

## Legislative News: Two-Week Review



February 9, 2026

### ***In Case You Missed It:***

[NCSC Resource Helps Courts Prepare for America's 250th Anniversary](#)

[The Ohio Public Defender Published its Indigent Defense Cost Projection Report](#)

*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.*

- [HB 635](#) (Reps. Plummer, Young) **Child Protection Reforms**, introduced 12.23.25. The bill contains a new child endangering offense. A person with temporary supervision of a child cannot leave the child with someone who has previously violated RC 2919.22 (Endangering Children); to do so is an M1. Under current law, the felonious assault specification applies if the victim is younger than 10; the bill changes that to younger than 18 and older than 65. It increases the additional penalty under the specification to 10 years (from 6 years). Additionally, if an employer takes any retaliatory action against a person who shares information with a government entity regarding a child in order to protect the child's welfare, the person may bring a civil action in a common pleas court.
- [HB 654](#) (Reps. Deeter, Manning) **Penalty Increase for Abuse of Corpse**, introduced 1.27.26. The bill increases the penalties for abuse of a corpse to an F4 (from an F5). Under the bill, abusing corpse is an F3 if the offender dismembers or otherwise mutilates a corpse and an F2 if the mutilation is in furtherance of concealing a crime or otherwise obstructing justice.
- [HB 655](#) (Rep. Williams) **New Offense**, introduced 1.27.26. The bill creates the offense of neglect of parental duties, an M1 with a mandatory parenting class (F5 on repeat offense). Parental neglect occurs when a parent/guardian/custodian fails to prevent further unruly or delinquent conduct by a child previously adjudicated unruly or delinquent; or if a parent/guardian/custodian recklessly fails to prevent habitual truancy or fails to ensure compliance with court orders.
- [HB 656](#) (Rep. Williams) **New Offense**, introduced 1.27.26. The bill creates the offense of negligent assault of a peace officer, which occurs when someone causes physical harm to a peace officer as a result of possessing a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia. The offense is an M1; if the physical harm results in a substantial risk of exposure to infectious disease, it is an F5.
- On 2.3.26, Attorney General Yost [certified](#) the [SB 56 \(Marijuana\) referendum petition title](#), which allows petitioners Ohioans for Cannabis Choice to move to the next step in the referendum process. Petitioners have until 3.19.26 to submit 248,092 valid signatures.
- Applications are still available from 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.
- Beginning 3.1.26, the Ohio Public Defender will require that all **appointed counsel bills** be submitted through the [Court-Appointed Billing System](#). You can learn how CABS will replace paper billing by attending one of several virtual webinars (2.4.26, 2.12.26, 2.18.26, and 2.26.26).
- **Did you know?** The Ohio Judicial Conference updates the [Exemptions to Garnishment](#) every three years, per the Ohio Revised Code. They are then also published in the [Register of Ohio](#). The OJC last updated these figures in 2025. If your court provides forms for order of garnishment, please make sure you have the most updated monetary amounts.

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



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