



January 6, 2020

**Legislation and Policy
in the News:**

[Year in Review: Ohio Bills
Passed in 2019; WKSU,
December 27, 2019](#)

[Ohio Lawmakers Set
Priorities for 2020;
Cleveland Plain Dealer,
January 3, 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 256](#) (Sen. Manning) **Bar Life Sentences for Juveniles**, introduced 12.23.19. The bill prohibits a sentence of life without the possibility of parole for offenders who were younger than 18 at the time of the offense. Instead, the offender is to be sentenced to an indefinite prison term of 30 years to life. If an offender received a sentence of life imprisonment with or without parole for an offense that was committed when the offender was younger than 18, the offender's parole eligibility is to be determined under the bill. When sentencing someone who committed an offense when younger than 18, the court must consider youth and its hallmarks (including risk-taking, immaturity, impetuousness), family and home environment, extent of participation in the event, extent to which youth contributed to a more serious charge, and evidence of rehabilitation. The parole board considers the same factors when making its determination.
- [HB 460](#) (Reps. Hambley, Skindell) **Party Designation of Judicial Candidates**, introduced 12.27.19. The bill allows a partisan judicial candidate to appear on the general election ballot with a political party designation. A party's candidate for a judicial office may include on the written acceptance of the nomination a request that no political party designation appear under the person's name on the ballot at the general election.
- The Ohio Supreme Court agreed on 12.31.19 to consider a case about juvenile court judges' [jurisdiction over youthful sex offenders](#). State law allows juvenile offenders to petition a judge to have a sex offender classification removed. The question is whether juvenile judges have permanent jurisdiction over this classification, or if the classification ceases to be valid once the offender reaches the age of majority and has otherwise completed a sentence.
- As of 1.1.20, all Ohio courts that use mediation [must adopt the state's Uniform Mediation Act by local rule](#), identify eligible cases, and "address confidentiality." Courts continue to have discretion over whether to use mediation, but those that do must adopt local rules. The Rule has updated mediator training requirements, required screening and complaint procedures, and required model standards and core values.
- **Did You Know?** Every year Common Pleas Judges are responsible for appointing members to their county's [Veterans Service Commissions](#). This duty is important: Veterans Service Commissioners have authority over large budgets and hire civil service employees. For more on the process and your role, please review the [guidelines](#) available on the OJC website.
- **Did You Know?** The Ohio Judicial Conference, in conjunction with the Ohio Lawyers' Assistance Program (OLAP), organizes JAG, the **Judicial Advisory Group**. If you or a colleague needs help, more information is available [online](#).
- **Save the Date!** The OJC's **Court Technology Conference** is taking place 4.14.20 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio. Registration materials will be available soon.

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



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