



May 1, 2017

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[Distracted Driving Laws in Ohio Could Get Teeth; Canton Repository, April 23, 2017](#)

[Overdose Victims Don't Always Face Criminal Charges; The Courier, April 24, 2017](#)

[New Program Seeks to Reach Clark County Overdose Patients, Save Lives; Springfield News Sun, April 24, 2017](#)

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

Legislative News: Two Week Review

- **HB 49** (Rep. Smith R.) **Operating Budget**, substitute bill accepted, 4.25.17. A vote on the House floor is expected 5.3.17. The substitute bill currently contains the following provisions:
 - A prohibition against putting non-violent, non-sex-offense F5 offenders with sentences of less than a year in prison; some exemptions are possible, based on a weighted calculus
 - An increase in indigent defense reimbursement, from 50% to 100% in capital cases and up to 50% in all other cases
 - An increase in funds to MAT specialized dockets (for expansion to 18 additional counties) and a funded pilot program for mental health courts in 3 counties
 - Authority for a drug court judge to access OARRS data
 - Changes to the process and eligibility for Certificates of Qualification of Employment, similar to changes currently in SB 3
 - Requirement to expunge ex parte protection orders if, after a full hearing, a protection order is not issued
 - A 90-day credit for confinement or 10% reduction in confinement (whichever is shorter) for obtaining a high school diploma or GED
 - Ability to file a wrongful imprisonment claim in *any* common pleas court; clarification of criteria for wrongful imprisonment; and expansion of wrongful imprisonment to include misdemeanor convictions
 - Eligibility for CBCFs to apply for probation (PIIG) grants from DRC
 - A sunset date of 7.1.17 for the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission



- **HB 9** (Rep. Koehler) **Traffic Lights**, signed by the Governor, 4.30.17. The bill specifies that a recently enacted alternative protocol for crossing an intersection with malfunctioning traffic lights applies only to bicycles. It becomes effective immediately.
- Judges Ken Spanagel and Pat Carroll prepared [entry forms and certificates](#) for use in sentencing an OVI offender to ignition interlock device use, per enactment of HB 388 (Annie's Law).
- The Ohio Public Defender and ODRC prepared a [guide to calculating confinement credit](#).
- The Ohio Attorney General recently updated its application for submitting sealing and expungement orders to the BCII to clarify juvenile record-sealing. The order and/or the application can be [submitted electronically](#).

For a complete list of bills or to view the latest issue of **BillBoard**, please visit the [OJC website](#).



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