

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



December 11, 2023

In Case You Missed It:

[CCAO Publishes County Advisory Bulletin on Issue 2 and Adult Use Recreational Marijuana & Webinar on Human Resources Questions After the Passage of Issue 2](#)

[OSBA Finalizes Work of Indigent Defense Task Force as Legislative Task Force Begins Meetings](#)

The Ohio Judicial Conference is dedicated to serving all Ohio judges. The Judicial Conference is the voice of the judiciary & a primary resource to ensure the fair, unbiased, open & effective administration of justice.

- [Issue 2](#), the ballot amendment to **legalize adult-use recreational marijuana** use in Ohio, went into effect 12.7.23. There are several bills in either chamber of the Legislature that might change the substance of the newly effective Issue 2 language, but those efforts are still being negotiated.
- [HB 161](#) (Reps. Hillyer, Miranda) **Sexual Assault**, voted out of the House, 11.29.23. The bill eliminates the spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, and importuning. The bill also permits a person to testify against the person's spouse in a prosecution for any of those offenses.
- [HB 272](#) (Reps. Mathews, Pizzulli) **Guns in Buildings with Courtrooms**, voted out of the House, 12.6.23. The bill allows a concealed handgun licensee to carry a gun in a building in which a courtroom is located (but not a courthouse), provided the court and clerk are not in operation. The bill also permits a nonresident to obtain statutory relief from firearms disability based on an Ohio conviction, guilty plea, or delinquent child adjudication.
- [SB 197](#) (Sen. Antani) **Partial Sealing of Record**, introduced 11.29.23. The bill allows the sealing or expungement of charges dismissed through ILC when those charges are connected to a conviction for OVI, even when other portion of the record are ineligible for sealing.
- [SB 201](#) (Sen. DeMora) **Judicial Party Designation**, introduced 12.6.23. The bill requires all judicial candidates to appear on the nonpartisan ballot.
- [HB 341](#) (Rep. Click) **Recreational Marijuana**, introduced 11.28.23. The bill changes the Issue 2 framework for taxing marijuana and provides authority to municipalities to restrict cannabis use.
- [HB 351](#) (Rep. T. Young) **Abuse of Animal Corpse**, introduced 12.4.23. The bill prohibits treating a companion animal corpse in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities; doing so is an F5 with mandatory psychological evaluation or counseling.
- [HB 354](#) (Rep. Callender) **Recreational Marijuana**, introduced 12.6.23. The bill makes some changes to Issue 2 language, including the creation of various funds that will collect marijuana tax revenue (a local jail fund, a county sheriff fund, a law enforcement training fund, and a crime victims fund); allowing the seizure and sale of any marijuana being prepared and shipped in an effort to evade taxes; and requiring licensing appeals to be filed in the Franklin County Common Pleas Court.
- The Office of the Ohio Public Defender will begin offering a voluntary monthly virtual meeting, the **Reimbursement FAQ and Update Hour**. Learn [more](#).
- Effective 12.31.23, Tim Young will be stepping down as the State Public Defender. The Ohio Public Defender Commission appointed Elizabeth Miller as the **next State Public Defender**.
- The General Assembly is recessing for the winter holidays in mid-December, so this will be the last OJC Legislative Newsletter of 2023. Have a Happy New Year and we'll be back in 2024.

For a complete list of bills & the latest Enactment Summaries, please visit the [OJC website](#).



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