



September 3, 2019

**Legislation and Policy
in the News:**

[Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder Says He's Less and Less Supportive of the Death Penalty; Cincinnati Enquirer, August 21, 2019](#)

[Gov. DeWine's Gun Plan Will be Very Very Difficult to Pass in Ohio House. Speaker Says; cleveland.com, August 20, 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 324** (Rep. Miller) **Adjust Tort Damages for Inflation**, introduced 8.28.19. The bill adjusts for inflation the limitations on damages for noneconomic loss and punitive damages in certain tort actions (generally from \$250,000 to \$329,000 or 3 times the loss with a maximum of \$659,000; the cap in damages when the defendant is a small employer or an individual is raised from \$350,000 to \$461,000).
- **SB 184** (Sens. Lehner, Williams) **Extreme Risk Protection Order**, introduced 8.19.19. 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 is found to pose a danger to self or others. The bill sets up a timeline for hearings on petitions for extreme risk protection orders, and requires voluntary surrender of firearms within 72 hours, at which point firearms not surrendered will be seized, with receipt of seized firearms filed with the court. The bill also creates two new criminal offenses: unlawful petition for an extreme risk protection order is an M3; having a firearm while under extreme risk protection order disability is an M3, and repeat offenses are F5s. The disability lasts for 5 years after an extreme risk protection order expires. SB 184 is identical to HB 316.
- On 8.4.19, Governor DeWine announced [proposed legislation](#) authorizing courts to issue **Safety Protection Orders** if, by clear and convincing evidence, a family member or law enforcement officers shows a person poses a danger to self or others. The proposal includes background checks for all firearms sales with a few limited exceptions and increased penalties for: felons who illegally possess firearms, people who commit felonies while in possession of a firearms, those who improperly provide firearms to minors, for brandishing a gun, and for straw purchases of firearms.
- On 8.28.19, Governor DeWine announced [proposed legislation](#) that would require local law enforcement agencies and courts to enter **arrest warrants** for tier one offenses and protection orders into the state and federal background check systems within 48 hours of issuance, seeking to prevent dangerous individuals from illegally purchasing firearms. He also announced that InnovateOhio will begin developing technology to streamline that process for local entities.
- The Ohio Supreme Court is seeking public comment, until 10.25.19, on [proposed amendments](#) to the Rules of Superintendence that would require municipal or county courts to adopt a **uniform bail bond schedule** established by the Supreme Court if there is more than one municipal or county court in a county and the courts are unable to agree on a uniform bail bond schedule. Under the proposal, a bail bond schedule shall include a presumption of personal bail.
- Mark your calendars! Judges in counties that are impacted by **ODRC's new policy on APA personnel** are invited to a roundtable discussion, 11.8.19, at the Supreme Court Building. The meeting will involve information about how to create a probation department, best practices, available resources, and available funding. If interested, please contact Marta.Mudri@sc.ohio.gov.

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



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