August 19, 2019

Legislation and Policy in the News:

[Ohio Supreme Court Declines to Hear Tokes Case; Toledo Blade, August 6, 2019](#)

[Backers Tout Program Helping Ohio Drivers Get Licenses Reinstated; Associated Press, August 15, 2019](#)

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

Legislative News: Two Week Review

• **HB 315** (Rep. Liston) **Firearm Sales & Suicide Prevention**, introduced 8.7.19. The bill requires federally licensed firearms dealers to provide suicide prevention information to the purchaser of a firearm. The brochure is to be created by Criminal Justice Services division of the Bureau of Public Safety.

• **HB 316** (Reps. Russo, Sweeney) **Red Flag Protection Orders**, introduced 8.7.19. The bill allows family members, household members, and law enforcement officers to obtain a court order that temporarily restricts a person's access to firearms if that person poses a danger to self or others. The bill requires the BCI superintendent, within 6 months, to prepare forms for red flag protection orders and provides extremely detailed instructions for doing so. The superintendent is also responsible for distributing the forms to all county, municipal, and common pleas courts.

• **HB 317** (Reps. Robinson, Miller) **Firearm Transfers**, introduced 8.7.19. The bill requires a firearm transfer to be made through a federally licensed dealer or a law enforcement agency. Some exceptions are made for temporary transfers, such as at a shooting range, for hunting activities, and for historic guns. The bill requires a background check when a firearm is transferred; this includes a competency check involving the attorney general's database of people who have been involuntarily committed or found to be mentally ill subject to court order. That database is currently accessible to sheriffs issuing licenses to carry guns – under the bill, other law enforcement as well as federally licensed gun dealers will be required to access the database. A similar bill was introduced in the Senate, 8.13.19, as SB 183 (Sens. Lehner, Thomas).

• Ohio Attorney General David Yost signed on to a letter of the National Association of Attorneys General, asking Congress for the removal of federal barriers that are currently impeding treatment for **opioid use disorder**. The letter asks that buprenorphine (in suboxone and naloxone) be easier to prescribe and that Medicaid reimbursement be permitted for adults ages 21 through 65 receiving mental health or substance use disorder treatment in residential facilities with more than 16 beds.

• In *State v. Hitchcock*, the Ohio Supreme Court decided, on 8.15.19, that judges are unable to impose **community control sanctions** that run consecutively to a prison sentence tied to another felony offense.

• If you run a certified treatment court, mark your calendars! The **2019 Veterans Summit** "Lean Forward: Filling In the Gaps for Service Members and Veterans" will be held 11.21.19 at the Fawcett Center in Columbus. Accreditation for CLE is being submitted. Register online.

• Mark your calendars! The OJC's **Annual Meeting, "Courtrooms, Cameras, and Building Public Confidence**," is September 12 & 13. It is accredited for a total of 12.0 judicial education hours. Registration is open until 8.21.19. For a schedule of sessions and other information, please see the OJC website or contact Trina.Bennington@sc.ohio.gov.

For a complete list of bills & the latest issue of BillBoard, please visit the OJC website.

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