INTRODUCTION


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COVID-19 Pandemic

(In Chronological Order)

H.B. 197

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Powell and Merrin

**Effective date:** Emergency: March 27, 2020; one item vetoed

**Extension of absent voting, 2020 primary**

- Voids Secretary of State directive 2020-06, issued on March 16, 2020.
- Allows an elector who had not already cast a ballot in the election, and was registered to vote as of the February 18, 2020, deadline, to cast an absent voter’s ballot through 7:30 p.m. on April 28.
- Requires ballots already cast before or after the act’s March 27, 2020, effective date also to be counted after 7:30 p.m. on April 28.
- Requires the Secretary of State to mail a postcard to each elector in Ohio with information about voting.
- Establishes deadlines and requirements regarding absent voter’s ballots.
- Permits an elector to cast ballots in person at the office of the board of elections on April 28, 2020, by 7:30 p.m. if the elector either (1) has a disability and wishes to use an accessible voting machine, or (2) is unable to receive mail.
- Requires all ballots to be received at the board’s office not later than 7:30 p.m. on April 28, 2020, in order to be counted, but included a ten-day grace period for ballots to arrive by mail after that time, the same as under the permanent statute.
- Allows an absent voter or provisional voter to cure an incomplete ballot statement or provide additional information, if required, not later than May 5, 2020.
- Requires the Secretary of State and boards of elections to conduct all post-election procedures by adding 42 days to the statutory deadlines (the number of days between March 17 and April 28).
- Specifies that for the purpose of contribution limits that apply during a primary election period, the primary election period ended on March 17, 2020.
- Extends the filing deadline for candidates and political entities to file their post-primary campaign finance statements to 4:00 p.m. on June 5, 2020.
Purchasing and contracting requirements

- Suspends the state purchasing and contracting requirements, such as competitive bidding, that otherwise would apply to the Secretary of State, to implement the act’s election provisions.

- Requires the Secretary to file a report with the President of the Controlling Board describing all purchases for which the Secretary did not follow the state purchasing and contracting requirements.

Appropriation

- Appropriates $7 million to the Secretary of State in FY 2020 to pay for expenses related to implementing the election provisions.

Unemployment compensation

- Specifies that, during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, dated March 9, 2020, but not beyond December 1, 2020, an individual is not disqualified from unemployment benefits if the individual is unable to work because of an order issued by the employer, the Governor, or a state or local health authority.

- Charges benefits paid to an individual who is unable to work due to an order described above to the mutualized account, unless the benefits are chargeable to a reimbursing employer.

- Suspends, during the period described above, a requirement that an individual serve a waiting period before receiving unemployment benefits.

- Allows the Director of Job and Family Services, during that period, to waive the requirement actively to search for suitable work as a condition of receiving unemployment benefits.

K-12 education

State assessments

- Exempts all public and chartered nonpublic schools from administering the state achievement assessments for the 2019-2020 school year.

Report cards; sanctions and penalties

- Prohibits the Department of Education from issuing ratings for overall grades, components, and individual measures on the state report cards and submitting preliminary data for report cards for school districts and buildings.

- Establishes a safe harbor from penalties and sanctions for districts and schools based on the absence of state report card grades for the 2019-2020 school year.

Third-grade reading guarantee

- Exempts schools from retaining a student under the third-grade reading guarantee based solely on the student’s academic performance in reading in the 2019-2020 school year,
unless the student’s principal and reading teacher determine the student is not reading at grade level and is not prepared for fourth grade.

**High school graduation**

- Permits public and nonpublic schools to grant a diploma to any student on track to graduate and for whom the principal, in consultation with teachers and counselors, determines has successfully completed the high school curriculum or individualized education program at the time of the order to close schools.
- Permits a district or school that previously adopted a resolution to exceed the state minimum high school curriculum requirements to elect to require only the minimum curriculum when determining high school graduation for 2019-2020.
- Declares the General Assembly’s intent that schools continue to find ways to keep students actively engaged in learning opportunities for the remainder of the school year and to grant needed in-person instructional experiences as soon as reasonably possible.

**Other education provisions**

- Prohibits the use of the value-added progress dimension from the 2019-2020 school year to measure student learning for teacher performance evaluations.
- Prohibits use of certain components for community school sponsor ratings for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Permits a district board of education to elect not to conduct evaluations of district employees, including teachers, administrators, or a superintendent for the 2019-2020 school year, if the board determines it to be impossible or impracticable.
- Authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adjust deadlines for certain annual requirements.
- Permits the Chancellor of Higher Education, in consultation with the state Superintendent, to extend, waive, or otherwise modify requirements of the College Credit Plus Program.
- Permits the state Superintendent to waive or extend deadlines, or otherwise grant providers and students flexibility, for completion of adult education program requirements.
- Permits the Department, on behalf of the State Board of Education, to issue one-year, nonrenewable, provisional licenses to educators who have met all other requirements except the requirement to pass a subject area exam.

**Ed Choice performance-based scholarships**

- Prohibits the Department of Education from awarding most first-time, performance-based Educational Choice (Ed Choice) scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year to students who are newly eligible for that year.
- Requires the Department to continue awarding performance-based scholarships to students who received them in the prior year, and to award first-time scholarships to:
  - Students with siblings who received those scholarships in the 2019-2020 school year, if they also meet other eligibility criteria;
  - Students eligible for those scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year, regardless of whether they received them, who remain eligible for 2020-2021; and
  - Students, including those entering kindergarten or high school or recently relocated, who did not receive a scholarship in 2019-2020, but are enrolled or would be newly enrolled for 2020-2021 in a district school building that meets certain conditions.

- Specifies that performance-based scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year will be financed through deductions from the students’ resident school districts.

**Services to special needs students**

- Permits nonclassroom personnel providing professional services to students with disabilities, for the duration of the Director of Health’s order to close schools for the COVID-19 outbreak or until December 1, 2020, if the order or extension of the order has not been rescinded, to provide services electronically or via telehealth communication.

**Distance learning make up**

- For the 2019-2020 school year, permits school districts, STEM schools, community schools that are not internet- or computer-based schools (e-schools), and chartered nonpublic schools to make up through distance learning any number of days or hours necessary due to school closures for the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Summer food programs**

- Authorizes the Director of Agriculture, during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, but not beyond December 1, 2020, to exempt a school or other entity from regulation as a food processing establishment if:
  - It has been issued a food service operation license; and
  - It is transporting food only for purposes of the Seamless Summer Option Program or the Summer Food Service Program (programs administered by U.S.D.A.).

**Public water systems**

- Authorizes the Director of Environmental Protection to issue an order to a public water system that does any of the following:
  - Requires the system to restore service to any customer whose service was disconnected as a result of nonpayment of fees and charges;
  - Requires it to waive all fees for connection or reconnection; or
  - Prohibits it from disconnecting customers because of nonpayment of fees and charges.
• Specifies that the order may be enforced under the Safe Drinking Water Law.
• Specifies that the order may be issued and is valid during the period of the emergency declared by the Governor under Executive Order 2020-01D, but not beyond December 1, 2020.

Temporary tax compliance relief
• Authorizes the Tax Commissioner, for the duration of the declared COVID-19 state of emergency, to further extend state filing and payment deadlines on state taxes and fees administered by the Commissioner, and suspends penalties on those delayed filings and payments.
• Authorizes the Tax Commissioner to waive the accrual of interest on extended tax payments.
• Authorizes the Commissioner to similarly extend filing and payment deadlines, suspend penalties, and waive interest for municipal income taxes on the net profits of businesses that file those taxes with the Department of Taxation instead of with individual municipalities.
• For municipal income taxes, treats income earned by an employee required to work at a temporary worksite because of the emergency as being earned at the employee’s principal place of work, potentially affecting the municipal income tax withholding and liability of the employee and employer.

Child day care
• Suspends child-to-staff ratios and maximum group sizes for licensed child day-care centers during the COVID-19 emergency period, but not beyond December 1, 2020.
• Authorizes the Department of Job and Family Services to continue to pay publicly funded child care providers during the COVID-19 emergency.
• Extends to September 1, 2020 (from July 1, 2020) the date by which providers of publicly funded child care must be rated through the Step Up to Quality Program.

Medicaid COVID-19 community providers
• Authorizes the Medicaid Director, during the COVID-19 emergency period, but not beyond December 1, 2020, to classify certain Medicaid providers as COVID-19 community providers and to transfer, or request transfer of, funds to pay those providers.
• Appropriates the transferred funds.

Nurses
• Authorizes the Board of Nursing, during the period of the COVID-19 emergency, to issue certain temporary nursing licenses without the otherwise required licensure examinations.
Permanently grants certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) authority to select, order, and administer drugs, treatments, and intravenous fluids for conditions related to administration of anesthesia, but only during specified time periods and in accordance with a health care facility’s required policy.

Permits a CRNA to direct nurses and respiratory therapists to perform specified tasks, including administering drugs, in certain circumstances.

Authorizes a CRNA to perform additional activities or services, including ordering and evaluating diagnostic tests.

Allows a supervising practitioner or health care facility to prohibit a CRNA from performing an activity or service authorized by the act if the supervising practitioner or facility determines that is not in a patient’s best interest for the CRNA to do so.

**Deadline, license extensions**

Temporarily extends deadlines with which a state agency must comply, and deadlines with which a licensee must comply to maintain a valid license, that occur during the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, until the earlier of 90 days after the emergency ends or December 1, 2020.

Allows a license that would otherwise expire during the emergency to remain valid until the earlier of 90 days after the emergency ends or December 1, 2020, unless it is otherwise subject to discipline or limitation for reasons unrelated to a licensee’s delay in taking action to maintain the license’s validity during the deadline extension.

Extends expiration dates that apply to concealed handgun licenses scheduled to expire during the emergency, until the earlier of 90 days after the scheduled expiration or December 1, 2020.

Excludes from the deadline extensions an individual who has a duty to register or enroll as a violent offender, arson offender, or sex offender.

Exempts from suit a state agency and licensee for complying with the deadline extensions.

**Tolling of statutes of limitations and other time limits (PARTIALLY VETOED)**

Tolls the criminal statutes of limitations, the civil statutes of limitations, and the administrative statutes of limitations and any other criminal, civil, or administrative time limitations that are set to expire between March 9, 2020, and July 30, 2020.

Would have required any other “deadline” set to expire between March 9, 2020, and July 30, 2020, to be tolled (VETOED).

Specifies that the tolling of these statutes of limitations and court time limitations and deadlines apply retroactively to March 9, 2020, the date of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D.
• Specifies that the tolling provisions expire on the date the period of emergency ends or July 30, 2020, whichever is sooner.

Public meetings and hearings
• Establishes a policy for public meetings and hearings for use during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D only, but not beyond December 1, 2020.

Auditor of State
• Allows the Auditor of State to waive the requirement that the Auditor conduct a standard financial audit after conducting an agreed-upon procedures audit in two consecutive audit periods, for any audit period during which the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D is effective.
• Allows the Auditor to waive all criteria a public office is required to satisfy in order for the Auditor to conduct an agreed-upon procedures audit instead of a standard financial audit, for any audit period during which the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D is effective.

Retirant reemployment penalty
• Waives the penalty for a retired state retirement system member who becomes reemployed by certain public employers during the period of the emergency declared by the Governor, but not beyond December 1, 2020.

Retirement board elections
• Allows a public retirement system board to delay to December 1, 2020, a board member election scheduled to take place during the period of the emergency declared by the Governor but before December 1, 2020.

Various fees and requirements
• During the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, but not beyond December 1, 2020, allows the Ohio Public Works Commission, Ohio Water Development Authority, and OEPA to waive fees and other specified requirements.

Local government
• Suspends, until August 30, 2020, the law regarding liability of a county recorder for failure to timely perform certain duties of the office.
• Requires certain local offices to remain open during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, to perform certain functions.
• Provides a county central committee of a political party an additional 45 days to fill a vacancy from the date the vacancy was required to be filled during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D.
Budget Stabilization Fund transfer
   ▪ Authorizes the Director of Budget and Management to transfer cash, with the approval of the Controlling Board, from the Budget Stabilization Fund to the GRF in FY 2020.

Capital appropriation
   ▪ Appropriates $20 million to capital appropriation item C10050, State Agency Capital Projects, and allows a temporary transfer of up to $20 million from the Building Improvement Fund to the Administrative Building Fund.

Permanent tax changes
   ▪ Incorporates into Ohio income tax law changes to federal tax law taking effect since March 30, 2018, including the recently enacted “Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020.”
   ▪ Narrows application of a sales and use tax exemption for diapers and incontinence products reimbursed by Medicaid.
   ▪ Makes technical and corrective changes to the tax laws.
   ▪ Makes a few substantive changes in tax laws to correct apparent errors in previous legislation.

Severability clause
   ▪ Stipulates that if any item of law contained in the act is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect the other items.

H.B. 164

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Ginter

Effective date: Emergency and appropriations: June 19, 2020; provisions regarding religious expression in schools, Quality Community School Support Program, and the additional payment for school districts with a net decrease in FY 2020 state funding effective September 18, 2020

High school diploma qualifications
   ▪ Permits a student who was scheduled to take or re-take an end-of-course exam in the 2019-2020 school year, but did not do so because the exam was cancelled, to use the student’s final course grade in lieu of an exam score to satisfy conditions for a high school diploma.
   ▪ Specifies that a student who was scheduled to take an end-of-course exam for the first time in the 2019-2020 school year may use a final grade for a course completed in that year, while a student who was scheduled to re-take an exam that was cancelled may use a grade for a course completed in that year or a prior year.
Third-grade reading guarantee

- For the 2020-2021 school year only, prohibits a school district or school from retaining in the third grade a student who does not attain a passing score on the fall administration of the third grade English language arts achievement assessment under specified conditions.

- Prohibits the State Board of Education from reviewing and adjusting upward the promotion score for the third grade English language arts assessment for the 2020-2021 school year and, instead, requires the use of the 2019-2020 promotion score for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Exempts a teacher assigned to provide intense remediation reading assistance to a student in the 2020-2021 school year under the Third-Grade reading guarantee from certain criteria otherwise required under continuing law.

Reading improvement plans

- Exempts public schools from having to establish reading improvement plans for the 2020-2021 school year based on assessment results for the 2019-2020 school year.

Academic assessment records for home instructed students

- Exempts parents of students receiving home instruction from the administrative rule requirement to submit an “academic assessment record” for the 2019-2020 school year to the student’s resident school district superintendent as a condition of allowing the student to continue receiving home instruction in 2020-2021.

Community school sponsor ratings

- Prohibits the Department from issuing any community school sponsor ratings for the 2019-2020 school year.

- Requires the Department to allow a sponsor to indicate that it could not comply with an applicable law or administrative rule or fully adhere to a quality practice due to the closure of schools.

- Establishes a safe harbor from penalties and sanctions for community school sponsors based on the absence of community school sponsor ratings for the 2019-2020 school year, in which only ratings from previous and subsequent years are considered.

- Allows a community school sponsor to remain eligible in the 2020-2021 school year for any incentives that the sponsor was eligible for in 2019-2020.

Services to special needs students

- Extends through the end of the 2020-2021 school year authority enacted in H.B. 197 of the 133rd General Assembly for specified licensed nonclassroom personnel who provide professional services to students with disabilities to do so electronically or via telehealth communication.
- Adds school psychologists licensed by the State Board of Education to the professionals who may use this authority applies.

- Permits a teacher who is licensed to teach special education and is employed to teach a “public school preschool integrated class” prior to the effective date of licensure requirement changes by the State Board to continue to teach such a class until the teacher retires, resigns, or is reassigned.

**Remote learning**

- Permits certain public schools that have not otherwise been approved to use a “blended” learning model under continuing law for the 2020-2021 school year to adopt a plan to provide instruction using a “remote” learning model for the that year.

**Grade band flexibility**

- Permits a school district to employ or reassign a licensed teacher to teach a subject area or grade level for which the teacher is not licensed for the 2020-2021 school year under specified conditions.

**Teacher and principal evaluations**

- Permits a school district that did not participate in the teacher evaluation pilot program established for the 2019-2020 school year to continue evaluating teachers on two-year or three-year evaluation cycles even if the district completes an evaluation for them in the 2019-2020 school year without a student growth measure.

- Specifies that a teacher who did not have a student growth measure as part of an evaluation for the 2019-2020 school year must remain at the same point in the teacher’s evaluation cycle, and retain the same evaluation rating, for the 2020-2021 school year as the 2019-2020 school year.

- Authorizes a school district to choose to complete a principal’s performance evaluation for the 2019-2020 school year without using a student growth measure as part of the evaluation.

- Prohibits a school district from using value-added progress dimension data, high-quality student data, or other student academic growth data to measure student learning attributable to a teacher or principal while conducting evaluations for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Community school governing authorities**

- Permits a person to serve on the governing authority of more than five start-up community schools under specified conditions.

**Storm shelters**

- Extends from September 15, 2020, to November 30, 2022, the existing moratorium regarding the construction of storm shelters in private and public school buildings.
Online bus driver training

- Requires the Department to develop an online training program to satisfy the classroom portion of pre-service and annual in-service training for school bus driver certification for the 2020-2021 school year.

School funding adjustments

- Requires the Department of Education to make a payment, for FYs 2020 and 2021, to each city, local, exempted village, or joint vocational school district with more than a 10% decrease in the taxable value of utility tangible personal property (TPP) that has at least one power plant located within its territory.

- Specifies that if a city, local, or exempted village school district experienced an increase in the taxable value of all utility TPP subject to taxation between tax years 2016 and 2017 and, as a result, had funds deducted from its state education aid, the Department must credit the deducted amount to the district.

- Requires the Department to pay additional funds to each city, local, and exempted village school district that, for FY 2020, experienced a net reduction of foundation funding exceeding 6%, after counting state budget reductions and pandemic relief funding from the federal CARES Act.

- Appropriates $24 million to the Department for FY 2020 to support the additional payment offsetting the budget reduction.

- Changes the criteria for a community school with an operator that operates schools in other states to be designated as a “community school of quality” for the Quality Community School Support Program by also requiring the school to be in its first year of operation.

Religious expression in schools

- Requires public schools to give students who wish to meet for the purpose of religious expression the same access to school facilities given to secular student groups, without regard to the content of the expression.

- Removes a provision that permitted a school district to limit the exercise or expression of religion to lunch periods or other noninstructional time periods.

- Authorizes students enrolled in public schools to engage in religious expression before, during, and after school hours in the same manner and to the same extent as they may engage in secular activities or expression before, during, and after school hours.

- Prohibits public schools from restricting a student from engaging in religious expression in completing homework, artwork, or other assignments.

- Prohibits public schools from rewarding or penalizing a student based on the religious content of the student’s homework, artwork, or other assignments.
- Designates the provisions regarding religious expression as the “Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2019.”

**H.B. 481**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Fraizer

**Effective date:** Emergency: June 19, 2020

**Local CARES Act revenue distribution**

- Appropriates $350 million of funding allocated to the state from the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” (CARES Act) to counties, municipalities, and townships to fund COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses.
- Distributes funds based on the proportion of Local Government Fund revenue allocated to subdivisions in 2019 (excluding local governments that receive direct federal funding under the CARES Act).
- Requires a subdivision, before receiving a payment, to adopt a resolution affirming that the subdivision will spend it only on pandemic-related expenses as required under the CARES Act.
- Requires local funds unspent as of October 15, 2020, to be redistributed to local governments that have spent their full allocation.
- Requires subdivisions to return unspent CARES Act funds to the state by December 28, 2020.

**CAT exclusion for forgiven CARES Act debt**

- Exempts paycheck protection loan amounts forgiven under the CARES Act from the commercial activity tax (CAT).

