



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter

April 29, 2024



IN THE NEWS

[Ohio House Passes Fentanyl Possession, Sales Penalties Critics Say is Relic of Failed War on Drugs](#)

[Lawmakers Send Bill to DeWine to 'Finally' Close Spousal Rape Loophole](#)

[Area Officials Back Anti-Hooning Legislation to Crack Down on Stunt Driving](#)

[Aisha's Law, Named for Shaker Heights Teacher Murdered by Ex-Husband,](#)

[Introduced for a Third Time in Ohio House](#)

OPAA NEWS

The OPAA Summer Workshop at Cedar Point is Coming Up – June 21 – 22.

Enacted

[House Bill 34 \(Jury Duty – Breast Feeding Exception\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Klopfenstein and King permits a prospective juror who is a mother who is breast-feeding to be excused from jury service. *Effective July 23, 2024.*

Passed by Senate

[House Bill 161 \(Spousal Rape\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Miranda and Hillyer passed the Senate unanimously on April 24. The bill eliminates the spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, and importuning and to permit a person to testify against the person's spouse in a prosecution for any of those offenses. *Awaits Governor's Signature.*

[Senate Bill 109 \(Sex Offenses – Medical Professionals\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Hackett passed the Senate unanimously on April 24. Among other things, the bill expands the offense of sexual battery to prohibit engaging in sexual activity rather than just sexual conduct, adds circumstances related to licensed medical professionals to sexual battery, and expands the offense of failure to report a crime to include reporting offenses by licensed medical professionals. The bill now goes to the House.

[Senate Bill 214 \(Human Trafficking Victim – Record Expungement\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Kunze passed the Senate unanimously on April 24. The bill expands the circumstances under which a victim of human trafficking can seek to expunge records related to their victimization. The bill now goes to the House.

Passed by the House

[House Bill 230 \(Drug Trafficking\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Abrams and Swearingen passed the House 80-13 on April 24. The bill increases the penalties for trafficking fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and meth, creates a 5 year sentencing specification for involuntary manslaughter caused by fentanyl, and removes the knowledge requirement for possession of fentanyl and Schedule III, IV, and V drugs. The bill now goes to the Senate.

[House Bill 322 \(Child Sexual Abuse\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Abrams and Seitz passed the House 90-1 on April 24. The bill creates the offense of "grooming" and makes changes regarding the childhood sexual abuse civil registry.

For a complete list of bills that the OPAA is tracking and OPAA positions on legislation, please visit www.ohiopa.org.