



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter

May 13, 2024



IN THE NEWS

[Bill Would Allow Traffic Stops Just For Seat Belt Violations](#)

[Should Names of Cops Involved in Shootings Be Kept Secret – Court to Decide](#)

[Cleveland Should Stop Withholding Crime Victims' Names From City Council](#)

[Ohio Lawmakers Want to Crack Down on Repeat Offenders Caught With Guns](#)

[Ohio Bill Would Ban Signs on Bridges Amid Concerns About Antisemitism](#)

OPAA NEWS

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

Passed by the House

[House Bill 234 \(Alford Pleas\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Josh Williams and Elgin Rogers prohibits a court, if an offender has entered an Alford plea, from considering whether the offender shows remorse for the offense.

Amended

[House Bill 56 \(Fleeing and Eluding/Stunt Driving\)](#) was amended in Senate Judiciary to address the Supreme Court of Ohio decision in State v. Fork regarding utility vehicles and aggravated vehicular homicide/assault.

Introduced

[House Bill 478/House Bill 480/Senate Bill 241](#) (Squatting) are virtually identical bills that all address “squatting.” The legislation creates a process for property owners to request the immediate removal of a person unlawfully occupying residential property when certain conditions are met, expands the definitions of criminal mischief to include unlawfully detaining, occupying, or trespassing upon a residential dwelling and intentionally causing damage to the dwelling, and creates the offense of title fraud.

[House Bill 522 \(Repeat Firearms Offenders\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Williams and Willis increases penalties for repeat weapons under disability offenders, increases the length of several gun specifications, and creates new gun specifications for discharge of a firearms and repeat firearm offenders. The bill also creates a court-initiated record sealing process and reduces the current penalty for a first time weapons under disability offense from an F3 to an F4 except when the disability is for a felony offense of violence.

[Senate Bill 263 \(Sexual Extortion\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Brenner amends the extortion statute to prohibit sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion. Penalties range from an F3 to an F1 and the legislation authorizes a judge to sentence an offender to up to an additional 10 years if the sexual extortion causes great bodily harm or death.

[House Bill 497 \(County Law Changes\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Stewart and Klopfenstein includes several changes to county law that are recommended by the County Commissioners Association including (1) raising the threshold amount at which contracts have to be submitted to the prosecutor or other legal counsel employed by the commissioners and (2) authorizing prosecutors to be legal counsel for transportation improvement districts.

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