

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



July 5, 2022

In Case You Missed It:

[Ohio's 6-Week Abortion Ban Takes Effect; Toledo Blade, June 24, 2022](#)

[Law Allows Ohioans to Ignite with Delight; Youngstown Vindicator, June 24, 2022](#)

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.

- **SB 351** (Sens. Maharath, Thomas) **Firearms**, introduced 6.22.22. The bill requires a firearm transfer to be made through a dealer or law enforcement agency, requires a background check when a firearm is transferred, raises the minimum age to purchase a firearm to age 21, increases the penalty for improperly furnishing firearms to an underage person, establishes a process for extreme risk protection orders, and prohibits the negligent storage of a firearm.
- **HB 698** (Reps. Creech, Kick) **Eminent Domain**, introduced 6.7.22. Among other things, the bill establishes that "public use" does not include property use for recreational trails; changes the burden of proof for the taking agency from "preponderance of the evidence" to "clear and convincing evidence"; makes the initial written good faith offer the minimum award of compensation to the owner; and authorizes an award of damages to the owner if the taking agency is shown to have engaged in coercive tactics.
- **HB 699** (Reps. Galonski, Seitz) **Criminal Justice Omnibus**, introduced 6.13.22. The bill as-introduced is a companion to **SB 288** (Sen. Manning).
- The Office of Criminal Justice Services is accepting grant applications for the \$10 million Ohio Court Backlog Reduction Program. **HB 169** recently dedicated \$250 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to first responders, and is meant to support "every aspect of our criminal justice system," according to a statement from the Governor's office.
- In **State v. Montgomery**, Slip Opinion 2022-Ohio-2211, decided 6.30.22, the Ohio Supreme Court found that the constitutional right to a fair trial is negatively impacted if the alleged victim of a rape is permitted to sit at the prosecutor's table at the trial and is designated as a "state's representative." The majority opinion explained that this treatment of the victim was "structural error" that permeated the entirety of the trial.
- New Rules of Practice and Procedure took effect 7.1.22. Among the changes is a requirement that courts provide for case filing by electronic means. **SCR 16** recently blocked a number of proposed Rules that would have facilitated remote proceedings in limited circumstances.
- Ohio Legal Help released its **2021 Impact Report**. Since the onset of the pandemic, OLH has helped over 1 million families by providing legal information and resources through a mobile-first platform.
- The OSBA is sponsoring a virtual educational opportunity on 7.21.22 at 1pm on limited scope representation or unbundled legal services, so judges know when to accept an attorney appearing on a limited basis and understand the rules governing the use of limited scope representation. The webcast is accredited for 1.0 hour of CLE Professional Conduct credit.
- **Save the Date:** the Ohio Judicial Conference's Annual Meeting takes place 9.15.22 and 9.16.22. This year's theme is "Envision this World: A Modern Judiciary." Registration is available on the Ohio Judicial Conference's website.

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



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