



March 5, 2018

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[Victim Assistance to Add Chatting, Texting to Contact Methods; Akron Beacon Journal, February 21, 2018](#)

[Completed Testing of 13,931 Rape Kits Signals Progress; cleveland.com, February 23, 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

- **HB 1** (Reps. Manning, Sykes) **Dating Violence**, passed by the Senate, 2.20.18; amendments concurred to in the House, 2.28.18. The bill provides that people in a dating relationship can obtain protection orders, if necessary, from a domestic relations court.
- **SB 260** (Sens. Skindell, Tavares) **Assault Weapons Ban**, introduced 2.20.18. The bill prohibits a person from knowingly possessing or acquiring an assault weapon and requires the Attorney General to prepare a firearm and ammunition transactions database.
- **SB 263** (Sens. Huffman, Wilson) **Notary Public Modernization Act**, introduced 2.22.18. The bill authorizes the Secretary of State to establish statewide training, testing, certifying, and disciplining of notaries public with a commission in this state.
- **HB 515** (Rep. Pelanda) **Child Re-Homing**, introduced 2.20.18. The bill addresses child re-homing and non-judicial grants of parental rights. Under the bill, the offense of endangering children would include selling or transferring a child for anything of value.
- **HB 520** (Reps. Hughes, Miller), **Human Trafficking**, introduced 2.21.18. The bill increases the penalty for soliciting when the person solicited is 18 or older, and caps the fine for soliciting in this circumstance at \$2,500, up to \$1,000 of which may be deposited into the Victims of Human Trafficking Fund. Its companion is **SB 267** (Sens. Brown, Kunze), introduced 2.26.2018.
- **HB 523** (Reps. Lanese, Perales) **Animal and Child Abuse Registry**, introduced 2.21.18. The bill establishes animal abuse reporting requirements and requires that the Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program be notified when a person serving in the armed forces is investigated for child abuse or neglect or domestic violence.
- **HB 527** (Rep. LaTourette) **Visitation**, introduced 2.26.18. The bill allows a person with a significant, ongoing relationship with an incompetent or ward based on strong affection to petition the probate court for reasonable visitation with that incompetent or ward if visitation has been interfered with or denied.
- **HB 528** (Reps. Rezabek, Smith) **Corpse Abuse Penalties**, introduced 2.26.18. The bill expands the offense of abuse of a corpse to provide that if the person also knowingly dismembers, severs, separates, dissects, or mutilates the corpse, the offense is an F1 subject to a mandatory prison term of 6-11 years. If done as part of a ceremony, rite, initiation, observance, performance, or practice, it is an F2 subject to standard F2 sentencing, but with a mandatory prison term of 6-11 years if done to the corpse of a child.
- The OJC's annual **Judicial-Legislative Exchange** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2018. If you are interested in participating this year, please contact Justin.Long@sc.ohio.gov.

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



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