



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter

February 3, 2025



IN THE NEWS

[Ohio Senate Republicans Revive Bill to Restrict Recreational Marijuana](#)

[New Bill Would End Death Penalty in Ohio, Include State Funded Abortion Ban](#)

[Trump, Area Lawmakers at Odds Over Death Penalty in Ohio](#)

[Governor Signs Bill Creating Criminal Charges for Grooming](#)

[Ohio Criminalizes Sextortion After the Death of Olentangy High School Student](#)

OPAA NEWS

The OPAA Spring Training will be held April 17 – 18 at the Hilton Polaris.

Introduced

[Senate Bill 4 \(Election Integrity Unit\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Gavarone establishes the Election Integrity Unit in the Office of the Secretary of State and modifies the law governing the prosecution of Election Law violations.

[House Bill 5 \(Repeat Offender Act\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Williams and Willis creates a repeat offender classification, modifies certain firearm specifications, increases the penalties for certain firearm offenses and specifications, broadens the scope of relief from firearms disability, and modifies the sealing procedure for misdemeanors and fourth- and fifth- degree felonies.

[Senate Bill 56 \(Marijuana Laws\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Huffman revises the medical and adult-use marijuana laws and levies taxes on marijuana.

[Senate Bill 55 \(OVI Laws – Marijuana\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Manning changes the laws pertaining to operating a vehicle while under the influence of marijuana and the admissibility of evidence for purposes of OVI statutes.

[Senate Bill 5 \(Removal of Unauthorized Occupants\)](#) sponsored by Sens. Brenner and Huffman provides for the expedited removal of unauthorized occupants from residential property and prohibits the use and sale of fraudulent deeds.

[House Bill 19 \(Permitting Underage Drinking – Mens Rea\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Bird and Williams reduces the mental state, from knowingly to recklessly that applies to the prohibition against allowing an underage person to possess or consume alcohol in a private or public place.

[Senate Bill 53 \(Civil Actions – Vandalism/Riots\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Schaffer provides that it is the intent of the General Assembly to encourage prosecution of vandalism and riot and prohibits a government official with authority over any law enforcement agency from restricting the authority of that agency to arrest or detain individuals involved in riot or vandalism.

[House Bill 20 \(Harassing Emergency Service Responders\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Hall and Plummer prohibits knowingly harassing or impeding an emergency service responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty and to clarify that heightened penalties apply for menacing a probation officer.

[House Bill 1 \(Property Protection Act\)](#) sponsored by Reps. King and Klopfenstein modifies the law that prohibits certain entities and individuals from acquiring certain real property and requires a prosecutor to commence an action to force the sale of property under certain circumstances.

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

[Senate Bill 26 \(Joint Law Enforcement Oversight Committee\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Johnson creates the Joint Law Enforcement Oversight Committee to evaluate training standards and programs required to be completed by peace officers in Ohio.

[House Bill 23 \(Escaped Convict Alert Program\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Roemer and Williams creates the escaped convict alert program to aid in the identification and location of any person who was convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony offense or was indicted or otherwise charged with the commission of a felony offense who has escaped from a jail, workhouse, or correctional institution while incarcerated for or awaiting adjudication of that felony offense.

[House Bill 3 \(School Bus Safety Act\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Willis and C. Thomas addresses school bus safety by, among other things, increasing penalties for repeated violations of illegally passing a school bus and specifying that school bus camera footage may be used to corroborate reports by school bus drivers regarding illegally passing a school bus.

[Senate Bill 62 \(School Bus Safety\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Gavarone authorizes a civil penalty system related to drivers who illegally pass a school bus but cannot be identified.