Agriculture

H.B. 10

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Klopfenstein and Daniels

Effective date: March 20, 2026

Manufactured-protein food products

- Specifies that food is misbranded as a meat product or egg product if certain conditions exist, including if the food contains a manufactured-protein food product or fabricated-egg product and the label for the food implies that it includes meat or eggs without qualification.
- Requires the Directors of Health and Job and Family Services to submit waiver requests to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to exclude cultivated-protein food products from SNAP and WIC program eligibility, but only if the USDA approves those products for purchase under the programs.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce and each public school and state institution of higher education to adopt a policy to prevent the purchase of cultivated-protein food products or food misbranded as a meat or egg product.

Pesticide application changes

- Revises the law governing pesticide application, including re-enacting law eliminated by H.B. 96 (the 136th General Assembly's main operating budget) that allows:
  - A trained serviceperson acting under the direct supervision of a licensed commercial pesticide applicator to apply restricted use pesticides, but adds that the trained serviceperson must be trained in accordance with standards prescribed by the Director of Agriculture (ODA Director); and
  - A licensed private pesticide applicator's immediate family member or subordinate employee to use restricted use pesticides while acting under the direct supervision of the private applicator, but adds that the immediate family member or employee must be trained in accordance with standards prescribed by the ODA Director.

Animal and Consumer Protection Fund

- Allows the Animal and Consumer Protection Fund to be used to administer the law governing the Livestock Care Standards Board and the entirety of the law governing livestock dealers, rather than only specified provisions of that law.

Deputy apiarists

- Allows a board of county commissioners to appoint, with the consent of the ODA Director, multiple deputy apiarists, rather than only one deputy apiarist as in former law.

H.B. 247

Primary Sponsors: Reps. K. Miller and Lawson-Rowe

Effective date: March 20, 2026

Nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dog acts

- Redefines what constitutes a nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dog.

Penalties for dog attacks

- Imposes criminal penalties on a dog owner or an animal shelter for dogs if:
  - The dog owner negligently fails to keep their dog from committing, without provocation, a "nuisance dog act," "dangerous dog act," or "vicious dog act," including in circumstances in which the dog has not previously engaged in such an act;
  - The animal shelter for dogs recklessly fails to keep the dog from committing such acts.
- Allows a court, as part of the criminal proceeding, to order the dog to be humanely destroyed by a licensed veterinarian or the county dog warden at the dog owner's expense if the dog committed a vicious or dangerous dog act, injured another dog, or attempted to bite a person and the attempt resulted in the injury of the person.
- Requires the court to order the dog to be humanely destroyed if the dog kills a person or seriously injures a person that results in substantial risk of death, permanent incapacity, serious permanent disfigurement, or acute pain of a duration that results in substantial suffering.

Dog designation hearing

- Restructures the hearing procedure by which a dog may be designated a nuisance, dangerous, or vicious dog, including making changes to all of the following:
  - How a hearing is initiated;
  - Which court has jurisdiction over the hearing;
  - The timeline by which a hearing must be conducted;
  - What evidence constitutes probable cause;
  - When a dog owner may retain possession of the dog during the pendency of a hearing and any appeal; and
  - The court's authority over the dog's disposition.
- Requires a court, after a dog designation hearing, to order a dog to be humanely destroyed if the court finds that the dog, without provocation, killed a person or seriously injured a person that results in substantial risk of death, permanent incapacity, serious permanent disfigurement, or acute pain of a duration that results in substantial suffering.

Dogs running at large

- Retains the prohibition against a dog running at large, but increases certain penalties if a nuisance, dangerous, or vicious dog runs at large.
- Exempts a dog that is not a dangerous or vicious dog from the prohibition against a dog running at large if the dog is engaged in a field trial.

Dog warden provisions

- Requires a dog warden who has reason to believe that a dog is being treated inhumanely to notify, in writing, the humane society or appropriate law enforcement authority that has jurisdiction to enforce Ohio's animal cruelty laws, instead of applying to the court for an order to seize the dog.

County auditor provisions

- Requires the county auditor to notify in writing the applicable county dog warden of a registration or address change when the auditor registers a dangerous or vicious dog or receives a notification of an address change from the owner of a dangerous or vicious dog.

