



February 18, 2020

**Legislation and Policy
in the News:**

[The Wrong Way to Fight
the Opioid Crisis; The New
Yorker, February 3, 2020](#)

[Court Weighing
Arguments in Ohio
Gunman School Records
Case; Associated Press,
February 5, 2020](#)

*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 270** (Sen. Antonio) **Jail Procedures**, introduced 2.4.20. The bill requires the division of parole and community services to inspect the jails in Ohio for compliance with the minimum standards for jails and to investigate. This bill is identical to HB 502 (Rep. Crossman), introduced 2.11.20.
- **SB 271** (Sen. Antonio) **Inmates at Risk of Withdrawal**, introduced 2.4.20. The bill requires ODRC to establish procedures for an inmate who is found to be at risk of withdrawal from benzodiazepines, alcohol, and other addictive drugs. The bill applies to any facility that incarcerates a person for 120 days or longer. The procedures include training requirements and medical, dental and mental health screening requirements. If a decision is made to stop benzodiazepine use, it must be tapered off and an inmate must be seen by a psychologist within 48 hours.
- **SB 276** (Sens. Manning, Roegner) **LLCs**, introduced 2.12.20. The bill is the Ohio Revised LLC Act.
- **SB 278** (Sens. Eklund, Lehner) **Parole Procedures**, introduced 2.12.20. The bill modifies parole procedures regarding prisoner access to information, presence of counsel, and appeals of decisions.
- **SB 279** (Sen. Maharath) **Distracted Driving**, introduced 2.12.20. The bill prohibits cell phone use while driving.
- **HB 500** (Reps. Kick, McClain) **Visitation Rights**, introduced 2.10.20. The bill creates a procedure by which relatives of an incompetent person or a ward can petition the probate court if those relatives are being denied visitation with the incompetent person or ward. The bill authorizes the court to assess costs on any party to the proceeding and to impose reasonable attorney's fees against a petitioner who brings a petition in bad faith or a party that unjustifiably denies visitation.
- **HB 506** (Rep. G. Manning) **Child Placement**, introduced 2.13.20. The bill prohibits removing an abused, neglected, or dependent child from foster care and placing the child with a relative if the child has been in foster care for 6 months or more or the child has never met the relative, unless the court determines the placement is in the best interests of the child.
- The Supreme Court's **Dispute Resolution** Section is convening its annual [Conference](#) on 3.10.20. Registration is available [online](#) until 3.6.20.
- The Ohio Public Defender Commission is seeking public comment on [guidelines for appointed counsel hourly rates and maximum fees](#). Comments on the proposed guidelines should be submitted in writing to: OPD, Laura Austen, 250 East Broad Street, 14th floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or outreach@opd.ohio.gov by 2.27.20. Additional information is available [online](#).
- **Did You Know?** The Office of Opportunities for **Ohioans with Disabilities** provides jobs training and placement services to anyone who is living with mental health or substance abuse disorders, i.e. *anyone who is a participant in a specialized docket*. For more information, visit them [online](#).
- **THE DEADLINE TO SPEND OR ENCUMBER TCAP DOLLARS FROM FISCAL YEARS 2018 AND 2019 IS 6.30.20. MONIES NOT SPENT OR ENCUMBERED BY THE DEADLINE MUST BE REPAYED TO THE STATE.**

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



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