

Local Government

H.B. 101

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Bird and Schmidt

Effective date: April 30, 2024; appropriations effective January 30, 2024; certain provisions effective January 1, 2025

Village dissolution

- Restricts a vote on the question of a village's dissolution to general elections held in even-numbered years.
- Modifies the process for winding up the affairs of a dissolved village as follows:
 - Requires a Transition Supervisory Board to be established to supervise the various aspects of the transition.
 - Requires the appointment of a receiver-trustee to perform certain duties including collection of taxes, resolution of debts, distribution of property, continuity of utility services, handling public records requests, and other matters.
 - Requires former village officials to assist the Board.

Geauga County prosecuting attorney

- Requires the Geauga County prosecuting attorney to prosecute all violations of state law arising within the unincorporated areas of Geauga County.

Competitive bidding

- Increases the competitive bidding threshold to \$75,000 for villages and park districts.

Large Settlements and Awards Fund

- Creates a Large Settlements and Awards Fund and directs to the fund all money collected or received by the Attorney General from any court order, judgment, settlement, or compromise exceeding \$5 million.

Reporting election results

- Requires boards of elections and the Secretary of State to transmit election results, including those of county court judge and municipal court judge, to the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court by email or other telecommunication device.
- Requires election results on the Governor, members of Congress, and others to be emailed to the Senate President, rather than mailed.

F-9 liquor permits

- Modifies eligibility for an F-9 permit as follows:

- Eliminates the law restricting the permits to Franklin County;
- Expands the eligible applicants to include a nonprofit that provides or manages entertainment programming at a municipal park under an agreement with the municipal corporation that owns the park; and
- Eliminates the restriction that the park property be the subject of an agreement between various entities for hosting art or orchestral performances.
- Allows a person to possess an opened container of beer or intoxicating liquor that has been lawfully purchased for on-premises consumption from an F-9 permit holder.
- Continues to allow a person to possess on an F-9 permit premises a container of beer or intoxicating liquor that was not purchased from an F-9 permit holder with the permit holder's permission, but eliminates qualifications that a person could do so only if certain conditions applied, including attending a free art or music performance.

Treasurer of State

- Exempts from the Public Records Law certain records related to the linked deposit programs from the Treasurer of State and participating financial institutions.
- Specifies the termination date for public depositories designated on or around July 4, 2022, is Sunday, July 6, 2025.

Primary and secondary education

- Increases the minimum state share percentage for joint vocational school districts from 5% to 10% for FY 2024 and FY 2025.
- Qualifies a child for the Autism Scholarship Program if, in addition to other requirements, the child is eligible to enter school in any of grades preschool through 12.
- Clarifies that projects that received conditional approval from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission during 2023 are subject to the recently expanded 16-month window during which voters must approve bonds and tax levies.
- Maintains school districts' and community schools' authority to employ an educator to teach outside of the educator's designated grade band beyond 2023.
- Clarifies that the State Board of Education, rather than the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), is responsible for criminal records checks and RAPBACK enrollment of pre-service teaching permit holders.
- Requires DEW, rather than the State Board, to adopt and update reading competencies for all reading credentials and training.
- Removes the DEW Director from the Educator Standards Board and its subcommittees.
- Makes corrective changes related to the establishment of DEW and the transfer of State Board's and Superintendent of Public Instruction's powers and duties.

Higher education

- Exempts private, nonprofit colleges and universities from posting on their websites that students have a right to access transcripts for the purpose of seeking employment, regardless of whether they owe an institutional debt.
- Abolishes the Center for Civics, Culture, and Society at the University of Cincinnati.
- Establishes a Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development at Wright State University.
- Transfers from the University of Cincinnati to Wright State a \$2 million earmark to support the Center.

Preschool and school child programs

- Revises the law effective January 1, 2025, governing minimum standards for licensed preschool and school child programs, including by requiring the Department of Children and Youth to adopt those standards in rule, rather than to do so jointly with the DEW Director.

