



March 23, 2026

In Case You Missed It:

Ohioans for Cannabis Choice Ended Their Effort to Referendum SB 56

[Ohio Public Defender Announced Contract Positions in the OPD's Multi-County Program](#)

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

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- [HB 741](#) (Reps. LaRe, Swearingen) **Bail**, introduced 3.10.26. The bill prohibits charitable bail organizations from furnishing bail (or funds or property to serve as bail) in certain circumstances and the bill makes other changes to the determination and forfeiture of bail.
 - [SB 56](#), which altered marijuana laws, and [HB 247](#), which altered dangerous and vicious dog laws, both went into effect on 3.20.26. The [Enactment Summaries](#) are available on the OJC website.
 - [HB 84](#) (Reps. Demetriou, Williams) **Age Verification for Obscene Material**, voted out of the House 3.18.26. Among other things, the bill creates the offenses of nonconsensual dissemination and nonconsensual creation of fabricated sexual images; it allows a victim of failure to verify age of person accessing materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles and a victim of the newly created offenses to commence a civil action against the offender; and it authorizes a court to order a person who is convicted of the newly created offenses (or who is adjudicated a delinquent child by reason of committing those offenses) to criminally forfeit certain specified property acquired or maintained as a result of committing the offense/s.
 - [HB 533](#) (Rep. K. Miller) **Vehicular Homicide**, voted out of the House 3.18.26. The bill adds the following to the list of vehicles, the use of which could result in vehicular homicide or vehicular assault: under-speed vehicles, motorized bicycles or mopeds, motor-driven cycles or motor scooters, and all-purpose vehicles.
 - The application for the [Court Technology Initiative](#) is now available. In [HB 96](#), the Legislature expanded eligibility to include common pleas clerks of court. However, they restricted funding eligibility to entities whose county population is under 125,000 as of the last census. *The application end date is 4.19.26.* Applications are also still available for BCI Grants for electronic reporting, disposition recovery, and LiveScan fingerprint devices. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and funding awards will be determined every 90 days, until the grant funds are exhausted.
 - Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost released the 2026 edition of the [Ohio Sunshine Laws](#) resource manual, warning public officials against using messaging apps that automatically delete communications when conducting government business.
 - **Save the Date:** The [OJC's Annual Court Tech Conference](#) is scheduled for 4.8.26 in Lewis Center. The agenda includes AI Readiness, Text Messaging for Courts, and Virtual Help Centers.
 - **Save the Date:** The Supreme Court's Civility Symposium is scheduled for 4.29.26 in Columbus.
 - **Save the Date:** [Ohio BMV Court Conference](#) set for 4.22.26 in Columbus. [Registration](#) is open until 4.1.26.
 - **Don't forget!** The new **Superintendence Rule 5(F)** requires courts, prior to 7.1.26, to adopt, by local rule, a reporting to law enforcement compliance plan ensuring that complete, accurate, and timely information on **sentencing disposition is submitted to BCI, LEADS**, and other law enforcement databases. The Supreme Court has developed [templates for sample rules and plans](#).
- For a complete list of bills & the latest Enactment News, please visit the [OJC website](#).**



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