



April 4, 2016

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[State Court: Domestic Violence Law Unfair to Gay Couples; Dayton Daily News, March 24, 2016](#)

[Ohio Supreme Court Adopts Rule for Shackling of Juveniles; Dayton Daily News, March 28, 2016](#)

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

- [SB 297](#) (Sen. Hughes) **Threatened School Violence**, introduced 3.21.16. A local board of education can authorize a maximum 60 day-expulsion of a student who threatens people or property, if the student takes some step towards carrying out the threat. The superintendent can require an assessment of the student and can extend the expulsion up to 1 year if an assessment is not undergone – the expulsion can carry over to the next school year, if applicable.
- [SB 299](#) (Sen. Hottinger) **Perry County Municipal Court**, introduced 3.24.16. The bill establishes the Perry County Municipal Court as of 1.1.17.
- [HB 493](#) (Reps. Ryan, Sears) **Child Abuse Reporting**, introduced 3.21.16. The bill authorizes a “health care professional,” if child abuse is suspected, to also examine siblings of the possibly-abused child; an examination does not constitute a law enforcement investigation and the health care professional is immune from civil or criminal immunity for conducting such an investigation.
- [HB 494](#) (Reps. Antonio, Boyd) **Gun Possession**, introduced 3.24.16. The bill requires a court that issues a protection order to determine whether the respondent is prohibited from owning a firearm. If so, the court must require the respondent to transfer all firearms to law enforcement. The petitioner can identify respondent’s guns in the motion for a protection order. The bill requires a similar determination for the crimes of Assault, Aggravated Menacing, and Menacing by Stalking.
- [HB 497](#) (Reps. Brenner, Huffman) **Opioid Treatment Pilot Program**, introduced 3.24.16. The bill creates a statewide pilot program for long-acting opioid antagonist therapy for offenders in a correctional facility or a community residential facility for a felony opioid-related offense or offenders on supervised release for a misdemeanor opioid-related offense.
- Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services is encouraging support of the [Step Up Initiative](#) in Ohio’s counties. The program aims to promote treatment courts instead of jails to treat those with mental illness and co-occurring addictions; counties can sign up for help in a six-step planning process.
- On 3.18.16, the Ohio Attorney General rejected the [Ohio Medical Cannabis Care Amendment](#). On 3.21.16, he rejected the [Medicinal Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Amendment](#). He reviewed and accepted the second submission of the [Medical Use of Marijuana Amendment](#), 3.25.16.
- After the OJC’s Executive Committee meeting on 3.18.16, we bid farewell to our Executive Director, [Mark Schweikert](#), who retired on April 1 after 10 years of service to the Judicial Conference. We wish him much luck as a visiting judge!

For a complete list of bills that affect the judiciary, please visit the [OJC website](#).



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