STRS membership for pre-service teaching

- Includes, as State Teachers Retirement System members, student teachers who hold pre-service teacher permits and are employed as substitute teachers, and excludes them from School Employees Retirement System membership.

Doula services

- Modifies recently enacted law establishing doula certification by the Board of Nursing and creating a Medicaid program to cover doula services, including by requiring applicants for doula certification to undergo a criminal records check.
- Renames the Doula Advisory Board as the Doula Advisory Group, revises its membership, and requires it to submit annual reports to the General Assembly beginning in 2026.

Respiratory care applicants' information

- Eliminates the requirement that the State Medical Board's register of applicants and licensees show the residential address of applicants to practice respiratory care.

9-1-1 charges and fees

- Applies the next generation 9-1-1 access fee to wireless service priced under \$5 per month.
- Modifies the payment sources for refunds of wireless 9-1-1 charges and next generation 9-1-1 access fees.

Tax law

- Makes clarifying changes to a recently enacted income tax deduction for contributions to homeownership savings accounts.

- Makes technical corrections to various tax laws that were amended or enacted in H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly, the main appropriations act.

Other appropriations

- Appropriates \$1.6 million in FY 2024 and \$1.25 million in FY 2025 from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) to the Department of Natural Resources for the Buckeye State Tree Nursery.
- Reappropriates for FY 2025 any funds remaining of the \$15 million appropriated from GRF for FYs 2022, 2023, and 2024 for one-time payments to freestanding dialysis centers.
- Increases the cap on State Public Defender reimbursements for capital cases from \$75 to \$140 per hour in FYs 2024 and 2025.
- Corrects drafting errors in the appropriations for the Department of Development in H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly.

H.B. 315

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hall and Seitz

Effective date: April 3, 2025; appropriations effective January 2, 2025; certain provisions effective July 1, 2025; contains item vetoes

Township law

- Specifies which body serves as the organizational board of commissioners of a new community authority if more than one body is eligible.
- Authorizes townships to impose a “protect and serve charge” of up to \$1 on admissions to certain event venues in the township to fund police, fire, and emergency medical services.
- Modifies various township newspaper publication requirements to allow publication via the print or digital edition of a newspaper of general circulation, the official public notice website, or the township’s website and social media account.
- Eliminates the requirement that the county prosecutor approve specifications of fire equipment.
- Specifies that boards of township trustees’ emergency powers include emergencies due to a natural disaster, civil unrest, cyber attack, or the derailment of a train.
- Eliminates a requirement that each township provide its fiscal officer with a book for the record of marks and brands.
- Repeals law requiring townships to obtain the voter approval before constructing or improving a town hall above a certain cost (currently \$75,000).
- Allows townships to establish township preservation commissions.

- Establishes a civil enforcement process for the resolution of zoning violations and the collection of zoning fines.
- Requires a permanent license plate issued to a township to display the term “township” in bold letters.
- Allows a township to use general funds to pay for machinery, tools, material, and labor used in constructing, reconstructing, maintaining, or repairing roads and culverts.

Municipal forestry assessments

- Allows a municipal corporation, by ordinance, to provide 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities with an exemption from special assessments assessed for managing shade trees in public rights-of-way and along the streets of the municipal corporation.

Extension of certain township TIFs

- Allows a township to extend the life of an existing tax increment financing (TIF) district created before 2006 for up to 15 years if certain conditions are met.

County engineer

- Allows a board of county commissioners, when the office of county engineer is vacant, to contract with another county’s engineer to perform the duties of county engineer in that county, and gives the county engineer supplemental compensation for doing so.
- Prohibits a county engineer from engaging in the private practice of engineering or surveying in a county in which the person is the county engineer or acting county engineer.
- Eliminates the compensation schedule that applies to county engineers with a private practice, and instead subjects all county engineers to the compensation schedule for county engineers without a private practice.

County creation of additional port authority

- Allows a county that is included in an existing port authority to create a new port authority if the existing one has jurisdiction in more than one county and the county creating the port authority has a population of 100,000 or less.

