

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



June 1, 2020

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[DeWine Urges Peaceful Protests; Columbus Dispatch, June 1, 2020](#)

[DeWine Administration Announces Employee Pay Cuts to Help Fill \\$2.5 Billion Ohio Budget Hole; Cleveland Plain Dealer, June 2, 2020](#)

[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.

- The OJC Jury Service Committee has created a [document to aid in convening a grand jury or conducting a jury trial during a pandemic](#). This is a work in progress and feedback is appreciated. It is available on the OJC website, along with other similar resources. A [webinar](#) on this topic took place 5.28.20; it was recorded and is available to those who could not attend. There will be a follow-up webinar soon.
- The OJC jointly with the Association of Municipal and County Judges of Ohio, has developed a [guide for continuing municipal court operations safely during the pandemic](#).
- **SB 55** (Sen. Gavorone) **Increased Criminal Penalties**, passed informally by the Senate, 5.27.20. The bill enhances penalties for drug trafficking committed in the vicinity of a community addiction services provider, at the same level as if the offense was committed in the vicinity of a school or a juvenile. The bill was amended on the floor to make violating an order of the Health Director or the Department of Health during a pandemic a minor misdemeanor for a subsequent offense (the statute currently prohibits violation of an order but does not specify a penalty, RC 3701.352).
- **HB 285** (Reps. Brent, Greenspan) **License Reinstatement Amnesty**, passed by Senate 5.20.20 and Senate amendments concurred in the House 5.28.20. The bill establishes a permanent Driver's License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program that is similar to the pilot amnesty program that expired 12.2019.
- **HB 272** (Reps. Hillyer, Oelslager) **Court Jurisdiction**, passed by the Senate, 5.27.20. The bill expands Ohio's "long-arm" statute in civil suits. The bill was amended on the Senate floor to (1) prohibit any elected official from changing the date, location, or manner of an election except as currently allowed in statute and (2) prohibit any elected official from issuing an order to close places of worship.
- **HB 431** (Reps. Abrams, Carfagna) **Sexual Exploitation Database**, passed by the House 5.28.20. The bill creates the Sexual Exploitation Database for convictions of "prostitution offenses," defined as violations of RC 2907.24 (Solicitation). The bill was amended to include the entirety of [SB 13](#), which changes the treatment of juvenile victims of human trafficking. Currently, there are two categories of juvenile victims – those younger than 16 and those between 16 and 18 years old – and the bill extends the same treatment to all juvenile victims 18 and younger.
- **HB 637** (Rep. Cross) **Hardin County Domestic Relations Division**, referred to House Civil Justice Committee, 5.27.20. The bill reallocates jurisdictional responsibilities of current judges of the Hardin County Court of Common Pleas to create a Domestic Relations Division.
- Each year the Justice Administration & Innovation (JAI) Committee of the OSBA presents the **Innovative Court Programs and Practices Award** to bring greater visibility to exemplary programs in Ohio's courts. The JAI Committee is [now accepting applications](#) for the 2020 award.

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



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