**State employee pay freeze**

- Allows the OBM Director to request the DAS Director to order a freeze on certain state employee salary increases and pay supplements during the pay periods that include July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
- Permits the Secretary of State, the Auditor of State, the Treasurer of State, and the Attorney General to give notice to the DAS Director and apply the pay freeze to the office’s employees.
- Exempts special hazard salary adjustments related to COVID-19.
- Permits, under continuing law, the Governor to issue any necessary orders to the DAS Director to implement personnel actions.
Local government cost savings programs

- Authorizes a county, township, or municipal corporation to establish a mandatory cost savings program for its exempt employees because of a fiscal emergency or lack of work due to COVID-19.
- Requires each exempt employee to participate in the cost savings program for up to 160 hours, as determined by the appointing authority, in state FY 2021.
- Requires an appointing authority that establishes a mandatory cost savings program to issue guidelines on how it will implement the program.

Medicaid rates for nursing facilities

- Eliminates the market basket index and budget reduction adjustment factor used in determining a nursing facility’s per Medicaid day payment rates.
- Specifies that FY 2021 is the last year that nursing facilities will receive a quality incentive payment and revises the methods for calculating the incentive payment.
- Increases appropriation item, Medicaid Health Care Services, by $3.2 million ($1.2 million state share) in FY 2021.

Capital reappropriations

- Makes approximately $1.28 billion in capital reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30. (For more details about the reappropriations, see the LSC Fiscal Note, as Enacted.)

Land conveyances

- Authorizes the sale and conveyance of 23 pieces of state-owned real estate by various methods.
- Authorizes three easements on state-owned real estate.

H.B. 614

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Fraizer and Richardson

**Effective date:** Emergency: October 1, 2020

**Director of Job and Family Services duties**

- Requires the Director of Job and Family Services to develop, and periodically review, a written staffing plan to be implemented whenever there is a substantial increase or substantial decrease in inquiries or claims for unemployment benefits.
- Requires the Director to adopt rules creating a system for participants in the unemployment benefit application process to make customer service complaints.
• Requires the Director to maintain a consolidated list of contacts related to inquiries about unemployment benefits.

• Revises the process by which the Director notifies an applicant for unemployment benefits of eligibility issues.

**Council**

• Creates the Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council to examine the process by which claims for unemployment benefits are filed and paid.

• Requires the Council to prepare an initial report, within six months after its first meeting, describing the state of the claims process and any planned improvements to it.

• Requires the Council to be notified of security breaches in unemployment compensation records and of substantial disruptions in the claims process.

• Prohibits the Council from examining the solvency of Ohio’s Unemployment Compensation Fund or changes that would either increase or reduce benefits paid from the fund.

**Auditor’s examination of claims process**

• Requires the Auditor of State to examine the unemployment benefit claims process and prepare a report containing specified information by July 1, 2021.

**Local CARES Act revenue distribution**

• Appropriates $650 million of funding allocated to Ohio from the federal CARES Act to counties, municipalities, and townships to fund COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses.

• Distributes funds based on population (excluding local governments that receive direct federal funding under the CARES Act).

• Requires subdivisions to spend the funds only on pandemic-related expenses as required under the CARES Act.

• Changes procedures and defers deadlines prescribed by H.B. 481 of the 133rd General Assembly for redistributing unspent CARES Act funds to local subdivisions and, later, returning unspent funds to the state.

**Workforce-education partnership programs**

• Permits a college or university and employers to establish a workforce-education partnership program to assist students to graduate from college with no student debt.

• Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to create a template for workforce-education partnership programs.
Concealed handgun licenses

- From October 1, 2020, until June 30, 2021, allows an Ohio resident applying for a concealed handgun license to file the application with any county sheriff, rather than only with the sheriff of the county of residence or an adjacent county.
- Further extends the concealed handgun license expiration date extended in H.B. 197 of the 133rd General Assembly so that any license that would have expired beginning on March 9, 2020, until June 30, 2021, is extended until June 30, 2021, or 90 days after the license would have expired, whichever is later.
- Allows a sheriff to designate up to eight additional hours during which only county residents may file applications for concealed handgun licenses.
- Clarifies that the 30-day grace period that applies to a concealed handgun license after expiration under continuing law also applies to an expiration that is extended under the act.

Other appropriations

- Appropriates an additional $4 million in FY 2021 for Facilities Establishment Fund (Fund 7037) line item 195615, Facilities Establishment.
- Increases capital appropriations under the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund (Fund 7035) capital appropriation item C725E2 by $550,000 to support two community projects under the Department of Natural Resources.

Land conveyances

- Authorizes the conveyance of two tracts of state-owned land under the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction’s jurisdiction, in Madison and Warren counties.

H.B. 404

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Manchester and Sweeney

Effective date: Emergency: November 22, 2020

Local CARES Act revenue distribution

- Requires that unspent federal CARES Act funds paid to local subdivisions be paid to the state treasury if they cannot be redistributed.

Temporary extensions

- Extends, until July 1, 2021, temporary law that:
  - Authorizes the Director of Agriculture to exempt a school or entity from regulation as a food processing establishment for federal summer food programs;
  - Authorizes public bodies to hold meetings virtually; and
Waives the penalty for a retirant who becomes reemployed by certain public employers.

**Deadline and license extensions**

- Prolongs the temporary extension of state agency compliance with deadlines, so that agencies have until July 1, 2021, to comply with deadlines that fall between March 9, 2020, and April 1, 2021.

- Prolongs the temporary extension of compliance with deadlines to maintain licenses, so that licensees have until July 1, 2021, to comply with deadlines that fall between March 9, 2020, and April 1, 2021.

- Prolongs the temporary extension of license validity so that licenses otherwise expiring between March 9, 2020, and April 1, 2021, remain valid until July 1, 2021.

**Education**

**Diagnostic assessments**

- Specifies that schools cannot be penalized for failing to administer specified assessments in the fall of 2020 to certain students who could not come to school.

**K-1 health screenings**

- Specifies that schools cannot be penalized for failing to conduct health screenings prior to November 1, 2020, for certain students in kindergarten or first grade who could not come to school.

- Requires a district or school to conduct health screenings for kindergartners and first graders who did not receive them for the 2020-2021 school year, but specifies that a school may forego screenings for certain students until they can be safely conducted.

**Community school transportation**

- Permits a community school, by December 31, 2020, to accept responsibility to provide or arrange transportation of its students for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Specifies that a community school that accepts responsibility to provide or arrange for transportation must receive state transportation funding for the entire school year.

**School employee evaluations**

- Extends to the 2021-2022 school year the prohibition against using certain academic growth data to measure student learning attributable to a teacher, principal, or school counselor while conducting performance evaluations.

- Extends the authorization for a school district to choose to complete a principal’s performance evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year without using a student growth measure as part of the evaluation.
For the 2020-2021 school year, permits a school district board of education to elect not to complete a performance evaluation of a district employee if the district or board determines that it is impossible or impracticable to do so.

Extends the authority for a school district to continue evaluating teachers on two-year or three-year evaluation cycles, even if the district completes an evaluation for those teachers in the 2020-2021 school year without using a student growth measure.

Specifies that a teacher who did not have a student growth measure as part of an evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year must remain at the same point in the evaluation cycle, and retain the same evaluation rating, for the 2021-2022 school year as for 2019-2020.

**College Credit Plus**

Extends to the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years the Chancellor of Higher Education’s temporary authority to extend, waive, or modify requirements of the College Credit Plus Program.

**H.B. 272**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Oelslager and Hillyer

**Effective date:** December 16, 2020

- Prohibits any public official from causing an election to be conducted other than in the time, place, and manner prescribed by the Revised Code.
- Prohibits any public official from issuing an order to close all places of worship in Ohio or in a geographic area of Ohio.
- Expands the exercise of personal jurisdiction by a court to include personal jurisdiction over a person on any basis consistent with the Ohio Constitution and the United States Constitution.

**H.B. 606**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Grendell

**Effective date:** December 16, 2020

**Temporary civil immunity for health care providers**

- In temporary law, grants qualified civil immunity to specified health care providers who provide health care services or emergency services during a declared disaster or emergency as described below.
- Grants immunity from tort liability and professional discipline for such services provided as a result of and in response to a disaster or emergency that results in injury, death, or
loss allegedly resulting from (1) actions or omissions related to those services, (2) decisions related to those services, and (3) compliance with an executive order or director’s order.

- Grants immunity from tort liability and professional discipline for injury, death, or loss allegedly resulting because a health care provider was unable to treat a person due to an executive or director’s order or a local health order issued in relation to a public health emergency.

Exceptions to immunity

- Excludes from immunity in tort actions conduct that constitutes a reckless disregard of the consequences or intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct.
- Excludes from immunity in professional disciplinary actions conduct that constitutes gross negligence.
- Excludes from immunity conduct outside the skills, education, or training of the health care provider, unless undertaken in good faith in response to a lack of resources caused by a disaster or emergency.

Limitations

- Specifies that the immunity does not create a new cause of action or substantive legal right against a health care provider or affect any immunities or responsibilities of a health care provider.
- Prohibits a class action when the immunity does not apply.
- Limits the act’s provisions regarding immunity for health care providers to March 9, 2020, through September 30, 2021.

General immunity

- In temporary law, generally prohibits bringing a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property against any person for injury, death, or loss caused by exposure to, or transmission or contraction of, MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, or SARS-CoV-2.
- Negates that immunity when the exposure, transmission, or contraction was by “reckless conduct” or intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct.
- Prohibits a class action when the general immunity does not apply.
- Specifies that a government order, recommendation, or guideline does not create a duty of care on a person that may be enforced in a cause of action or that may create a new cause of action or substantive right against any person.
- Limits the immunity to March 9, 2020, through September 30, 2021.

Legislative findings and intent

- Based on enumerated findings, declares the General Assembly’s intent that executive branch and local orders and recommendations do not create new legal duties for
purposes of tort liability and are presumed to be (1) irrelevant to the existence or breach of a duty and (2) inadmissible to establish the existence or breach of a duty.

Other

- Specifies that the act’s provisions apply from March 9, 2020, through September 30, 2021.
- Specifies that if any provision of the act is found invalid, it does not affect other provisions of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

H.B. 409

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Koehler

Effective date: Emergency: January 7, 2021; e-school provisions effective April 12, 2021

COVID-19 measures for the 2020-2021 school year

Authority to adjust deadlines

- Authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adjust various deadlines, including those for teacher evaluations, school safety drills, and gifted screening requirements.

Substitute teachers

- Permits a public or chartered nonpublic school to employ a substitute teacher according to the school’s own educational requirements.

Third-grade reading guarantee

- Exempts schools from retaining a student under the Third-Grade reading guarantee.

Report cards; sanctions and penalties

- Prohibits the Department of Education from publishing and issuing ratings for overall grades, components, and individual measures on the state report cards and submitting preliminary data for report cards for school districts and buildings.
- Establishes a safe harbor from penalties and sanctions for districts and schools based on the absence of 2020-2021 state report card grades.
- Specifies that the safe harbor does not affect the awarding of performance-based Educational Choice (Ed Choice) scholarships for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.

Community school sponsor ratings

- Establishes a safe harbor from penalties and sanctions for community school sponsors based on community school sponsor ratings, in which only ratings from previous and subsequent years are considered.
- Allows a community school sponsor to remain eligible in the 2021-2022 school year for any incentives that the sponsor was eligible for in 2020-2021.
E-school attendance tracking and absence intervention

- Requires the attendance policy of each internet- or computer-based community school (e-school) that is not a dropout recovery school to specify that a student is considered in attendance when the student meets specified instructional participation or course-completion rates.

- Requires an e-school that is not a dropout recovery school to submit a written report to the parent, guardian, or custodian of each student who has at least 30 hours of unexcused absences in any semester.

- Requires an e-school that is not a dropout recovery school to adopt a policy regarding failure to participate in specified instructional activities, which includes student disenrollment for chronic absenteeism.

- Prohibits a student disenrolled from an e-school for absenteeism from enrolling in another e-school for one school year from the date of disenrollment, unless the student enrolls in an e-school in which a majority of the students are enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program.

S.B. 55

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Effective date: Vetoed

- Would have reduced the penalties for violating Department of Health and local board of health orders that relate to pandemic diseases.

- Would have enhanced the penalties for most drug trafficking offenses when committed on the premises of a substance addiction services provider’s facility, or within 1,000 feet of the premises, if the offender recklessly disregarded whether the offense is being committed within that vicinity.

- Would have set the new penalty enhancements at the same level as existing enhancements for the same drug trafficking offenses committed in the vicinity of a school or juvenile.
Primary Sponsors: Reps. Ghanbari and Patterson

Effective date: April 12, 2021

Statewide Watershed Planning and Management Program

- Creates the Statewide Watershed Planning and Management Program for the improvement and protection of Ohio’s watersheds.
- Requires the Director of Agriculture to categorize watersheds in Ohio and appoint at least one watershed planning and management coordinator in each categorized watershed region.
- Requires a coordinator to coordinate watershed planning in the assigned watershed, including assisting each soil and water conservation district to identify sources and areas of water quality impairment.
- Requires the Director to assist soil and water conservation districts in watershed planning and management.
- Requires a soil and water conservation district board to consult and work with the coordinator appointed to the watershed region.
- Exempts from public record laws certain data or records of a person’s agricultural operations, conservation or water quality improvement practices, or proposed utilization of those practices.
- Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to share data or records of conservation or water quality improvement practices with state agencies and higher education institutions for water quality research under certain circumstances.

Intent statement

- States that it is the General Assembly’s intent to collaborate with organizations representing agriculture, conservation, the environment, and higher education to establish a certification program for farmers who utilize practices designed to minimize impacts to water quality.

Watershed pilot program

- Requires the Department, in consultation with the Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission, to establish a pilot program that assists farmers, agricultural retailers, and soil and water conservation districts in reducing phosphorus in a watershed.
• Specifies the purposes for which the pilot program funding is to be used, including purchasing equipment for subsurface placement of nutrients into the soil and equipment for nutrient placement based on geographic information system data.

Voluntary nutrient management plan: public records exemption
• Specifies that information associated with a voluntary nutrient management plan developed under continuing law is not a public record subject to the Ohio’s law governing public records.

Regional water and sewer districts
• Allows a regional water and sewer district to make loans and grants to and enter into cooperative agreements with any person (an individual, firm, partnership, association, or corporation) or political subdivision, rather than only with political subdivisions.
• Expands a district’s authority to offer discounted rentals or charges to any person who is of low or moderate income or qualifies for the homestead exemption, instead of only to those who are 65 or older and meet that criteria as in prior law.

CAUV eligibility of land used for biofuel production
• Modifies the requirements that land used in biofuel production must meet in order to be valued for property tax purposes at its current agricultural use value (CAUV).

H.B. 24

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Hambley
Effective date: March 31, 2021

Humane societies and humane society agents
• Removes references in law to the “Ohio Humane Society,” which was designated as the state society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, but was not functioning as an animal welfare society.
• Clarifies that any branch of the Ohio Humane Society that was organized prior to the act’s effective date (March 31, 2021) is considered to be a county humane society and has the same powers as a county humane society.
• Requires each county humane society to submit an annual report of enforcement activities to the county sheriff.
• Specifies that, generally, the records of an enforcement activity by a humane society agent are public records.
• Prohibits a humane society from entering into a nonprosecution agreement with a person for an alleged violation of law unless a judge has reviewed and approved the agreement.
- Specifies that an appointment of an agent does not take effect unless approved by the appropriate mayor or probate judge.
- Requires the approving authority to notify the county sheriff and the board of county commissioners when a humane society agent’s appointment has been approved, and to file proof of the agent’s successful training with the sheriff.
- Requires an individual who is currently serving as a humane society agent to obtain and present proof of training by October 1, 2021.
- Requires mayors, probate judges, and county sheriffs to maintain as a public record a copy of the proof of training for each humane society agent operating in their jurisdictions.
- Requires authorities to investigate complaints about an agent’s failure to complete the required training, and establishes a procedure for the disposition of the complaints.
- Increases the minimum monthly salary of humane society agents.
- Specifies procedures for removing a humane society agent from office.
- Specifies that a humane society agent is a public servant under the bribery law and is therefore subject to the criminal prohibition against bribery.
- Specifies that a county humane society may appoint, rather than employ, an attorney to prosecute certain violations of law.
- Removes all of a humane society’s authority regarding children other than a duty to report suspected child abuse.

Animal cruelty: seizure and impoundment
- Allows an officer to seize and impound any animal, instead of only a companion animal, that the officer has probable cause to believe is the subject of an animal cruelty violation.
- Requires that the written notice, which an impounding officer must provide to an animal owner whose animal is being seized and impounded, be given within 24 hours after the animal is seized and impounded.
- Modifies the law governing the bond amount that a court may determine must be provided by an animal owner for the care of the animal during impoundment.

Limited license for animal euthanasia drugs
- Authorizes the State Board of Pharmacy to issue a limited license to the office of a county dog warden solely for purchasing, possessing, and administering drugs for euthanizing animals and pre-euthanizing drugs for inducing anesthesia, sedation, or unconsciousness.
- Prohibits a dog warden or a dog warden’s agent or employee from performing euthanasia by lethal injection, or administering pre-euthanasia drugs, unless the facility in which the dog warden, agent, or employee works is licensed.
- Requires a dog warden or a dog warden’s agent or employee to complete a euthanasia technician certification course as a condition of licensure.

- Requires the State Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, in consultation with the Pharmacy Board, to approve substances to be used for lethal injection of an animal, rather than requiring both Boards to approve those substances.

- Requires the Pharmacy Board, in consultation with the Veterinary Board, to approve pre-euthanasia drugs.

- Removes the order of preference in former law regarding authorized methods for euthanizing an animal when using a lethal solution.

**Chemical capture of companion animals**

- Authorizes the Pharmacy Board to grant a chemical capture classification to an animal shelter or county dog warden’s limited license, which allows a certified officer to use an anesthetic drug to immobilize and capture or attempt to immobilize and capture a companion animal.

- Specifies that a certified officer may chemically capture a companion animal to limit injury to the officer, the animal or another animal, or the public.

- States that chemical capture of a companion animal by a certified officer is not an act of cruelty, that possession of dangerous drugs is authorized when the possession occurs within the scope of duties by a certified officer, and that the Veterinarians Law does not apply to an act of chemical capture by a certified officer.

- Requires the Board to adopt rules governing chemical capture.

- Establishes requirements and procedures with which an animal shelter or county dog warden must comply to receive a chemical capture classification designation.

- Specifies that only a certified officer may chemically capture an animal.

- Requires a person to complete specified training requirements prior to becoming a certified officer.

- Establishes various prohibitions related to the chemical capture of a companion animal.

**Veterinarians and veterinary technicians**

- Clarifies that the act’s provisions do not preclude a licensed veterinarian or veterinarian technician from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine.

**Impounded dogs**

- Revises the law governing the disposition of a dog that is seized and impounded by a dog warden and not redeemed by its owner.
Reenactment of animal law provisions

- Reenacts laws governing animal fighting, bestiality, and humane agent residency requirements, which were found inapplicable in the Ohio Sixth Appellate District; thus making those provisions enforceable in that district.

H.B. 665

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Jones and Wilkin

Effective date: April 12, 2021

Fairs

- Modernizes the law governing agricultural societies and county fairs conducted by them.
- Increases the amount that a county or independent agricultural society receives from a county for operational expenses.
- Removes the cap on the amounts that a county may transfer to an agricultural society for junior club expenses and expenses associated with operating fairgrounds.
- Removes the requirement that a society that allows the sale of intoxicating liquor on its fairgrounds use any proceeds it receives from the sale first to pay for insurance on all buildings on the fairground.
- Increases the amount of debt that a society may incur, but requires a county agricultural society to obtain approval from the board of county commissioners before incurring any debt if the board pays or has paid money out of the county treasury to purchase the society’s fairgrounds.
- Instead of requiring a society to publish its annual financial abstract in a newspaper, requires the society to publish an announcement in either a newspaper or on the society’s website stating that the report has been filed and that the public may obtain a copy of it.
- Streamlines a society’s procedure for submitting annual financial reports to the State Auditor and Director of Agriculture.
- Clarifies a society treasurer’s duties by stating that the treasurer must collect, account for, record, deposit, and disburse all funds of the society.
- Allows an agricultural society treasurer to appoint a person under the treasurer’s supervision to assist in the treasurer’s duties.
- Removes the requirement that the county school superintendent serve as an ex officio member of the board of directors of a county or independent agricultural society.
- Specifies that an Ohio State University Extension member serves with the board as a nonvoting member instead of an ex officio member as in prior law.
Revises the requirements governing notifying the public of an annual election of society directors.

