

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



August 19, 2024

In Case You Missed It:

[NCVLI has updated a pre-existing resource, Protecting Victims' Privacy Rights: Smartphone Data](#)

[OhioMHAS Releases Overdose Awareness Day Toolkit](#)

[AG Yost Announces Ohio Human Trafficking Hotline](#)

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

- **SB 305** (Sen. Wilson) **Lebanon Municipal Court**, introduced 7.23.24. The bill changes the status of the judge of the Lebanon Municipal Court from part-time to full-time. A companion bill was introduced in the House on 8.7.24 ([HB 649](#)).
- **HB 644** (Reps. Grim, Thomas) **Firearms Restrictions**, introduced 7.29.24. The bill prohibits the import, manufacture, sale, transfer, or possession of a trigger crank, a bump-fire device, or any part, combination of parts, component, device, attachment, or accessory that accelerates the rate of fire of a semiautomatic firearm. A violation of this prohibition can lead to a firearm disability. A companion bill was introduced in the Senate on 7.30.24 ([SB 307](#)).
- **HB 646** (Rep. Miller, J.) **Digital Drivers' License and State ID**, introduced 7.29.24. The bill authorizes the use of a digital driver's license or state identification card.
- On 7.23.24, the Ohio Supreme Court decided [In re R.G.M., \(Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-2737\)](#), where it held that a **parent in a legal custody proceeding** in juvenile court does not have the same legal safeguards as a parent facing the loss of parental rights in a permanent custody proceeding. In the case, a parent was found to have no right to question an absent expert who submitted a report in a custody hearing.
- On 7.25.24, the Ohio Supreme Court decided [Berkheimer v. REKM LLC, \(Slip Opinion No. 2024-Ohio-0293\)](#), where the **reasonable-expectation test** in lawsuits was reviewed; a restaurant patron who ordered boneless chicken wings could have reasonably expected to find a piece of bone in his meal and guarded against swallowing it, and therefore his lawsuit was dismissed without going to a jury.
- **Request for Assistance:** The Ohio Department of Medicaid is exploring ways to help improve **transitions for individuals who were formerly incarcerated**; and has developed a survey to better understand people's experiences of returning to their community after incarceration. ODM is asking that stakeholders take or share the [survey](#).
- The Center for Jury Studies at the National Center for State Courts is now accepting nominations for the **G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation**. The award recognizes improvements or innovations in jury operations, management or technology. [Nominations](#) accepted until 9.13.24.
- **Did you know?** [Training videos](#) for both grand juries and petit juries are available from the Supreme Court.
- Save the Date: The **OJC Annual Meeting** is September 19-20 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. A total of 10.25 CLEs have been applied for and the agenda includes presentations on Marsy's Law, competency and family law courts, artificial intelligence, working with interpreters, and more. Register by 9.4.24.

[For Tools & Bench Aids, and the latest Bill Impact Statements, please visit the OJC Website](#)



[Marta Mudri](#)

Legislative Counsel
Civil Law; Specialty
Courts; Community
Corrections



[Shawn Welch](#)

Deputy Legislative Counsel
Probate Law; Domestic
Relations Law; Juvenile Law



[Josh Williams](#)

Deputy Legislative Counsel
Criminal Law; Traffic Law;
Appellate Law; Magistrates



[Justin Long](#)

Legislative Services
Specialist;
Publications; PCCO