
JUDICIARY/SUPREME COURT

Lima Municipal Court clerk

- Specifies that the Lima Municipal Court clerk is an elected position.
- Includes the Lima Municipal Court clerk within the procedure for filling a vacancy.

Jefferson County County Court

- Effective January 1, 2022, removes the requirement that the presiding judge of the Jefferson County County Court determine areas of separate jurisdiction for the judges of that court and that the judges hold court in Wintersville or Cross Creek, Dillonvale, and Toronto.

Indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund

- Expands how a court may use surplus money in an indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund by allowing expenditures for the costs of staffing, equipment, training, drug testing, supplies, and other expenses of any specialized docket program established within the court and certified by the Supreme Court.

Probation Workload Study Committee

- Creates the Probation Workload Study Committee within the Ohio Supreme Court to study and discuss probation caseload principles, education standards for probation officers, workload capacity principles, and any other additional subject determined by the Study Committee to be relevant.
- Requires the Study Committee to provide its recommendations to the Governor and legislative leaders by December 31, 2021.

Clerks of court deputy appointments

- Requires that the appointments of deputies to a clerk of a court of common pleas be “endorsed” by the clerk.

Lima Municipal Court clerk

(R.C. 1901.31)

The act makes the Lima Municipal Court clerk an elected position, rather than an appointed position. The clerk is nominated and elected by the qualified electors of the territory in the manner that is provided under Ohio law for the nomination and election of municipal court judges. The clerk holds office for a term of six years and commences on January 1 following the clerk’s election and continues until the clerk’s successor is elected and qualified.

The act includes the Lima Municipal Court clerk within the procedure for filling a vacancy. If a vacancy occurs because the clerk ceases to hold office before the end of the clerk’s term or because a clerk-elect fails to take office, the vacancy is filled, until a successor is elected

and qualified, by a person chosen by the residents of the territory of the court who are members of the county central committee of the political party by which the last clerk or clerk-elect was nominated.

Jefferson County County Court

(R.C. 1907.15; Section 812.10)

The act removes, effective January 1, 2022, the requirement that the presiding judge of the Jefferson County County Court determine areas of separate jurisdiction for the judges of that court and that the judges hold court in Wintersville or Cross Creek, Dillonvale, and Toronto.

Indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund

(R.C. 4511.191)

The act expands how a court may use surplus money in an indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund. Under the act, a court may expend any of the surplus amount for the cost of staffing, equipment, training, drug testing, supplies, and other expenses of any specialized docket program established within the court and certified by the Supreme Court. Under continuing law, in specified circumstances, a court may: (1) expend any of the surplus amount for alcohol and drug abuse assessment and treatment and for the cost of transportation related to assessment and treatment, (2) expend any of the surplus amount to pay all or part of the cost of purchasing alcohol monitoring devices, (3) transfer to another court in the same county any of the surplus amount, and (4) transfer to the alcohol and drug addiction services board or the board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services that serves the alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district in the which the court is located any of the surplus amount.

Probation Workload Study Committee

(Section 725.10)

The act establishes the Probation Workload Study Committee within the Supreme Court of Ohio. The Committee is tasked with studying and discussing probation caseload principles, education standards for probation officers, workload capacity principals, and any other additional subjects it determines to be relevant.

The Committee consists of nine members, with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Executive Director of the Ohio Judicial Conference, and the President of the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association each appointing three members.

Members of the Committee receive no compensation for their service and will not be reimbursed for expenses incurred through participation on the Committee.

By December 31, 2021, the Committee must provide its recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House. The Committee is abolished when it submits the recommendations.

Clerks of court deputy appointments

(R.C. 2303.05)

The act requires that the appointments of deputies to a clerk of a court of common pleas be “endorsed” by the clerk. Prior law required that such appointments be in writing.