After an election, requires the society’s secretary to send the Director of Agriculture a copy of each board member’s signature verifying the members that voted in the election.

Prohibits a society board of directors candidate from counting or recording election votes.

Requires a board of county commissioners to notify the agricultural society of its intention to make a sale or exchange of fairgrounds in writing 14 days prior to the sale or exchange.

Allows a society member to sell seasonal tickets or passes for the society’s annual fair and specifies that the sale need not be conducted on the fairgrounds.

Allows any person to sell tickets for fundraisers held by or for the benefit of a society during the society’s annual fair.

Allows certain flexibilities concerning the rescheduling of live horse racing during a state of emergency.

Specifies that if a society or the Ohio Expositions Commission is unable to conduct an annual fair and does not conduct live horse racing, it must return specified money from the Ohio Fairs Fund that the Director previously distributed to it.

Modifies a tax exemption for property owned by a county agricultural society.

Repeals antiquated provisions governing the use of fairgrounds by a municipal corporation.

** Lapsed time-specific changes **

If the act had taken effect before December 1, 2020, the following would have applied until that date:

- Amusement parks and water parks could have immediately opened, notwithstanding an order of the Director of Health, provided that they operated in accordance with the Director of Agriculture’s standards and guidelines; and
- An agricultural society would have retained control and management of the land occupied by it if an annual fair could not be held.

** (Note: the provisions discussed above have no substantive effect because the time period for their operation passed prior to the act’s effective date.) **

** Technical changes **

- Recodifies Ohio’s law governing amusement rides from R.C. Chapter 1711 to Chapter 993.
- Removes outdated language and makes technical changes to Ohio’s law governing fairs and agricultural societies.
S.B. 375

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Hoagland and Schaffer

Effective date: Vetoed

- Would have voided the Director of Health’s order, “Director’s Amended Order Limiting County Fairs to Junior Fair Activities and Animal Exhibitions, with Exceptions” issued on July 30, 2020.

- Would have created the Agricultural Society Working Group for 2021, to recommend protocols for the safe and hygienic operation of county fairs and other festivals, and terminated the group on February 1, 2022.
S.B. 4

(For details of S.B. 4’s appropriations, see the LSC Fiscal Note, as Enacted)

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Rulli and Kunze

Effective date: October 13, 2020

Capital appropriations

- Appropriates $300 million in capital funding to the Facilities Construction Commission to support school facilities construction, and authorizes the issuance of bonds in that amount.

- Appropriates $255 million in capital funding to the Public Works Commission and authorizes the issuance of bonds totaling $225 million.

Transportation improvement districts

- Requires a transportation improvement district to comply with the state Prevailing Wage Law, unless the amount of state and local funds the district receives for the contract or project is less than thresholds specified in the law.

TIF service payments

- Allows municipalities and townships, through their 2021 fiscal year, to utilize some tax increment financing (TIF) service payments for public safety and road and bridge maintenance expenses unrelated to the TIF.

- Disallows diversion for any expense eligible to be paid from funding received from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Political subdivision competitive bidding for PPE

- During the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020, exempts the purchase of personal protective equipment from competitive bidding requirements for counties, county hospitals, townships, villages, and municipal hospitals.
S.B. 310

(For details of S.B. 310’s appropriations, see the LSC Capital Item Analysis)

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Dolan

Effective date: Emergency: December 29, 2020

Capital appropriations

- Makes capital appropriations totaling $2.13 billion for the FY 2021-FY 2022 biennium, and authorizes about $1.75 billion in new debt.

Federal funds for COVID-19 relief

- Appropriates unexpended and unencumbered cash remaining in the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- Authorizes the Controlling Board, on the Director of Budget and Management’s request, to extend deadlines related to spending and returning coronavirus relief funds distributed to local governments.

Medicaid appropriations

- Makes several Medicaid appropriation changes.

Ed Choice scholarships for 2021-2022

- Specifies that the priority application period for performance-based Educational Choice scholarships sought for the 2021-2022 school year must open March 2, 2021.

Student wellness and success funding for FY 2021

- Requires the Department of Education, after all student wellness and success payments for FY 2021 have been made to public schools, to distribute any appropriated amounts remaining for these payments through a methodology determined by the Department in consultation with the Office of Budget and Management (OBM).

School financing studies

- Requires the Department, by December 31, 2022, to complete studies of special education, gifted services, incentives for rural districts serving identified gifted children, educational service centers, English learners, the cost to educate e-school students, and the cost of operating community schools.
- Extends the deadline for the Department to complete the studies regarding economically disadvantaged students and preschool education required under current law from December 31, 2020, to December 31, 2022.
- Requires OBM to create, by December 31, 2022, an inventory of all state budget line items that, in OBM’s determination, provide funding services to children.
Establishes a joint legislative task force to study the transportation of community school and nonpublic school students, to determine methods to create greater efficiency and minimize costs in transporting them, and to submit a report by December 31, 2022.

Appropriates $3.0 million for FY 2021 from lottery profit funds for the studies.

**Spending for student activity programs**

For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, waives the limit on a school district’s expenditures for the operation of student activity programs.

**Health professionals – temporary and COVID-related authority**

- Until May 1, 2021:
  - Authorizes a physician assistant in a health care facility to practice under the supervision of a physician or podiatrist who has not entered into a supervision agreement with the physician assistant.
  - Authorizes a certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse practitioner in a health care facility to practice in collaboration with a physician or podiatrist who has not entered into a standard care arrangement with the nurse.
  - Authorizes an emergency medical technician (at the basic, intermediate, or paramedic level) to administer COVID-19 tests and collect and label test specimens.
  - Authorizes a respiratory care professional to direct the practice of a licensed practical nurse.
  - Authorizes a nurse, pharmacist, physician assistant, physician, respiratory therapist, or emergency medical technician whose license is expired or inactive, including because of retirement, to practice without having to reinstate or restore the license.

**Kinship Support Program**

- Establishes the Kinship Support Program (KSP) to provide financial payments to kinship caregivers who: (1) have received placement of a child, and (2) do not have foster home certification.

- Specifies that KSP payments are $10.20 per child, per day, with an annual cost-of-living adjustment, and subject to time limits.

- Specifies that KSP payments cease when:
  - The kinship caregiver obtains foster home certification;
  - In accordance with the time limits on payments; or
  - Placement with the kinship caregiver ceases.

- Requires a kinship caregiver, on obtaining foster home certification, to receive foster care payments equal to the custodial agency rate as determined by the certifying agency.

- Permits the Director of Job and Family Services to adopt rules to administer KSP.
- Permits a recommending agency to submit a request to waive, on a case-by-case basis, nonsafety standards for a kinship caregiver seeking to obtain foster home certification.

**Cuyahoga County lodging tax proceeds**
- Expands the purposes for which a special Cuyahoga County lodging tax may be used, and allows Cuyahoga County and the mayor of Cleveland to agree to do so without the approval of the county’s other mayors.

**Fireworks license moratorium**
- Extends the moratorium on issuing a fireworks manufacturer or wholesaler license and approving the geographic transfer of those licenses by one year to December 31, 2021.

**Maritime Assistance Program**
- Expands which port authorities may apply for grants under the Ohio Maritime Assistance Program.
- Eliminates the requirement that the Director of Transportation must adopt rules in order to govern the program.

**Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission**
- Creates the Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission.
- Creates the Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Office to serve the Commission.
H.B. 312

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Powell

Effective date: March 31, 2021; appropriations effective December 29, 2020

Intrastate equity crowdfunding

- Permits intrastate equity crowdfunding, to be known as “OhioInvests offerings,” under certain circumstances.
- Specifies eligibility requirements for persons conducting an OhioInvests offering.
- Prohibits an unaccredited investor from purchasing more than $10,000 in securities in a 12-month period in connection with OhioInvests offerings.
- Requires that the offerings be made exclusively through an intermediary consisting of a website operated by a “portal operator.”
- Requires portal operators to provide certain disclosures to investors.
- Requires portal operators to maintain and make available to the Division of Securities specified records.
- Subjects portal operators to regulation and enforcement, including the same regulation and enforcement by the Division that exists for licensees in Ohio that hold individual dealer, salesperson, investment advisor, or investment advisor representative licenses.
- Authorizes the Division to order payment of administrative penalties for Securities Law violations related to OhioInvests offerings, and purchasers of the securities to bring individual or class actions to recover specified penalties for those violations.
- Expressly authorizes port authorities and community improvement corporations to act as portal operators for the offering of securities through such crowdfunding.

Appropriations

- Provides $105.2 million in supplemental FY 2021 appropriations to the Development Services Agency (DSA) for additional loans under existing DSA loan programs that support capital investment projects undertaken by businesses.
- Shifts from FY 2020 to FY 2021 a $5.2 million earmark for a loan to the Ohio State University to develop and evaluate a nonopiate, nonaddictive pharmaceutical treatment.
S.B. 21

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Dolan

Effective date: March 24, 2021

Benefit corporations

- Allows certain corporations to become benefit corporations – corporations whose articles of incorporation include a purpose to have a bona fide positive effect, or to reduce one or more bona fide negative effects, of an artistic, charitable, cultural, economic, educational, environmental, literary, medical, religious, scientific, or technological nature for the benefit of persons, entities, communities, or interests aside from shareholders.

- Requires the beneficial purpose to be expressly stated in the articles of incorporation.

- Prohibits a corporation from using “benefit” or “b-” as a prefix to the corporate designation in its name unless the corporation is a benefit corporation.

- Allows a benefit corporation’s articles, regulations, or agreement to require that a report detailing the corporation’s activities toward its beneficial purposes be presented to shareholders at the corporation’s annual meeting, and permits shareholders to request a copy of that report.

- Specifies that a benefit corporation and its directors owe no duty to a beneficiary of the corporation’s beneficial purpose solely because of that person’s status as a beneficiary.

- Requires a benefit corporation director, in determining what is in the corporation’s best interests, to consider any beneficial purpose and related provisions set forth in the articles and any priority among the purposes set forth in the articles.

- Allows a benefit corporation, its directors, certain shareholders, or certain other persons to undertake legal action to require the corporation to pursue its beneficial purposes when the corporation fails to do so.

Corporations generally

- Allows a corporation to prioritize among any of the purposes listed in its articles.

- Specifies that a corporation that is not a benefit corporation is not required to operate exclusively for profit or distribution of net earnings in all instances.
S.B. 276

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Roegner and Manning

Effective date: April 12, 2021; Ohio Revised Limited Liability Company Act effective January 1, 2022

Ohio Revised Limited Liability Company Act

- Creates the Ohio Revised Limited Liability Company Act.
- Replaces the existing Ohio Limited Liability Company Act effective January 1, 2022, for all limited liability companies (LLCs) formed or registered to do business in Ohio on or after that date.
- Designates two situations in which a series LLC will be considered to have been formed to avoid paying the commercial activity tax (CAT), and requires such a series to file and pay the tax as a single combined taxpayer.

Unclaimed Funds Law

- Authorizes the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation to hold attorney unclaimed funds.
- When requested by the Department of Commerce, requires holders of attorney unclaimed funds to send a copy of the unclaimed funds report to the Foundation.
- Requires holders of attorney unclaimed funds to send 100% of the unclaimed funds to the Director of Commerce, which can then be claimed for holding purposes by the Foundation.
- Restricts the funds held by the Foundation to be used to provide (1) financial assistance to legal aid societies, (2) to enhance or improve access to justice, or (3) to operate the Foundation.
- Requires that, if a claim is made by the owner of attorney unclaimed funds held by the Foundation, the Foundation must reimburse the Unclaimed Funds Trust Fund the amount claimed, with interest.
- Requires that the Director or the Director’s designee serve on the board of directors of the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation which holds attorney unclaimed funds.
H.B. 158

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Blessing

Effective date: June 10, 2020

- Authorizes a court to grant limited driving privileges, under certain circumstances, to an individual on a first offense for failure to maintain financial responsibility for a motor vehicle (for example, motor vehicle insurance).
- Waives the filing fee for a petition for limited driving privileges for an individual (1) whose license is suspended as a result of failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility and (2) who qualifies as indigent.

S.B. 312

Primary Sponsor: Sen. McColley

Effective date: Emergency: January 9, 2021

- Creates a new Domestic Relations Division of the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas and provides that the General Division judge of that Court will be the judge of the Domestic Relations Division.
- Creates a new judgeship of the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2026, term to begin February 9, 2027.
- Allocates the jurisdictional responsibilities of the second judge to the General Division and the Probate Division of the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas.
- Modifies the reimbursement for assigned municipal and county court judges.
- Requires the Columbiana County Prosecuting Attorney to prosecute in the municipal courts of Columbiana County all violations of Ohio law arising in East Liverpool, Liverpool Township, or St. Clair Township.
H.B. 1

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Plummer and Hicks-Hudson

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

**Intervention in lieu of conviction**

- Broadens the scope of intervention in lieu of conviction (ILC) by requiring an eligibility hearing on an application for intervention in any case in which the offender alleges that drug or alcohol use was a factor leading to the underlying offense.
- Disqualifies offenders charged with a felony sex offense from ILC.
- Modifies the type of record sealing that may be granted under an ILC order.

**Sealing a conviction record**

- Broadens the application of the Conviction Record Sealing Law by removing the cap, previously based on total felony convictions, on eligibility for fourth or fifth degree felony and misdemeanor offenses, and by raising the caps on restricted felony and misdemeanor offenses.
- Modifies the time at which an offender may apply to have a conviction record sealed.
- Requires that $15 of the $30 portion of the conviction record sealing application fee that is paid to the state treasury be credited to the Attorney General Reimbursement Fund, for the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation’s expenses related to sealing or expunging records.

**Prison term for community control sanction violation**

- Modifies provisions that impose a 90- or 180-day limit on the prison term that a court may impose for a violation of a community control sanction, a violation of a law, or leaving the state without permission of the court or probation officer by:
  - Specifying that if the remaining period of the offender’s community control or suspended prison sentence at that time is less than 90 or 180 days, the term may not exceed the remaining period of community control or suspended sentence;
  - Specifying that the time the offender spends in prison under the term is credited against the offender’s community control or suspended prison sentence being served at the time of the violation and that the offender, upon release, will continue serving the remaining time under the reduced community control or suspended sentence;
  - Clarifying the meaning of “technical violation.”
- Specifies that a court is not limited in the number of times it may sentence an offender to a prison term for a violation of the conditions of a community control sanction, a violation of a law, or leaving the state without permission.

**Involuntary court-ordered treatment for alcohol or drug abuse**

- Modifies the criteria governing applications for, granting of, and treatment under a mechanism providing for a probate court order requiring involuntary treatment for a person suffering from alcohol or other drug abuse.
- Provides for the emergency hospitalization of a respondent, separate from the treatment ordered by the court, if the court determines that the respondent presents an imminent danger or imminent threat of danger to self, family, or others as a result of alcohol or other drug abuse.
- Specifies that, in addition to the preexisting sanction of contempt of court, if a respondent fails to complete court-ordered treatment, the court may require the respondent to appear at a specified time and place.

**State Criminal Sentencing Commission**

- Designates the Commission as a criminal justice agency so that it is authorized to apply for access to the computerized databases of the National Crime Information Center or LEADS, and to other databases making criminal justice information accessible to state criminal justice agencies.
- Requires the Commission to study the impact of the act’s provisions on an ongoing basis and make biennial reports to the General Assembly and the Governor, commencing not later than December 31, 2021.

**Restraints on pregnant delinquent child or pregnant offender**

- Generally prohibits a law enforcement, court, or corrections official from knowingly restraining or confining a pregnant charged or adjudicated child or pregnant criminal offender during the child’s or woman’s pregnancy, hospital transport, labor, delivery, or postpartum recovery.
- Provides that a violation is the offense of “interfering with civil rights,” and permits the child or woman to file a civil action for damages against the official who committed the violation, the official’s employing agency, or court.
- Requires the Attorney General to provide training materials to law enforcement, court, and corrections officials to train employees on the proper implementation of the requirements regarding restraining or confining a pregnant child or woman.
H.B. 66

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Merrin

Effective date: Emergency: October 1, 2020

Theft Victims’ Restitution Act

- Allows restitution to be granted as part of a criminal sentence for accounting and auditing costs the victim incurred to determine the extent of the victim’s loss.
- Limits the amount of restitution for accounting or auditing costs to a reasonable amount that does not exceed the value of property or services stolen or damaged as a result of the crime.

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

- Specifies that if, during the 133rd General Assembly, a member of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) is or has been charged with or indicted for certain offenses, that member’s seat on JLEC is deemed vacant, and requires the Senate President or the Speaker of the House, as applicable, to fill the vacancy within 15 days.

Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board

- Allows an appointing authority to remove an appointed member of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) at any time, without cause.
- Specifies that an appointed legislator may remain on CSRAB as long as the legislator is a General Assembly member, unless the legislator is removed, instead of serving a three-year term.
- Specifies that an appointed member of CSRAB who is not a legislator may remain on CSRAB for three years, unless the member is removed.
- Eliminates the requirement that an appointed member of CSRAB must remain a member after the member’s term expires until a new member is appointed or until 60 days have elapsed, whichever occurs first.
- Allows an appointed member of CSRAB to be reappointed, so long as the member remains otherwise eligible.
- Specifies that the act applies to current appointed members of CSRAB.
H.B. 136

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Hillyer

Effective date: April 12, 2021

- Specifies that a person convicted of aggravated murder who shows that the person had a serious mental illness at the time of the offense may not be sentenced to death for the offense, but instead must be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.
- Requires that a person previously sentenced to death who proves that the person had a serious mental illness at the time of the offense be resentenced to life imprisonment without parole, and provides a mechanism for resentencing.
- Defines a “serious mental illness” for these purposes.

H.B. 308

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Patton

Effective date: April 12, 2021

- Creates the State Post-Traumatic Stress Fund in the state treasury and designates the Director of Budget and Management as the fund’s trustee.
- Requires the fund to be used to pay lost wage compensation, medical benefits, and administrative costs associated with public safety officers who are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder without an accompanying physical injury received in the course of, and arising out of, their employment.
- States, however, that no payments will be made from the fund and no person is eligible for any claims and no liability accrues to any state party under the act.
- Prohibits an employer from discharging, demoting, reassigning, or taking any other punitive action against a public safety officer because the officer files a claim or institutes, pursues, or testifies in any proceedings related to compensation or benefits paid from the fund.
- Requires the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, in consultation with specified entities, to have prepared an actuarial valuation and report that answers specific questions about funding and administrative requirements associated with paying claims from the fund.
H.B. 431

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Abrams and Carfagna

Effective date: April 12, 2021

Trafficking in persons

- Requires a juvenile court to appoint a guardian ad litem for an allegedly delinquent child if the court has reason to believe the act charged in the complaint might be a specified prostitution-related offense or that the child is a victim of trafficking in persons.

- Modifies the abeyance procedure by which a juvenile court may temporarily set aside a complaint against a child for a specified prostitution-related offense or offense related to the victimization of the child by human trafficking, pending the child’s active engagement in diversion actions.

- Removes the distinction in the elements of “trafficking in persons” regarding victims who are minors under age 16 and victims who are minors age 16 or 17.