Requirements for vicious and dangerous dog owners

- Eliminates the authorization in prior law that allowed a dangerous or vicious dog to legally engage in hunting activities.
- Requires any fencing used by a dog owner to confine a vicious or dangerous dog to be sufficiently constructed to prevent escape.
- Clarifies that a person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence or certain animal cruelty offenses, but who is not incarcerated, cannot knowingly own or reside with certain types of dogs beginning on the date that the person pleads guilty to or is convicted of the offense.
- Mandates that a dangerous or vicious dog owner obtain at least $100,000 in liability insurance, regardless of a court order, and specifying that the failure to obtain liability insurance is a fourth degree misdemeanor.
- Requires a dangerous or vicious dog owner to securely confine their dog within their dwelling or any building on their property when an invitee is present so that there is no reasonable probability that the dog encounters the invitee.
- Increases, from $50 to $100, the dangerous dog registration fee applicable to dangerous and vicious dog owners.
- Requires a dangerous or vicious dog owner to disclose the dog's dangerous or vicious dog status to a trainer or veterinarian who will be providing services related to the dog and specifying that failure to do so is a minor misdemeanor.
- Requires a person who is selling or transferring a dangerous or vicious dog to include an additional answer about the dog's designation status on the written form that the person

must submit to the buyer or other transferee, the applicable board of health, and the applicable dog warden.

- Specifies that certain prohibitions regarding dangerous and vicious dogs are strict liability offenses.

Animal shelters for dogs

- Exempts an animal shelter for dogs from dog registration requirements, including registering any dog or a dangerous or vicious dog, instead of exempting shelters only from paying registration fees as under prior law.
- Exempts an animal shelter for dogs, with respect to a dog that it keeps or harbors, from complying with certain requirements governing dangerous or vicious dogs if the shelter uses due diligence in ascertaining whether the dog is dangerous or vicious prior to taking possession of the dog.

Dog complaint notification procedures

- Requires any authorized person (e.g., a dog warden or law enforcement officer) to investigate any complaint that indicates a possible violation of any provision of the Dog Law.
- If an authorized person does not cite or charge a person after conducting an investigation, requires the authorized person to notify the dog's owner that there has been a complaint regarding the dog.
- Requires the authorized person to post the notice on the door of the dwelling at which the dog resides within 24 hours after the investigation concludes.

Dog attack notifications

- Codifies the Department of Health's rule governing dog bite reporting that requires a health care provider or licensed veterinarian who has knowledge of an attack by a dog or other nonhuman mammal to report the attack within 24 hours after obtaining that knowledge.
- Requires a city or general health district board of health to annually submit a report regarding nonhuman mammalian attacks occurring in its district to the Department of Health by March 1 every year.

Recodification, reorganization, and miscellaneous changes

- Reorganizes and moves the codified location of various R.C. Chapter 955 provisions, including provisions governing criminal penalties.
- Specifies that certain prohibitions regarding dogs, including a violation of dog registration requirements, are strict liability offenses.
- Repeals the law that allowed a livestock owner to make a claim for reimbursement of the value of their animal from the Department of Agriculture if the animal was injured or killed by a coyote or black vulture.

- Repeals the law that prohibited a dog owner from allowing a female dog to go beyond the premises of the dog owner at any time the dog is in heat unless the dog is properly on a leash.

Avery's Law

- Names the act "Avery's Law" in honor of Avery Russell, who was severely injured in a dog attack in Reynoldsburg, Ohio in June 2024, when she was 11 years old.

S.B. 100

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Manchester

Effective date: September 30, 2025

- Exempts healthcare coverage provided to members by nonprofit agricultural membership organizations from Department of Insurance oversight and state insurance regulations.
- Allows the organizations to reinsure the risks associated with the healthcare coverage they provide.
- Prohibits a nonprofit agricultural membership organization from representing that the healthcare coverage it provides is insurance in any official written materials or verbal communications to current or prospective members and their families.
- Requires, as a condition of the exemption, that the application for healthcare coverage and any contract provided to a member be in writing and prominently state that the coverage is not insurance and is not subject to state insurance laws.