



May 28, 2024

**In Case You Missed It:**

[May is Mental Health Awareness Month](#)

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

*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.*

## Legislative News: Two-Week Review

- **HB 50** (Reps. Humphrey, Seitz) **Certificate of Qualification for Housing**, passed by the Senate, 5.8.24. The bill creates a mechanism, similar to the CQE, by which an individual re-entering the community after prison may obtain a CQH to aid in obtaining housing. The bill was amended so that most CQH petitions would be routed through ODRC, rather than the courts.
- **HB 161** (Reps. Hillyer, Miranda) **Spousal Exception for Sexual Assault**, signed by the Governor, 5.10.24. The bill eliminates the remaining spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, and importuning and permits a person to testify against the person's spouse in a prosecution for any of those offenses. The bill goes into effect 8.9.24.
- **SB 258** (Sen. Wilkin) **Towing Cause of Action**, introduced 5.7.24. The bill creates causes of action for conflicts between motor vehicle owners and towing services or storage facilities.
- **SB 263** (Sen. Brenner) **Sexual Extortion**, introduced 5.8.24. The bill prohibits sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion and allows the family members of certain victims of aggravated sexual extortion to receive compensation from the crime victims' compensation fund. The bill also makes changes to a fiduciary's responsibilities concerning the digital assets of a decedent and creates a civil penalty. See also **HB 531** (Reps. Lear, Lorenz).
- **HB 522** (Reps. Williams, Willis) **Repeat Offender Act**, introduced 5.8.24. The bill does a variety of things, including: creates a repeat offender classification; creates new specifications and increases the penalties for current firearm offenses and specifications; expands relief from firearms disability; and allows "automatic" sealing for F4s and F5s.
- **HB 525** (Reps. Brennan, Pizzulli) **Assault on School Employees and Volunteers**, introduced 5.15.24. The bill makes assault of any person employed by or volunteering at a school an F5.
- **HB 528** (Rep. Troy) **Election Officer Intimidation**, introduced 5.15.24. The bill would increase the penalty for intimidation of an election officer, from an M1 to an F5.
- **HB 548** (Rep. Lear) **Real Property Foreclosures**, introduced 5.15.24. The bill would prohibit the use of private selling officers and online auctions in property foreclosure sales.
- **HB 555** (Rep. Mathews, A) **Public Nuisance**, introduced 5.15.24. The bill prohibits public nuisance claims that allege the design, manufacture, supply, marketing, distribution, promotion, advertising, labeling, or sale of a product unreasonably interferes with a right common the general public. See *Trumbull County v. Purdue Pharma, L.P.*, No. 22-3844 (6th Cir. 2023).
- **HB 594** (Reps. Jarrells, Williams) **Postconviction Relief**, introduced 5.15.24. The bill allows a judge to grant a new trial if new evidence is discovered that would establish a strong probability of a different result if it were considered at a new trial.
- **HB 603** (Rep. Pavliga) **Community Control Violations**, introduced 5.20.24. The bill allows a sheriff or deputy sheriff to report violations of community control.
- **HB 608** (Rep. Williams) **Expungement**, introduced 5.20.24. The bill makes it easier to expunge records in cases of acquittal or findings of not guilty.



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