- Conforms the SORN Law definitions of “sexually oriented offense” and “Tier II sex offender/child-victim offender” to the changes in “trafficking in persons.”

“Unlawful sexual conduct with a minor” convictions

- Creates a mechanism under which:
  - Certain offenders convicted of “unlawful sexual conduct with a minor” who were under age 21 at the time of committing the offense may petition a court for an evaluation as to whether the offender’s Sex Offender Registration and Notification Law (SORN Law) duties should be terminated or modified.
  - The court, after a hearing, must enter an order to either terminate the offender’s SORN Law duties, reclassify the offender from a Tier II Offender to a Tier I Offender, or continue the offender’s classification as a Tier I or Tier II Offender.

- Extends the Conviction Record Sealing Law to apply to an offender convicted of “unlawful sexual conduct with a minor” when a court has issued an order that terminates the offender’s SORN Law duties.

- For an offender convicted of “unlawful sexual conduct with a minor” committed while under age 21, adds as a possible nonresidential sanction a requirement that the offender participate in a DRC-certified sex offender treatment program.

Offenses of “soliciting,” “engaging in solicitation after a positive HIV test,” and “engaging in prostitution”

- Under the offenses of “soliciting” and “engaging in solicitation after a positive HIV test”:
  - Repeals and replaces the three prohibitions under “soliciting” with a new one that prohibits a person from knowingly soliciting another to engage in sexual activity for hire;
Repeals the authorization for either a suspension of the driver’s or commercial driver’s license or permit, or a term of community service, for an offender convicted of committing or attempting to commit either offense or an equivalent municipal ordinance violation, if the person was in, was on, or used a motor vehicle.

- Enacts the offense of “engaging in prostitution,” prohibiting a person from recklessly inducing, enticing, or procuring another to engage in sexual activity for hire in exchange for the person giving the other person anything of value.

**S.B. 10**

*Primary Sponsor:* Sen. Wilson

*Effective date:* Emergency: the provisions addressing tolling of periods of limitation take effect January 7, 2021; all other provisions take effect April 7, 2021

**Theft in office**

- Increases the penalty for theft in office when the value of property or services stolen is $150,000 or more.
- Requires the offender to pay restitution for the costs of auditing a public entity that suffered loss as a result of the theft.
- States that restitution imposed for theft in office is not dischargeable in Chapter 7 bankruptcy under federal law.
- Excludes convictions for theft in office from the law that allows for sealing of criminal convictions upon application by the offender.
- Prohibits an offender convicted of soliciting improper compensation from applying to have that conviction sealed until the expiration of seven years after the offender’s final discharge.

**Other provisions**

- Expands the list of debts toward satisfaction of which the Tax Commissioner may apply a tax refund due to a taxpayer.
- Modifies the process by which a county auditor must issue warrants for payment of county obligations on the county treasurer for moneys payable from the county treasury upon presentation of a court order for expenses.
- Permits the Auditor of State to provide or discuss investigatory work product with other parties, notwithstanding the law that requires law enforcement agencies to close investigatory work product upon the sealing or expungement of a criminal record or delinquent child adjudication.
- Expands the exercise of personal jurisdiction by a court to include personal jurisdiction over a person on any basis consistent with the Ohio Constitution and the United States Constitution.

- Specifies that the time period between March 9, 2020, and July 30, 2020, cannot be computed as part of the periods of limitation and time limitations that are tolled under H.B. 197 of the 133rd General Assembly as a result of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020.

- Specifies that the tolling provisions expire on July 30, 2020, rather than the sooner of when the period of emergency ends or July 30, 2020.

**S.B 33**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Hoagland  
**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

- Adds new prohibitions under the offenses of criminal mischief, criminal trespass, aggravated trespass, and making false alarms for conduct occurring in or on a critical infrastructure facility.

- Creates the offense of improper organizational involvement with a critical infrastructure facility that prohibits an organization from knowingly doing either of the following:
  - Directing, authorizing, facilitating, or encouraging a person to commit an offense in the first dot point or a specified type of telecommunications harassment involving a critical infrastructure facility;
  - Providing compensation to a person for committing an offense in the first dot point or a specified type of telecommunications harassment involving a critical infrastructure facility.

- Provides for increased fines on organizations that are guilty of improper organizational involvement with a critical infrastructure facility.

- Creates a new civil cause of action for willfully causing damage to a critical infrastructure facility.

**S.B. 140**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Uecker  
**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

- Eliminates the prohibition against manufacturing, possessing for sale, selling, or furnishing to any person other than a law enforcement agency for use in police work, any brass knuckles, cestus, billy, blackjack, sandbag, switchblade knife, springblade knife, gravity knife, or similar weapon.
- Eliminates the prohibition against carrying a concealed knife, razor, or cutting instrument as a concealed deadly weapon if the knife was not used as a weapon.

**S.B. 175**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Schaffer  
**Effective date:** April 6, 2021

- Provides that a person has no duty to retreat before using force in self-defense, defense of another, or defense of the person’s residence if the person is in a place in which the person lawfully has a right to be.

- Grants qualified civil immunity to a nonprofit corporation for injury, death, or loss caused by or related to a concealed handgun licensee bringing a handgun onto the nonprofit corporation’s premises or to an event organized by it.

- Grants absolute civil immunity to a nonprofit corporation for injury, death, or loss caused by or related to the nonprofit corporation’s decision to permit a concealed handgun licensee to bring a handgun onto its premises or to an event organized by it.

**S.B. 256**

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Manning and Lehner  
**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

- Specifies that if a person is convicted of rape, terrorism, aggravated murder or murder, or any other felony committed when under 18, or if a person is sentenced under the Sexually Violent Predator Sentencing Law for an offense committed when under 18, the court may not sentence the person to life imprisonment without parole.

- Provides special parole eligibility dates for persons serving a prison sentence for an offense other than an “aggravated homicide offense” committed when under 18, or serving consecutive prison sentences for multiple offenses, none of which is an aggravated homicide offense, committed when under 18.

- Specifies that a person serving a sentence for an aggravated homicide offense, or for the offense of terrorism when the most serious underlying offense in the terrorism was aggravated murder or murder, committed when under 18 is not eligible for parole review other than in accordance with the sentence imposed for the offense.

- Requires the Parole Board to consider specified mitigating factors for persons eligible for parole under either provision described above.

- Specifies that if the Parole Board denies release for a person eligible for parole under either provision, the Board must conduct a subsequent release review not later than five years after the denial.
 Specifies a number of factors that must be considered as mitigating factors, in addition to other factors that must be considered under continuing law, when a court is sentencing a person who is convicted of a felony committed when under 18.

 Allows for limited continuances in abuse, neglect, and dependency proceedings for good cause shown.
H.B. 16

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Perales

**Effective date:** September 15, 2020

- Qualifies any active duty military service members, regardless of residency or where they are stationed, and their spouses and dependents, for in-state tuition at state institutions of higher education.

H.B. 123

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. G. Holmes and G. Manning

**Effective date:** Emergency: e-school pilot program authorization and earmark effective December 21, 2020; all other provisions effective March 24, 2021

**Anonymous reporting programs**

- Requires each school district and other public school to register with the SaferOH tip line or enter into an agreement with another anonymous reporting program.
- Requires each anonymous reporting program provider annually to submit to the Departments of Education and Public Safety the number of reports and the method by which they were received.
- Requires each district and school annually to submit specified data concerning anonymous reports to the Departments.
- Specifies that data collected by the SaferOH tip line or an anonymous reporting program or reported to the Departments are security records and not public records.

**School threat assessment teams**

- Requires the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Attorney General, by March 24, 2023, to develop and maintain a list of approved training programs for school threat assessment team certification.
- Requires each public school serving grades 6-12, by March 24, 2023, to create a threat assessment team, but permits an existing school safety team to serve as a threat assessment team if each member undergoes an approved training program.
- Requires each member of a team to complete a threat assessment training program from the approved list maintained by the Department of Public Safety.
- Provides qualified civil immunity for schools, school districts, and their employees related to decisions regarding the duties of school threat assessment teams.
Model school threat assessment plan

- Requires the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Attorney General, to develop by March 24, 2023, a model threat assessment plan that may be utilized in a building’s emergency management plan.

Suicide awareness and prevention; social inclusion instruction

- Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Departments of Public Safety and Mental Health and Addiction Services, to maintain a list of approved training programs for instruction in suicide awareness and prevention and violence prevention.
- Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, to maintain a list of approved training programs for instruction in social inclusion.
- Specifies that the staff training programs on youth suicide awareness and prevention developed by the Department of Education satisfy the biennial professional development requirements on that subject required by law.
- Requires each school district, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, to provide annual student instruction in (1) suicide awareness and prevention, (2) safety training and violence prevention, and (3) social inclusion.

Student-led violence prevention clubs

- Permits public schools to designate student-led violence prevention clubs in buildings serving grades 6-12.

Emergency management plans

- Transfers from the State Board of Education to the Director of Public Safety the responsibility to adopt rules pertaining to comprehensive school emergency management plans.
- Requires each school building administrator to incorporate a school threat assessment plan and a protocol for the building’s threat assessment team into the building’s existing emergency management plan.

School safety training grants

- Adds educational service centers to the identified types of the schools that may apply for school safety grants.
- Encourages the Department of Education, the Attorney General, and the Department of Public Safety to apply for any federal or other funding available for the purposes of increasing school safety.
Pilot funding for dropout recovery e-schools

- For FY 2021, establishes a pilot program to provide additional per pupil funding for certain internet- or computer-based community school (e-schools) operating dropout prevention and recovery programs for students in grades 8-12.
- Permits the Department of Education to (1) require certain participating e-schools to establish a plan to improve the reporting of enrollment and (2) create a debt reduction plan for each e-school that chooses to participate in the pilot program.
- Requires certain participating e-schools to provide to the Department a meaningful plan for increasing student engagement and all participating e-schools to implement programming or protocol which documents enrollment and participation in learning opportunities.
- Requires the Department to issue a report upon completion of the pilot program by December 31, 2021.
- Earmarks an appropriation for the pilot program.

Act title

- Entitles the act as the “Safety and Violence Education Students Act,” or the “SAVE Students Act.”

H.B. 231

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Greenspan

Effective date: April 12, 2021

Epinephrine autoinjectors in schools

- Requires the Department of Education to compile an annual list of organizations and companies that offer free and reduced cost epinephrine autoinjectors and make that list available to each school district, other public schools, and chartered nonpublic schools.

Food allergy training and instruction

- Permits public schools to create and implement training on food allergies for all staff members and age-appropriate instructional materials for students in grades K-12.
- Grants a qualified immunity from liability for damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss that allegedly arises from an act or omission associated with the food allergy training or instruction.

Procurement of glucagon by schools and camps

- Permits public and nonpublic schools and camps to procure injectable or nasally administered glucagon without a license for use in emergency situations for individuals with diabetes, and specifies procedures for those that do so.
Grants schools and camps, and their employees, contractors, and volunteers, qualified immunity from liability in civil actions for damages allegedly arising from the procurement, maintenance, access, or use of glucagon.

Permits drug manufacturers and wholesalers to donate glucagon to schools or camps and allows schools and camps to receive financial donations from individuals for their purchase.

**Act title**

Entitles the act’s provisions regarding epinephrine autoinjectors and food allergy education and staff training as the “Allison Rose Act.”

**H.B. 436**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Baldridge

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

**Dyslexia screening, intervention, and remediation**

- Requires the Department of Education to establish the Ohio Dyslexia Committee (ODC) consisting of 11 members appointed by various appointing authorities.
- Requires the ODC to develop a dyslexia guidebook for screening, intervention, and remediation for children with dyslexia or displaying dyslexic characteristics and tendencies.
- Requires the ODC to prescribe the number of clock hours of dyslexia-related professional development required for teachers.
- Permits the ODC to make recommendations regarding ratios of students to teachers who have received certification in identifying and addressing dyslexia, which school personnel should receive the certification, and whether professional development requirements should include completing a practicum.
- Requires the Department, in collaboration with the ODC, to identify screening and intervention measures that evaluate the literacy skills of students using a multi-sensory structured literacy program.
- Requires school districts and other public schools to administer annual dyslexia screenings, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Phases in, over three years, dyslexia-related professional development requirements for public school teachers.
- Requires school districts and other public schools, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, to establish a multi-sensory structured literacy certification process for teachers.
Study of costs

- Requires the Department, by December 31, 2021, to submit a report to the General Assembly regarding the financial costs of the dyslexia screening, identification, and remediation services similar those required by the act.

Achievement assessments for scholarship students

- Clarifies that Educational Choice, Jon Peterson, and Cleveland scholarship students are exempt from the achievement assessment requirements for scholarship renewal if they meet specified requirements.

S.B. 40

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Brenner and McColley

Effective date: March 24, 2021

Regulation of expression on college campuses

- Generally, prohibits a state institution of higher education from limiting or restricting free expression by members of its campus community in public areas of campus.
- Requires each state institution to report and publish the courses of action implemented in accordance with the act’s provisions, and to update that report whenever a cause of action is brought against it for a violation of the right of free expression.
- Requires each state institution to adopt a policy on harassment consistent with the act’s provisions.
- Requires each state institution to make public the policies, regulations, and expectations of students regarding free expression.

Regulation of campus facility use

- Declares that outdoor areas of campuses of state institutions of higher education are public forums for members of campus communities and prohibits institutions from creating “free speech zones” or other outdoor areas where expression is restricted.
- Prohibits a state institution of higher education from charging security fees to a student or student group based on the content of expression or the anticipated reaction to that content.

In-state residency status for tuition

- Expands residency status for in-state college tuition rates to qualifying individuals who received a certificate of high school equivalence while residing in Ohio but subsequently relocated out of state.
Title

- Entitles the act the “Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act” (or “FORUM Act”).

S.B. 89

Primary Sponsor: Sen. M. Huffman

Effective date: March 2, 2021; repeal of school district territory transfer method effective September 1, 2021

Joint vocational school district operations

- Authorizes a joint vocational school district (JVSD) board of education to hold its mandated organizational meeting any time in January, rather than by January 15 as under prior law.
- Permits a JVSD board to include in its calamity day plan the use of additional online lessons, student internships, student projects, or other options to make up any number of hours missed as the result of school closures among JVSD member districts.

Compensation of JVSDs for enterprise zones

- Provides that, when a city, local, or exempted village school district negotiates to receive compensation for property tax revenue foregone due to an enterprise zone tax exemption, any JVSD located in the enterprise zone must receive similar compensation.

Business advisory council

- Exempts a city, local, or exempted village school district from appointing a business advisory council if the district has entered into an agreement with a JVSD business advisory committee to represent the district.

Technical assessments

- Requires the Department of Education to consider the possibility of attaining college credit as a factor when identifying an acceptable measure of technical skill.
- Specifies that the Department, in consultation with career-technical education stakeholders, must update its list of technical assessments annually by May 31.

Career-technical planning district operations

- Requires a “home district” to provide student attendance records to a career-technical planning district (CTPD) lead district or a contracting district that provides career-technical education services in the home district’s facilities.
- Permits a CTPD lead district to enter into an agreement with a school district within the CTPD regarding a method of determining the full-time equivalency of a student enrolled in both districts for state funding purposes.
Career-technical educator licensure

- Permits an individual holding a substitute career-technical teaching license to teach outside the individual’s career field for up to one semester.
- Specifies that an individual holding an adult education permit may be employed by any district and not just the district that recommended and employed the individual when the permit was issued.
- Permits an individual holding an adult education permit to work as a substitute career-technical teacher in high school courses offered by the individual’s employing district.
- Specifies that a 12-hour or 40-hour teaching permit issued by the State Board of Education must be renewable and that the qualifications for a permit must include career-technical experience for individuals assigned to a career-technical class.
- Requires the State Board to issue a 40-hour teaching permit to an individual teaching a career-technical course in which a student may earn an industry-recognized credential at a dropout prevention and recovery community school.

Industry-recognized credentials

- Requires the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation, the Department of Education, and the Chancellor of Higher Education, in consultation with career-technical and other appropriate stakeholders, to develop “model guidance” regarding maintaining a statewide inventory of industry-recognized credentials.

STEM and STEAM schools and equivalents

- Limits the requirement to combine the academic performance data of students enrolled in STEM or STEAM schools with comparable data from the students’ resident school districts to just the students in such schools that are not sponsored by a single school district.
- Permits career centers to receive a STEM or STEAM school equivalent designation in the same manner as a community school or a chartered nonpublic school.

Education Management Information System

- Requires the Department, by June 1, 2021, to implement a procedure to solicit and respond to comments from users of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) regarding proposed new or updated EMIS guidance and to permit users to review finalized guidance before it takes effect.
- Requires the Department to establish uniform training for Department personnel administering EMIS and uniform guidance for CTPDs and information technology centers.
Performance-based Ed Choice scholarships

- Qualifies a student for a first-time, performance-based Educational Choice (Ed Choice) scholarship, beginning with a scholarship sought for the 2021-2022 school year, based on a modified performance index ranking eligibility criteria, specifying that:
  - A student is enrolled in, or assigned to, a school building ranked in the lowest 20% of district school buildings for specified years; and
  - The student’s resident district, for three consecutive years prior to the year for which a scholarship is sought, had an average of 20% or more of its school age residents qualify to be included in the formula to distribute federal Title I funds.
- Eliminates other eligibility criteria based on the state report card letter grades.
- Maintains eligibility for:
  - A student whose resident school district is subject to an academic distress commission; or
  - A student enrolled in a nonpublic school at the time the school receives a charter from the State Board of Education and the student’s assigned school in the resident district meets the eligibility criteria.
- Qualifies a student for a first-time performance-based scholarship, for the 2021-2022 school year (1) if the student was enrolled in school or was homeschooled in the 2020-2021 school year, (2) qualified for a scholarship for that year, and (3) is assigned to a school building that was Ed Choice designated in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Specifies that the priority application period for performance-based Ed Choice scholarships sought for the 2021-2022 school year must open March 1, 2021, rather than February 1 as otherwise required under continuing law.

Income-based Ed Choice scholarships

- Increases from 200% to 250% of the federal poverty level the family income eligibility threshold for a first-time, income-based Ed Choice Expansion scholarship.

School district territory transfer

- Repeals on September 1, 2021, the law enacted in 2019 that permits transfer of school district territory located within a township that is split between two or more school districts to an adjacent school district through a petition and vote of electors residing in the territory.
- Permits an ongoing transfer to continue in accordance with the repealed provision.

Higher education degree completion

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to develop an electronic equivalency management tool to assist in the transfer of coursework and degrees between state institutions of higher education.
- Requires each state university to inform a student about the university’s transfer appeals process, and the Department of Higher Education’s student complaint portal, when the university refuses to grant credit for certain general education coursework completed at another state institution.

- Requires the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network Oversight Board to submit to the General Assembly by March 2, 2022, a report about the rules regarding the transfer of college credit.

- Requires each state university to review its student records every two years to determine if certain disenrolled students who did not complete a bachelor’s degree are eligible, or close to being eligible, for an associate degree.

- Specifies that a state university must inform any eligible students of their potential eligibility for an associate degree and report the findings of each review to the Chancellor.

- Requires a state institution of higher education, under certain circumstances, to waive an eligible student’s tuition and general fees for a course that is necessary to complete a bachelor’s degree.

- Requires each state institution to include in its strategic completion plan a report about its collaboration to assist students who have some college experience, but no degree, in earning an associate degree, certificate, or credential.

### S.B. 120

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. McColley and Rulli

**Effective date:** May 1, 2020; appropriations provisions effective January 31, 2020

#### Performance audits

- Authorizes the Auditor of State to conduct performance audits of any state institution of higher education.

#### University and college leases with nonpublic vendors

- Permits a state institution of higher education or university housing commission to enter into a lease with a nonpublic vendor to improve existing campus housing facilities, in addition to constructing new facilities as under continuing law.