Digital publication of notices

- Requires a publisher to establish a government rate for posting legal advertisements, notices, and proclamations that are required by law to be published, in a newspaper of general circulation’s digital edition on the newspaper’s website.

Video public records

- Authorizes a state or local law enforcement agency to include in its public records policy the requirement that a requester pay the estimated actual cost before beginning the process of preparing a video record for inspection or production.

- Specifies that the agency may charge the actual cost, not to exceed \$75 per hour of video produced, nor \$750 total.

Community action agencies

- Requires a nonprofit agency or organization designated as a community action agency to be incorporated under Ohio's nonprofit incorporation laws.
- Exempts a nonprofit agency or organization, which has been designated as a community action agency by the Community Services Division of the Department of Development, from the requirements of Ohio Open Meetings Law and specifies that the agency is not a state agency or public office.
- Requires that the written operating procedures of a community action agency specify methods by which the board may conduct meetings using virtual electronic technology, and that the board may provide notice of its meetings by any means deemed appropriate.

Ethics law and village mayors (VETOED)

- Would have exempted village mayors from the prohibition on having an unlawful interest in a public contract under certain circumstances. (VETOED)

Recreation boards

- Specifies that automated external defibrillators must be placed in each sports and recreation location at any time that the location is hosting an organized youth sport activity.

Designated public service workers

- Allows a judge and a prosecuting attorney to submit an affidavit to have their name removed from the general tax list and duplicate of real and public utility property.

Common pleas and municipal court clerks (VETOED)

- Would have required elected clerks of the common pleas court or municipal court to determine the best means and methods for storing, maintaining, and retrieving all papers delivered to the clerk in compliance with existing court rules (VETOED).

Electronic license applications

- Requires a state department, agency, or office that issues a license or another authorization to a person to practice a trade or profession to require applicants to apply through an electronic licensing system.
- Permits a department, agency, or office to adopt a policy allowing an applicant to apply for a license or another authorization using a paper application.

Notaries

- Requires a notary to take the oath of office in person.

- Modifies and reorganizes the law governing disciplinary actions by the Secretary of State (SOS) upon allegations of notary misconduct, including by eliminating the administrative hearing requirement and prohibiting the reappointment of any notary whose commission is revoked.
- Requires electronic submission of requests for a duplicate or amended commission.
- Revises the information required to be included in the notary database maintained by the SOS.
- Increases the maximum fee for online notarization from \$25 to \$30, and authorizes online notaries to charge an additional \$10 technology fee for use of an identity verification process.
- Reorganizes the law concerning notarial certificates provided by non-notaries (like judges) who are authorized to perform notarial acts.
- Reorganizes the law concerning the execution of an acknowledgment and specifies the meaning of an acknowledgment executed on behalf of a Limited Liability Company (LLC).
- Expounds upon the standard for determining if a notary has “personal knowledge” or “satisfactory evidence” for verifying the identity of a person making an acknowledgment or jurat, or the validity of that person’s signature.
- Specifies that notaries have statewide jurisdiction and consolidates the list of notarial acts that a notary or other authorized person may perform.
- Specifies the form of an oath or affirmation given by a notary to a person signing a jurat.
- Expands the list of county government officials that are required to accept electronically notarized documents to include clerks of courts and deputy registrars.
- Specifies that a notary commission is not an occupational or professional license for purposes of the state’s occupational regulation laws.

Limited liability companies (LLCs)

- Requires the SOS to charge a \$50 filing fee for an LLC statement of authority, an amendment or cancellation of a statement of authority, or a denial of a statement of authority.
- Eliminates the \$50 filing fee for certificates of correction concerning the registration or assumed name of a foreign LLC.
- Requires a certificate of merger to include the name and mailing address of the person or entity that will provide a copy of the merger agreement to shareholders, partners, or equity holders of a constituent entity.

