

Employment, Labor, and Professional Regulation

H.B. 107

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Baldrige

Effective date: April 3, 2023; one section effective April 3, 2024; elevator contractor and mechanic licensure requirements repealed effective April 3, 2033

- Beginning April 3, 2024, requires elevator mechanics and elevator contractors to obtain a license from the Division of Industrial Compliance.
- Grants the Division rule-making authority with regard to the elevator mechanic and contractor licensing process.
- Requires elevator contractors to maintain minimum levels of insurance coverage.
- Requires elevator mechanics to meet initial licensure requirements and to complete continuing education.
- Creates the Elevator Safety Review Board (ESRB) within the Division.
- Grants the ESRB disciplinary authority over elevator mechanics and elevator contractors.
- Repeals the act's elevator mechanic and contractor licensure laws on April 3, 2033 (ten years after the act's effective date).
- Exempts elevators in private residences from the law's inspection requirements.

H.B. 138

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Baldrige

Effective date: July 6, 2022

- Eliminates the enumeration of specific services that may be provided by emergency medical service (EMS) personnel.
- Requires the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to establish the scope of practice for EMS personnel through rulemaking.
- Permits EMS personnel to comply with a do-not-resuscitate order issued by a physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.
- Requires the medical director or cooperating physician advisory board of each EMS organization to establish protocols for EMS personnel to follow when providing services at all times.
- Establishes conditions on the Board's adoption of rules regarding qualifications for a physician to serve as an EMS organization's medical director or a member of its

cooperating physician advisory board that generally require all physicians to meet the same qualifications.

- Expressly requires an EMS organization to appoint a medical director or cooperating physician advisory board.
- Establishes ambulance staffing requirements when a patient is being transported in nonemergency situations.
- Eliminates a requirement that an individual seeking to practice as a first responder be a volunteer for a nonprofit EMS organization or nonprofit fire department.
- Permanently reauthorizes EMS personnel who have received proper training to (1) administer COVID-19 tests and (2) collect and label test specimens.

H.B. 321

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Kick and B. Young

Effective date: September 13, 2022

Auctions

Elimination of licenses

- Eliminates the requirement that a person serve as an apprentice auctioneer prior to becoming an auctioneer.
- Instead, requires applicants for an auctioneer's license to successfully complete a course in auctioneering at an institution approved by the Ohio Auctioneers Commission.
- Eliminates the special auctioneer license and requires a special auctioneer to apply for an auction firm license.

Regulatory authority

- Eliminates the exemption for online auctions from the law governing auctioneers, but retains an exemption for auction mediation companies (companies, such as eBay, that provide a forum through the internet for persons to sell their real or personal property via silent bids using a computer or other electronic device).
- If a person auctions real or personal property via the internet, requires the person to be licensed as an auctioneer or auction firm, unless the person is otherwise exempt from licensure.
- Clarifies that auction firms may provide auction services for online or live auctions.
- Clarifies that an auction firm license is not required when personal property is taken on consignment for free for sale at auction.
- Clarifies that a person who takes personal property on consignment for sale at auction is not a consignee if the person does not take the property in the regular course of business.

Auctioneer licensure

- Revises requirements regarding examinations for auctioneer license applicants, including by:
 - Eliminating the oral examination administered by the Ohio Auctioneers Commission; and
 - Increasing from four to 12 the number of times a year that the Department of Agriculture must hold written examinations.
- Eliminates the authorization for an Ohio resident to conduct auctions in Ohio under authority of a license issued by another state with a reciprocal agreement with Ohio.
- Establishes requirements and procedures regarding an incomplete application for an auctioneer license, including that the Director of Agriculture must deny an application if the applicant fails to submit required information within 90 days.

Auction firm licensure validity

- Extends the term of an auction firm license from one to two years and requires the Director to adopt transition procedures.