- Specifies the term of a lease must not exceed 75 years, rather than 30 years as under prior law.

- Specifies that any campus housing facilities included under a lease agreement, including facilities constructed by a nonpublic vendor, retains an exemption from property taxes and assessments.
College Credit Plus

- Requires public and participating private high schools to permit any nearby college or university participating in College Credit Plus, in addition to “partnering colleges,” to attend annual informational sessions regarding the program.

Ed Choice Scholarships

- Appropriates $10 million to award, and directly pay, first-time performance-based Educational Choice (Ed Choice) scholarships to newly eligible students for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Requires the Department of Education to award and use the deduct-and-transfer method prescribed under continuing law to pay first-time performance-based Ed Choice scholarships to students who were eligible in the 2019-2020 school year and remain eligible in the 2020-2021 school year.

- For the 2020-2021 school year only, establishes a delayed 60-day application period, beginning April 1, 2020, for performance-based Ed Choice scholarships.
**H.B. 33**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Lanese and Carruthers

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

**Child abuse reporting**
- Adds dog warden, deputy dog warden, or other person appointed to act as an animal control officer for a municipal corporation or township to the professionals (“mandatory reporters”) who must immediately report child abuse to a public children services agency (PCSA) or peace officer.

**Animal abuse reporting**
- Generally prohibits veterinarians and specified social service and counseling professionals from failing to report abuse of a companion animal (e.g., a dog or cat).
- Requires the animal abuse report to be made to a law enforcement officer, humane society agent, or animal control-type professional.
- Similarly prohibits a law enforcement officer, humane society agent, animal control-type professional, dog warden, or deputy dog warden from failing to report abuse of a companion animal to an appropriate social service professional when they suspect abuse toward a companion animal may impact a child or older adult in the home.
- Sets forth the information that must be included in a report, including a description of the animal (if known) and the nature and extent of the suspected abuse, but exempts information that is confidential or that could jeopardize a pending criminal investigation.
- Specifies that a person required to make an animal abuse report is immune from civil or criminal liability in connection with making the report when the report is made in good faith.
- Prohibits individuals required to report animal abuse from knowingly making a false report, and specifies that violating the prohibition is a fourth degree misdemeanor.
- Requires the appropriate licensing board or the entity with employment oversight to issue a confidential written warning and explanation of reporting requirements to a person who fails to make a report when required.
- Imposes civil penalties on licensed veterinarians, counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists for knowingly making a false report and for the second or subsequent violation of failing to report when required.
- Requires that all civil penalties collected be deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund.
H.B. 67

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Brinkman and Kelly

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

- Creates the Veterinarian Student Debt Assistance Program, which allows the State Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, by contract, to agree to repay all or part of any educational loans taken out by a veterinarian while in veterinary college.

- Requires the Board to grant all participants the same amount in a given year, which must be between $5,000 and $10,000.

- Establishes eligibility requirements for program applicants, including a requirement that an applicant, prior to applying, must perform specified charitable veterinarian services.

- Requires the Board to select applicants for participation via lottery every odd-numbered calendar year (to coincide with each biennial state budget).

- Requires veterinarians selected via the lottery to sign a letter of intent and then enter into a contract with the Board for participation in the two-year program.

- Prescribes a formula for calculating the program’s funding from the Occupational Licensing Regulatory Fund, based on the Board’s revenue, expenditures, and appropriations during the previous biennium.

- Requires the Board to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly describing the program’s operation during the previous biennium.

H.B. 81

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Perales

**Effective date:** September 15, 2020

**Post-exposure testing**

- Requires, under specified conditions, the Administrator of Workers’ Compensation or a self-insuring employer to pay for services used to determine whether a detention facility employee sustained an injury or occupational disease after exposure to another person’s blood or bodily fluids.

- Requires, under specified conditions, the Administrator or a self-insuring employer to pay for services used to determine whether specified safety officers sustained an injury or occupational disease after exposure to a drug or other chemical substance.

**Voluntary abandonment doctrine**

- Provides that, to be eligible to receive temporary total disability (TTD) compensation, a person must be unable to work or must suffer a wage loss as the direct result of an impairment arising from an injury or occupational disease.
Prohibits a person from receiving TTD compensation when the person is not working or has suffered a wage loss as the direct result of reasons unrelated to an allowed injury or occupational disease.

States that the General Assembly intends to supersede any previous judicial decision that applied the voluntary abandonment doctrine to TTD or wage loss claims.

Prohibits a person from receiving permanent total disability compensation when the person is not working for reasons unrelated to an allowed injury or occupational disease.

Applies the rule to claims pending on the act’s effective date and to claims arising after that date.

**Additional award for specific safety violation**

Requires, for claims arising on or after the act’s effective date, a claim for an additional award of compensation for a violation of a specific safety rule to be filed within one year after the injury or death or within one year after a disability due to occupational disease begins, rather than within two years as previously required.

**Final settlement agreements**

Prohibits an employer from refusing or withdrawing from a proposed claim settlement agreement if the employee who is the subject of the claim is no longer employed by the employer and the claim is no longer within the date of impact pursuant to the employer’s industrial accident or occupational disease experience for premium calculation purposes.

**Continuing jurisdiction over claims**

Makes the rendering of medical services, instead of payment for the services, an event that continues the Industrial Commission’s jurisdiction to modify or change a claim or to make a finding or award under a claim.

**Funeral expenses**

Increases the funeral expense benefit cap from $5,500 to $7,500.

**Appealing Industrial Commission orders**

Applies to claims pending on and arising after September 29, 2017, a provision in H.B. 27 of the 132nd General Assembly extending the time to appeal an Industrial Commission order from 60 days to 150 days when certain conditions are satisfied.

**Employee medical examinations**

Prohibits a private employer furnishing services for a public employer under a contract governed by the federal Service Contract Act from generally requiring an applicant or employee to pay for medical examinations that are required as a condition of employment or continued employment.
H.B. 263

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Koehler

Effective date: Most provisions effective October 9, 2021; requirement that licensing authorities list disqualifying offenses is effective April 12, 2021, with a deadline of October 9, 2021

Limitations on initial license refusal

- Requires each state licensing authority to adopt by October 9, 2021, a list of specific criminal offenses for which a conviction, judicial finding of guilt, or plea of guilty may disqualify an individual from obtaining an initial license to engage in a profession, occupation, or occupational activity.

- Allows a state licensing authority to consider a listed disqualifying offense in deciding whether to issue an individual a license, and requires it to consider the offense (1) in light of specific factors supported by a preponderance of the evidence and (2) only during specified time periods.

- Prohibits a state licensing authority from refusing to issue a license to an individual based solely on being charged with or convicted of a criminal offense or based on a nonspecific qualification such as “moral turpitude” or lack of “moral character.”

- Requires a state licensing authority that refuses to issue a license because of a specific disqualifying offense to notify the applicant of the reason for the refusal, the applicant’s right to an administrative hearing, the earliest date the applicant may reapply, and the applicant’s ability to offer evidence of rehabilitation on reapplication.

- Places the burden of proving the relationship between a disqualifying offense and the licensed occupation on the state licensing authority in any proceeding reviewing the authority’s denial of an initial license based on a disqualifying offense.

- Allows a state licensing authority authorized by law to limit or otherwise place restrictions on a license to do so to comply with a community control sanction, post-release control sanction, or court-established intervention plan.

Criminal offense licensing database

- Requires, with respect to an individual’s continuing law ability to request a determination from a licensing authority whether a conviction disqualifies the individual from licensure, that each state licensing authority annually provide the Director of Administrative Services with specified information about each license the authority regulates.
H.B. 352

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Cross and Lang

Effective date: April 15, 2021

- Excludes, for purposes of being an employer under the Ohio Civil Rights Law, any person acting directly or indirectly in an employer’s interest, and adds an employer’s agent.
- Creates a separate procedure for charges filed with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) that allege an unlawful discriminatory practice relating to employment.
- Requires claimants, except in specified circumstances, to obtain a notice of right to sue from OCRC before filing a lawsuit that alleges an unlawful discriminatory practice relating to employment.
- Shortens the time in which lawsuits related to employment discrimination can be brought under Ohio law to two years from six years generally.
- Codifies the requirements that lawsuits related to employment discrimination brought under federal law be brought within two years.
- Prescribes, for employers, an affirmative defense to vicarious liability resulting from alleged sexual harassment of an employee by the employee’s supervisor.
- Reduces the number of methods to bring age discrimination lawsuits under the Ohio Civil Rights Law.
- Specifically includes lawsuits related to employment discrimination in the definition of a “tort action” in the Trial Procedure Law (appears to have already been law).
- Specifies that the remedies for unlawful discriminatory practice in employment set in the Ohio Civil Rights Law are the sole remedies for an aggrieved person subject to the law.

H.B. 442

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Roemer and West

Effective date: April 12, 2021; Ohio Teacher Residency Program provisions effective April 12, 2023

CPA certificate

- Eliminates the option of a person having two years of accounting experience, but whose degree does not satisfy the education requirement for a certified public accountant (CPA) certificate, to successfully complete additional coursework and become eligible for a CPA certificate.
- Permits a person to take the CPA certificate examination if the person has a baccalaureate degree, its equivalent, or a higher degree that includes successful completion of 120 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate education, rather than 150 hours under former law.
Employment, Labor, and Professional Regulation

Department of Commerce

Ski Tramway Board
- Eliminates the Ski Tramway Board and transfers its duties to the Division of Industrial Compliance in the Department of Commerce.
- Makes issuance of the certificate of registration to a passenger tramway operator contingent on successful completion of an inspection.
- Requires ski tramways to be inspected annually by a ski tramway insurer, replacing inspections being at the discretion of the Board and performed by either the Board, a qualified engineer contracted by the Board, or a ski tramway insurer.
- Requires ski area operators to carry liability insurance in an amount determined by the Superintendent of Industrial Compliance.

Historical Boilers Licensing Board
- Eliminates the historical boiler operator’s license.
- Eliminates the Historical Boilers Licensing Board and transfers its duties to the Division of Industrial Compliance.

Department of Health

Environmental health specialists
- Changes the professional title of “sanitarian-in-training” and “registered sanitarian” to “environmental health specialist in training” (EHST) and “registered environmental health specialist” (REHS), respectively.
- Removes the requirement that the Director of Health create and conduct EHST and REHS registration examinations, and instead requires an REHS registration applicant to pass the credential examination conducted by the National Environmental Health Association.
- Removes the requirement that an EHST applicant pass an examination prior to registration.
- Removes the requirement that an REHS applicant be of good moral character.
- Extends the validity of EHST and REHS certificates of registration from one year to two years.

Eliminates examination schedule requirements and the Accountancy Board’s ability to adopt rules granting credit to an individual who has passed one or more parts of another state’s CPA examination.

Eliminates an exemption for a registered public accountant satisfying the education requirements necessary to qualify for a CPA certificate (Ohio has not registered public accountants since 1993).
- Requires an REHS to complete a continuing education program every two years (instead of every year).
- Specifies that an REHS must complete 24 hours of continuing education (instead of an amount determined by the Director that is between six and 25 hours).
- Reduces specified registration application and renewal fees for REHSs and EHSTs.

**Administration of epinephrine autoinjectors**
- Eliminates a requirement that an individual authorized to administer epinephrine autoinjectors on behalf of a qualified entity complete an anaphylaxis training course every two years.

**Department of Natural Resources**
- Authorizes the Chief of the Division of Wildlife to adopt rules establishing an administrative penalty against any person who violates the law or any rule governing wild animal hunting preserves.
- Eliminates the clay mine foreperson certification, and specifies that the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management cannot require a person to be examined, certified, or meet experience requirements prior to performing the duties of a foreperson at a clay mine or clay stripping pit.

**Environmental Protection Agency**
- Eliminates the Certified Engineer Program that authorized engineers to conduct reviews of permit applications, renewals, and plans for compliance with performance standards under the environmental pollution control laws (the Director of Environmental Protection never established the program).
- Eliminates the certified water quality professional certification (which was never established by the Director).

**State Board of Education**
- Eliminates the requirement that pupil services personnel (including school speech language pathologists, audiologists, school nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and social workers) hold a license from the State Board of Education and requires that they simply register with the Department of Education.
- Eliminates the substitute teacher license for pupil services.
- Eliminates the temporary educator license for superintendents and other administrators including principals that was superseded by the alternative administrator license.
- Reduces the duration of the resident educator license and the Ohio Teacher Residency Program to two years, effective April 12, 2023.
State Medical Board

- Regarding clinical research faculty certificates for physicians appointed to serve in Ohio on the academic staff of medical schools, eliminates (1) qualification requirements other than proof of appointment and licensure in another state, (2) the fee associated with the certificate, and (3) continuing education requirements.

- Regarding visiting clinical professional development certificates for foreign-licensed physicians participating in a clinical professional development program, eliminates (1) qualification requirements other than proof of program acceptance and licensure in another country and (2) the fee associated with the certificate.

- Eliminates the fee associated with a visiting podiatric faculty certificate for podiatrists appointed to serve in Ohio on the academic staff of an approved college of podiatric medicine and surgery.

- Authorizes a physician to satisfy up to ten (instead of three) hours of continuing education requirement by providing volunteer health care services, but sets the conversion rate as one credit hour of continuing education for every five hours spent volunteering (rather than the 1:1 ratio under prior law).

- Eliminates the State Medical Board’s authority to license (1) cosmetic therapists and the practice of cosmetic therapy and (2) oriental medicine practitioners and the practice of oriental medicine.

- Requires 600 hours of specified education to qualify for a license to practice massage therapy.

- Gives the Medical Board the authority to recognize accrediting organizations for purposes of physician assistant education programs.

Renewal of licensing boards

- Renews for six years the State Board of Education, Ohio Athletic Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, State Medical Board, Ohio Home Inspector Board, Division of Securities, and Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board.

Chiropractic Board

- Makes two technical changes in the law regulating chiropractors.
S.B. 201

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Dolan

Effective date: March 24, 2021

- Creates alternate employer organizations (AEOs), which are substantially similar to professional employer organizations (PEOs), and regulates AEOs in a very similar manner as PEOs.
- Requires an AEO to report federal taxes under the client employer’s tax identification number (the PEO Law requires the use of the PEO’s tax identification number).
- Requires an AEO to maintain workers’ compensation coverage under its workers’ compensation policy for all worksite employees associated with the client employer (the PEO Law allows a client employer to cover some worksite employees under its policy under certain circumstances).
- Specifies requirements for an AEO to satisfy to register with the Administrator of Workers’ Compensation that are similar to the requirements a PEO must satisfy, except an AEO must maintain positive working capital at initial or annual registration.
- Requires an AEO to provide a bond or letter of credit in an amount the Administrator determines to be adequate to meet the AEO’s financial obligations under the Workers’ Compensation Law, which must be at least $1 million, regardless of whether a deficit in working capital exists.
- Establishes criminal penalties for failing to register.
- Specifies duties of AEOs and their client employers and specifies which one is the employer of record for certain tax incentives and other programs, similar to PEOs under continuing law.
- Does not allow AEOs to register multiple entities and operate them together (the PEO Law specifically allows this for PEOs under certain circumstances).
- Does not allow an assurance organization to act on behalf of an AEO (the PEO Law specifically allows this for PEOs).
H.B. 168

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Arndt

Effective Date: September 15, 2020

BFPP immunity

- Establishes an affirmative defense that allows a bona fide prospective purchaser (BFPP) to claim immunity from liability for the costs associated with the state’s performance of investigational and remedial activities to address a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance from the BFPP’s facility.
- Specifies that a BFPP is a purchaser of a facility, where hazardous substances were disposed of before the purchaser acquired it, who can demonstrate specific factors relating to that facility.
- Specifies that the affirmative defense is available to a BFPP in any pending civil action as of the act’s effective date or any new civil action initiated thereafter.
- Makes conforming changes to the law governing the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) consistent with the new affirmative defense.

Covenant not to sue

- Eliminates the law that automatically voids a covenant not to sue under the VAP when a property subject to institutional controls or activity and use limitations is not in compliance with those controls or limitations.
- Instead, authorizes (but does not require) the Director of Environmental Protection to issue an order voiding the covenant in that circumstance.
- Specifies that the order voiding the covenant not to sue is an appealable action.

H.B. 211

Primary Sponsor: Rep Arndt

Effective date: January 29, 2021

- Replaces the prior process – by which a property owner could sell at auction a watercraft vessel or outboard motor (“vessel”) valued at less than $10,000 and abandoned on the property owner’s property – with a new process by which the property owner may directly obtain title to the vessel after:
  - The vessel has been left without permission for 20 days;
  - The property owner has sent proper notice to the vessel owner and any lienholders;
The vessel continues to remain unclaimed for an additional ten days after notice is received; and

The property owner executes an affidavit with the clerk of courts affirming the proper requirements have been met to take title.

- Allows a property owner to impound an abandoned vessel left on the property owner’s property and to initiate a civil action to recover the costs of storing or removing the vessel.

- Requires the Chief of the Division of Parks and Watercraft to provide a watercraft owner with a disclosure statement regarding the requirements and procedures established by the act regarding vessels valued at under $10,000 when the owner registers or renews the registration for their watercraft.

**H.B. 242**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Lang and Jones

**Effective date:** January 15, 2021

- Prohibits local governments, for 12 months after the act’s effective date, from imposing a tax, fee, assessment, or other charge on auxiliary containers (for example, a plastic or paper bag), the sale, use, or consumption of those containers, or on the basis of receipts received from the sale of the containers.

- For 12 months after the act’s effective date, specifically authorizes a person to use an auxiliary container for purposes of commerce or otherwise.

- Clarifies that the state anti-littering law (prohibiting the improper deposit of litter) applies to auxiliary containers.
H.B. 405

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Cross

Effective date: March 31, 2021

- Establishes the Adoption Linked Deposit Program to provide lower-cost loans to individuals who are adopting a child to pay for adoption expenses.

- Requires the Treasurer of State to take all steps necessary to implement the program and monitor lending institutions’ and borrowers’ compliance with the program.

- Requires a lending institution that would like to receive an adoption linked deposit to accept and review loan applications using the usual lending standards to determine the applicant’s creditworthiness.

- Requires the lending institution to send loan packages to the Treasurer for approval, and requires the Treasurer to accept or reject the loan package based on an evaluation of each borrower and the amount of state funds to be placed with the lending institution.

- Permits the Treasurer to determine the maturity of the financial instrument that constitutes the adoption linked deposit, but maturity cannot exceed ten years, renewed in five-year cycles.

- Requires the lending institution to certify with the Treasurer that once an adoption linked deposit has been placed, the institution will lend the funds to each approved borrower listed in the loan package in accordance with the deposit agreement.

- Requires the Treasurer to file an annual report with the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President regarding the program.
H.B. 11

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. G. Manning and Howse

**Effective date:** September 18, 2020; appropriations effective June 19, 2020

- Requires state employee health care benefit plans, the Medicaid program, and Medicaid managed care organizations to cover certain tobacco cessation medications and services.
- Requires the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to establish a grant program for the provision of group-based prenatal health care services to pregnant Medicaid recipients residing in areas with high preterm birth rates.
- Appropriates $5 million in FY 2021 for the grant program.
- Permits the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to establish a dental program under which pregnant Medicaid recipients may receive two dental cleanings a year.
- Requires ODH to develop educational materials concerning lead-based paint and distribute them to families who participate in its Help Me Grow Program and reside in homes built before 1979.
- Increases ODM appropriations by a total of $279.6 million in FY 2020 to reflect the temporary federal medical assistance percentage increase by the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

H.B. 151

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Carfagna

**Effective date:** Emergency: November 22, 2020; Sections 4 and 5 (amending H.B. 606 of the 133rd General Assembly) effective December 16, 2020

**Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program**

- Creates the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program under which the Department of Health may repay a chiropractor’s student loan if the chiropractor agrees to provide services for a specified period in a chiropractic health resource shortage area.
- Establishes the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Advisory Board and requires the Department to administer the program in cooperation with the Board.
- Establishes the Chiropractic Loan Repayment Fund and requires $25 from each chiropractic license renewal fee to be credited to the fund.
Animal chiropractic

- Authorizes a chiropractor who is an animal chiropractic practitioner to practice animal chiropractic without supervision from a licensed veterinarian.
- Defines the scope of animal chiropractic, including limitations and duties.
- Requires animal chiropractic practitioners to register with the State Chiropractic Board.

