



April 20, 2026

In Case You Missed It:

The OJC's Annual Judicial-Legislative Exchange is Set for May 20, 2026. [Contact Justin Long to sign up!](#)

The Ohio Judicial Conference is dedicated to serving all Ohio judges. The Judicial Conference is the voice of the judiciary and a primary resource to ensure the fair, unbiased, open & effective administration of justice.

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- **SB 418** (Sen. Reynolds) **Expedited Sealing**, introduced 4.2.26. The bill creates a process of “state-initiated sealing” that requires BCI to identify records eligible for sealing – at least monthly – and provide the list to each prosecuting attorney and each court with jurisdiction over the cases in those records. Within 90 days of a record being identified as eligible for sealing by BCI, if the prosecutor has not made an objection, the court must determine whether to seal the record. If the prosecutor does object within the 90-day period, the record cannot be sealed.
- **SB 421** (Sens. Antonio, Manning) **Statutes of Limitations for Sex Offenses**, introduced 4.14.26. Current law provides the statute of limitations for an action for assault or battery is 1 year after the cause of action accrues. The bill increases the period of limitations for a civil action for a victim of a sex offense to 5 years.
- **SB 422** (Sens. Brenner, Schaffer) **Sex Offender Prohibitions**, introduced 4.14.26. The bill prohibits tier II and tier III sex offender/child-victim offenders from knowingly being present on school premises or preschool or child-care center premises (M1; F5 for a repeat offense, and F4 for any subsequent offense). It is an affirmative offense if the person is a parent or guardian of a child who attends the school and is there for a legitimate reason (defined in the bill) or pursuant to a court order authorizing the person’s presence; but, the affirmative defense cannot be asserted if the person previously has been convicted 2 or more times of improperly being at a school. If the prohibition in this bill prevents a registered elector from going to a polling place, the person can vote outside of regular school hours.
- **HB 826** (Rep. Williams) **New Offense**, introduced 4.15.26. The bill prohibits a public official from purposely preventing, obstructing, or delaying federal immigration enforcement (an F5).
- The **Ohio Public Defender released a [memo](#)** on 4.1.26 outlining updates to the Standards and Guidelines for **Appointed Counsel Reimbursement**; *counties are expected to start complying with the updates with their July 2026 reimbursement submissions*. The memo also includes the projected **reimbursement rate for FY27**. Based on the amount appropriated and the spending levels from the past three fiscal years, the OPD is setting the initial reimbursement rate for FY 27 at 80%.
- The **Ohio State Bar Association** is seeking nominations for the 2026 **[Thomas J. Moyer Award for Judicial Excellence](#)** and the **[Innovative Court Program and Practices Award](#)**. The deadline for nominations is 5.1.26, and awards will be presented at the Ohio Judicial Conference Annual Meeting in September. Questions? Contact Maggie Ostrowski at mostrowski@ohiobar.org.
- **Don’t forget!** The new **Superintendence Rule 5(F)** requires courts, prior to 7.1.26, to adopt, by local rule, a reporting to law enforcement compliance plan ensuring that complete, accurate, and timely information on **sentencing disposition is submitted to BCI, LEADS**, and other law enforcement databases. The Supreme Court has developed [templates for sample rules and plans](#).

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



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