



March 1, 2021

In Case You Missed It:

[Report: Ohio Lawmakers Still Propose Too Many Crime Bills; Associated Press, February 18, 2021](#)

[ACLU: Ohio Legislature Not Addressing COVID-19 Human Rights Crisis in Prisons; WKSU, February 18, 2021](#)

[Ohio Public Health Orders](#)

The Ohio Judicial Conference is dedicated to serving all Ohio judges. It is the primary resource to ensure the fair, unbiased, open, and effective administration of justice.

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- [SB 68](#) (Sen. Williams) **Prohibiting Questions about Felony Record**, introduced 2.17.21. The bill would prohibit employers from asking prospective employees about past felonies.
- [SB 80](#) (Sens. Cirino, Gavarone) **Judicial Elections**, introduced 2.24.21. The bill requires a candidate for the Ohio Supreme Court or a court of appeals who was nominated at a primary election to appear on the ballot at the general election with a political party designation. See also HB 149.
- [HB 108](#) (Rep. Galonski) **Parental Rights Over Deceased Adult Child**, introduced 2.17.21. The bill, for purposes of the right of disposition over an adult deceased child, gives precedence to a parent who was the residential parent and legal guardian over a parent that was not.
- [HB 109](#) (Reps. Abrams, Carruthers) **Increase in Penalty for Riot Offenses**, introduced 2.17.21. The bill increases penalties for assault, vandalism, and riot; it allows peace officers to bring civil suits against people participating in a riot, and it prohibits bias-motivated intimidation of first responders.
- [HB 110](#) (Rep. Oelslager) **Biennial Budget**, introduced 2.17.21. The bill impacts policy by including: requiring courts to file all protection orders with NCIC within 7 days; increasing penalties for weapons under disability, for illegally transferring a firearm, and for selling a firearm to a minor and increasing sentence lengths for gun specifications; capping community control terms at 1 year for an F5, 3 years for an F4, and 5 years for an F1 and similarly capping PRC terms; requiring courts to notify the AG of all cases where the defendant is found NGRI or incompetent to stand trial and also of discharge or final termination in those cases; and making record-sealing by a judge automatic if the Governor issues an unconditional pardon.
- [HB 111](#) (Rep. Lightbody) **Cell Phones and Driving**, introduced 2.17.21. The bill expands the current prohibition against texting while driving by also prohibiting using phone apps or games.
- [HB 121](#) (Reps. Boggs, Lanese) **Eliminating Spousal Exception to Rape**, introduced 2.17.21. The bill eliminates the spousal exception to rape (and sexual battery, sexual imposition, and unlawful sexual conduct with a minor) of someone who is or has been impaired. It also allows a person to testify against that person's spouse.
- On 2.12.21, the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct issued [advisory opinion 2021-01](#), which prohibits a judge from serving as a member or officer of the board of directors of a nonprofit corporation that provides services to the court under a contract with the court's funding authority.
- On 1.20.21, the **CDC's eviction moratorium was extended until 3.31.21**. **Federal funding is available** in aid to tenants. Information about applying is [online](#).
- In response to the recent decision by the Ohio Supreme Court, [2020-Ohio-6785](#), the [Ohio Public Defender will immediately begin to accept](#), for purposes of reimbursement, the indigent defense costs in cases where a parent is facing a **termination of parental rights in probate court**.
- The deadline for the Supreme Court's [Technology Initiative Grants](#) is 3.5.21.

For a complete list of bills & the latest issue of BillBoard, please visit the [OJC website](#).



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