



February 16, 2021

In Case You Missed It:

[*Domestic Violence is a Pandemic Within a Pandemic; Time Magazine, February 4, 2021*](#)

[*Ohio Makes Big Leaps Forward on Criminal Justice Changes; Dayton Daily News, February 8, 2021*](#)

[*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

- [**SB 34**](#) (Sen. Brenner) **Increase in Arson Penalties**, introduced 2.2.21. The bill makes certain aggravated arson offenses F1s (from F2s), makes current M1 arson a F5, and makes current F4 arson a F3. The bill also increases the penalty for disrupting public services (R.C. 2909.04), from F4 to F3.
- [**SB 36**](#) (Sens. S. Huffman, Manning) **Reparations for Crime Victims**, introduced 2.2.21. The bill expands eligibility for reparations for crime victims from the Attorney General by expanding the definition of “victim.” The bill also allows someone with a felony to apply for reparations (1) as long as the conviction was not within 5 years of applying; (2) or if the felony is a drug possession; or (3) the person is applying as a parent or guardian of a minor child.
- [**SB 39**](#) (Sen. Schaffer) **Statutes of Limitation**, introduced 2.2.21. The bill eliminates the 20-year statute of limitations for felonious and aggravated assault when the victim is a peace officer; it increases the statute of limitations for conspiracy, complicity, or attempt to commit aggravated murder or murder to 20 years (from 6); and it increases the penalties for aggravated assault, tampering with evidence, falsification, and falsification in a theft offense
- [**SB 41**](#) (Sen. Schaffer) **Restitution and Government Costs**, introduced 2.2.21. The bill creates a process by which a government can recoup costs incurred in a response to the threat through reimbursement by a person convicted of an offense connected to a potential serious threat to public safety. It requires restitution for the offenses of Riot, Inciting Violence, and Vandalism.
- The [biennial budget](#) will be formally introduced by Sen. Oelslager and get a bill number 2.16.21. Some of the Governor’s proposals include: \$10 million for the Body-Worn Camera Grant Program; \$8 million for the new Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program; \$1 million for the Ohio Governor’s Expedited Pardon Project, a slight reduction in ODRC’s budget, and a slight increase in DYS’s budget. The Governor’s budget also contains some policy provisions, including gun control measures that were introduced as [SB 221](#) in the last General Assembly, a 50:1 staffing ration for the Adult Parole Authority and a prohibition against distracted driving.
- On 1.20.21, the **CDC’s eviction moratorium** [was extended until 3.31.21](#). **Federal funding is available** in aid for outstanding balances dating back to 3.13.20, or rent or utility payments, or future rent and utility assistance. To be eligible, a tenant must: (1) be at or below 80% of the county’s Area Median Income; (2) have experienced financial hardship because of COVID-19; and (3) demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing instability. Tenants can apply by contacting their local Community Action Agency; additional information is available [online](#).
- In response to the recent decision by the Ohio Supreme Court, [2020-Ohio-6785](#), the [Ohio Public Defender will immediately begin to accept](#), for purposes of reimbursement, the indigent defense costs in cases where a parent is facing a **termination of parental rights in probate court**.
- The deadline for the Supreme Court’s [Technology Initiative Grants](#) is 3.5.21.
- Please visit the OJC website to get [Enactment News](#) and to view our [biennial report](#).

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



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