State Chiropractic Board

- Revises certain other laws related to the Chiropractic Board, including provisions regarding acupuncture certificates, Board meetings, and the election of officers.

Soliciting professional employment

- Authorizes certain health care practitioners and persons acting on their behalf to contact a party to a car accident to solicit employment, beginning 24 hours after an accident, via a limited number of telephone, email, text message, or letter contacts, in place of the 30-day prohibition that continues to apply to contacting crime victims and witnesses.
- Provides that the limitation does not apply if the party being solicited was a previous purchaser of services from the health care professional and other conditions are met.
- Removes the Attorney General’s authority to (1) enforce the communication restrictions in the act and those in continuing law and (2) impose fines for violations.

General qualified civil immunity

- Clarifies the effect of government orders on the temporary civil immunity, granted by H.B. 606 of the 133rd General Assembly, for injuries caused by the transmission or contraction of or exposure to certain viruses.

Health care isolation centers

- Through September 30, 2021:
  - Establishes a new, temporary qualified civil immunity for health care isolation centers providing services to patients during a declared disaster or emergency.
  - Grants immunity from tort liability and professional discipline for the services provided as a result of and in response to a disaster or emergency that result in injury, death, or loss allegedly resulting from (1) actions, omissions, or decisions related to those services and (2) compliance with an executive order or director’s order.
  - Grants immunity from tort liability and professional discipline for injury, death, or loss allegedly resulting because a health care isolation center was unable to treat a person due to an executive or director’s order or a local health order issued in relation to a public health emergency.
  - Excludes from immunity in tort actions conduct that constitutes a reckless disregard of the consequences or intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct.
- Excludes from immunity in professional disciplinary actions conduct that constitutes gross negligence.

- Excludes from immunity conduct outside the skills, education, or training of the health care isolation center, unless undertaken in good faith in response to a lack of resources caused by a disaster or emergency.

**Emergency medical services in additional settings**

- Until July 1, 2021, expands the authority of a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic, emergency medical technician-intermediate, and emergency medical technician-paramedic to perform emergency medical services in any setting, including in any area of a hospital, subject to direction and supervision.

- Provides qualified immunity from damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from the administration of emergency medical services as authorized by the act, except for willful or wanton misconduct.

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**H.B. 203**

**Primary Sponsor**: Rep. Lipps

**Effective date**: December 16, 2020

- Requires a mobile dental facility operator, who must be a dentist, to provide specified information to patients, the State Dental Board, and treatment venues.

- Modifies the authority of pharmacists to enter into consult agreements for managing patient drug therapies by (1) authorizing agreements with advanced practice registered nurses or physician assistants (rather than only physicians) and (2) permitting any laboratory or diagnostic test to be ordered (rather than only blood or urine tests).

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**H.B. 210**

**Primary Sponsor**: Rep. Carruthers

**Effective date**: April 12, 2021

**Tuberculosis – preschool and day-care**

- Requires licensed preschool programs and child day-care centers to screen prospective employees for tuberculosis.

- Requires a prospective employee who resided in a country having a high burden of tuberculosis within the previous five years to be tested for the disease.

- Prohibits a program or center from employing a person infected with active tuberculosis until he or she submits evidence of having completed treatment and being free of the disease.
- Permits a program or center to employ a person who tests positive for latent tuberculosis so long as the person receives treatment and submits periodic evidence of complying with the treatment regimen.

- Requires the Department of Job and Family Services, in certain conditions, to release information regarding publicly funded child care recipients to the Department of Health or a tuberculosis control unit for public health investigations related to tuberculosis.

### Radiation rules; radiation technology professionals

- Authorizes the Director of Health, when adopting rules governing Ohio’s Radiation Control Program, to deviate from the Suggested State Regulations for Control of Radiation if doing so is warranted and does not pose a health, environmental, or safety risk.

- Specifies that one of the activities radiographers and nuclear medicine technologists are licensed to perform is to document orders for contrast and radio-pharmaceuticals, respectively, in patient medical records.

- Requires a radiographer and a nuclear medicine technologist to practice in a manner that is consistent with a definitive set of treatment guidelines approved by the clinical leadership of the institution where the radiographer or technologist practices.

### Exemption from mobile dental facility requirements

- Specifies that notification requirements enacted in H.B. 203 of the 133rd General Assembly do not apply to a mobile dental facility that is under the control or management of certain school entities, local boards of health, or Department of Health contractors recognized by the Dental Board.

### H.B. 287

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Russo and Perales

**Effective date:** September 15, 2020

- Requires each home and community-based services Medicaid waiver component to reserve a portion of its participant capacity for eligible individuals whose spouse, parent, or legal guardian is an active duty military member who recently transferred to Ohio.

### H.B. 341

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Ginter

**Effective date:** December 16, 2020

**Addiction treatment**

- Authorizes a pharmacist to administer by injection any long-acting or extended-release addiction treatment drug prescribed by a physician.
- Exempts from State Board of Pharmacy office-based opioid treatment licensure those facilities in which addiction treatment drugs are administered only on-site and directly by prescribers.

- Provides that a patient whose addiction treatment drugs are administered on-site directly by a prescriber is not to be counted when determining whether a facility offering office-based opioid treatment is required to be licensed by the Pharmacy Board.

**OARRS**

- Authorizes the Pharmacy Board to provide information from its Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) to a prescriber or pharmacist participating in a prescription monitoring program operated by a federal agency if certain conditions are met.

**Open meetings exemption**

- Expands and clarifies the Pharmacy Board’s exemption from the open meetings requirement as related to certain actions the Board may take without a prior hearing.

**Naloxone access**

- Exempts from licensure as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs a service entity that possess naloxone in order to permit an employee, volunteer, or contractor to personally furnish a supply of naloxone pursuant to a protocol established by a prescriber or board of health.

- Authorizes a terminal distributor to acquire a supply of naloxone, and to maintain the supply at an alternative location, to use in emergency situations and to distribute through an automated mechanism.

- Authorizes any person to access naloxone maintained by a terminal distributor and to administer it to an individual who appears to be experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

- Authorizes certain advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to develop protocols to permit individuals and employees of service entities to personally furnish or administer naloxone.

- Requires the Pharmacy Board to develop a program to educate certain license holders and others about the authority of pharmacists and pharmacy interns to dispense naloxone without a prescription.

- Specifies that a family member, friend, or other individual who assists an individual who is experiencing an opioid-related overdose is not liable for damages in a civil action related to providing that assistance.

**Occasional sales at wholesale**

- Extends to licensed terminal distributors of dangerous drugs that are not pharmacies the authority to sell occasionally at wholesale investigational drugs or products or certain prescription drugs, but only if authorized by rules adopted by the Pharmacy Board.
Hemp and hashish

- Alters the definition of “hashish” to clarify that it can be derived from not only marijuana, but also any part of a cannabis plant (which includes hemp), and that it must have a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of more than 0.3%.
- Specifies that “hashish” does not include a hemp byproduct that a licensed hemp processor produces, stores, or disposes of in accordance with the Hemp Law.

**H.B. 412**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Clites and Ginter

**Effective date:** Emergency: Emergency Response Commission’s authority to exempt local exercises is effective December 21, 2020; establishment of Rare Disease Advisory Council is effective March 24, 2021

- Establishes the Rare Disease Advisory Council.
- Requires the Department of Health to publish periodic reports detailing the incidence of rare diseases in Ohio.
- Authorizes the Emergency Response Commission to exempt, for a period of one year, a local emergency planning committee from conducting an exercise of its chemical emergency response and preparedness plan if conducting the exercise is likely to affect public health or safety or the environment.

**S.B. 27**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Uecker

**Effective date:** April 6, 2021 (but application of prohibitions delayed until the Director of Health adopts rules)

**General requirement for cremation or interment**

- Requires the final disposition of fetal remains from a surgical abortion to be by cremation or interment.
- Defines “fetal remains” as the product of human conception that is aborted and if a woman is carrying more than one zygote, blastocyte, embryo, or fetus, each one, or any of its parts that is aborted, is a separate product of human conception that has been aborted.

**Disposition determination**

- Grants a pregnant woman who has a surgical abortion the right to determine (1) whether the disposition of the fetal remains will be by cremation or interment, and (2) the location for the final disposition.
• Requires a pregnant woman who has a surgical abortion to be provided a notification form informing the pregnant woman of the right to determine the final disposition of fetal remains and the available methods and locations for disposition.

• Requires the pregnant woman, if she desires to exercise these rights, to certify before an abortion that she received the notification form and made a determination in writing using the act’s detachable supplemental form to the abortion informed consent form.

• Provides that if the woman chooses not to exercise her rights, the abortion facility that performed the surgical abortion will determine whether the final disposition will be by cremation or interment.

• Requires parental consent by a parent, guardian, or custodian for a final disposition determination if the pregnant woman is under 18, unmarried, and unemancipated, unless a court has issued an order authorizing consent to the abortion.

• Requires the Director of Health to prescribe the detachable supplemental form, appended to the abortion informed consent form, to include the following information:
  □ Whether the pregnant woman has indicated a method of disposition, and the preferred method selected;
  □ Whether the pregnant woman has indicated a preference as to the location of disposition of the fetal remains;
  □ The signature of the physician inducing or performing the abortion;
  □ A medical identification number for the woman (not a printed name or signature).

• Requires, if a pregnant woman is carrying more than one zygote, blastocyte, embryo, or fetus, that each one aborted must be represented on its own form for abortion informed consent and the determination of the disposition of the remains or parental consent to the disposition.

**Abortion facility requirements**

• Prohibits an abortion facility from releasing fetal remains until the facility obtains a final disposition determination or parental consent to the determination.

• Permits an abortion facility to arrange for the cremation or interment of fetal remains if the final disposition determination has been made or consented to.

• Requires an abortion facility to document in the woman’s medical record the final disposition determination and, if applicable, parental consent to the determination.

• Requires an abortion facility to have written policies and procedures for cremation or interment of fetal remains from surgical abortions performed or induced in the facility.

• Requires an abortion facility to develop and maintain a written list of locations at which it provides or arranges for the final disposition of fetal remains from surgical abortions.
- Requires an abortion facility to pay for the cremation or interment of the fetal remains in locations provided by the facility.
- Provides that if the pregnant woman’s final disposition determination specifies a location for final disposition that is not provided by the facility, she is responsible for the costs related to the disposition at her chosen location.

**Abortion informed consent expansion**

- Expands abortion informed consent requirements with respect to the 24-hour pre-abortion physician meetings and the consent forms to include zygote and blastocyst abortions.

**Abortion report**

- Requires the attending physician for the abortion, when completing an individual “abortion report” required under law retained by the act, to include the method of final disposition of the fetal remains from a surgical abortion.
- Expands the individual abortion report and annual abortion report to require a report on the number of zygotes, blastocystes, embryos, and fetuses aborted and the number for each woman, rather than just the number of abortions under previous law.
- Requires an abortion facility to maintain evidentiary documentation demonstrating the date and method of the disposition of all fetal remains from abortions performed or induced there.

**Additional provisions regarding cremation**

- Requires the cremation of fetal remains from a surgical abortion to be performed in a crematory facility subject to state regulation.

**Rules**

- Requires the Director to adopt rules by July 6, 2021, necessary to carry out the act’s provisions, including rules that prescribe:
  - The notification form informing the pregnant woman of the right to determine the final disposition of fetal remains and the available methods and locations for disposition;
  - The parental consent form;
  - A detachable supplemental form to the abortion informed consent form on which a pregnant woman is to make a final disposition determination; and
  - Procedures to complete the detachable supplemental form a reasonable time after a medical emergency or necessity has ended, when the emergency or necessity prevented the form’s completion.
Prohibitions and penalty

- Prohibits any person from failing to comply with the act’s requirements regarding disposition of fetal remains.
- Prohibits an operator of a crematory facility from (1) disposing of, (2) arranging for the disposal of, or (3) arranging for the transfer and subsequent disposal of cremated fetal remains in a manner other than:
  - Placing them in a grave, crypt, or niche;
  - Scattering them in any dignified manner, including in a memorial garden, at sea, by air, or at a cemetery scattering ground; or
  - Any other lawful manner.
- Prohibits a crematory operator from cremating the fetal remains without receiving a copy of a properly executed supplemental detachable form to the abortion informed consent form.
- Provides that a person who knowingly violates the prohibitions is guilty of failure to dispose of fetal remains humanely, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Delayed enforcement

- Delays the application of the act’s prohibitions until the Director adopts the rules.

Immunity

- Provides that a woman who has a surgical abortion is not guilty of failure to dispose of fetal remains humanely if the fetal remains are not disposed of in compliance with the act’s cremation or interment provisions.
- Provides that a person who buries or cremates fetal remains from a surgical abortion is not liable for or subject to damages in a civil action, prosecution in a criminal proceeding, or professional disciplinary action related to the disposal of fetal remains if the person does all of the following:
  - Acts in good faith compliance with the act’s fetal remains disposition requirements;
  - Receives a copy of a properly executed detachable supplemental form to the abortion informed consent form; and
  - Acts in furtherance of the final disposition of the fetal remains.
- Conditions the immunity granted to a person who buries or cremates fetal remains as described above on compliance with requirements unchanged by the act for fetal death certificates for the product of human conception of at least 20 weeks’ gestation.
S.B. 178

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schuring
Effective date: March 2, 2021

- Authorizes podiatrists to administer influenza vaccinations to individuals seven or older.

S.B. 260

Primary Sponsor: Sen. S. Huffman
Effective date: April 12, 2021

- Prohibits a physician from personally furnishing or providing an abortion-inducing drug to a pregnant woman unless the physician is physically present where and when the initial dose of the drug is consumed.
- Makes knowingly violating the prohibition a fourth degree felony for the first offense and a third degree felony for the second and subsequent offenses.

S.B. 311

Primary Sponsors: Sens. McColley and Roegner
Effective date: Vetoed

- Would have prohibited the Department of Health (ODH) from issuing a general, mandatory statewide or regional quarantine or isolation order that applies to and is enforced against individuals who have not been either directly exposed to or medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order.
- Would have prohibited ODH from using existing authority in a manner that has the effect of being a general, mandatory statewide or regional quarantine or isolation order that applies to and is enforced against individuals who have not been either directly exposed to or medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order, rule, or action.
- Would have allowed the General Assembly to adopt a concurrent resolution to rescind certain ODH orders or rules for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases.
H.B. 129

Primary Sponsor: Rep. McClain

Effective date: May 22, 2020

- Permits a person to wear earphones or earplugs on or in both ears for hearing protection while operating a motorcycle.

H.B. 276

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Ghanbari

Effective date: June 10, 2020

- Designates multiple highways and bridges.
- Changes the location of three memorial highways.
- Changes the name of one memorial highway to reflect a posthumous promotion.
Human Services

H.B. 65

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Carfagna

Effective date: Emergency: June 19, 2020

Notice to parents

- Requires a child care provider licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to notify parents if the Department determines that an act or omission of the provider constitutes a serious risk noncompliance.

Swimming classes at private pools

- Allows a resident of a dwelling with a private residential swimming pool to conduct paid, one-on-one, certified swimming classes at the pool without obtaining a public swimming pool license from the board of health or Ohio Department of Health, provided that:
  - The resident is a certified swimming instructor; and
  - There are no more than four people in the pool at the same time during the class.
- Specifies that it is not the General Assembly’s intent that any provision related to private swimming lessons in the act be interpreted as limiting or restricting an insurer’s ability to:
  - Exclude insurance coverage from any insurance policy;
  - Underwrite any insurance policy; or
  - Create, imply, or otherwise grant insurance coverage not found in a policy of insurance.
H.B. 339

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Merrin

Effective date: January 1, 2021

- Corrects technical errors throughout the insurance laws.
- Lengthens the amount of time a life insurance policy may be backdated from three to six months.
- Specifies that a regional council of governments does not engage in the business of insurance if it provides health care benefits to the council members’ officers and employees and their dependents, if certain criteria are met.
- Requires retail installment contracts to list any amounts paid for related insurance, as well as the types of such insurance coverage.
- Exempts single interest insurance from notification requirements that apply to insurance coverage related to retail installment agreements.
- Requires single interest insurance to be listed as a specific good in a retail installment contract.
- Allows domestic life insurance companies to record assets that support fund accumulation contracts that meet certain criteria under the company’s general account.
- Permits a nonresident who is licensed as a public insurance adjuster and is in good standing in the applicant’s home state to receive a certificate of authority to be a public insurance adjuster in Ohio.
- Allows certain documents to be signed electronically if needed by an insurance company to obtain a salvage certificate of title to a motor vehicle.
- Expands the assigned risk insurance plan to include all automobile liability insurance policies, as opposed to just private passenger automobile liability insurance policies.
- Modifies the deadline for the renewal of a surety bail bond agent license.
- Modifies the deadline for a surety bail bond agent’s registration with the clerk of the court.
- Modifies the deadline for the clerk of the court to make available a list of court-registered surety bail bond agents to the appropriate holding facility, jail, correction facility, or other similar entity within the court’s jurisdiction.
H.B. 388

Primary Sponsor: Rep. A. Holmes

Effective date: April 12, 2021; payees and health plan issuers become subject to the act’s provisions beginning January 12, 2022

- Requires an insurer to reimburse:
  - An out-of-network provider for unanticipated out-of-network care provided at an in-network facility;
  - An out-of-network provider or emergency facility for emergency services provided at an out-of-network emergency facility;
  - An out-of-network ambulance for emergency services provided in an out-of-network ambulance;
  - An out-of-network provider or facility for clinical laboratory services provided in connection with unanticipated out-of-network care or emergency services.

- Prohibits a provider, facility, emergency facility, or ambulance from balance billing a patient for unanticipated or emergency care as described above when that care is provided in Ohio.

- Provides that a covered person’s cost-sharing responsibility for the services described above cannot be greater than if the services were provided in network.

- Establishes the default reimbursement rate as the greatest of the in-network rate, the out-of-network rate, or the Medicare rate, and establishes procedures by which payees (providers, facilities, emergency facilities, and ambulances) may seek to negotiate the reimbursement in lieu of the default reimbursement rate.

- Permits certain payees to seek arbitration if negotiation is unsuccessful, establishes criteria to be eligible for arbitration, and establishes procedures for the conduct of the arbitration.

- Requires the Superintendent of Insurance to select an arbitration entity to conduct arbitrations under the act using specified criteria.

- Requires a provider to disclose certain information to patients regarding the cost of out-of-network services that are not unanticipated out-of-network care or emergency services.

- Subjects payees and insurers to penalties for failure to comply with the act’s requirements.
S.B. 9

Primary Sponsor: Sen. M. Huffman

Effective date: April 12, 2021; certain provisions effective July 1, 2021

- Requires a health plan issuer, beginning in July 2020, to release the following to a requesting group policyholder: net claims data paid or incurred by month, monthly enrollment data, monthly prescription claims information, and, for paid claims over $30,000, the amount paid toward each claim and claimant health condition.

- Defines a group policyholder as being a policyholder for a health insurance policy covering 50 or more employees who work an average of at least 30 hours per week during a calendar month, or at least 130 hours during the calendar month.

- Applies the disclosure requirement to claims data for the current, or immediately preceding, policy period, as requested by the policyholder.

