

Legislative News: Two Week Review



March 23, 2020

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[Cannabis Legalization
May Be Moving Too Fast;
Scientific American,
March 9, 2020](#)

[Ohio Courts Can Halt Jury
Trials Because of
Coronavirus AG Dave Yost
Says; Cleveland Plain
Dealer, March 18, 2020](#)

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

- **THE 2020 COURT TECH CONFERENCE, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR 4.14.20 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**
- The Ohio Supreme Court's "**Judicial Guide to Public Health**" is available [online](#). The guide provides information about state jurisdiction over public health emergencies; the authority of the Ohio's health agencies; and judicial authority in times of widespread crises. The National Center for State Courts has a [Pandemic Guide](#) and a [pandemic preparedness page](#) online.
- Additional resources responding to **COVID-19** are available on the [OJC's website](#), including emergency orders, sample continuing operations plans, a no-cash bail policy, suggestions for jails, and suggestions for and sample signs for public spaces.
- Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost issued an [opinion on halting jury trials](#), 3.18.20. The Medina County prosecutor pressed for **COVID-19 guidance** on Ohioans' constitutional right to justice in crowded courts, jury rooms and hallways, citing "the exponentially increased risk of exposure to the citizens called for jury duty, prosecutorial staff and the court staff as well."
- Governor DeWine announced on 3.9.20 proposed **changes to post-release control** in Ohio. A [report](#) contains 10 recommendations relative to officer caseload size, electronic monitoring, and risk assessments. Notable recommendations include: reducing caseloads to 50:1 (and 40:1 for specialized caseloads); partnering with DPS to better respond to violations on nights and weekends; enforcing inclusion and exclusion zones for every offender; and monitoring highest-risk offenders longer.
- **SB 5** (Sens. Dolan, Kunze) **Promoting Prostitution Penalties and CQE**, effective 3.12.20. Current law states a violation of RC 2907.22 (Promoting Prostitution) is an F4, and increased to an F3 if a minor is involved. The bill increases the penalty to an F3 in additional circumstances: a previous conviction of violence; 2 or more previous convictions under RC 2907.22; or an accompanying conviction for a violation of RC 2925.03 (Drug Trafficking). It was amended in the House to include to changes to the CQE process: (1) a cap of \$50 on CQE fees and (2) a presumption in favor of getting a CQE.
- **HB 158** (Sen. Blessing) **Limited Driving Privileges**, signed by the Governor, 3.10.20 Under existing law, a court may grant limited driving privileges to a person whose license has been suspended for failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility (an "FRA" suspension) on the driver's second (and subsequent) offense, but not on the first offense. H.B. 158 allows courts to grant limited privileges on a first offense, on the condition that the person presents proof of financial responsibility and enrolls in a reinstatement fee payment plan. The bill also waives the filing fee for an application for limited driving privileges on an FRA suspension if the applicant is indigent. To establish indigence, the applicant must apply and qualify under existing procedures set forth in R.C. 2323.311.
- The **new federally-compliant IDs**, to be effective 10.1.20, require [certain documents](#), some of which will require the assistance of the courts.

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



[Marta Mudri](#)

Legislative Counsel
*Civil Law; Specialized
Dockets; Community
Corrections*



[Shawn Welch](#)

Deputy Legislative Counsel
*Probate Law; Domestic
Relations Law; Juvenile Law*



[Josh Williams](#)

Deputy Legislative Counsel
*Criminal Law; Traffic Law;
Appellate Law; Magistrates*



[Justin Long](#)

Legislative Services
Specialist;
*Publications; PCCO;
Professionalism*