House Bill 296](#) (HB 296) was introduced on May 20th, 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 27th, 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 10th, 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 10th, 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: Introduced

Proponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Opponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

House Bill 372 (HB 372) was introduced on June 23rd, 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 393 (Click, Brewer)

Require certain facilities assist inmates in obtaining ID cards

Status: Introduced

Proponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Opponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

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



Senate Bill 188 (Patton)

Regards failure to comply with an order of law enforcement

Status: In Senate Judiciary Committee

Proponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Opponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

[Senate Bill 188](#) (SB 188) was introduced on April 29th, 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.

- Pending House Bills -

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 23rd, 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: In House Public Safety 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 27th, 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 36 (Stewart, Plummer)

Add nitrogen hypoxia as a method of execution

Status: In House Judiciary Committee

Proponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Opponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

House Bill 36 (HB 36) was introduced on February 3rd, 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: In House 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 4th, 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 10th, 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 10th, 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 11th, 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 11th, 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 88 (Abrams, Plummer)

Regards drug trafficking, human trafficking, fentanyl

Status: In House Judiciary Committee

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 11th, 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 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 18th, 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 18th, 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 132 (Craig, Miller, M.)

Enact Philip Wigal's Law

Status: In House 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 24th, 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: In House 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 203 (Hall, Williams)

Enact Aspen Runnel's Law

Status: In House Judiciary Committee

Proponents: N/A

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 210 (Roemer, Plummer)

Regards the sale of used catalytic converters

Status: In House Public Safety 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 211 (Humphrey, Williams)

Require consideration of caretaker status in criminal cases

Status: In House Judiciary Committee

Proponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Opponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

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: Introduced

Proponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

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.

- 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 22nd, 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: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Opponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Senate Bill 16 (SB 16) was introduced on January 22nd, 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 4th, 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: Testimony Not Yet Provided

Opponents: Testimony Not Yet Provided

[Senate Bill 97](#) (SB 97) was introduced on February 10th, 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 10th, 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 25th, 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.

- Other Pending Bills of Interest -

House Bill 29 (Humphrey, John)

Regards inmates' access to feminine hygiene products and showers

Status: In House Government Oversight Committee

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 28th, 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.

Senate Bill 55 (Manning)

Regards operating under the influence of marihuana, OVI evidence

Status: In Senate Judiciary Committee

Proponents: Ohio Bar Association, Americans for Prosperity - Ohio

Opponents: DUID Victim Voices

Senate Bill 55 (SB 55) was introduced on January 28th, 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.

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.



Senate Bill 179 (Johnson)

Verify veteran status of imprisoned individuals

Status: In Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety 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.

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