



March 17, 2025

**In Case You Missed It:**

[The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission recently updated the Felony Sentencing Bench Card](#)

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.

## Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- [HB 96](#) (Rep. Stewart) **Biennial Operating Budget**, introduced 2.11.25. The first raft of House amendments to the budget bill were due 3.14.25. Testimony on the bill is ongoing and the House is expected to complete its work on the budget by 4.9.25.
- [SB 133, SB 134](#) (Sens. Antonio, Huffman) **Death Penalty**, introduced 3.5.25. The bills both abolish the death penalty; one bill changes the number of peremptory challenges to the jury in death cases where the defendant can be sentenced to life imprisonment (6 jurors) and the other does that and also prohibits public funding for lethal injection drugs in nontherapeutic abortions, assisting suicide, and executing a death sentence.
- [SB 135](#) (Sen. Brenner) **Private Selling Officers**, introduced 3.5.25. In any judicial or execution sale of real estate in which the debtor has not plead or otherwise defended per the Civil Rules, the bill allows the judgment creditor to unilaterally elect that the real estate be sold at a public auction by a private selling officer.
- [SB 139](#) (Sen. Ingram) **Judge Nathaniel R. Jones Day**, introduced 3.11.25. The bill declares May 13 "Judge Nathaniel R. Jones Day" in commemoration of Judge Jones's lifelong commitment to the advancement of civil rights. Judge Jones was born on May 13, 1928 in Youngstown.
- [SB 143](#) (Sens. Blessing, Craig) **Ban the Box**, introduced 3.11.25. The bill prohibits private employers from including on an employment application any question concerning the criminal background of the applicant.
- [HB 146](#) (Rep. Lorenz) **Employee Status of County Probation Officers**, introduced 3.11.25. The bill changes the civil service status in a common pleas county probation department from classified to unclassified.
- [HB 168](#) (Reps. Brennan, Williams) **Criminal Child Enticement**, introduced 3.12.25. The bill requires sexual motivation as an element of the offense of criminal child enticement. The statute was found unconstitutionally broad in [State v. Romage](#), 138 Ohio St.3d 390, 2014-Ohio-783.
- 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 [mostrowski@ohioabar.org](mailto:mostrowski@ohioabar.org).
- **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. [Register](#) now.
- **Save the Date: The OJC's Annual Judicial-Legislative Exchange will take place on 5.13.25. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Justin.Long@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:Justin.Long@sc.ohio.gov).**

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



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