Compensation for intercollegiate student-athletes

- Authorizes an institution of higher education (a state institution of higher education or a private college) to compensate a student-athlete for use of the student-athlete's name, image, or likeness (NIL).
- Specifies that student-athletes are not an institution's employee because the institution compensates them for use of their NIL.
- Prohibits a student-athlete from using specified property belonging to an institution to further opportunities for the student-athlete to earn NIL compensation, unless authorized by the institution.
- Authorizes an institution to provide money, resources, or other benefits to an institutional marketing associate or third-party entity to incentivize it to facilitate opportunities for student-athletes to earn NIL compensation.
- Prohibits an institution, athletic association, conference, or other group or organization with authority over intercollegiate athletics from taking specified actions regarding a student-athlete for obtaining representation from an athlete agent or attorney or for earning NIL compensation or any other athletics-related compensation.
- Designates as confidential and not a public record under the Public Records Law any contract or proposed contract providing a student-athlete with NIL compensation that is disclosed to an institution as required by law.
- Authorizes student-athletes, institutions, institutional marketing associates, and third-party entities to sue for violations of the act, and provides immunity to employees of institutions, associates, and entities for damages resulting from a student-athlete's inability to earn NIL compensation.
- Prohibits a student-athlete under age 18 from entering into a contract that provides the student-athlete with NIL compensation unless the contract includes the written consent of the student-athlete's parent, guardian, or custodian.

Historic rehabilitation tax credit

- Prohibits the Department of Development, in awarding a historic rehabilitation tax credit, from considering whether a project will benefit an economically distressed area.

Opportunity zone investment tax credit

- Allows the tax credit for investments in Ohio opportunity zones to be claimed against the financial institutions tax or domestic or foreign insurance company tax.

Sales tax exemption: sports facilities

- Expands a sales tax exemption for construction materials incorporated into the construction of a professional sports facility to apply to any subsequent construction and to include other tangible personal property incorporated into its construction.

- Authorizes the team-owning lessee of a county-owned sports facility to sign the exemption certificate, on behalf of the county, to claim the exemption.

Commercial activity tax situsing for motor vehicles

- Situses receipts to Ohio from the sale or lease of a motor vehicle by a dealer, for commercial activity tax (CAT) purposes, only if a certificate of title with an Ohio address is issued for that vehicle.
- Applies the situsing provision retrospectively and prospectively to all tax periods.

Sales and use tax on delivery network services

- Allows a company that coordinates delivery of goods between customers and local businesses to obtain a waiver from the requirement that it collect and remit sales or use tax on the goods as if it were the seller.
- Subjects the delivery charges of a company that has obtained a waiver to sales or use tax, thus requiring the company to collect and remit tax on its delivery services but not the cost of goods delivered.

Transfer of properties subject to tax foreclosure

- Imposes new requirements on the direct transfer of abandoned, tax-foreclosed property to a land bank or political subdivision without a foreclosure sale.

CAUV: land subject to state conservation easements

- Allows farmland to continue to be valued at its current agricultural use value (CAUV) for property tax purposes if the land becomes subject to a water conservation project funded by the H2Ohio program.
- Allows property owners whose land did not qualify for CAUV for tax year 2023 or 2024, but would have under the act, to apply for a refund.

Excess funds in foreclosure sales

- Requires the officer that conducts a property foreclosure sale, including a tax foreclosure sale, to deliver any excess funds to the clerk of court not later than 45 days after the confirmation of sale.
- Authorizes the clerk, in certain circumstances, to notify the judgment debtor of excess funds by posting notice on the clerk's website, sending a text message, or posting the notice in a conspicuous place in the court where the foreclosure action commenced.
- Increases from 60 to 90 days the time within which the clerk of court must give excess funds in a tax foreclosure sale to the county treasurer.

Brownfield Remediation Program

- Eliminates procedures for designating a county lead entity under the Brownfield Remediation Program, and, instead, revises what is considered a lead entity by both:

- Eliminating the stipulation that a lead entity must be a grant award recipient and the responsible party with whom the Department of Development executes a grant agreement for grant funds; and
- Clarifying that a lead entity means a county, township, municipal corporation, port authority, conservancy district, park district or other similar park authority, county land reutilization corporation, or organization for profit.
- Regarding the law that allows money appropriated to counties that is unspent after a calendar year to be made available for grants statewide on a first-come, first-served basis, eliminates the requirement that those grants be limited to 75% of a qualifying project's total cost.
- Delays the effective date of these changes until July 1, 2025.

