



# Judicial Impact Statement

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## SB 207 – Hamilton County Drug Court Modernization

SB 207

Sen. Thomas  
Sen. Wilson

### Title Information

To revise the law governing cases that may be referred to the Hamilton County Drug Court.

### Background

The Hamilton County Drug Court was created in 1995 by the Ohio Legislature. It is the only statutorily-created Drug Court in the state, likely the only such drug court in the country. In 1995, the concept of specialized dockets, like drug courts, was still a novel one. Since that time, the Ohio Supreme Court has certified all subsequent drug courts (and other specialized dockets) that have been organized. Additionally, much has been learned, in Ohio and nationwide, about the best practices – that is to say, the most effective and appropriate practices – for drug courts.

Current law contains an enumerated list of which defendants can participate in the Hamilton County Drug Court. It specifically excludes the people who are at highest-need for such intervention programs; in other words, the list is in direct conflict with established and accepted best practices.

### Judicial Impact

Because the Hamilton County Drug Court cannot, by law, implement best practices in deciding who can participate in the drug court, the Hamilton County Drug Court cannot be certified, and as a result, cannot utilize funding available for certified drug courts.

### Conclusion

SB 207, as-introduced, solves a problem in modernizing the administration of the Hamilton County Drug Court. It should be passed as introduced.

What is a Judicial Impact Statement?

A Judicial Impact Statement describes as objectively and accurately as possible the probable, practical effects on Ohio's court system of the adoption of the particular bill. The court system includes people who use the courts (parties to suits, witnesses, attorneys and other deputies, probation officials, judges and others). The Ohio Judicial Conference prepares these statements pursuant to R.C. 105.911.