

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



September 5, 2023

In Case You Missed It:

[Ohio's Arson Registry Just Turned 10 Years old; Is it Working? Canton Repository, August 17, 2023](#)

[NCSL Releases New Report on Front-End Justice: Deflection, Diversion; May, 2023](#)

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 258** (Rep. Carruthers) **Tobacco Sales to Minors**, introduced 8.28.23. The bill increases fines for repeatedly (4 or more times) selling tobacco products to minors. Additionally, the bill authorizes applying the public nuisance law to any place in which a pattern of continuous or repeated sales of tobacco to minors occur.
- Two items have been certified by the Ohio Secretary of State to be on the ballot this fall. [Issue 1](#) concerns **reproductive decisions** and would change the Ohio Constitution by enacting Section 22 of Article I. Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights filed a lawsuit on 8.28.23 against the Ohio Ballot Board challenging the language that the board adopted to appear on the ballot. [Issue 2](#), concerning the legalization and regulation of **adult-use marijuana**, would change the Ohio Revised Code by enacting Sec. 3780. Issue 2 is a citizen-initiated effort to change the law, which qualified for the ballot after [legislators failed to act on the proposal](#).
- The Ohio Department of Correction and Rehabilitation would like to remind judges to include the Ohio Revised Code **subsections for criminal offenses** in sentencing entries. The subsections help determine earned credit eligibility and possible registration requirements. If you would like to access the [Uniform Sentencing Entry template](#) created by the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, please contact interim director [Niki Hotchkiss](#). Use of the template does not require data collection.
- U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown joined Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) on legislation to reauthorize the **Fugitive Safe Surrender program**, which lets people with felony warrants turn themselves in at churches. The program was started in Cleveland and has spread nationwide.
- On 8.17.23, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association called on the Governor to resume executions of people sentenced to death. The OPAA is suggesting a debate on alternative methods of execution, specifically nitrogen hypoxia. As of 7.18.23, the **death penalty** has been dormant in Ohio for 5 years. [SB 101](#) is the latest effort in the legislature to abolish the death penalty entirely.
- The federal Bureau of Justice Assistance has launched a newsletter to help inform criminal justice partners about possible **grants and other resources**. Subscribe [here](#).
- **Did you know?** Most of the content on [OhioLegalHelp.org](#), including information on housing, family law, consumer matters, public benefits, domestic violence and the sealing of criminal records, has been [translated into Spanish](#), ensuring the state's Spanish-speaking population has equitable access to information about the civil justice system.
- **Did you know?** The Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library can assist you and your staff with legal research needs like obtaining LSC analyses back to the early 1960s or determining when a certain word or phrase was added to an existing statute. Email questions to libref@sc.ohio.gov.

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



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