

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



April 1, 2024

In Case You Missed It:

[ACLU Files Lawsuit to Block HB 68; March 26, 2024](#)

[OneOhio Opens 2024 Regional Grant Cycle](#)

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.

- [SB 236](#) (Sen. Lang) **Clerks as Deputy Registrars**, introduced 3.26.24. If a clerk of a court of common pleas in a county with a population between 380,000 and 420,000 participates in the competitive selection process to be designated as a deputy registrar for that county, the bill requires awarding the contract to the clerk if the clerk meets the bidding requirements.
- [SB 237](#) (Sens. Gavarone, Manning) **Anti-SLAPP**, introduced 3.26.24. The bill provides that within 60 days of a party being served with a complaint, cross-claim, counterclaim, third-party claim, or other pleading that asserts a certain cause of action (related to communication in a legislative, executive, judicial, administrative, or other governmental proceeding; or a person's exercise of the right of freedom of speech and of the press, the right to assemble and petition, and the right of association, guaranteed by the US and Ohio Constitutions, on a matter of public concern) that party may file a motion for expedited relief to dismiss the civil action or claim. Anti-SLAPP laws are intended to prevent people from using courts, and threats of a potential lawsuit, to intimidate.
- [HB 450](#) (Reps. Lampton, Young) **Voyeurism Through Drone**, introduced 3.20.24. The bill prohibits voyeurism, criminal trespass, and aggravated criminal trespass through the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle system. The offenses, depending on the circumstances, can be an M3, M2, M1, or F5.
- [HB 460](#) (Reps. Hillyer, Seitz) **Automatic Sealing of Records**, introduced 3.28.24. The bill creates a process by which criminal records are automatically sealed. Starting 3 years after the effective of the bill, BCI must monthly identify anyone who is eligible to have criminal records sealed and provide a list to courts and prosecutors. Within 45 days of receiving the list, if the court has not received an objection to the record sealing, the court must order the record sealed. Both BCI and the prosecutor can object under the bill. Each court shall establish procedures to automatically seal criminal records in accordance with the bill.
- Governor Mike DeWine [announced](#) on 3.26.24 that Ohio has distributed one million **fentanyl test strips** in an initiative to combat the opioid crisis. The strips serve as crucial tools in harm reduction efforts, allowing users to test substances for the presence of fentanyl. On 3.25.24, the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review [approved](#) the addition of rule 3701-3-16 to the Administrative Code, which will require emergency departments to report **non-fatal drug overdoses** to the Ohio Department of Health. The rule will take effect 4.8.24.
- [SR 295](#) (Sen. Kunze) **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month**, introduced 3.13.24. The bill designates April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Ohio.
- The Ohio Jury Management Association's 25th Annual Conference is scheduled for 4.26.24. Topics include artificial intelligence, juror excuses, and juror forms.
- **Save the Date!** The OJC's **Annual Judicial-Legislative Exchange** is scheduled for 5.7.24 and is being organized in conjunction with the OSBA's [complimentary CLE panel and Bench-Bar Reception](#). If you would like to participate, please email Justin.Long@sc.ohio.gov.

For Tool & Bench Aids, and the latest Enactment Summaries, please visit the [OJC website](#).



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