



October 6, 2025

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

Applications Available for BCI Grants for [Electronic Reporting, Disposition Recovery, and Fingerprint Devices](#)

[Guidance](#) Available for [Sup.R.5\(F\)](#) Compliance

*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

- [SB 270](#) (Sens. Hick-Hudson, Manning) **Delinquent Children**, introduced 9.23.25. The bill makes changes relating to the commitment of delinquent children to DYS, including increasing the age of commitment to 14.
- [SB 277](#) (Sen. Gavarone) **Abuse and Neglect**, introduced 9.30.25. With some exceptions, the bill provides that no child who is allowed to engage in independent activities without adult supervision shall, solely for that reason, be considered to be an abused or neglected child.
- [HB 478](#) (Reps. Synenberg, Thomas) **Jury Tampering**, introduced 9.29.25. The bill creates the offense of jury tampering, which is an M1, unless force or threat or force is used, in which case the offense is an F3. The bill also adds a "public servant" to the list of people who cannot be intimidated by force or threat in a criminal case (the offense, in current law, is an F3).
- [HB 487](#) (Reps. Plummer, Williams) **Repeat Drug Offenders**, introduced 10.1.25. The bill creates a specification for a repeat drug offender which requires the court to impose both the longest prison term authorized and a mandatory prison term of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 years. The bill defines a "repeat drug offender" as someone has violated RC 2925.03 for at least the third time.
- [HB 490](#) (Reps. Schmidt, Williams) **Post-Conviction Relief**, introduced 10.1.25. The bill authorizes a court to consider a post-conviction relief petition filed after the deadline if the petition is based on DNA evidence showing actual innocence. Under the bill a qualifying DNA test is one performed under RC 2953.81, per request of the defendant, or a DNA test performed per the request of the state or prosecuting attorney.
- [HB 491](#) (Reps. Baker, Ray) **Guardianship Modernization**, introduced 10.1.25. This bill contains the OAPJ-recommended definitions for less-restrictive guardianship orders, such as a "limited guardian," among other changes. The bill language includes 2016 amendments to Sup. R. 66, which have not yet been addressed in the Code.
- [HB 492](#) (Reps. Abrams, Ray), **Interfering with Arrest**, introduced 10.1.25. The bill expands the prohibition against interfering with arrest to all motor vehicle-related laws and requires drivers to disclose their name, address, and date of birth to a police officer on request.
- The OPD is working to transition **indigent defense reimbursement** from a paper to an electronic system. The Court Appointed Counsel Billing System (CABS) has been successfully deployed in 82 courts, and OPD expects that *all* appointed counsel bills will be submitted through CABS after 3.1.26. For more information, read their [memo](#).
- [Proposed changes](#) to the **Rules of Appellate Procedure**, **Rules of Civil Procedure**, **Rules of Criminal Procedure**, and **Rules of Juvenile Procedure** have been published for public comment. Generally, [Rules of Superintendence](#) are being restructured into the Rules of Practice and Procedure. Comments due to [RuleAmendments@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:RuleAmendments@sc.ohio.gov) by 10.24.25.

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



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