



July 28, 2025

In Case You Missed It:

[*Sup.R.5, Effective September 1, Requires Local Rule on Reporting to Law Enforcement*](#)

[*Nominate Someone for the G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation*](#)

[*Defamation Lawsuit Offers Early Test of Ohio's New Anti-SLAPP Statute: Ohio Capital Journal, July 8, 2025*](#)

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

Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- **HB 396** (Rep. Willis) **Address Confidentiality Program Expansion**, introduced 7.21.25. The bill expands eligibility for the Attorney General's Safe at Home address confidentiality program to victims of any crime that resulting in serious physical harm or death, or in which the victim was threatened with a deadly weapon.
- **HR 181** (Rep. Johnson, M) **Honoring Hocking County Courthouse**, introduced and passed by the House, 7.1.25. The resolution commemorates the centennial of the Hocking County Courthouse, which was dedicated on June 4, 1925 before a crowd of 25,000 people. Architect Frank Packard integrated features of the courthouses in Mercer, Preble, and Putnam counties to complete the courthouse at a cost of \$250,000. The dedication ceremony included a historical pageant, tours of the building, band and orchestra music, and a performance from the Community Chorus.
- A new rule, the **Assisted Outpatient Treatment** [Sup.R. 79.01](#) for probate courts, has been adopted by the Supreme Court and went into effect 7.10.25, and the Temp.Sup.R. 1.01 has been repealed. [Jud.Cond.R. 29](#) (see 2.9 (A)(6)) is the accompanying amendment.
- The Advisory Committee on Children and Families requests public comments on the guardian ad litem (GAL) amendments to [Sup.R. 48](#) by 8.21.25, via GALRuleComments@sc.ohio.gov. The amendments clarify who can receive the **written GAL report and disclosure protocol**.
- The public comment period for a proposed change to the Rules for the Government of the Judiciary ends 8.21.25 ([Gov. Jud. R. IV, registration requirements for acting judges](#)); the public comment period for a proposed change to the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct ends 8.28.25 ([Prof.Cond.R. 8.4, misconduct](#)); and the public comment period for a proposed change to the Rules for the Government of the Bar ends 8.28.25 ([Gov.BarR. V, disciplinary procedure](#)). Comments should be sent to: RuleAmendments@sc.ohio.gov.
- In [State ex rel. Plattv. Montgomery Cty. Bd. of Elections](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2025-Ohio-2079), decided 6.17.25, the high court determined a public official's private messages are not subject to **public records law**, even if those messages pertain to public business. The Court decided two other public records cases recently, [State ex rel. Ames v. Big Walnut Local School Dist. Bd. of Edn.](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2025-Ohio-2493, decided 7.17.25) and [State ex rel. Clark v. Dept. of Rehab. & Corr.](#) (Slip Opinion No. 2025-Ohio-2475, decided 7.16.25), both of which affirmed the premise that a state agency does not have to turn over records it does not keep.
- The Ohio Public Defender has set the initial **reimbursement rate** for FY26 at 82%. The exact rates of reimbursement through FY26 and FY27 will depend upon the total costs submitted by Ohio's 88 counties, each of which sets its own respective budget; for more details, see the 7.17.25 [memo](#).

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



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