Continuing education

- Requires a licensed auctioneer and an auction firm manager of a licensed auction firm, at the time of renewal, to submit an affidavit that the auctioneer or manager has completed the required continuing education (C.E.).
- Establishes general requirements for licensed auctioneers and auction firm to complete eight hours of C.E. prior to renewing a license.
- Prescribes the hours of instruction and the subjects for C.E., including contract law, auction ethics, and business math and accounting.
- Specifies that an auctioneer license or auction firm license is automatically suspended if the Director determines that an auctioneer or auction firm manager has failed to complete the C.E. requirements.
- Specifies that a suspended license is automatically revoked if the auctioneer or auction firm manager fails to submit proof of completion of C.E. in 180 days.
- Grants the Ohio Auctioneers Commission oversight of C.E. courses and providers.

Miscellaneous

- Eliminates the mandatory transfer of money from the Auctioneers Fund to the Auction Recovery Fund if the Auctioneers Fund exceeds \$300,000.
- Allows a seller of property to withdraw the property from an absolute auction after the auction is opened and there is public solicitation or calling for bids if no bid is made within a reasonable time.

Self-service storage facilities

Lien enforcement notices

- Removes the requirement that lien enforcement notices sent by email also be sent by certified or first-class mail.
- Allows a lien enforcement notice to be sent by email to an occupant, but to no other parties and only if certain conditions apply.
- If successful delivery cannot be established, requires the owner to resend the notice via certified mail, first-class mail, or private delivery service.
- Replaces a provision deeming an email notice delivered when it is properly addressed and sent with a provision deeming it delivered when the owner receives a response or return receipt.

Towing

- Grants self-service storage facility owners discretion in deciding whether and when to have motor vehicles, trailers, and watercraft removed when an occupant is in default or when other personal property in the space will be or was sold to collect amounts due.
- Adds trailers to the property for which a 30-day notice is required prior to towing it due to default.
- Removes a provision requiring a response to a facility owner's lien enforcement notice from a person holding a lien on a motor vehicle or watercraft prior to a facility owner towing it.
- Adds trailers to the property for which a facility owner is not liable for damages following towing.
- Requires a lien enforcement notice to include the name of the towing service or storage facility.
- Requires the name and street address of the towing service or storage facility to be made available to the occupant or lienholder upon presentation of proof of an interest in the motor vehicle, trailer, or watercraft.

H.B. 447

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Lampton

Effective date: September 23, 2022

- Makes a work from home employee ineligible to receive workers' compensation unless specific circumstances apply.
- Allows, rather than requires as under former law, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) to schedule a recipient of temporary total disability (TTD) compensation for a medical examination after 200 weeks to evaluate whether the disability is permanent.

- Allows, rather than requires as under former law, a self-insuring employer to request that BWC schedule such an examination when the self-insuring employer's employee has received 200 weeks of TTD.
- Eliminates a requirement that an application for a lump sum workers' compensation payment be notarized.

H.B. 509

Primary Sponsors: Reps. John and Fowler Arthur

Effective date: April 6, 2023; certain provisions effective December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2025

Department of Aging

- Increases from one year to two years the duration of a nursing home administrator license issued by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services and Supports within the Department of Aging.
- Modifies to \$600 every two years, from \$300 annually, the renewal fee for a nursing home administrator license.
- Eliminates the temporary nursing home administrator license, and instead allows an individual to receive a nursing home administrator license before passing a licensing examination, under specified circumstances.

Attorney General

- Effective December 31, 2024, eliminates the fund-raising counsel registration requirement with the Attorney General.

Chemical Dependency Professionals Board

- Reduces from two years to one year the period to seek restoration of expired licenses, certificates, or endorsements issued by the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board.
- Reduces from 40 to 30 the number of continuing education hours that a chemical dependency professional must complete as a condition of license renewal.
- Revises the master's degree course requirements for an independent chemical dependency counselor or supervisor, by eliminating both the 40 semester hour requirement and specific coursework content areas.

State Chiropractic Board

- Reduces to 200 hours, including 100 hours of direct clinical instruction (from 300 hours and 200 hours, respectively), the minimum duration of an approved course of study for chiropractors seeking to practice acupuncture.

Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

- Eliminates temporary licenses for independent social workers, professional clinical counselors, and independent marriage and family therapists.
- Reduces continuing education hours required for social work assistants from 30 to 15.

