

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



September 16, 2024

In Case You Missed It:

[September is National Recovery Month](#)

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.

- Public comment is currently open for [proposed changes](#) to the Rules of Practice and Procedure, which mostly reflect recently enacted **constitutional and statutory provisions for victims**. Any comments should be submitted in writing before 10.21.24, to ruleamendments@sc.ohio.gov. Proposals include: expedited appeals and notice of suspension of execution of sentence per the **appellate rules**, meant to give victims notice before the court determines a motion for bail and suspension of execution of sentence; providing the right to an interlocutory appeal for victims; ten changes to the **Criminal Rules** updating definitions and changing language concerning the rights of victims to notice, the right to be heard; changes to **Civ.R. 65** to add an additional requirement that a petitioner's *contact information* (rather than just *address*) be kept confidential in discovery in civil protection order cases; changes to **Evidence Rule 615** altering the term "alleged victim" to "victim"; changes to the **Juvenile Rules** to incorporate constitutional and statutory requirements regarding notice, the right to be heard, and other victim's rights.
- On 9.5.24, the Ohio Supreme Court, in [Hild v. Samaritan Health Partners](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-3338), ruled that the "**same-juror rule**" applies in all negligence cases where juries answer sequential interrogatories. The same three-fourths of jurors must agree on all elements of negligence, including duty, breach, and proximate cause, to reach a valid verdict.
- **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; municipal and county court judges [must complete training by 9.28.24](#).
- [Issue 1](#) on the November ballot would change the Ohio Constitution to create an Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission in place of the current Redistricting Commission. The commissioners will be chosen by a bipartisan screening panel (along with a search firm); **the panel is to be comprised of 4 retired judges**. The application process and qualifications are outlined in the amendment language, as is the work of the panel.
- The Supreme Court of Ohio **Reentry Task Force** released its [report](#), 9.11.24. Recommendations made by the Task Force that impact the judiciary include expanding **specialized court dockets** focused on reentry and enacting legislation to join the [Clean Slate Initiative](#), a national effort to **automatically seal records** for eligible individuals to improve their ability to find jobs and housing.
- **Save the Date:** The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) is hosting a legislative reception on 11.12.24 from 5 to 7 p.m. for **county elected officials**, legislators, and statewide office holders. All county elected officials are invited and encouraged to participate. Contact diana@ohiopa.org with questions or to register.

[For Tools & Bench Aids, and the latest Bill Impact Statements, please visit the OJC Website](#)



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