

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



December 9, 2024

In Case You Missed It:

[Summary of Petition to End Qualified Immunity Approved by Attorney General Yost](#)

[Commission on Practice and Procedure Opens 2nd Public Comment Period for Proposed Rule Amendments; Period Ends December 26, 2024](#)

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.

- [HB 5](#) (Reps. Baker, Ray) **Adoption Modernization**, concurred on by the House and sent to the Governor for signature, 12.4.24. Among other things, the bill streamlines the process for foreign adoptions and allows a relative, kinship caregiver, legal custodian, or guardian who is adopting to count the child's time in their home toward the 6-month period required before an adoption is final.
- [HB 111](#) (Reps. LaRe, Miller) **Domestic Violence Penalties**, passed by the Senate and sent to Governor for signature, 12.4.24. The bill creates a presumption of prison for F3 domestic violence and increases the sentencing ranges (from 6 months to 12 months; and from 12 months to 18 months).
- [HB 338](#) (Reps. Sweeney, White) **Child Support for Adult Children with Disabilities**, concurred on by the House and sent to the Governor for signature, 12.4.24. The bill allows child support orders to be issued, modified, or extended for children with a disability, even if the children are older than 18. The bill was amended to include a change to the status of the judge of the Lebanon Municipal Court from part-time to full-time. Another amendment clarified disbursement of funds related to computerization fees.
- **Governor's Work Group on Competency Restoration and Diversion** completed its work and published [a report](#), 11.21.24. Some of the recommendations include: piloting pre-trial mental health diversion facilities while charges are held in abeyance; streamlining motions for competency evaluations; and expanding assisted outpatient treatment to more counties. Recommendations that were marked as needing additional discussion include: developing "competency teams" in Ohio courts; expanding specialized docket criteria to allow rural communities to combine dockets; and to expand the use of ILC for more mental health treatment diversion.
- The National Center for State Courts has been supporting congressional efforts to pass the federal [Countering Threats and Attacks on Our Judges Act](#), which would create a national resource center for state/local judges on judicial security. The bill was introduced in both the Senate and House, and unanimously passed the Senate in June. Consider sending a [letter or email](#) to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan to express support for placing the Senate-passed bill on the House suspension calendar for consideration before the end of the year.
- [HB 33](#), the state operating budget, amended R.C. 117.103 to require the Auditor of State to create training material detailing **Ohio's fraud-reporting system** and the means of reporting fraud, waste, and abuse. The section stipulates the [training is mandatory](#) for all public employees and elected officials. Deadlines for completing the training vary; common pleas court judges must complete training by 12.29.24.

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