

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



April 28, 2025

In Case You Missed It:

[ODRC Published Petition for CQH \(Certificate of Qualification for Housing\). Required by 135 HB 50](#)

[Judge Weiler's OVI Chart Has Been Updated](#)

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.

- [SB 179](#) (Sen. Johnson) **Veteran Status at Sentencing**, introduced 4.23.25. Under the bill, each court of common pleas, municipal and county court, department of probation, and pre-trial diversion program shall designate at least one individual to use the veteran's reentry search service (VRSS) to investigate and verify the veteran status of each individual served by the institution or entity, appearing before the institution or entity, or who is in the institution's or entity's care or custody, and who is imprisoned or charged with a criminal offense punishable by incarceration.
- [HB 236](#) (Rep. Williams), **Masked Trespassing**, introduced 4.15.25. The bill prohibits masked harassment and masked trespassing, modifies the offense of aggravated riot when the offender is wearing a mask or disguise or is otherwise concealing or attempting to conceal the offender's face, and requires an additional prison term of 1 year for an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony if the offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a specification that the offender wore a mask or disguise or otherwise concealed or attempted to conceal the offender's face in commission of the offense.
- [HB 241](#) (Rep. Lawson-Rowe, Thomas) **Dog Attacks**, introduced 4.17.25. The bill requires a 10-day quarantine period for a dog following an attack and requires a court, under certain circumstances, to hold a hearing to determine the dog's disposition. If a dog warden or law enforcement agency makes a determination that it is not safe to have a dog that has attacked remain in the community, the warden or agency must petition the municipal court or county court that has territorial jurisdiction over the residence of the dog's owner or keeper to order the dog to either be humanely destroyed or be released on the condition that the dog be trained and rehabilitated, as applicable. The court must hold the hearing within ten days after receiving a petition.
- [Recent changes](#) to the **Supreme Court's Rules on Practice** went into effect 4.1.25. Changes include expedited Supreme Court review of lower-court bail decisions; a first-time right of parties before the Court to seek a halt in the execution of its decisions; and a purge of certain Latin phrases and abbreviated references to Court rules.
- On 3.20.25, the Ohio Public Defender published a [memo](#) updating the **reimbursement rate** for the remainder of FY25. Once the FY26-27 budget is finalized and signed into law by Governor DeWine in July, the OPD will issue a memo advising on the estimated reimbursement rate for FY26 (July 2026 – June 2027) and FY27 (July 2027 – June 2028).
- **Last Chance: 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@ohiobar.org.**

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



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