



April 6, 2026

In Case You Missed It:

The OJC's Annual Judicial-Legislative Exchange is Set for May 20, 2026. [Register now.](#)

The application for the [Court Technology Initiative](#) is now available.

The Supreme Court's [Civility Symposium](#) is scheduled for April 29, 2026 in Columbus

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 393** (Sens. Manning, Timken) **Sex Offenses**, Introduced 3.23.26. The bill expands the offense of pandering obscenity involving a minor and increases the penalty for sexual conduct with a minor. It makes changes to various sexually oriented offenses involving juvenile victims (sexting) and creates the offenses of creating or possessing material depicting sexual conduct with an animal.
 - **SB 394** (Sen. Blessing) **Reminders of Court Proceedings**, introduced 3.23.26. The bill requires courts to electronically notify defendants of hearings in criminal and traffic cases. See also HB 626.
 - **HB 783** (Reps. Gross, Newman) **New Cause of Action**, introduced 3.24.26. The bill creates a cause of action if a chemical abortion is performed without a statement that it may be reversible.
 - **HB 806** (Rep. Bird) **Siblings' Companionship Rights**, introduced 3.31.26. Under the bill, a minor sibling; a minor sibling's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian; or a next friend of the minor sibling who is at least 18 may file a motion with the court for a child's minor sibling to be granted reasonable companionship or visitation rights with respect to the child under certain circumstances.
 - **HB 203** (Reps. Hall, Williams) **Vehicular Offenses**, passed by the House, 3.25.26. The bill increases penalties for vehicular assault and vehicular homicide in a school zone; the bill allows a court to impose double the fines for certain traffic offenses if committed in a school zone.
 - **SB 214** (Sen. Koehler) **Firearms**, passed by the Senate, 3.25.26. The bill removes firearm mufflers and suppressors from the dangerous ordnance classification.
 - **HB 217** (Reps. Cockley, Ritter) **Missing Persons**, passed by the House, 3.25.26. The bill includes a procedure for obtaining a warrant when a person is missing and a crime is suspected. There is a rebuttable presumption that a person is missing as a result of criminal activity if the prosecutor determines the person to be a "high-risk missing person."
 - **HB 249** (Reps. King, Williams) **New Offense**, passed by the House, 3.25.26. The bill creates the new offense of "adult cabaret performance," which is prohibited outside of an adult cabaret. Offense level ranges from an M1 to an F4.
 - **HB 252** (Reps. Bird, Click) **Burglary and Trespass**, passed by the House, 3.25.26. The bill eliminates the element of "force, stealth, or deception" in the current offenses of Aggravated Burglary, Burglary, and Trespass When Person Likely to be Present in Habitation; it replaces this with a "knowingly" standard. The bill generally increases penalties for these offenses.
 - **HB 372** (Reps. Abrams, Plummer) **Increased Penalty**, passed by the House, 3.25.26. The bill eliminates the possibility of parole for anyone convicted of aggravated murder of a peace officer, prosecutor, first responder, or military member.
 - **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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