



November 25, 2024

**In Case You Missed It:**

[November is National Adoption Month](#)

[Governor's Work Group on Competency Restoration & Diversion Releases Report](#)

*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 5** (Reps. Baker, Ray) **Adoption Modernization**, passed by the Senate & sent to the House for concurrence, 11.20.24. 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.
  - **SB 335** (Sen. Wilkin) **Joint Sunset Review Committee Report**, introduced 11.20.24. The Ohio Judicial Conference, along with 130 other state agencies, is retained. The OJC is next slated for sunset review in 2028.
  - **HB 690** (Reps. Thomas, Williams) **Voyeurism**, introduced 11.19.24. The bill increases the penalty for repeat voyeurism. A first offense is an M3, a second (or subsequent) offense is an F3.
  - On 11.19.24, in [In re Application for Correction of Birth Record of Adelaide](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-5393A), a divided Supreme Court announced it could not reach a majority decision on whether state law allowed the Clark County Probate Court **to change the sex marker on a birth certificate**. The decisions of the lower courts, to deny a change to the birth certificate, stand.
  - **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.
  - 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.
  - The Senate and House have selected **leadership slates for the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**. Senate Republicans will be led by Sen. Rob McColley as Senate President, Sen. Bill Reineke as President Pro Tempore, Sen. Theresa Gavarone as Majority Floor Leader, and Sen. George Lang as Majority Whip. Senate Democrats will be led by Sen. Nickie Antonio as Minority Leader, Sen. Hearcel Craig as Assistant Minority Leader, Sen. Kent Smith as Minority Whip, and Sen.-elect Beth Liston as Assistant Minority Whip. House Republicans will be led by Rep.-elect Matt Huffman as Speaker, Rep. Gayle Manning as Speaker Pro Tem, Rep. Phil Plummer as Assistant Speaker Pro Tem, Rep. Marilyn John as Majority Floor Leader, Rep. Adam Bird as Assistant Majority Floor Leader, and Reps. Riordan McClain, Steve Demetriou, Nick Santucci and Josh Williams as Majority Whips. House Democrats will be led by Rep. Allison Russo as Minority Leader, Rep. Dontavius Jarrells as Assistant Minority Leader, Rep. Dani Isaacssohn as Minority Whip, and Rep. Michele Grim as Assistant Minority Whip.
- [For Tools & Bench Aids, and the latest Bill Impact Statements, 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