Conservancy district charitable and social welfare trusts

- Allows the board of directors of a conservancy district that includes all or parts of more than 16 counties to both:
 - Establish a charitable trust, social welfare trust, or both, that meets certain requirements, to benefit the conservancy district and the purposes for which the district was created, in perpetuity;
 - Use surplus money in its maintenance fund, other than proceeds derived from the levy of maintenance assessments, to provide financial support to a conservancy district charitable trust or social welfare trust.
- Establishes requirements for the instrument creating a conservancy district charitable trust or social welfare trust and documents evidencing payment and receipt of financial support by the trusts.
- Exempts conservancy district charitable trusts and social welfare trusts from the Public Records Law and from being considered a "subdivision" under the uniform depository act.
- Exempts conservancy district charitable trusts and social welfare trusts from:
 - Various charitable trust oversight powers granted to the Attorney General, including authority for the Attorney General to investigate trustees of charitable trusts;
 - General law governing the incorporation and administration of charitable trusts.
- Exempts money in a conservancy district charitable trust and social welfare trust and money received for them from the meaning of "public moneys" under the uniform depository act.
- Adds rents, incomes, royalties, and other revenues received from the use of the conservancy district's lands to the conservancy district maintenance fund.
- Increases statutory competitive bidding thresholds from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for conservancy districts and, starting in 2025, increases the threshold amount by 3% each year.

Homebuyer Protection Act

- Requires the Superintendent of the Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing to adopt rules that require a real estate broker or salesperson to provide the seller a second disclosure of laws that relate to anti-discrimination in the home-buying process and the penalties for violating those laws.
- Prohibits the real estate broker or salesperson from marketing or showing a seller's home before providing the disclosure form to, and receiving a signed and dated copy from the seller.
- Authorizes the Superintendent to enforce the act's provisions.
- Exempts the rules from the law concerning reduction of regulatory restrictions.
- Names the disclosure mandate the "Homebuyer Protection Act."

Public utility costs classified as regulatory assets

Governmental entity right-of-way regulation costs

- Adds to those costs for which a public utility subject to the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) jurisdiction may file an application with PUCO for accounting authority to classify them as a regulatory asset, a cost that is directly incurred on or after April 3, 2025, due to a "governmental entity" regulation of the utility's occupancy or use of a "right-of-way."
- Defines "governmental entity" as a state agency or political subdivision that is not a municipal corporation and a "right-of-way" as land designated for public use that is owned or controlled by a governmental entity and is not a private easement and includes a municipal corporation public way.
- Requires PUCO to process applications for classifying governmental entity public way regulation costs as regulatory assets in the same manner as applications for the recovery of municipal public way regulation costs as regulatory assets.
- Requires PUCO to authorize such accounting authority as may be reasonably necessary to classify the cost as a regulatory asset.
- Requires PUCO to establish a charge and collection mechanism permitting the utility's full recovery of a regulatory asset described above if treatment of the cost as a regulatory asset is determined to not be practical or if deferred recovery would impose a hardship on the utility or its customers.
- Exempts cost recovery authorized as a regulatory asset as described above from any provision of law or agreement establishing price caps, rate freezes, or rate increase moratoria.

Municipal public way regulation costs

- Clarifies that a public utility may apply to PUCO for accounting authority to classify, as regulatory assets, its costs related to the use or occupancy of a municipal public way and

incurred as a result of municipal corporation regulation (instead of local regulation as in former law) of its use or occupancy.

Waste energy recovery systems

- Includes as a “waste energy recovery system,” under several provisions of electric utility law, a facility that produces and uses steam, or transfers it, from recovered waste heat from a manufacturing process to another manufacturing process or to generate electricity.

