

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



February 18, 2025

In Case You Missed It:

[*Linking Systems of Care for Ohio's Youth \(LSCOY\) helps align systems of care that respond to the needs of Ohio children, youth, families, and caregivers who have experienced victimization.*](#)

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 46** (Reps. Grim, Thomas, C.) **Extreme Risk Protection Orders**, introduced 2.5.25. The bill allows certain persons (a family or household member and a law enforcement officer or agency) to obtain a court order that temporarily restricts a person's access to firearms under specified circumstances. Instructions, information brochures, standard petitions, order forms, and a handbook are to be prepared in consultation with interested parties, including judges.
- **HB 47** (Reps. Santucci, Williams) **Increase Penalties**, introduced 2.5.25. The bill increases the penalties (from F2 to F1, in most cases) for kidnapping, abduction, and human trafficking of a minor (changed from someone younger than 13 to someone younger than 18) or person with a developmental disability. The standard of proof for human trafficking is changed from knowingly to recklessly.
- **SB 64** (Sen. Cutrona) **Increase Penalties**, introduced 2.4.25. The bill increases the penalties for violating companion animal cruelty offenses (ranging from an M2 to an F3) and prohibits a felony animal abuse offender from owning a companion animal in certain circumstances.
- **HB 79** (Reps. Miller, J. and Roemer) **Increased Penalty**, introduced 2.10.25. The bill increases the penalties for assault if the victim is acting as a sports official or the assault is committed in retaliation for the victim's actions as a sports official.
- The OSBA is seeking nominations for the 2025 [Thomas J. Moyer Award for Judicial Excellence](#) and the [Innovative Court Program and Practices Award](#). The deadline to nominate is 5.2.25, and awards will be presented at the OJC Annual Meeting in September. Contact Maggie Ostrowski at mostrowski@ohiobar.org with any questions.
- The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission recently updated the Felony Sentencing Bench Card and it is available [online](#).
- The Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library offers **free legal research services to judges and court staff**. Email your requests to libref@sc.ohio.gov or call us at (614) 387-9680.
- **Save the Date:** The 4th annual ["Understanding and Using Forensic Science and Expert Testimony in the Courtroom."](#) a collaboration between BGSU, the Ohio AG, and the Center for the Future of Forensic Science, is scheduled for 5.14-5.15.25 on the BGSU campus. The training has been approved for 13.5 CLE credits with the goal of assisting attorneys new to forensic evidence. The cost is \$325 and includes meals and parking; limited space is available. [Registration](#) closes 4.27.25.
- **Save the Date: OJC's Court Technology Conference**, scheduled for 4.22.25, focuses on both court technology and policy, and technology leadership and implementation issues. Attendees can choose from several concurrent breakout sessions, in areas such as probation supervision & reporting, instant transcription court reporting, case management systems, court security, judicial bench tools, electronic search and arrest warrants, and more, including the latest product innovations from over 30 exhibitors. Registration opens soon.

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



[Marta Mudri](#)

Legislative Counsel
Civil Law; Specialty
Courts; Community
Corrections



[Shawn Welch](#)

Deputy Legislative Counsel
Probate Law; Domestic
Relations Law; Juvenile Law



[Josh Williams](#)

Deputy Legislative Counsel
Criminal Law; Traffic Law;
Appellate Law; Magistrates



[Justin Long](#)

Legislative Services
Specialist;
Publications; PCCO