State Dental Board

- Effective January 1, 2025, establishes flat licensing fee amounts for dentists and dental hygienists, replacing fees that differ based on the year initial licenses are issued.
- Effective January 1, 2025, eliminates the statutorily prescribed dates for dentist and dental hygienist license renewals, and instead provides that each license is valid for two years and may be renewed for additional two-year periods.
- Reduces the number of continuing education hours required over each two-year license renewal period as follows: from 40 to 30 hours for dentists and from 24 to 20 hours for dental hygienists.
- Effective January 1, 2025, eliminates the dental hygienist teacher's certificate and temporary volunteer's certificate.

Department of Developmental Disabilities

- Effective January 1, 2025, eliminates adult service worker and adult service supervisor certificates.
- Removes references to early intervention supervisor certificates, which were created through a rule that has been rescinded.
- Effective April 6, 2024, prohibits rules adopted by the Department of Developmental Disabilities from establishing varying levels of certification for individuals to receive an investigative agent certification.

Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

- Allows a college student to apply to be a funeral director apprentice, embalmer apprentice, or combined funeral director and embalmer apprentice.
- Effective December 31, 2024, eliminates the crematory operator license required for an individual to perform cremations, but requires individuals engaged in the profession to register an active national certificate with the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.
- Effective December 31, 2024, modifies the number of continuing education hours required for each biennial licensing period for licensed funeral directors and embalmers, from between 12 to 30 hours to not less than 12 hours.
- Reduces the number of embalmings that an applicant for an embalmer's license must have performed, from 25 to 15.

State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services

- Authorizes the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to adopt rules creating standards for criminal background checks for applicants who apply for or renew specified certifications.
- Reduces the continuing education hours required for a paramedic from 86 to 75 hours per three-year certification cycle.
- Reduces the maximum continuing education hours required for firefighter certification renewal from 54 to 36 hours per three-year certification cycle, but authorizes a local entity to require additional hours, provided the hours are not required for the certification renewal.
- Eliminates the emergency medical services assistant instructor certificate and the assistant fire instructor certificate.
- Merges the EMS training programs with the EMS continuing education programs to become a joint EMS training and continuing education program.
- Requires the Board to adopt rules governing procedures for the merger and steps that current operators of the individual programs must take in order to operate and teach courses that cover training and continuing education requirements.

State Fire Marshal

- Increases the duration of an underground storage tank system installer certification from one year to two years.
- Sets the application and renewal fees for an underground storage tank system installer certification at \$300.
- Removes the requirement that a sponsor of an underground storage tank system installer training program be certified.
- Prescribes the renewal fees for a hotel, single room occupancy license.

Department of Insurance

- Reduces the initial licensing fee for entities employing insurance navigators that is set by administrative rule from up to \$250 (less than 100 navigators), or up to \$500 (100 or more navigators), to \$200 in all cases.
- Reduces the renewal fee for entities employing insurance navigators that is set by administrative rule from \$100 (less than 100 navigators), or \$250 (100 or more navigators), to \$100 in all cases.
- Reduces the initial licensing fee and renewal fee for reinsurance intermediary broker licenses and reinsurance intermediary manager licenses from \$500 to \$100.

State Medical Board

- Clarifies that an applicant for a limited branch of medicine is applying for a license to practice massage therapy.
- Modifies the instructional requirements for a massage therapy license to 600 hours of massage therapy instruction, instead of 600 hours of other specified instruction.

Board of Nursing

- Eliminates dialysis technician intern certificates, but continues to authorize an individual who has successfully completed an approved dialysis training program within the previous 18 months to practice as a dialysis technician intern, so long as the individual is supervised as provided in the act.
- Authorizes physician assistants to supervise dialysis technicians and dialysis technician interns, in addition to physicians and registered nurses who continue to be authorized to supervise.
- Allows a licensed practical nurse to administer medications or perform intravenous therapy without authorization from the Board of Nursing.
- Refers to “entities” from which an advanced practice registered nurse may issue a prescription for a schedule II controlled substance, rather than “locations” as under prior law.
- Removes obsolete references to the Committee on Prescriptive Governance and the former advanced practice registered nurse drug formulary.
- Requires an employer of out-of-state nurses holding multistate licenses under the Nurse Licensure Compact to report to the Board the number of those nurses, rather than their names.
- Authorizes the Board to contract with a third-party vendor to administer its substance use disorder monitoring program for license and certificate holders.

Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

- Eliminates temporary licenses to practice orthotics, prosthetics, orthotics and prosthetics, and pedorthics, but maintains requirements that apply to unlicensed individuals providing those services under a licensee’s supervision.
- Eliminates the prohibition against using a title or initials representing that a person has a temporary license listed above when the individual does not have such a license.
- Eliminates a requirement that an applicant for a license to practice orthotics, prosthetics, orthotics and prosthetics, or pedorthics practice under a licensee for at least eight months before being eligible for the license.

- Requires one member of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board be a licensed physical therapist assistant with five years of relevant experience.
- Allows one member of the Physical Therapy Section of the Board who is not a member of the Board to be a physical therapist assistant.

State Board of Pharmacy

- Sets pharmacist continuing education at 30 hours every two years, instead of having the Pharmacy Board set the number of hours in rules.
- Reduces from \$45 to \$30 the initial license and annual renewal fee for pharmacy intern licenses, but allows the Board to gradually implement the reduction until January 1, 2028.

State Board of Psychology

- Transfers licensing of school psychologists from the State Board of Education to the State Board of Psychology, and requires the two boards to coordinate to implement the transfer by January 1, 2025.
- Requires the Psychology Board to issue school psychologist licenses for practice in school settings and independent school psychologist licenses for practice outside school settings.
- Adds to the Psychology Board a certified Ohio behavior analyst.

State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

- Eliminates audiologist conditional licensure, which was a legacy provision for individuals who did not have a doctor of audiology degree when that became a requirement for full licensure in 2006, and is obsolete.

Veterinary Medical Licensing Board

- Reduces fees charged by the State Veterinary Medical Licensing Board as follows, but allows the Board to implement the reductions gradually, with full implementation by January 1, 2028:
 - Reduces the initial license fee for a veterinary license to \$275, from \$425 for license applications filed in even-numbered years and \$300 for applications filed in odd-numbered years.
 - Allows a person who holds a provisional veterinary graduate license to receive an initial veterinary license free of charge in particular circumstances.
 - Establishes the initial registration fee for a veterinary technician at a flat \$30, rather than \$25 to \$35 depending on the postmark of the application.
 - Establishes the biennial veterinary technician registration renewal fee at a flat \$30, rather than \$35 to \$60 depending on the postmark.

State Vision Professionals Board

- Eliminates the ocularist license and contact lens dispensing optician license, but permits the State Vision Professionals Board to issue initial licenses until December 31, 2024, and allows an individual holding either license to maintain and renew the license until that date.
- Eliminates the separate topical ocular pharmaceutical agents certificate and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate that may be issued with an optometrist license, and specifies that a licensed optometrist has prescribing authority without holding such a certificate.
- Requires optometrist licenses and dispensing optician licenses to be renewed biennially, instead of annually, and requires a licensee to complete continuing education to renew the license biennially.
- Establishes new biennial issuance and renewal fees for optometrist licenses and dispensing optician licenses to replace the annual fees.
- Reduces the period the Board will accept a late renewal application for an optometrist license from four months to one month after the license expires and, for a dispensing optician license, from 90 days to 30 days after the license expires.
- Classifies an optometrist license as expired, rather than delinquent, if the license holder has not renewed the license during the late renewal period.
- Eliminates the ability of a licensed optometrist to place the optometrist's license on inactive status when the optometrist retires or decides to practice in another state or country.
- Eliminates the fees charged to a license holder to reinstate a delinquent or inactive optometrist license.
- Specifies that an optometrist license in effect on April 6, 2023, expires in 2024 and a dispensing optician license expires in 2025.
- Permits the Board to issue a cease-and-desist order if a person is engaging in prohibited conduct that has caused, is causing, or is about to cause substantial and material harm.
- Specifies, regarding a licensee, that a cease-and-desist order is cumulative and concurrent with other disciplinary actions the Board may take for a violation of the law governing optometrists or dispensing opticians.
- Specifies that the Board may investigate an unlicensed person engaged in the practice of optometry or, for an unlicensed person engaged in optical dispensing, notify the appropriate prosecuting attorney for further action.
- Revises the amount of supervised experience required for a dispensing optician license.
- Eliminates the fee for a dispensing optician apprentice to renew registration.