Underground Technical Committee

- Adds an OHIO811 nonvoting advisory member to the Underground Technical Committee (UTC), who is not counted for determining whether a quorum is present and the number of votes necessary to constitute a majority for the UTC to take action.
- Requires the OHIO811 member to be appointed by the Governor to a four-year term, and the first Ohio811 member to be appointed by June 2, 2025.
- Requires the OHIO811 member to assist and provide certain information regarding the Ohio underground protection service law and processes to the UTC.

Post-release employment assistance

State identification cards

- Requires the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) and the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to make available and submit completed applications for state identification cards or temporary identification cards (“ID card”) on behalf of individuals in their custody.
- Requires DRC and DYS to initiate the application process within the nine months prior to an individual’s release if the individual is serving a sentence more than one year, or within a reasonable time if the individual is serving a sentence less than one year.
- Authorizes the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to create a process by which DRC and DYS may submit the applications.
- Eliminates the identification cards issued by DRC and DYS that were used by individuals to obtain an ID card issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).
- Specifies that the ID cards issued by the BMV to residents in the custody of DRC or DYS are free.
- Delays the administrative implementation of the ID card requirements by 18 months.

Employment-related documents

- Requires DRC, if resources or third-party assistance is available, to provide every inmate released from prison who committed a felony offense, who intends to live in Ohio, with documentation to assist the inmate in obtaining post-release employment, creating a resume, and conducting a practice job interview.

- Exempts certain inmates from being required to complete resumes or practice job interviews prior to release from incarceration, including those who decline to participate.

Cooperative economic development agreements

- Allows, under certain conditions, a cooperative economic development agreement (CEDA) to include a new type of agreement that would allow a political subdivision's regulations to apply within territory wherein the regulations would not otherwise apply.
- Specifically includes road and bridge improvements and regulations as types of government improvements and services that CEDAs should be liberally construed to allow.
- Specifies that nothing in the CEDA law expands or diminishes the exception of public utilities from certain regulations.

Insurance coverage

Occupational therapy, physical therapy, and chiropractic services

- Prohibits a health benefit plan from imposing cost sharing for occupational therapy, physical therapy, or chiropractic services that exceeds the cost sharing for an office visit to a primary care physician or osteopath physician.
- Requires a health plan issuer to clearly state on its website and on all relevant literature that coverage for occupational therapy, physical therapy, and chiropractic services is available along with any limitations.
- Designates a violation of these provisions an unfair and deceptive practice in the business of insurance.

Hearing aids

- Requires health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons 21 and younger.
- Names the requirement "Madeline's Law."

Residential facilities for foster children

- Enacts law that applies to residential facilities for foster children operated by public children services agencies (PCSAs), private child placing agencies (PCPAs), private noncustodial agencies, or superintendents of county or district children's homes, including:
 - Notification requirements when a child under a residential facility's care and supervision presents to an emergency department or hospital for an injury or mental health crisis or has an interaction with a law enforcement officer;
 - A requirement that residential facilities, PCSAs, and PCPAs have 24-hour emergency on-call procedures for purposes of those notifications;

- Mandatory monthly visits by a PCSA or PCPA to check on the well-being of a child under a residential facility's care and supervision;
- Circumstances that require a PCSA or PCPA to review a child's residential facility placement;
- PCSA and PCPA oversight of services provided by community organizations to a child under a residential facility's care and supervision;
- Notification requirements regarding delinquent children placed in a residential facility;
- Certification requirements, including site visits at least annually, compliance with local planning and zoning requirements, and notifications to the local authorities;
- Mandatory criminal records checks for employment or appointment in a residential facility, including conditional employment while a records check is pending if authorized by the federal government;
- Various rulemaking and reporting requirements regarding Department of Children and Youth (DCY) oversight of residential facilities in Ohio, including:
 - ❖ Determining and establishing incentives to attract residential facilities to underserved regions;
 - ❖ Establishing a procedure for individuals to communicate concerns about residential facilities;
 - ❖ Conducting surveys of residential facility, PCSA, and PCPA staff about those facilities;
 - ❖ Reviewing reports, concerns and complaints about residential facilities it receives under the act;
 - ❖ Reviewing and updating training requirements for residential facility staff.
- Creates the Study Committee to Evaluate the Placement of Delinquent Children in Residential Facilities to evaluate, make recommendations, and issue a report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Educational stability of foster children

- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to provide all school districts with best practices to help ensure the educational stability of students who are in a PCSA or PCPA's custody.
- Requires the school district in which a foster child is enrolled after being placed in a residential facility to assess the needs of the child for appropriate services and interventions and to use the results to make recommendations regarding the child.
- Requires DCY and DEW to create a standard form for PCSAs and PCPAs to convey to school district foster care liaisons information necessary to support the education of children in their custody.

Peace officer training

- Requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission, to adopt rules governing the training of peace officers in identifying and interacting with at-risk youth.

Medical free speech and opinions (VETOED)

- Would have prohibited an administrative or disciplinary action against a licensed health care professional, hospital, or inpatient facility for expressing a medical opinion that does not align with those of the licensing board, a local board of health, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), or another health authority (VETOED).
- Would have prohibited the licensing board and ODH from infringing on medical free speech (VETOED).

Denial of fluids and nutrition

- Generally prohibits the denial of fluids or nutrition to a hospital or inpatient facility patient.

World Health Organization

- Specifies that the World Health Organization lacks jurisdiction in Ohio.
- Prohibits a political subdivision, public official, or state agency from enforcing or using any state funding to implement or incentivize any guideline, mandate, recommendations, or rule issued by the World Health Organization, in particular, one that prohibits issuing a prescription for, or dispensing a drug, including an off-label drug.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio Advisory Board

- Establishes the 12-member Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio Advisory Board to coordinate the mission of the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in the state.

Specialty license plates

- Creates the “St. Vincent-St. Mary High School” and “Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library” specialty license plates.

Ukraine Independence Day

- Designates August 24 as Ukraine Independence Day in Ohio.

Appropriations

- Expands the authorized uses of the Auditor of State’s fiscal distress services appropriation line item to supporting costs incurred by the Auditor for colleges or universities in or at risk of entering a state of fiscal caution, watch, or emergency.
- Appropriates \$1.5 million to the Department of Development for FY 2025 grants to townships seeking to modernize regulations and processes tied to zoning.

- Appropriates \$1 million for FY 2025 to the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program.

H.B. 331

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Mathews and T. Young

Effective date: April 9, 2025

- Creates a new pathway to village dissolution by doing the following:
 - Requiring each county, about every ten years, to evaluate the villages located within the county to determine if the village is providing sufficient services and fielding candidates for all elected village offices.
 - Requiring the question of dissolution to be placed on the ballot if these factors are not satisfied.
- Modifies asset forfeiture notice publication requirements to allow publication via the print or digital edition of a newspaper of general circulation, the official public notice website, or via the township's website and social media account.
- Requires a publisher to establish a government rate for posting legal advertisements, notices, and proclamations that are required by law to be published, in a newspaper of general circulation's digital edition on the newspaper's website.

H.B. 497

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stewart and Klopfenstein

Effective date: April 9, 2025

County law

- Allows counties to designate additional public depositories of active moneys during the four-year designation period.
- Exempts county improvement projects for minor repairs from the requirement to obtain detailed plans, bills, specifications, and cost estimates from an architect or engineer.
- Modifies the approval process for county courthouse and jail projects with an estimated cost of \$75,000 or less.
- Increases, from \$1,000 to \$20,000, the threshold at which a county prosecutor is required to approve contracts related to county improvements.
- Requires plans and specifications related to county improvements, county homes, and county children's homes to be kept on file with the county commissioners instead of the county auditor.
- Requires plans and specifications related to county bridges to be kept by the county engineer instead of the county auditor.

