



November 13, 2018

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[New State Law Makes Ticketing for Distracted Driving Easier; Marietta Times, November 1, 2018](#)

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

- The state's voters rejected state **Issue 1**, titled *To Reduce Penalties for Crimes of Obtaining, Possessing, and Using Illegal Drugs*, by nearly 2-to-1, according to final but unofficial results from the secretary of state's office, 11.7.18.
- **HB 754** (Rep. Brinkman) **Animal Abuser Restrictions**, introduced 10.29.18. The bill prohibits a convicted animal abuse offender from owning, possessing, having custody of, or residing with a companion animal for a specified time period, from 5 years to 15 for a misdemeanor animal abuse conviction and from 15 years to a lifetime for a felony animal abuse conviction.
- **HB 755** (Reps. Brinkman, Lanese) **Animal Abuser Registry**, introduced 10.29.18. The bill requires the Attorney General to establish an animal abuser registry. It also requires the courts to collect a \$10 fee from each offender, and to submit that fee along with required information on the offender to the AG, to be credited to a fund for maintaining the registry.
- **HB 759** (Reps. Duffey, Antani) **Ballot Photography**, introduced 11.1.18. The bill alters the current law prohibiting an elector from allowing someone to see his/her ballot, and therefore would allow an elector to photograph and make public the elector's own ballot.
- The Ohio Supreme Court is accepting [grant applications](#) for **tech initiatives**, 10.18.18. The grants are meant to fund technology projects designed to remove barriers to the efficient and effective administration of justice. The deadline to apply is 11.16.18. Any court of appeals, common pleas court (including its internal divisions), municipal court, or county court is eligible to submit an application.
- Pursuant to **HB 95**, the Department of Public Safety has made available an online course for people ticketed for **distracted driving**. Under the new law, a driver can be fined an additional \$100 if the moving violation that led to the ticket was a result of distracted driving. A distracted driver may elect, instead of paying the \$100, to attend a distracted-driving safety course. Upon successful completion of the course, written confirmation can be submitted to the court along with payment for any other fines imposed, and the additional \$100 fine will be waived. The course can be located on the [BMV website](#).
- The new [National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction resource](#), was launched 10.31.18 by the National Reentry Resource Center and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. The database compiles state and federal statutes, so that regulations triggered by a particular conviction can be identified.
- Two **new Justices** were elected to the Ohio Supreme Court, 11.6.18: Michael Donnelly, of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas and Melody Stewart, of the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

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



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