

## Legislative News: Two-Week Review



April 15, 2024

### In Case You Missed It:

[Report Tracks Illegally Trafficked Guns, April 2024](#)

[OneOhio Opens 2024 Regional Grant Cycle](#)

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.

- **HB 34** (Reps. King, Klopfenstein) **Breast-Feeding Juror Exemption**, voted off the Senate floor, 4.10.24. The bill creates an exemption from jury duty for anyone with an affidavit averring breast-feeding of a baby up to a year old. Despite repeated requests to improve this bill to address accommodations for all potential jurors, the bill will be soon sent to the Governor for signature.
- **HB 478** (Reps. Edwards, LaRe) **Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Occupants**, introduced 4.8.24. Under the bill, a record owner of real property (or the record owner's authorized agent) may request the county sheriff to immediately remove a person who unlawfully occupies a residential premises on that real property. The bill also prohibits the use and sale of fraudulent deeds. [HB 480](#) (Reps. Demetriou, Young), also introduced 4.8.24, is similar but contains an emergency clause.
- **HB 486** (Reps. Brent, Carruthers) **Aisha's Law**, introduced 4.11.24. Under the bill, a law enforcement officer, on behalf of a victim of domestic violence, may request an emergency protection order from a judicial officer during any period of time that the court is not open for regular business.
- In [State v. Carter](#), (Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-1247), decided 4.4.24, the Ohio Supreme Court upheld a conviction, but found that some of the evidence was unconstitutionally admitted. Eli Carter's **constitutional right to confront witnesses** against him had been violated when the trial court allowed his former boss to testify remotely from Minnesota during the 2022 trial.
- In [Estate of Tomlinson v. Mega Pool Warehouse, Inc.](#), (Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-1065), decided 3.26.24, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that under Civ.R. 38(D), a party **may not unilaterally withdraw a jury demand**. Once a party in a civil case requests a jury trial, the request cannot be withdrawn unless all the parties agree, even if required jury deposits have not been paid.
- The Ohio Attorney General announces \$2.45 million in funding available to courts to help improve the completeness of the **state's criminal records database**. Funding has been allocated in 3 parts: [\\$1.2 million for LiveScan devices](#) (digital fingerprint capturing machines); [\\$750,000 for juvenile courts or clerks of courts to electronically report adjudication information](#); and \$500,000 for common pleas, municipal, or county courts and clerks of courts to defray the [cost of recovering case dispositions not previously reported to BCI](#). The deadline to apply for the grants is 5.15.24.
- The Ohio Jury Management Association's 25th Annual Conference is scheduled for 4.26.24. Topics include artificial intelligence, juror excuses, and juror forms. One of the courses, **Jury Management Process Improvement**, is approved for 4 CLE. Contact Judicial College staff at [OhioCourtEDU@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioCourtEDU@sc.ohio.gov) with any questions.
- On 5.2.24, the Ohio State Bar Foundation is holding a symposium on **trauma informed lawyering** at the Ohio Statehouse, covering topics like the impact of trauma, red flags of a trauma response, how to deal with individuals that have experienced trauma in the courtroom and more. The cost to attend is \$25 and CLE will be provided. [Register](#) or contact [Lisa Ray](#) with questions.
- **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](mailto:Justin.Long@sc.ohio.gov).

For Tool & Bench Aids, and the latest [Bill Impact Statements](#), please visit the [OJC website](#).



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