- Provides protections from civil liability to the health plan issuer in relation to the disclosure of the claims data.

- Makes a series of violations of the act’s requirements that, taken together, constitute a pattern or practice, an unfair or deceptive practice in the business of insurance.

S.B. 252

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Hackett and Craig

Effective date: March 24, 2021

- Prohibits the use of “fail first” coverage limitations with regard to stage four advanced metastatic cancer.

- Declares violations of the act’s prohibitions to be an unfair and deceptive practice in the business of insurance.

S.B. 263

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hackett

Effective date: April 12, 2021

- Prohibits health plan issuers and Medicaid managed care organizations from including in a contract with a covered entity that participates in the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program certain provisions that would result in the entity not receiving the financial relief it is entitled to by virtue of its participation in the program.

- Requires terminal distributors of dangerous drugs to pay to a 340B covered entity the full amount received from the patient and the patient’s health insurer, except for a fee agreed upon in writing between the terminal distributor and the entity.
S.B. 284

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Hottinger and Peterson

Effective date: March 24, 2021

- Allows insurers in Ohio to claim reinsurance of risk as either an asset or a reduction in liability when the risk is reinsured by an insurer in a reciprocal jurisdiction and that meets certain criteria.

- Requires health insurers and Medicaid managed care organizations subject to the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 to comply with all applicable requirements of that act.

- Makes the telephone number of a party to a car accident a public record when the number is being sought by an insurer or insurance agent while investigating a claim.
H.B. 8

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Manchester and Galonski

**Effective date:** January 22, 2021

- Eliminates the statutory minimum preplacement training hours for family foster homes and specialized foster homes in favor of rules adopted by the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).
- Permits up to 20% of preplacement training to be provided online.
- Eliminates the statutory minimum continuing training hours for family foster homes and specialized foster homes in favor of rules adopted by ODJFS.
- Removes the statutory hour and training requirements for foster caregivers of a child under a temporary custody agreement in favor of requirements adopted in ODJFS rules.
- Requires planned permanent living arrangement caregivers to complete training as developed and implemented by ODJFS rules.
- Repeals statutory coursework and training requirements in favor of requirements adopted in ODJFS rules.
- Repeals statutory needs assessment and continuing training plan requirements in favor of requirements adopted in ODJFS rules.
- Requires compensation in the form of an allowance for the cost of training pursuant to the rules adopted by ODJFS.
- Requires ODJFS to adopt rules for compensating a recommending agency for a foster caregiver’s foster home certification and recertification training that the private child placing agency or a private noncustodial agency requires, if it is in addition to the minimum continuing training required by ODJFS rules.
- Eliminates the statutory maximum number of children a foster home may receive in favor of rules adopted by ODJFS.
- Requires, at a frequency established by ODJFS rules, instead of every two years under former law, that an association or institution that receives, or desires to receive and care for children, or places children in private homes:
  - Be inspected and certified or recertified; and
  - Submit a report to ODJFS containing certain things, including information on its condition, management, and competency, if it desires certification or recertification.
- Provides that ODJFS certification of an association or institution that receives, or desires to receive and care for children, or places children in private homes, be valid for a length of time determined by ODJFS rules instead of every two years under former law.
Liquor Control

H.B. 160

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Ingram

Effective date: Emergency: October 13, 2020

Outdoor Refreshment Areas (DORAs)

- Revises the number of outdoor refreshment areas (DORAs) that may be created in a municipal corporation or township as follows:
  - If the population is more than 50,000, increases the number from two to four; and
  - If the population is between 35,000 and 50,000, increases the number from one to two.
- Reduces, from two to one, the required number of notices that the legislative authority of a municipal corporation or township must publish prior to taking certain actions regarding a DORA.

Sales of alcohol in an agency store

- Allows the sale of beer, wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor in an agency store for on-premises consumption and makes other changes to the law governing those sales.

Alcoholic ice cream

- Allows an alcoholic ice cream manufacturer (A-5 liquor permit holder) to ship the ice cream to a personal consumer via a permitted shipper if certain conditions are met, including verification that the personal consumer is at least 21.
- Allows an A-5 permit holder to sell alcoholic ice cream to retail liquor permit holders for resale to personal consumers.
- Eliminates the restriction on the number of pints (four pints) of alcoholic ice cream that a personal consumer may purchase each day from an A-5 permit holder.
- Clarifies that an A-5 permit holder may sell alcoholic ice cream on Sunday under a D-6 liquor permit if those sales have been authorized by local option election.

Bottle limits for micro-distilleries

- Increases from two to four the number of 750 ml spirituous liquor bottles that a micro-distillery may sell to a customer per day.

Small wineries exemption

- Regarding the retail food establishment license exemption for a small winery (A-2 or A-2f liquor permit holder) – which applies only when the winery sells commercially
prepackaged food that constitutes 5% or less of sales – clarifies that commercially prepackaged food does not include wine.

- Requires the commercially prepackaged food to be unopened and specifies that the 5% threshold is based on the winery’s sales in the previous year.
- Modifies the notice (regarding the exemption) that an exempt small winery must provide to customers.

**H.B. 669**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Swearingen and LaRe

**Effective date:** Emergency: October 13, 2020

**To-go drinks**

- Allows bars, restaurants, small breweries, micro-distilleries, and wineries (qualified permit holders) to sell alcoholic beverages in sealed, covered cups or other containers for off-premises consumption, including via delivery.
- Specifies that a qualified permit holder may only sell alcoholic beverages for to-go purposes if:
  - The permit holder is otherwise authorized to sell the alcoholic beverages under the permit; and
  - The permit holder also sells a meal with the alcoholic beverages.
- Prohibits a qualified permit holder from selling more than three to-go alcoholic beverages to any individual per meal.
- Prior to delivering an alcoholic beverage to a personal consumer, requires a qualified permit holder, or a qualified permit holder’s employee, to make an effort to ensure that the personal consumer is 21 or older.

**Expansion of sales area of liquor permit premises**

- Through December 31, 2022, allows a qualified permit holder to expand the area in which it may sell alcoholic beverages by the individual drink for on-premises consumption as follows:
  - In any area of the permit holder’s property in which sales are not currently authorized and that is outdoors, including the permit holder’s parking area;
  - In any outdoor area of public property that is immediately adjacent to the permit holder’s premises, if the permit holder obtains written consent from the local government that owns the property; and
  - In any outdoor area of private property that is immediately adjacent to the permit holder’s premises, if the permit holder obtains the owner’s written consent.
- Requires the permit holder to notify the Division of Liquor Control and the Investigative Unit of the Department of Public Safety ten days before the expansion.

**Opened container exemptions**

- Exempts from the Opened Container Law:
  - Delivery of a to-go alcoholic beverage in a sealed, closed container, in accordance with the act, to its final destination; and
  - Consumption of an alcoholic beverage in an expanded outdoor area of a qualified permit holder.

**H.B. 674**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Hillyer and Becker

**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

**Sole and exclusive regulation of alcohol**

- States that the State of Ohio has the sole and exclusive authority to regulate the sale and distribution of beer and intoxicating liquor in Ohio under the Twenty-first Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (repeal of Prohibition).
- Finds that the General Assembly’s authority to so regulate is exercised through the liquor control laws and other relevant statutes.

**Delivery of spirituous liquor**

- Allows the Division of Liquor Control to deliver spirituous liquor to personal consumers in original containers pursuant to rules adopted by the Superintendent of Liquor Control.

**Intoxicating liquor pods**

- Treats a pod containing spirituous liquor (more than 21% alcohol by volume [ABV]) as a mixed beverage (0.5% to 21% ABV) for regulatory purposes.
- Defines “pod” to mean a sealed capsule made from specified materials and to which certain requirements apply, including:
  - The alcohol content of the pod exceeds 21% ABV;
  - Processing the pod involves releasing the contents of the capsule through a machine specifically designed to process the contents; and
  - The beverage that results after processing the capsule has an ABV of 0.5% to 21%.

**Brewpubs**

- Exempts certain brewpubs (A-1-A liquor permit holders) from the requirement to obtain a retail food establishment or food service operation license from a local board of health and operate as a restaurant.
Instead, allows a brewpub to:

- Serve unopened commercially prepackaged meals and nonalcoholic beverages, as well as beer and intoxicating liquor, under exemptions from board of health regulation; or
- Maintain a schedule with the owner or operator of a licensed mobile retail food establishment or a mobile food service operation to serve food to the brewpub’s customers.

Eliminates the requirement that beer growlers sold by a brewpub for off-premises consumption be made of glass.

**Alcohol consumption in airports**

- Expands the area in which a person who buys beer or intoxicating liquor from a restaurant at a public airport (D-5d liquor permit holder) may consume the beer or intoxicating liquor.
- Specifies that the expanded area includes the portion of the airport terminal in which people are taking flights to and from the airport, provided the airport’s governing body authorizes consumption in the area and certain conditions are met.
- Specifies that consumption in the expanded area is not a violation of the Opened Container Law.
- Broadens the type of public airport at which a D-5d permit may be issued to include an airport operated by a municipal corporation.

**F-11 liquor permit**

- Authorizes the Division to issue an F-11 liquor permit to a nonprofit organization to conduct an event if one of the event’s purposes is the introduction, showcasing, or promotion of craft beers manufactured in Ohio.
- Establishes duties and responsibilities for F-11 permit holders, and allows the permit holder to sell, at the event, beer that it has purchased from the breweries that are participating in the event.

**F-12 liquor permit**

- Authorizes the Division to issue an F-12 liquor permit to specified organizations to purchase beer or wine from permitted beer or wine manufacturers and wholesalers and to sell the beer or wine at special functions held during the permit’s 90-day validity period.
- Prohibits more than one permit from being issued to the same applicant in any one-year period.
Gifts of glassware

- Allows a manufacturer or supplier of alcoholic beverages to provide glassware intended for the serving of beer to a permit holder authorized to sell beer for on-premises consumption if the manufacturer or supplier provides a receipt to the permit holder.
- Establishes requirements and procedures for the provider of the glassware.
- Exempts the gifts of glassware from restrictions on the interrelationship between alcoholic beverage manufacturers, distributors, and retailers.

F permit leasing agreements with manufacturers

- Exempts a manufacturer’s lease or rental of property to an F class liquor permit holder from the restrictions on the interrelationship between alcoholic beverage manufacturers, distributors, and retailers.
Local Government

H.B. 340

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Cupp

Effective date: March 24, 2021

- Alters the procedures for proposing and approving the construction and maintenance of drainage projects by counties and soil and water conservation districts.
- Regarding multi-county drainage improvements specifically, designates the county in which the largest portion of a drainage project is located as the lead county for the project rather than the county in which the petition for the project is filed as under prior law.

H.B. 444

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Baldridge and Abrams

Effective date: April 12, 2021

Industrial development bonds

- Authorizes a township to issue industrial development bonds.
- Eliminates the requirement that a county or municipal corporation designate a community improvement corporation as its agency for industrial, commercial, distribution, and research development before issuing industrial development bonds.

Notice of conforming boundary changes

- Requires municipalities to give notice to affected townships when the municipality seeks to conform boundaries.

Nuisance

- Removes the requirement for townships to collect certain nuisance costs “as other taxes.”
- Requires that certain nuisance costs be returned to the township and placed in the township’s general fund as is provided by other existing nuisance provisions of township law.

Employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy

- Allows a political subdivision to switch from utilizing bonds to a policy when its officers are mid-term or during its employees’ employment, whereas former law required a policy to be in place before an officer took office or before an employee began employment.
- Allows certain park districts, juvenile facilities, and detention facilities to utilize an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy in lieu of surety bonds as was required under former law.

- Specifically authorizes a policy to be used in lieu of a surety bond by the following: certain park district commissioners, juvenile facility superintendents, detention facility superintendents, county homes, deputy registrars, and executive directors and superintendents of a children’s home.

- Expands the definition of a policy to include one that protects against losses that otherwise would be protected against under a surety bond and other losses as determined by the political subdivision.

- Allows a political subdivision to utilize a policy to cover any entity or individual as determined by the political subdivision, whereas former law only allowed the policy to cover officers, employees, and appointees who otherwise must give a surety bond.

**Cemetery conveyance**

- Requires a cemetery association or religious society that conveys cemetery grounds to a township to also transfer all cemetery records and funds to the township.

- Eliminates the requirement that a township accept conveyance of, and responsibility for, cemetery grounds if the cemetery association or religious society attempting to convey the grounds will retain an interest in, or use of, abutting property or property from which the grounds were divided.

**EMS ambulance staffing**

- Allows any individual authorized under continuing law to drive an ambulance for an emergency medical service organization to drive the ambulance to the scene of an emergency without having an EMT, advanced EMT (AEMT), or paramedic present in the ambulance, as former law required.

- Specifies that in the scenario described above, the authorized individual must (1) meet an EMT, AEMT, or paramedic at the scene of the emergency and (2) continue as the driver while transporting a patient from the scene of the emergency (to ensure at least one medical professional is in the back with the patient).

**Special improvement districts boundaries**

- Allows special improvement districts to be created within the territory of noncontiguous townships or municipal corporations.

**Property tax**

- Authorizes a municipal corporation or township to use revenue from a combined levy for fire, emergency medical, and police services to fund police and firefighter pension contributions, police services’ contracts, and volunteer firefighters’ annuities, which, under continuing law, may be funded with single-purpose police or fire service levies.
- Specifies that an existing levy renewed, with voter approval, at the same or a higher or lower rate may commence during the last tax year that the existing levy may apply or the following tax year.

- Establishes a temporary procedure by which a township may apply for tax exemption and the abatement of unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest due on former university property.

**Jefferson County court**

- Includes Cross Creek Township as one of the locations where the Jefferson County Court holds court.

**H.B. 450**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Stephens  
**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

- Requires county treasurers and fiscal officers, when leaving office, to provide a certificate of transition to their successors.

- Requires the certificate of transition to be in a form and contain substance as prescribed by the Auditor of State (AOS), including an inventory of documents, accounts, and any other information the AOS prescribes.

- Requires the AOS to solicit input from county treasurers and fiscal officers, or from their affiliated groups, before prescribing the inventory of items.

- Authorizes the AOS to “test the accuracy” of any certificate and report discrepancies or findings as in an audit report or actions for recovery of public money or property illegally spent or misappropriated and for criminal action against the public officer.

- Removes the statutory eligibility requirements for political subdivisions to receive agreed-upon procedure (AUP) audits from the AOS, and continues the AUP audits under rules adopted by the AOS.

**S.B. 163**

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Kunze  
**Effective date:** Emergency: October 22, 2020

**Registration fee proration**

- Prorates the additional registration fees for plug-in electric motor vehicles ($200) and hybrid motor vehicles ($100) based on the number of months for which the vehicle is registered.
Traffic camera LGF reductions

- Requires counties, townships, and municipalities (local authorities) to report all traffic camera fines collected in the preceding fiscal year, rather than only those fines that were based on violations that occurred in that fiscal year.
- Limits the amount subtracted from a county undivided local government fund (CULGF) due to traffic camera fines to the amount of the payment the local authority using traffic cameras would have otherwise received from that fund.
- Defers excess traffic camera fines to subsequent years until they are fully deducted from the local authority’s Local Government Fund (LGF) payments.
- Applies traffic camera reductions to the supplemental LGF payments received by townships and small villages.
- Limits state reimbursement of traffic camera fines for violations in school zones to the amount by which a local authority’s LGF payments were actually reduced.
- Reimburses local authorities for LGF penalties incurred in FY 2021 due to another local authority’s traffic camera fines.
- Prescribes transitional procedures to implement the act’s changes to the computation and administration of traffic camera LGF reductions in FY 2021.

Nonstandard license plates

- Creates 33 new nonstandard license plates.
- Authorizes a person who is eligible for both a Purple Heart license plate and a license plate imprinted with the International Symbol of Access to apply for a single plate that displays both symbols.
- Exempts a Gold Star immediate family member who applies for the “Gold Star Family” license plate from all registration taxes and fees.
- Redirects the contributions for the “Girl Scouts” license plate from the Great River Council of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America to the Girl Scouts of Ohio’s Heartland.
- Authorizes any person to purchase and display the “Freemason” license plate and adds a $15 contribution to purchase that license plate.
- Redirects contributions for the “Glen Helen Nature Preserve” license plate from the Glen Helen Ecology Institute of Antioch College to the Glen Helen Association.
Public Safety and Homeland Security

H.B. 285

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Greenspan and Brent

Effective date: September 15, 2020

- Establishes a permanent Driver’s License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program as an expansion of the temporary reduction and amnesty initiative that operated in 2019.
- Specifies that, under the program, eligible persons may have their driver’s licenses reinstated after a suspension by paying reduced reinstatement fees or receiving a complete waiver of those fees.
- Requires the Director of Public Safety to administer the program.
- Separates the program into two phases:
  - First phase: for suspensions that occurred prior to the act’s September 15, 2020, effective date;
  - Second phase: for suspensions that occur after that date.
- Establishes eligibility requirements for participation in the program (e.g., the underlying offense, when the offense occurred, and prior participation in the program).
- Establishes qualifications for a reduction or a complete waiver of fees, based on whether the person participates in specified government aid programs.
- Requires the Director to identify eligible participants and to send an eligible person an automatic notice that the person has been enrolled in the program.
- Allows a person to apply for the program if that person believes he or she is eligible, but did not receive the Director’s notice.
- Specifies that any person who receives a reduction or complete waiver of reinstatement fees is not eligible for a subsequent reduction or waiver through the program.
- Generally specifies that a person’s driver’s license may be reinstated after the person receives a waiver or is placed on a payment plan under the program.
- Requires the Director to make information about the program available on the Department of Public Safety and Bureau of Motor Vehicle websites and to establish a toll-free telephone number for information about the program.
H.B. 295

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Hoops
Effective date: April 15, 2021

Low-speed micromobility devices

- Permits the use of a low-speed micromobility device (for example, an electric scooter) on public streets, highways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, and bicycle-only areas, subject to specific operational requirements.
- Notwithstanding the state requirements, authorizes certain political subdivisions and the Department of Natural Resources to regulate the operation of low-speed micromobility devices or prohibit the devices within their jurisdiction.
- Specifies that a low-speed micromobility device is a device with handlebars that weighs less than 100 pounds, is propelled by an electric motor or human power, and has an attainable speed on a paved surface of 20 mph or less when using an electric motor.
- States that low-speed micromobility devices are not vehicles and, as such, exempts them from state registration, title, insurance, and certain traffic and equipment law requirements.

Law enforcement use of e-bikes

- Authorizes a law enforcement officer to use an electric bicycle (e-bike) on specified paths and sidewalks, including when the use of the e-bike is otherwise prohibited, provided the e-bike is being used in the performance of the officer’s duties.

Personal delivery devices

- Increases the maximum empty-weight limit of personal delivery devices authorized to be used in Ohio from 90 pounds to 200 pounds.

Unsafe used tires

- Decriminalizes and makes it no longer designated an unconscionable consumer sales act or practice to install unsafe used tires on a passenger car that is not designed primarily for carrying passengers, a multipurpose passenger vehicle, or a truck.
- Allows the vehicles specified above to be outfitted legally with retread tires, which otherwise fall under the meaning of an unsafe used tire.
S.B. 68

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

Effective date: April 12, 2021

Reinstatement fees

- Authorizes a court that suspends a driver’s license to allow an offender to complete a community service program in lieu of paying driver’s license reinstatement fees when the court determines the offender cannot reasonably pay those fees.

- Authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to adopt rules to create an ongoing reinstatement fee waiver plan through which an indigent person may apply for and receive a waiver of all reinstatement fees.

Police and driver interaction education

- Requires the Attorney General to adopt rules requiring continuing education for existing peace officers on proper interactions with civilians during traffic stops and other encounters.

