Environment and Natural Resources

H.B. 64

Primary Sponsors: Reps. D. Thomas and Deeter

Effective date: September 30, 2025

- Lowers the age, from 66 to 65, at which an Ohio resident may obtain certain discounted senior hunting or fishing licenses or permits.

S.B. 147

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Reineke

Effective date: September 30, 2025

Construction and demolition debris (C&DD) fees

- Authorizes a solid waste management district (SWMD) to levy fees on the disposal of C&DD (mirroring SWMD solid waste disposal fees in Seneca County.
- Phases-in the new fee over a three-year period.
- Requires the SWMD to forward 25% of the new fees to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA).
- Authorizes the SWMD to either keep the remaining 75% for SWMD purposes or forward it to the board of health of the health district where the C&DD or solid waste facility that collected the fee is located.
- Applies procedural requirements governing the administration and collection of solid waste disposal fees to the new C&DD fees.
- Prohibits a SWMD from levying the new C&DD fees at a C&DD facility or solid waste facility located in a health district that is not approved to regulate C&DD under the C&DD law.
- Eliminates the ability of a solid waste facility operator to charge solid waste disposal fees on the disposal of C&DD, thus requiring the operator to collect the fees that correspond to the type of waste so disposed.

Solid waste disposal fees

- Allows SWMDs to use revenue from district solid waste disposal fees to provide financial assistance to individual counties, boards of health, municipal corporations, and townships to mitigate the impacts of solid waste facilities to public health, safety, and welfare.

County withdrawal from joint SWMD

- Repeals the procedures requiring that all county members of a joint SWMD agree before a county could withdraw from the joint district.
- Instead, establishes a procedure whereby a county may withdraw from a joint SWMD regardless of whether all counties agree.
- Establishes procedures for the counties of the joint SWMD to enter into a memorandum of understanding that governs the withdrawal.
- Requires the OEPA Director to take all actions necessary to effectuate the withdrawal.

Withdrawal – regional authorities

- Creates an exception to the new procedures for a county to withdraw from a joint SWMD that is managed by a regional solid waste management authority.
- Accordingly, specifies that if a regional solid waste management authority manages the joint SWMD in accordance with an agreement, and the agreement governs the withdrawal of a county from the joint SWMD, the agreement's procedures prevail over the act's withdrawal procedures.
- However, if a regional management authority manages the joint SWMD in accordance with an agreement that does not have terms governing a county's withdrawal, imposes preliminary requirements that apply before a county may proceed to withdraw from the joint SWMD.

S.B. 152

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Brenner

Effective date: March 4, 2026

Wild animal rehabilitation facilities

- Authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy to issue a limited license to a wild animal rehabilitation facility (WARF) solely for purchasing, possessing, and administering drugs for euthanizing animals and pre-euthanizing drugs for inducing anesthesia, sedation, or unconsciousness.
- Prohibits a WARF's agent or employee from performing euthanasia by lethal injection, or administering pre-euthanasia drugs, unless the WARF in which the agent or employee works is licensed.
- Requires a WARF's agent or employee to complete a euthanasia technician certification course as a condition of licensure.
- Requires a WARF to apply for a limited category II or III terminal distributor license from the Pharmacy Board if it intends to use dangerous drugs for euthanasia.

- Prohibits a WARF from being licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs unless specific criteria are met, including at least one of its agents or employees is a certified euthanasia technician.

Use of "apothecary" and other pharmacy-related terms

- Eliminates the prohibition against the term "apothecary" being used in a sign or advertisement by entities other than licensed pharmacies and pharmacists.
- Adds the culpable mental state of "knowingly" to the offense of a nonpharmacist or pharmacy displaying a sign or advertisement that uses a term reserved for licensed pharmacies or pharmacists to use.
- Revises the prohibition against using terms equivalent to those specified as reserved for use by licensed pharmacies and pharmacists by (1) adding the culpable mental state of "knowingly" and (2) specifying that the prohibition pertains to use that would lead or tend to lead the public to believe that a place or person is a pharmacy or pharmacist.