General provisions

- Renews for six years the 19 occupational licensing boards reviewed during the 134th General Assembly by the House State and Local Government and Senate Workforce and Higher Education committees.
- Prohibits occupational licensing boards from requiring a photograph or physical description of the applicant as a condition of issuing or renewing an occupational license, certification, or registration.
- Authorizes an occupational licensing board to allow an individual to complete continuing education virtually.

Sunset Review

- Extends until December 31, 2024, authorization for the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board and the Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Education Commission to operate.

S.B. 47

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Brenner and Peterson

Effective date: July 6, 2022

- Prohibits an employee from joining as a party plaintiff in a lawsuit alleging a violation of Ohio's overtime requirement unless that employee first gives written consent to become a party plaintiff and that consent is filed with the court in which the lawsuit is brought.
- Exempts an employer from Ohio's requirement to pay overtime wages when an employee is traveling to and from a worksite or performing specific tasks.
- Incorporates into Ohio's overtime requirement specified sections of the federal Portal to Portal Act of 1947, which addresses when to pay overtime for travel to and from work and activities that are preliminary and postliminary to an employee's principal activities.

S.B. 131

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Roegner and McColley

Effective date: December 29, 2023; requirement that licensing authorities adopt rules to implement the act takes effect April 3, 2023

Out-of-state applicants for occupational licenses, certifications

- Requires a licensing authority to issue a license or government certification under certain circumstances to an applicant who holds an out-of-state occupational license.
- Requires a licensing authority to issue a license or certification under certain circumstances to an applicant who has a government certification, a private certification, or satisfactory work experience in the uniformed services or in a state that does not issue a license or government certification for the occupation.

- Requires an applicant to submit to a criminal records check to receive a license or certification under the act if a licensing authority requires an applicant under Ohio law governing the profession or occupation to do so.
- Allows a licensing authority to require an applicant to pass an examination on Ohio's laws and rules governing the profession or occupation if it requires an applicant to pass the examination under Ohio law.
- Requires an applicant to satisfy a financial responsibility requirement if a licensing authority requires applicants to satisfy one under Ohio law.
- Allows a licensing authority to require an applicant to meet a requirement that federal law or regulation requires Ohio to impose in order for Ohio to receive federal funding.
- Prohibits a licensing authority from issuing or denying a license or certification under the act while the applicant is the subject of certain pending complaints, allegations, or investigations.
- Requires a licensing authority to provide an applicant with a written decision to issue, reject, or take any other action regarding a license or certification under the act within 60 days after receiving a complete application or after a pending complaint, allegation, or investigation is resolved.
- Specifies that an applicant who receives a license or certification under the act is subject to the Ohio laws regulating the occupation or profession and to the licensing authority's jurisdiction.
- Requires that a license or certification issued under the act be considered a license or certification issued under the Ohio laws regulating the occupation or profession.
- Specifies that laws applicable to a license or certification issued to an applicant who does not obtain a license or certification under the act apply in the same manner to licenses and certifications issued under the act.
- Allows a licensing authority, for purposes of verifying licensure status in Ohio with an entity that licenses the same profession or occupation in another state, to require an applicant under the act to satisfy a national standard to have that license or certification verified as an Ohio license or certification.
- Prohibits a political subdivision from prohibiting an individual who holds a license or certification issued by a state agency under the act from engaging in the profession or occupation in the political subdivision's jurisdiction.
- Exempts certain licenses and activities from the act, including licenses issued to entities other than individuals.
- Requires each licensing authority to adopt rules as necessary to implement the act.

Real estate brokers and salespersons

- Requires an individual seeking an Ohio real estate broker's or salesperson's license pursuant to the act to satisfy the act's requirements described above and additional requirements related to work experience and passing an examination on Ohio real estate law, depending on which license the individual seeks.