- Requires the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to recommend rules to the Attorney General for peace officer basic training on proper interactions with civilians during traffic stops and other encounters.

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a model curriculum for high school students on proper interactions with peace officers during traffic stops and other encounters.

- Requires school districts and other public schools to use the State Board’s model curriculum in at least one course required for high school graduation.

- Requires the Director of Public Safety to adapt the State Board’s model curriculum for use in driver training programs and new driver instructional materials.

Power of attorney for vehicle title transactions

- Authorizes a motor vehicle dealer’s employee or agent to serve as a witness to a power of attorney created for the purpose of transferring the title of a motor vehicle.

- Specifies that being “present” for witnessing a signature includes witnessing a signature via audio-visual conference technology.

CDL medical examiner’s certificates

- Requires the Registrar to post information from a medical examiner’s certificate, when required, on a commercial driver’s license (CDL) holder’s CDL information system driver record within ten calendar days of receipt of the medical certificate.
BMV electronic and online transactions

- Expands the services that the Registrar or a deputy registrar may provide electronically (for example an electronic kiosk at a deputy registrar’s location), and allows the Registrar to establish a convenience fee for such services.

- Allows the Registrar and, with the Registrar’s permission, a deputy registrar to offer any service or transaction (that they are authorized or required to conduct) online rather than in person (there is no specific authorization to charge a convenience fee for remote online transactions).

- Requires any charges for online transactions to be the same as the associated in-person transaction.

- Allows the Registrar or deputy registrar to accept payment for such charges by an electronic financial transaction device (i.e., a credit or debit card) and to pass along any associated costs to the person using that device.

Third-party administration of skills test

- Authorizes the Director of Public Safety to allow a third party to administer the driver’s license skills test.

- Requires any test administered by a third party to be substantially the same as the test administered by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

- Enumerates quality control provisions that must be included in any contract with a third party to conduct the driver’s license skills test.

Abbreviated driver training

- Exempts an adult applicant for an initial driver’s license who fails the skills test from the requirement to complete the adult abbreviated driving training course if, within the 12 months prior to application, the applicant completed a full driver training course.

Reprints

- Authorizes a person who holds a valid Ohio credential (i.e., a learner’s permit, driver’s license, CDL, motorcycle operator’s permit, motorized bicycle license, or state identification card) issued after July 2, 2018, to obtain an exact reprint of it.

- Requires an applicant to certify that the current Ohio credential has been lost, destroyed, or mutilated and to provide identifying information, as required by the Registrar.

- Requires the Registrar to conduct transactions for a reprint Ohio credential online via the BMV website by October 11, 2021.

- Specifies the appearance and cost of the reprint.
Eight-year renewal

- Authorizes a person between age 21 and 65 to apply for and renew an Ohio CDL, driver’s license (motor vehicles and motorcycles), motorcycle operator’s endorsement, or motorized bicycle license on an eight-year renewal cycle.

- Authorizes a person, regardless of age, to request and renew an Ohio identification card on an eight-year renewal cycle.

- Makes the cost of an eight-year license, endorsement, or card twice the cost of a four-year license, endorsement, or card, minus $1.

- Makes the eight-year renewal option available beginning July 1, 2021.

Orthotics and prosthetics licensure

- Permits the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board to issue an orthotics, prosthetics, or orthotics and prosthetics license to an applicant with unique and exceptional qualifications.

- Requires the Board to adopt rules establishing requirements for license eligibility based on the applicant’s unique and exceptional qualifications, including standards for evidence of the applicant’s qualifications through education, experience, or training.

- Requires the Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics Advisory Council to issue recommendations to the Board on requirements to issue a license to an applicant with unique and exceptional qualifications.
Special Designations

**H.B. 32**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Stein  
**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

- Creates a suggested ceremonial procedure for retiring an Ohio state flag.
- Designates November 16 as Sanfilippo Syndrome Awareness Day.
- Designates March as Cardiac Amyloidosis Recognition Month.
- Designates September as Hirschsprung’s Disease Awareness Month.
- Designates April 26 as Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) Day.

**H.B. 230**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Crossman  
**Effective date:** November 27, 2020

- Designates May as “Brain Cancer Awareness Month.”

**H.B. 325**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. J. Miller and Howse  
**Effective date:** March 24, 2021

- Designates February 18 as “Toni Morrison Day.”

**H.B. 364**

**Sponsor:** Rep. G. Manning  
**Effective date:** January 15, 2021

- Designates February 13 as “Aortic Aneurysm Awareness Day.”
S.B. 123

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Dolan and Manning

**Effective date:** March 24, 2021

- Designates Dunkleosteus terrelli as the “State Fossil Fish.”
H.B. 473

Primary Sponsor: Rep. T. Smith

Effective date: April 12, 2012

- Allows the official motto of Ohio (“With God, All Things Are Possible”) to be displayed alongside any official Ohio seal.

S.B. 318

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Kunze and Williams

Effective date: Emergency: December 17, 2020

- Extends the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission and its members’ terms of office from December 31, 2020, until December 31, 2021.

S.B. 331

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Effective date: April 12, 2021

- Abolishes or renews various agencies that are subject to expiration under Sunset Review Law.
- Requires a Sunset Review Committee to be convened during each General Assembly, and makes other changes to Sunset Review Law.
- Authorizes the Ohio Judicial Conference to distribute judicial impact statements in an electronic format.
**Taxation**

**H.B. 17**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Ginter  
**Effective date:** January 15, 2021

- Grants a homestead exemption for the widow or widower of a peace officer, firefighter, or other emergency responder who dies in the line of duty or by an injury or illness sustained in the line of duty.
- Exempts $50,000 of the home’s appraised value or cost from property taxation or the manufactured home tax.
- Exempts such a widow or widower from the income means test, currently $33,600 in modified adjusted gross income.
- Reimburses local taxing units for the resulting reduction in taxes in the same manner as other homestead exemptions.
- Affects taxes payable in 2021 and thereafter.

**H.B. 18**

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Vitale and Crawley  
**Effective date:** May 26, 2020

- Authorizes an income tax deduction for all disability severance pay received by an honorably discharged veteran.
- Allows a taxpayer who is eligible for an Ohio income tax refund based on disability severance pay that was erroneously taxed at the federal level to apply for the refund even if the statutory deadline has passed, so long as the taxpayer requests the refund by December 31, 2020.

**H.B. 150**

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Merrin  
**Effective date:** April 12, 2021

- Authorizes a financial institutions tax (FIT) reduction of up to $1 million per year for newly formed banks.
- Allows mortgage lenders to exclude the principal balance of mortgage loans from the lenders’ commercial activity tax (CAT) gross receipts.
S.B. 39

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Schuring

Effective date: Emergency: Campaign contributions tax credit is effective December 29, 2020; all other provisions are effective March 31, 2021

Transformational mixed use development tax credit

- Authorizes a nonrefundable insurance premiums tax credit for capital contributions to the construction of “transformational mixed use developments” (TMUDs).
- Bases the credit amount and when it is awarded on the property owner’s development costs or the insurance company’s capital contribution and the increase in state and local tax collections at the project site and in the surrounding area.
- Limits the tax credits awarded for the same project to the lesser of $40 million or 10% of the property owner’s development costs or the insurance company’s capital contribution, and permits unclaimed credit amounts to be carried forward for up to five years.
- Establishes an alternative procedure by which the full credit amount – 10% of development costs or 10% of the capital contribution – may be awarded regardless of the increase in tax collections.
- Allows insurance companies to apply directly for the credit or to purchase the right to claim the credit from the property owner.
- Establishes procedures by which the Tax Credit Authority may evaluate and rank applications, certify a development plan, monitor construction progress, and award tax credit certificates upon completion of the TMUD.
- Limits the credits to $100 million for each of FY 2020 to FY 2023, and disallows the issuance of credits thereafter.
- Reserves $20 million in each fiscal year for projects not located within ten miles of a city with a population greater than 100,000.

Campaign contribution tax credit

- Reinstates the nonrefundable income tax credit for contributions made to the campaign committees of candidates for statewide office.
- Specifies that the amount of the credit equals the full amount of the contribution, up to $50 (or $100 for joint filers).

Commercial real estate broker liens

- Extends the time allowed and expands the delivery options for the following:
  - A broker providing a copy of a lien affidavit to an owner and prospective transferee to perfect a lien;
  - An owner serving written notice of demand on a broker to enforce a lien;
☐ A broker providing an owner with a copy of the lien release or satisfaction.

☐ Requires, as opposed to permits, a court to assess costs and attorney’s fees on nonprevailing parties in a suit to enforce a lien.

☐ Expands the costs a court is required to assess when a broker prevails in a suit to enforce a lien.

S.B. 259

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Sykes

Effective date: April 12, 2021

Resolution of property tax complaints

☐ Increases the time within which boards of revision must decide property tax complaints.

Airport development districts (ADDs)

☐ Authorizes certain regional airport authorities, port authorities, and municipal corporations to create an airport development district (ADD) to generate revenue for airport infrastructure improvements and other expenditures that benefit a qualifying airport.

☐ Requires that the resolution proposing creation of an ADD include a development plan that describes the improvements and expenditures that will be undertaken and provides for creation of the nonprofit corporation that will govern the ADD.

☐ Prescribes procedures for organizing the nonprofit corporation, filing or amending its articles of incorporation, and appointing its board of directors.

☐ Allows the board of directors to negotiate voluntary development charge agreements with owners of real property located in, and businesses operating within the district and prescribes collection and enforcement processes for such charges.

☐ Establishes a procedure for dissolving an ADD or repealing the development plan.

☐ Terminates the authority to create new ADDs after December 31, 2023.

Energy-efficient building deduction

☐ Establishes a procedure by which the designer of a public building may request allocation of a federal income tax deduction for the design and installation of energy-efficient interior lighting, HVAC, hot water, or building envelope systems.

☐ Prohibits a state or local government entity (or its agents or employees) from seeking, soliciting, or accepting fees, payments, or other consideration for allocating the deduction.
Municipal special assessment notices

- Revises certain notice procedures involving municipal corporation special assessments.

Battery-charged fences

- Creates safety standards for battery-charged fences in nonresidential zones.
- Authorizes political subdivisions to regulate battery-charged fences in nonresidential properties, to require a permit or fee for a battery-charged fence pursuant to a permit or fee for an alarm system, and to prohibit the installation or use of a battery-charged fence in a nonresidential zone that does not meet the act’s standards.

Waiver of post-secondary tuition and fees

- Extends Ohio residency status to qualify for a waiver of post-secondary tuition and fees for the child of a public service officer or a U.S. armed services member killed in the line of duty, and the surviving spouse or qualified former spouse of a public service officer, if the child or spouse was an Ohio resident when the public service officer or service member was killed.
- Qualifies a surviving child, spouse, or qualified former spouse for a waiver of post-secondary tuition and fees for a certificate program.
- Names these provisions the “Anthony Dia Act.”

School drinking fountains, water bottle stations

- Prescribes minimum drinking fountain and water bottle filling station requirements for new state-assisted classroom facility construction projects.
- Requires public schools to ensure that each drinking fountain and water bottle filling station installed as part of a project is regularly cleaned and maintained.

Conveyance

- Authorizes the conveyance of approximately 63 acres of land in Trumbull County owned by Kent State University.
H.B. 264

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wilkin and O’Brien

Effective date: Emergency: January 9, 2021

- Authorizes the Ohio Water Development Authority to make loans and grants to persons and government agencies for refinancing waste and water management facilities.
- Authorizes the Authority to provide for the financing and refinancing of loans made for those facilities and to adopt rules governing the financing and refinancing of loans to government agencies for those facilities.
- Authorizes the Authority to issue water development revenue bonds and notes for paying any part of refinancing one or more of those facilities.
Listed on the following pages is the legislative history of each bill enacted in 2020. The legend at the top left-hand corner of the following pages contains abbreviations for various actions taken on the bills. The committees of the House of Representatives and Senate are abbreviated as follows:

### House
- AGE: Aging and Long-Term Care
- AGD: Agriculture and Rural Development
- AVS: Armed Services and Veterans Affairs
- COM: Commerce and Labor
- CVJ: Civil Justice
- CRJ: Criminal Justice
- EWD: Economic and Workforce Development
- ENR: Energy and Natural Resources
- FED: Federalism
- FIN: Finance
- FIS: Financial Institutions
- HEA: Health
- HED: Higher Education
- INS: Insurance
- PSE: Primary and Secondary Education
- PU: Public Utilities
- RR: Rules and Reference
- SLG: State and Local Government
- TPS: Transportation and Public Safety
- WM: Ways and Means

### Senate
- AG: Agriculture and Natural Resource
- ED: Education
- EPU: Energy and Public Utilities
- FIN: Finance
- FS-HMD: Finance – subcommittee on Health & Medicaid
- GG: General Government and Agency Review
- GOR: Government Oversight & Reform
- HHM: Health, Human Services and Medicaid
- HED: Higher Education
- INF: Insurance and Financial Institutions
- JUD: Judiciary
- LSV: Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
- RR: Rules and Reference
- TCW: Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
- WM: Ways and Means
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### Status Report of Legislation - 133rd GA

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| 11      | H. Cmte. Assigned Note: Reported substitute by HEA 6/11/19; re-referred to RR 6/11/19; reported by RR and re-referred to FIN 6/18/2019; reported by FIN 6/19/19  
Eff. Date Note: Appropriations effective 6/19/20 |
| 65      | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 6/19/20 |
| 66      | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 10/1/20 |
| 151     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 11/22/20; Sections 4 and 5 (amending H.B. 606 of the 133rd General Assembly) effective 12/16/20 |
| 160     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 10/13/20 |
| 164     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency and appropriations effective 6/19/20; provisions regarding religious expression in schools, Quality Community School Support Program, and the additional payment for school districts with a net decrease in FY 2000 state funding effective 9/18/20 |
| 168     | S. Cmte. Assigned Note: Reported amended by AGR 12/4/19; recommitted to AGR 3/4/20; re-reported amended by AGR 5/6/20  
Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 3/27/20; one item vetoed |
| 263     | Eff. Date Note: Most provisions effective 10/9/21; requirement that licensing authorities list disqualifying offenses effective 4/12/21, with a deadline of 10/9/21 |
| 264     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 1/9/21 |
| 312     | Eff. Date Note: Effective 3/31/21; appropriations effective 12/29/20 |
| 339     | S. Cmte. Assigned Note: Reported substitute by INF 6/9/20; recommitted to INF 7/21/20; re-reported amended by INF 9/2/20 |
| 404     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 11/22/20 |
| 409     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 1/7/21; e-school provisions effective 4/12/21 |
| 412     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: Emergency Response Commission's authority to exempt local exercises effective 12/21/20; establishment of Rare Disease Advisory Council effective 3/24/21 |
| 442     | Eff. Date Note: Ohio Teacher Residency Program provisions effective 4/12/23 |
| 481     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 6/19/20 |
| 614     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 10/1/20 |
| 669     | Eff. Date Note: Emergency: effective 10/13/20 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| **A** - Amended | **LV** - Line item veto | **S** - Substitute | **V** - Voted |
| **+** - Additional committee information available at: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/ | **‡** - Additional effective date information available at https://www.legislature.ohio.gov | | |
| **Primary Sponsor(s)** | **Subject** | **Introduced** | **Senate Action** | **House Action** | **Further Action** | |
| 9 | Huffman, M. | Release claim information to group health plan policyholders | 2/12/19 INF | 3/21/19 | 3/21/19 | 3/27/19 | INS | S | 12/11/19 | 12/11/19 | 5/20/20 | 12/17/20 | 1/7/21 | 7/1/21 |
| 21 | Dolan | Allow corporation to become benefit corporation | 2/12/19 JUD | A | 2/28/19 | 3/6/19 | 3/12/19 | CVJ | S | 5/13/20 | 11/18/20 | 12/2/20 | 12/17/20 | 3/24/21 |
| 33 | Hoagland | Modify criminal and civil law for critical infrastructure damage | 2/12/19 JUD | 5/1/19 | 5/1/19 | 5/6/19 | PU | S | 1/30/20 | 12/17/20 | 12/22/20 | 1/11/21 | 4/12/21 |
| 40 | Brenner, McCollay | Enact the Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act | 2/12/19 ED | S | 1/28/20 | 1/28/20 | 5/5/20 | HED | S | 11/24/20 | 12/2/20 | 12/3/20 | 12/17/20 | 3/24/21 |
| 55 | Gavarone | Reduce penalties for violating pandemic-related orders | 2/19/19 JUD | S | 4/3/19 | 5/15/19 | 5/21/19 | CRJ | 11/5/19 | A | 5/6/20 | 6/30/20 | V 7/16/20 | VETOED |
| 68 | Williams | Allow community service in lieu of driver reinstatement fee | 2/26/19 LSV | S | 5/23/19 | 5/29/19 | 5/30/19 | CRJ | S | 12/17/20 | 12/17/20 | 12/22/20 | 1/7/21 | 4/12/21 |
| 126 | McCollay, Rulli | Conduct performance audits of state higher ed institutions | 3/26/19 HED | 5/1/19 | 5/1/19 | 5/6/19 | HED | S | 10/25/19 | A | 1/30/20 | 1/31/20 | 1/31/20 | 5/1/20 |
| 140 | Uecker | Permit concealed carry of non-weapon knives; revise weapons law | 5/1/19 GOR | 6/19/19 | 6/27/19 | 6/28/19 | CRJ | 11/24/20 | 12/17/20 | 12/17/20 | 1/11/21 | 4/12/21 |
|-------------|-------------------|---------|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 175         | Schaffer          | Grant civil immunity-injury, death, loss from carrying handguns; addresses duty to retreat | 7/11/19 | JUD A 11/13/19 | 12/11/19 | 5/5/20 | CVJ 11/18/20 | A 12/17/20 | 12/18/20 | 1/4/21 | 4/6/21 |
| 178         | Schuring          | Authorizes podiatrists to administer flu vaccine | 7/17/19 | HHM 1/31/20 | 2/12/20 | 5/5/20 | HEA 11/12/20 | 11/19/20 | 11/19/20 | 11/27/20 | 3/2/21 |
| 256         | Manning           | Regards sentencing offenders under 18 when committed offense | 12/23/19 | JUD S 9/16/20 | 9/23/20 | 9/30/20 | CRJ S 12/17/20 | 12/17/20 | 12/18/20 | 1/9/21 | 4/12/21 |
| 263         | Hackett           | Addresses insurer contracts with 340B covered entities | 1/27/20 | FIN A 12/2/20 | 12/2/20 | 12/3/20 | HEA 12/14/20 | 12/17/20 | 12/17/20 | 1/6/21 | 4/12/21 |
| 276         | Roegner, Manning  | Enact Ohio Revised Limited Liability Company Act | 2/11/20 | JUD S 6/30/20 | 7/21/20 | 7/27/20 | CVJ S 12/14/20 | A 12/17/20 | 12/18/20 | 1/7/21 | 4/12/21 |
| 311         | McColley, Roegner | Limit Director of Health order-issuing authority | 5/15/20 | HHM S 9/2/20 | 9/23/20 | 9/30/20 | SLG 11/19/20 | 11/19/20 | 11/19/20 | V 12/3/20 | VETOED |
| 312         | McColley          | Create Hardin Court of Common Pleas domestic relations division | 5/15/20 | JUD S 9/23/20 | 11/18/20 | 11/19/20 | CRJ 12/14/20 | A 12/17/20 | 12/18/20 | 1/9/21 | 1/9/21 |
| 331         | Roegner           | Implement recommendations of Sunset Review Committee | 6/24/20 | GG S 12/2/20 | 12/2/20 | 12/3/20 | SLG S 12/17/20 | A 12/17/20 | 12/18/20 | 1/7/21 | 4/12/21 |

‡ - Additional effective date information available at [https://www.legislature.ohio.gov](https://www.legislature.ohio.gov)
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<th>Senate Bill</th>
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