



February 20, 2024

In Case You Missed It:

[Yost, Other AGs, Say Threatened VOCA Shortfall Could 'Devastate' Victim Services; The Mount Vernon Grapevine, February 7, 2024](#)

[BJA Adult Treatment Court Funds Available](#)

The Ohio Judicial Conference is dedicated to serving all Ohio judges. The Judicial Conference is the voice of the judiciary & a primary resource to ensure the fair, unbiased, open & effective administration of justice.

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- **SB 213** (Sen. Cirino) **Guardianship Alternative**, introduced 1.17.24. The bill codifies supported decision-making as a nonrestrictive alternative to guardianship for adults with developmental disabilities.
- **SB 223** (Sens. Lang, Rulli) **Organized Retail Theft**, introduced 2.7.24. The bill creates the Organized Retail Theft Advisory Council and an investigative task force and it modifies theft offenses and penalties related to retail property. The bill is a companion to [HB 366](#) (Rep. Ghanbari).
- **HB 385** (Reps. Richardson, Williams) **Human Trafficking Record Expungement**, introduced 1.24.24. The bill allows any person who is or was convicted of an M, F4, or F5 for the expungement of the record of conviction of that offense, if the person's participation in the offense was a result of the person having been a victim of human trafficking. The bill is a companion to [SB 214](#) (Sen. Kunze).
- **HB 392** (Reps. Plummer, Stewart) **Nitrogen Hypoxia Use in Executions**, introduced 2.1.24. The bill authorizes use of nitrogen hypoxia as a method of execution. Nitrogen hypoxia is to be used if the person sentenced to death elects to use nitrogen hypoxia; otherwise lethal injection is used. If a person does not choose nitrogen hypoxia but, at the time the sentence is to be administered, it is not possible to use lethal injection, then nitrogen hypoxia will be used. The bill prohibits the disclosure of execution identifying information.
- **HB 395** (Reps. Brewer, Lorenz) **Juvenile Drivers**, introduced 2.1.24. The bill lowers the age for a juvenile to get a temporary permit and alters penalties for first-time juvenile traffic offenders.
- **HB 396** (Reps. Brennan, Williams) **Marijuana Police Dogs**, introduced 2.6.24. The bill appropriates money to replace drug-sniffing dogs who can detect marijuana.
- **HB 401** (Reps. Demetriou, Miller) **Offense of Deepfake Distribution**, introduced 2.6.24. The bill creates a new offense prohibiting the creation of a deepfake without the consent of the person depicted and with the intent to harass, extort, threaten or harm the person depicted. If the creator of the deepfake intends to distribute, does distribute, or solicits another to create a deepfake with the intention of distribution, it is an M1 at first offense and an F5 for any subsequent offenses. See also [HB 410](#) (Rep. Miller).
- **Did you know?** The OJC staff curates a list of tools and bench aids for judges. Visit our website for a new [flowchart about eligibility of sealing and expunging criminal records](#) and for a new [chart summarizing marijuana offenses](#) post-Issue 2.
- **Save the Date!** The OJC's **Court Technology Conference** is scheduled for 4.3.24. The Court Tech Conference explores new developments in court technology and serves as a resource to help Ohio judges effectively use technology.
- **Save the Date!** The OJC's **Annual Judicial-Legislative Exchange** is scheduled for 5.7.24 and is being organized in conjunction with the OSBA's [complimentary CLE panel and Bench-Bar Reception](#). If you would like to participate, please email Justin.Long@sc.ohio.gov.

For Tool & Bench Aids, and the latest Enactment Summaries, please visit the [OJC website](#).



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