



July 27, 2020

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[Timeline of Ohio House
Speaker Larry
Householder Case:
Cincinnati Enquirer
7.22.20](#)

[Ohio Public Health Orders](#)

*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.*

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- Speaker of the House Larry Householder has not yet resigned or issued a statement concerning his position. Gov. Mike DeWine has said he is prepared to call a special session of the House for the purpose of removing him, if necessary. The House is scheduled to convene session on 7.28.20, possibly to select a replacement for Rep. Householder.
- [SB 55](#) (Sen. Gavarone) **Enhanced Drug Trafficking Penalties**, vetoed by the Governor 7.17.20. The bill, which as-introduced pertained only to increased penalties for offenses involving drug trafficking near treatment facilities, was amended to limit penalties for violating a public health order; the Governor vetoed the bill because of those amendments. Under the bill, a violation of local or state public health order could only result in a warning on the first offense, and a minor misdemeanor with a capped fine for each subsequent offense. A veto override is still a possibility.
- [SB 343](#) (Sens. Craig, Kunze) **Sealing Eviction Records**, introduced 7.23.20. The bill would allow that under certain circumstances, and upon the motion of a tenant, landlord, or sua sponte, a court may order the expungement of an eviction. If such a motion is made 7 years or more after the eviction and the landlord has not provided an objection to the motion, the court is required to grant the expungement.
- The Office of the Ohio Public Defender projects the **indigent defense reimbursement rate for FY21** (which started 7.1.20) will be 70%. The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in reduced funds available for reimbursement. However, second only to FY20, FY21's reimbursement rate will be one of the highest in the history of Ohio's indigent defense reimbursement. Contact the OPD's Policy & Outreach team at outreach@opd.ohio.gov with any questions.
- The ongoing pandemic has disrupted criminal sentencing and placement in corrections facilities. **Halfway houses and CBCFs** are active and available across Ohio. There's [more information](#) online.
- Effective 7.1.20, are a [variety of amendments](#) to **Rules of Practice and Procedure**, including changes to CivR 4, 16, 26, and 53; CrimR 46; AppR 3, 19, and 21; JuvR 4 and 42; Evidence Rules 601 and 902; the uniform traffic ticket; and a new standard civil indigency filing fee form.
- Nominations for the **2020 John and Ginny Elam Pro Bono Award**, which recognizes a lawyer's exceptional pro bono legal work, are being accepted until 8.14.20. The award recipient will be able to designate a non-profit to receive a grant. Nominations can be sent to Award Selection Committee Chair, Honorable Jeffrey E. Froelich, Second District Court of Appeals of Ohio, 41 N. Perry Street, P.O. Box 972, Dayton, OH 45422 or froelichj@mcoho.org. Nominations should include a description of the qualifications of the nominee, as well as contact information for the nominee and nominator.
- Please note: the **OJC's Annual Meeting**, initially planned to be an in-person and virtual event will now be a virtual-only event. Registration information is available [here](#), or call 614.387.9750.

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



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