Specialty contractors

- Exempts specialty contractor licenses from the act's procedures and requirements.
- Eliminates the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board's ability to issue specialty contractor licenses without examination per reciprocity agreements with other states.
- Requires the Board to allow an individual to take the appropriate specialty contractor license examination if the individual meets certain requirements and has a substantially similar out-of-state occupational license or similar experience in the uniformed services.

School psychologists' membership in STRS

- Maintains membership in the State Teachers Retirement System for licensed school psychologists employed in public schools when regulation of school psychologists is transferred from the Department of Education to the State Board of Psychology.

S.B. 204

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Effective date: September 13, 2022

- Enters Ohio into the Counseling Compact to facilitate the interstate practice of licensed professional counselors by requiring Ohio to permit individuals to practice who hold valid, unencumbered professional counselor licenses in other member states.
- Requires the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board to select an individual to serve as Ohio's delegate to the Counseling Compact Commission.

S.B. 224

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Cirino

Effective date: September 13, 2022

Funeral professionals

- Requires a facility that is closing to give notice to various parties regarding any unclaimed cremated remains.
- Requires the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to add the violation of specified license transfer requirements to the violations for which it establishes forfeiture.
- Increases the fee to reactivate an embalmer's or funeral director's license from \$140 to \$200.

- Requires the Board to issue reciprocal licenses if certain criteria are met.
- Requires, rather than permits, the Board to determine under what conditions a courtesy card permit is to be issued to funeral directors in bordering states.
- Permits the Board to take disciplinary action against a licensee who provided services to a person knowing that those services were sold to that person by another person who lacked a license.
- Eliminates the requirement that a funeral director, embalmer, or crematory operator conspicuously display their name at the primary entrance to their facility.
- Limits the requirement that an identification tag be provided for cremated remains to vessels that contain all the remains or more than ten cubic inches of remains.
- Changes the retention period for receipts for acceptance of a dead body and delivery of cremated remains to the shorter of ten years or the time the crematory remains in business.
- Provides a qualified immunity from civil liability for funeral professionals and facilities when a cremation was performed in accordance with the laws governing the disposition of cremated remains.
- Replaces the requirement that a writing designating a new cremation authorizing agent be acknowledged by a notary public with a requirement that the writing be signed by a witness.
- Requires the Director of the Board to investigate and prosecute people who provide unlicensed funeral directing services or operate funeral homes without a license.
- Requires the county prosecutor or the Attorney General to conduct the prosecution upon the Director's request.

Preneed funeral contracts

- Requires, whenever there are funds left over following performance of a preneed funeral contract, the holder of the funds to pay the remaining funds to the seller of the contract, who must then deposit those funds into a trust or purchase insurance or annuity policies to fund additional preneed funeral contracts.
- Adds the person with the right of disposition of the deceased person's body as a possible payee for purposes of the continuing requirement that, if funeral goods or services are provided by someone other than the seller of a preneed funeral contract that was funded by a trust, the seller direct the trustee to pay the money in trust to certain persons.
- Authorizes a mistaken payee of funds intended to fund a preneed funeral contract to sign over the mistaken payment to the appropriate entity.
- Allows the \$10 preneed funeral contract fee that is paid to the Board to be paid by any method, including cash.

- Requires the Board to study the trusting requirements in other states relating to caskets purchased on a preneed basis and to report its findings to the General Assembly by December 13, 2022.

Unclaimed Funds Law

- Adds to the Unclaimed Funds Law certain unclaimed funds held pursuant to a preneed funeral contract.
- Requires the holder of funds for a preneed funeral contract, in the calendar year in which the beneficiary turns 105, to inform the seller or successor seller of the beneficiary's 105th birthday.
- Requires the holder and the seller or successor seller to agree that one of them will attempt to confirm that the beneficiary is still alive.

