

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



February 3, 2025

In Case You Missed It:

[Governor's RecoveryOhio Initiative Launches Dashboard to Help Communities Predict, Prevent Overdoses, January 21, 2025](#)

[Summary of Petition to End Qualified Immunity Approved by Attorney General Yost](#)

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.

- **HB 5** (Reps. Williams, Willis) **Repeat Offender Classification**, introduced 1.28.25. The bill creates another repeat offender classification, modifies firearm specifications, increases penalties for certain firearm offenses and specifications, expands relief from firearms disability, and modifies the sealing procedure for Ms, F4s and F5s.
- **SB 5** (Sens. Brenner, Huffman) **Expedited Removal of Occupants**, introduced 1.29.25. The bill, meant to address "squatters," authorizes law enforcement (the county sheriff, a police officer, constable, or bailiff) to implement the expedited removal of unauthorized occupants from residential property. The bill prohibits unlawfully detaining, occupying, or trespassing in a residential dwelling and intentionally causing \$1,000 or more of damage; the offense is F2 criminal mischief. The bill also creates a new offense prohibiting the use (M1) and sale (F1) of fraudulent deeds.
- **SB 38** (Sen. DeMora) **Liability for Injury from Food**, introduced 1.29.25. The bill provides a reasonable expectation test in determining liability for injury caused by consumption of food containing a substance injurious to health and requires that the jury make that determination.
- **SB 53** (Sen. Schaffer) **Civil Actions; Riots & Vandalism**, introduced 1.29.25. The bill creates a cause of action for any person who suffers injury or loss as a result of Vandalism, Riot, or Aggravated Riot and also against anyone who provided material support to perpetuate the offense. The bill also states that it is the intent of the General Assembly to encourage the prosecution of these activities.
- **SB 55** (Sen. Manning) **Marijuana OVI**, introduced 1.29.25. The bill allows a concentration of 5 nanograms of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol in whole blood (not serum or urine) as a per se impairment for purposes of OVI. The bill also makes corresponding changes to the statute regulating evidence of impairment provided at trial.
- **SB 56** (Sen. Huffman) **Revision of Adult-Use Marijuana Laws**, introduced 1.29.25. The bill repeals most of the Cannabis Control Law (2023's citizen-initiated Issue 2) and combines regulations concerning the dispensing, use, and home grow of adult-use and medical marijuana into one chapter.
- **SB 61** (Sens. Gavarone, Manning) **Statutory Court Procedures**, introduced 1.29.25. The bill removes from the Revised Code sections that outline court procedures that are already in Court Rule.
- 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 Maggie Ostrowski at mostrowski@ohiobar.org with any questions.
- The Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library offers **free legal research services to judges and court staff**. Librarians are available to send cases, articles, legislative histories, sections from legal treaties, and run advanced searches for research questions. Email your requests to libref@sc.ohio.gov or call us at (614) 387-9680.

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



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