- Simplifies the process a county must follow to donate unneeded property.
- Increases threshold amounts, from \$50,000 to \$75,000, related to the county notice requirement for purchases, leases, and construction contracts, and related to guaranty and bonding requirements for county contracts.
- Prohibits a contract entered into by a county for the procurement of goods or services from including certain terms and conditions.
- Allows a county prosecutor to provide legal services to a transportation improvement district.
- Specifies that any court cost, fine, restitution, or other monetary penalty imposed at the time of a transfer to the juvenile court of the child's residence is not a final, appealable order.
- Permits a county records commission to meet at the call of the chair rather than at least every six months.

Public notice requirements

- Requires a publisher to establish a government rate for posting legal advertisements, notices, and proclamations that are required by law to be published, in a newspaper of general circulation's digital edition on the newspaper's website.
- Permits a county to publish required county advertisements in only the digital edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the county, or only on the county's website and social media account.

Coroner

- Authorizes a coroner to deny a journalist access to preliminary autopsy and investigative notes and findings, photographs taken by a coroner, and suicide notes.
- Requires health care workers who obtain knowledge related to an individual's suspicious or unusual death, including criminal and violent deaths, suicides, and deaths of individuals with developmental disabilities, to immediately notify the coroner of those facts.
- Specifies that autopsy costs include any component of an autopsy, as well as costs to transport the body.
- Establishes new eligibility requirements for the office of coroner, with exceptions for those in office as of April 9, 2025.
- Defines "private practice of medicine" for purposes of coroner compensation and specifies that it includes performing an autopsy at the request of another coroner, a hospital, a business entity, an institution of higher education, or any other person.
- Establishes a \$350 per hour fee for a coroner for time spent preparing for and giving expert testimony at a trial, hearing, or deposition in a civil action.

- Requires that collaboration agreements between advanced practice registered nurses and collaborating physicians, and supervision agreements between physician assistants and supervising physicians, contain an agreement that the physician must complete and sign the medical certificate of death.

Land conveyances

- Authorizes the conveyance of certain state-owned land in Monroe Township to the Knox County Park District for development into a park that is accessible and inclusive to persons of physical and mental disabilities.
- Authorizes the release of an easement respecting certain land in Montgomery County formerly under the jurisdiction of the Department of Developmental Disabilities.

PCSA caseworkers

- Allows a public children services agency (PCSA) to hire as a caseworker a person who has completed at least 60 credit hours or the equivalent towards a degree in human services-related studies.
- Exempts a PCSA caseworker from the requirement to obtain a job-related bachelor's degree within five years of employment if the caseworker demonstrates hardship and is determined to be in good standing.

Erie County Municipal Court

- Extends the territorial jurisdiction of the Erie County Municipal Court beyond the south shore of Lake Erie to the international boundary line between the U.S. and Canada.

S.B. 58

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Johnson and Gavarone

Effective date: April 9, 2025

Firearm and knife liability insurance or fees

- Prohibits any license, permission, restriction, delay, or process, including by ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or other action, or any threat of citation, prosecution, or other legal process from requiring an individual to possess firearm liability insurance or pay a fee for the possession of a firearm, firearm parts, firearm components, ammunition, or a knife.
- Preempts, supersedes, and declares null and void any license, permission, restriction, delay, or process that would require the possession of firearm liability insurance or the payment of a fee for the possession of a firearm, firearm parts, firearm components, ammunition, or a knife.
- Defines “firearm liability insurance” as a policy of liability insurance covering losses resulting from the use of a firearm owned by the person covered by the policy.

Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act

- Prohibits government entities from keeping any list of privately owned firearms or owners of firearms.
- Prohibits financial institutions from assigning a firearms code in a way that distinguishes between a firearms retailer and other retailers.
- Prohibits financial institutions from declining a payment card transaction involving a firearms dealer merely because the transaction is assigned a firearms code.
- Requires the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations of the act's financial privacy provisions.
- Specifies that materials obtained by the Attorney General in conducting such an investigation are not public records.
- Expressly allows a court to order the destruction of records kept by a person or entity in violation of the act's financial privacy provisions.
- Names the financial privacy provisions of the act the Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act.