



February 6, 2017

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[Ballot Initiative Would Guarantee Rights of Ohio Crime Victims; WOSU Media, January 26, 2017](#)



The Ohio Judicial Conference is dedicated to serving all Ohio judges. It is the voice of the judiciary and the primary resource to ensure the fair, unbiased, open, and effective administration of justice.

Legislative News: Two Week Review

- [HB 1](#) (Reps. Manning, Sykes) **Dating Violence**, introduced 2.1.17. The bill expands the ability to obtain a protection order to victims of dating violence who are not in a domestic relationship and for acts currently covered by RC 2903.214.
- [HB 2](#) (Rep. Seitz) **Employment Civil Rights**, introduced 2.1.17. The bill creates new processes for filing and hearing claims of discrimination in employment.
- [HB 4](#) (Rep. Cupp) **Cocaine Amounts**, introduced 2.1.17. In determining drug amounts, the entire mixture is included with the weight of the drug itself (in response to *State v. Gonzales*, 2016).
- [HB 6](#) (Rep. Barnes) **Criminal Records**, introduced 2.1.17. The bill prohibits websites from accepting a fee to remove or correct criminal record information.
- [HB 7](#) (Rep. Cupp) **Medical Malpractice**, introduced 2.1.17. The bill prohibits the use of certain types of evidence in a medical malpractice claim and abrogates *Roberts v. Ohio Permanente Medical Group, Inc. (1996)* (adopted the loss of chance doctrine).
- [HB 13](#) (Rep. Gonzales) **Jury Service Excuses**, introduced 2.1.17. The bill allows breast-feeding mothers to provide affidavits exempting them from jury service.
- [HB 20](#) (Reps. Boggs, Gonzales), **Damages Cap**, introduced 2.1.17. The bill removes the cap on non-economic damages for torts arising out of a rape or assault offenses.
- [SB 1](#) (Sen. LaRose) **Fentanyl**, introduced 1.31.17. The bill increases penalties for drug trafficking and possession offenses that involve fentanyl.
- [SB 3](#) (Sens. Balderson, Beagle) **Workforce Development**, introduced 1.31.17. The bill contains several provisions aimed at improving the CQE process.
- [SB 4](#) (Sens. Kunze, Oelslager) **Record Expungement**, introduced 1.31.17. The bill allows a person to expunge records if the records are related to charges that were dismissed or ended in a not guilty finding due to being a victim of human trafficking.
- [SB 7](#) (Sens. Bacon, Manning) **Protection Orders**, introduced 1.31.17. Service of a protection order is not necessary to convict someone for violating a protection order if that person had actual notice of the protection order.
- [SB 12](#) (Sen. Tavares) **Death Penalty**, introduced 1.31.17. The bill prohibits a person from being executed if the decision to impose the death penalty was based on race.
- [SB 20](#) (Sen. Hackett) **Specification**, introduced 1.31.17. The bill creates a specification of 3-8 years for a felony offense of violence that results in permanent disabling harm.
- **Mark your calendars:** [OJC/OSBA/OPAA Opiate Summit](#) is scheduled for March 24 from 10 until 4 at the OSBA in Columbus. It has been approved for 5 CLE hours.
- *Correction: The last newsletter erroneously mentioned a change in the membership of the Criminal Recodification Committee. Members Sheriff Rodenberg and Justice Lanzinger will continue to serve on the Committee.*

For a complete list of bills that affect the judiciary, please visit the [OJC website](#).



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