

Executive

DRCCD9 Confidentiality of victim statements

R.C. 149.43, 2967.12

Specifies that written and oral statements provided by a victim or victim's representative to DRC in connection with the pendency of any pardon, commutation, or parole are confidential and privileged statements, are not public records, and are not subject to subpoena or discovery.

Prohibits those victim statements from being admissible in evidence in any action.

Fiscal effect: None.

DRCCD10 Records related to incarcerated people and supervisees

R.C. 149.43, 5120.21

Restates that records pertaining to inmates committed to DRC and persons under Adult Parole Authority supervision are not public records, except for the following: (1) name, (2) criminal convictions, (3) photograph, (4) supervision status including current and past place of incarceration, (5) and disciplinary history.

Fiscal effect: This appears to clarify current practice, thus there would be no fiscal impact.

DRCCD7 Commitment to DRC

R.C. 2151.311, 2152.26, 2967.28, 5120.16

Permits a court of common pleas to enter into an agreement with DRC under which persons may be electronically committed to DRC.

Requires that persons sentenced to DRC, or to any institution or place within DRC, be conveyed by the sheriff initially to an appropriate facility established and maintained by DRC, or committed electronically for reception, examination, observation, and classification.

Requires the sheriff to convey the sentenced person to DRC or electronically commit the sentenced person to DRC prior to removal of an individual on an out of jurisdiction detainer.

Requires an offender to be committed to DRC before post-release control may be imposed.

Fiscal effect: None, largely codifies current practice.

DRCCD6 Illegal conveyance of weapon or communications device

R.C. 2921.36

Requires the court to impose a mandatory prison term if a DYS employee is guilty of illegal conveyance of a weapon onto the grounds of a detention facility.

Increases the penalty for illegal conveyance of a communications device onto the grounds of a specified governmental facility from a first degree misdemeanor to a fifth degree felony, and the penalty for a repeat violation from a fifth degree felony to a third degree felony.

Executive

Specifies that the penalty for illegal conveyance of a communications device onto the grounds of a specified governmental facility is a third degree felony if the offender is a DRC or DYS employee, and requires the court to impose a mandatory prison term.

Fiscal effect: Potential increase in costs for DRC if longer sentences are served.

DRCCD1 Expedited pardon initiative

Section: 383.20

Earmarks up to \$500,000 in each fiscal year of GRF ALI 501321, Institutional Operations, to be used by DRC to support projects connecting rehabilitated citizens with community projects to advance the expedited pardon initiative and to help eligible individuals navigate the process and access clemency.

DRCCD2 OSU medical charges

Section: 383.20

Requires The Ohio State University Medical Center, including the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute and the Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital, at the request of DRC, to provide necessary care to persons who are confined in state adult correctional facilities.

Requires the provision of necessary inpatient care billed to DRC to be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed the authorized reimbursement rate for the same service established by ODM under the Medicaid Program.

DRCCD3 Transitional housing funding

Section: 383.20

Requires, with regard to use of GRF ALI 501405, Reentry, Housing, and Support Services, priority be given to residential providers that accept and place individuals released from institutions operated by DRC to the supervision of the Adult Parole Authority who were previously rejected by all other residential providers.

DRCCD4 Adult Correctional Facilities Lease Rental Bond Payments

Section: 383.20

Requires GRF ALI 501406, Adult Correctional Facilities Lease Rental Bond Payments, to be used to meet all payments during the biennium by DRC for leases and agreements for buildings. Specifies that the ALI is the source of funds pledged for bond service charges on related obligations issued under the state’s capital improvements and debt financing program.

DRCCD5 Probation Improvement and Incentive Grants

Section: 383.20

Requires GRF ALI 501411, Probation Improvement and Incentive Grants, to be allocated by DRC to municipalities as grants with an emphasis on: (1) providing services to those addicted to opiates and other illegal substances, and (2) supplementing the programs and services funded by grants distributed from GRF ALI 501407, Community Nonresidential Programs.

Executive

DPSCD40 Representation for sworn officers in criminal complaints**R.C. 109.872**

Allows the Governor or the Governor's designee, at their discretion, to approve legal representation for a sworn employee as described below.

Allows a sworn employee who was involved in a use of force incident that resulted in physical harm or death to another individual to apply for legal representation if the use of force was within the scope of that employee's official duties.

Requires the sworn employee's appointing authority to pay the costs of that representation.

Defines "sworn employee" as:

- (a) Enforcement agents appointed to enforce Ohio's liquor laws and rules regulating the use of supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits (i.e. Ohio Investigative Unit);
- (b) The Superintendent and troopers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol;
- (c) Special police officers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol; and
- (d) Other employees of any department, agency, or board of this state who are under the executive branch and ultimately report to the Governor and are authorized to investigate, execute the laws of the state, protect public safety, or enforce the laws of this state as part of their job duties.

Fiscal effect: Potential increase in costs for a sworn employee's appointing authority if legal representation is requested and approved.

Executive

Other Taxation Provisions**TAXCD20 Adult use marijuana excise tax: rate and distribution****R.C. 3780.02, 3780.03, 3780.10, 3780.18 (repealed), 3780.19 (repealed), 3780.22, 3780.23, 3780.25, 3780.26, 3780.30, Section 801.60**

Increases the rate of the excise tax on adult use marijuana, beginning on July 1, 2025, from 10% to 20%.

Reallocates revenue from the tax to substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery programs, the 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline, county jail grant programs, training of peace officers and troopers, construction and renovation of such training facilities, local drug task forces, safe driver programs, Ohio investigative unit operations, Ohio poison control programs and laboratory testing, and temporarily to the AGO for administering requests for expungements. Limits some allocations for these purposes and directs any remaining receipts to the GRF.

Repeals allocations for local governments that host adult use marijuana dispensaries and for the state cannabis social equity and jobs program.

Imposes a 20% excise tax on the illegal sale of marijuana by an unlicensed seller.

Fiscal effect: The Executive estimates an increase of \$86.8 million in FY 2026 and \$175.7 million in FY 2027 in adult use marijuana tax revenue.

Eliminating the allocation to the Host Community Cannabis Fund would decrease adult use tax revenue to municipal corporations and townships that have adult use dispensaries. Under current law, revenue is allocated as follows: 36% to the Cannabis Social Equity and Jobs Fund for DEV's cannabis social equity and jobs program; 36% to the Host Community Cannabis Fund for the benefit of municipal corporations or townships that have adult use dispensaries; 25% to the Substance Abuse and Addiction Fund to support the efforts of MHA to alleviate substance and opiate abuse and related research; and 3% to the Division of Cannabis Control and Tax Commissioner fund to support the operations of the Division and to defray the cost of administering the tax.