Right of disposition

- Disqualifies a person from serving as a decedent's representative to manage the decedent's final disposition (i.e., burial, cremation, and funeral arrangements) if any of following occur:
 - The person refuses to assume financial responsibility for the costs of the final disposition.
 - The person fails to exercise their rights as representative within 48 hours of notification of the decedent's death.
 - The person fails to exercise their rights as representative within 72 hours of the decedent's death or the discovery of the decedent's remains (if discovered more than one hour after death) if the person is not notified of the decedent's death.
- Removes consideration of a person's willingness to assume financial responsibility for the costs of a decedent's final disposition from the factors that a probate court must consider when the court assigns the right of disposition.

Parental rights of disposition for deceased adult child

- Gives precedence for the right of disposition of a decedent's remains to the parent who was the residential parent and legal custodian of the decedent at the time the decedent reached the age of majority, over the parent who was not.
- Prohibits a parent who has been disqualified from the right of disposition to have the parental precedence.
- Specifies that the parental precedence for the right of disposition is not affected by a group of people or class of persons being assigned the right of disposition.
- Provides that a parent's status as a residential parent and legal custodian must be established by a court order or decree allocating parental rights and responsibilities that was in effect up to or at the time that the decedent reached the age of majority, or by other uncontroverted evidence.

- Provides that funeral directors, embalmers, and crematory operators are not required to investigate whether the person claiming to be the residential parent and legal custodian of a decedent is in fact the residential parent and legal custodian.

Funeral vehicles

- Authorizes a funeral hearse and a funeral escort vehicle to be equipped with and display a flashing, oscillating, or rotating purple light, in addition to an amber light authorized by continuing law.

Fetal death certificates

- Allows a funeral director to apply for a fetal death certificate and burial permit.

Ohio Elections Commission

- Requires the legislative leaders of each party and the Governor to appoint one alternate for each party to the Ohio Elections Commission, and requires the six partisan members of the Commission to appoint an independent alternate for the independent seventh member.

County commissioner ex officio membership

- Allows a county commissioner who is required to serve on another public body as an ex officio member but has a conflict or potential conflict, to be replaced by an individual appointed by the remaining two county commissioners.

S.B. 302

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Hackett and Reineke

Effective date: April 3, 2023

- Delays by two years, from 2023 to 2025, the year by which the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) must begin to accept state income tax withholding requests from unemployment compensation recipients.
- Modifies the tax withholding information that JFS must report to the Tax Commissioner.
- Requires the JFS Director to request tax withholding information from an employer's tax returns when the employer fails to provide requested information within ten working days.
- Requires the JFS Director to enter data matching agreements with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Department of Health, under which their directors provide the JFS Director with current incarceration information and death records.
- Allows the Department of Public Safety to release its digitalized photographic records to JFS if the records are necessary for JFS to carry out its functions under the Unemployment Compensation Law.

- Requires the JFS Director to establish a verification system that uses income tax records for any federal program administered by the Director in a manner similar to the Unemployment Compensation Law that provides money to an individual who loses income but is not eligible for traditional unemployment benefits.
- Allows the Unemployment Compensation Review Commission to appoint a hearing officer to act as a temporary commissioner to decide an appeal when one of the commissioners is unable to hear the appeal.
- Makes changes related to scheduling evening telephone hearings at both the hearing officer and Commission review appeal levels.
- Requires dismissal of an appeal of a contribution rate or rate revision if the appealing party fails to appear at the hearing, but allows the dismissal to be vacated if written notice of the hearing was not sent to the party's last known address, or if there was good cause for failing appear.
- Increases, from 52 to 208, the number of calendar weeks in which the JFS Director may issue a corrected determination when an error in a previous determination was typographical or clerical or was caused by an error in an employer's report or incorrect remuneration data received by the Director.
- Prohibits the JFS Director from disbursing unemployment benefits by direct deposit unless the financial institution has a physical location in Ohio that the individual requesting direct deposits can access for resolving disputes with the institution.
- Requires the JFS Director to maintain an online process through which an employer can report that an applicant for or a recipient of unemployment benefits has failed or is failing to meet the nonmonetary requirements for benefit eligibility.
- Requires the JFS Director to prepare an annual report providing specified information about claims and a summary of updates or changes to the technology used to administer the unemployment compensation system.