



July 13, 2020

**Legislation and Policy
in the News:**

[Chief Asks Legislature to Change Statute Requiring Consideration of Ability to Pay Court Costs; Ohio Court News, July 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.

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- **SB 3** (Sen. Eklund, O'Brien) **Drug Reform**, passes Senate, 6.30.20. The bill changes most felony drug possession charges to misdemeanors; an amendment added to the bill before it passed requires that the charges be brought in common pleas court. Another amendment altered pending changes to Sec. 2929.15, requiring the 90- and 180-day caps to be reduced by any jail-time credit and also clarifying that a sentencing court retains jurisdiction over an offender who violates community control even after a revocation that sends the offender to prison.
- **HB 606** (Rep. Grendell) **Pandemic Immunity**, passes Senate, 6.30.20. The bill provides civil immunity from lawsuit or disciplinary action to health care providers working during a declared emergency (from 3.9.20) through 12.31.20. The bill contains a provision of general immunity for actions based on transmission or contraction of the various coronaviruses. If the statutory general immunity is not applicable, a person who has standing to sue cannot form a class action. The bill has an emergency provision, which means it will go into effect as soon as it has been signed, but the bill was also amended in the Senate and the House has not yet concurred in the amendments, so the bill has not yet been sent to the Governor for signature.
- **HB 713** (Reps. Leland, West) **Citation Quotas**, introduced 7.1.20. The bill prohibits the use of arrest and citation quotas by law enforcement.
- **HB 715** (Reps. Crossman, Upchurch) **Juvenile Custodial Interrogations**, introduced 7.1.20. The bill makes any statements made by a juvenile during a custodial interrogation inadmissible unless the juvenile was made aware of Miranda rights, was allowed to consult with a guardian or attorney, was with a guardian or attorney when waiving the right against self-incrimination and during the interrogation, and was not misled by law enforcement during the interrogation.
- **HB 719** (Reps. Crawley, West) **Sentence Reductions**, introduced 7.1.20. The bill lays out a procedure for retroactive application of a legislative reduction of a sentence for a crime.
- The ongoing pandemic has disrupted criminal sentencing and placement in corrections facilities. **Halfway houses and CBCFs** are active and available across Ohio. There's [more information](#) online.
- Effective 7.1.20, are a [variety of amendments](#) to **Rules of Practice and Procedure**, including changes to CivR 4, 16, 26, and 53; CrimR 46; AppR 3, 19, and 21; JuvR 4 and 42; Evidence Rules 601 and 902; the uniform traffic ticket; and a new standard civil indigency filing fee form.
- Nominations for the **2020 John and Ginny Elam Pro Bono Award**, which recognizes a lawyer's exceptional pro bono legal work, are being accepted until 8.14.20. The award recipient will be able to designate a non-profit to receive a grant. Nominations can be sent to Award Selection Committee Chair, Honorable Jeffrey E. Froelich, Second District Court of Appeals of Ohio, 41 N. Perry Street, P.O. Box 972, Dayton, OH 45422 or froelichj@mcohio.org. Nominations should include a description of the qualifications of the nominee, as well as contact information for the nominee and nominator.

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



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