



March 31, 2025

In Case You Missed It:

Many Bills Passed at the End of 2024 Go Into Effect March 20 and April 9; See [Enactment Summaries](#) and [Updated Offense List](#)

[Organize a Settlement Week at Your Court with Supreme Court Resources](#)

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 157** (Sen. Lang) **Statutes of Limitations**, introduced 3.25.25. The bill shortens statutes of limitations on written contracts from 6 to 3 years and on oral contracts from 4 to 2 years.
- **HB 177** (Reps. Tims, Williams) **New Evidence Postconviction Relief**, introduced 3.17.25. The bill allows a person to file a motion for a new trial or a petition for postconviction relief if the person produces new evidence that would establish a strong probability of a different result at trial.
- **HB 181** (Reps. Callender, Lawson-Rowe) **Counsel for Indigent Evictees**, introduced 3.18.25. The bill appropriates money for counsel to indigent defendants facing evictions.
- **HB 195** (Reps. Isaacsohn, Mathews) **U.C.C.**, introduced 3.24.25. The bill makes changes to the Uniform Commercial Code.
- **HB 198** (Rep. Fischer, Mathews) **Inhalable, Ingestible Hemp**, introduced 3.25.25. The bill prohibits manufacture, distribution, or sale of hemp-derived consumable products without a license.
- **HB 203** (Reps. Hall, Williams) **Increased Penalties**, introduced 3.26.25. The bill doubles the fines for specific traffic violations in school zones and increases penalties for vehicular assault, vehicular manslaughter, and vehicular homicide in school zones.
- 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).
- The **Correctional Institution Inspection Committee** published its [biennial report](#), making some recommendations to decrease illicit drug use in institutions and to increase preparedness for re-entry into the community. The ACLU published its [Statehouse to Prison Pipeline Report](#).
- 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.
- **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.**

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



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