



April 20, 2020

### Legislation and Policy in the News:

[The Fear is Real: Prisoners  
at High Risk for  
Contracting COVID-19;  
MSNBC, April 10, 2020](#)

[Ohio's Revenge Porn Law  
Brings More Cases but  
Justice Uncertain;  
Columbus Dispatch, April  
13, 2020](#)

*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

- **HB 197** (Reps. Merrin, Powell) Emergency COVID-19 Measures, signed by the Governor, 3.26.20. The bill a provision tolling all statutory deadlines and a provision allowing electronic meetings as compliant with the Public Meetings Act. It has a retroactive effective date of 3.9.20.
- Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor issued an [order](#) in conjunction with the emergency legislation allowing for the delay of a variety of **legal deadlines imposed by Supreme Court Rules**. The Supreme Court has prepared an [FAQ](#) on tolling and the recent changes.
- Resources responding to **COVID19** are available on the [OJC's website](#), including a library of emergency orders, sample continuing operations plans, a no-cash bail policy, suggestions for jails, and sample signs for public spaces.
- **HB 604** (Rep. Rogers) **Sealing Criminal Records**, introduced 4.10.20. The bill expands eligibility for sealing and shortens the waiting times, and puts time limits around hearings (45-90 days).
- **HB 610** (Rep. Cupp) **Crime Victim Rights**, introduced 4.16.20. The bill aims to conform statute to Marsy's Law provisions recently adopted to the Ohio Constitution.
- On 4.17.20, Governor DeWine **commuted the sentences of 7 inmates** as part of an effort to keep prisons as uncrowded as possible during the pandemic. On 4.14.20, the CIIC approved the **emergency release of 141 inmates** for the same reason.
- ODRC Video Support Office can schedule videoconference hearings with inmates of ODRC. The preferred way to schedule is via email to [DRC.Videoconference@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:DRC.Videoconference@odrc.state.oh.us) with the following information per request. Please do not send pdf documents.
  - Name of Court
  - Date of the requested hearing
  - Start time
  - Anticipated length of hearing
  - Institution
  - Inmate name
  - Inmate number
  - Type of hearing (if applicable)
  - Case number (only needed if hearing)
  - Court contact name
  - Court contact phone number
- **Please note:** the ODRC number for **Transitional Control Recommendation** notifications has changed. Please send those notifications via fax 614.816.2819 or via email to [DRCBCS.JudicialResponses@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:DRCBCS.JudicialResponses@odrc.state.oh.us)

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



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