



August 24, 2026

In Case You Missed It:

[Ohio Federal Judge Greenlights Additional THC Beverage Sales; Gongwer, August 11, 2026](#)

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

- [HB 992](#) (Rep. Robb Blasdel) **Cruelty to Horses**, introduced 8.12.26. The bill prohibits knowingly torturing, tormenting, needlessly mutilating or maiming, cruelly beating, poisoning, needlessly killing or committing an act of cruelty against an equine; prohibits knowingly causing serious physical harm to an equine; and prohibits a person who confines or is the custodian of an equine from negligently committing similar acts or failing to provide care for the equine. Penalties range from an M2 to an F3, depending on prior convictions and type of harm caused. The bill authorizes the court to order an equine owner or custodian to provide necessary care to the equine, if that equine has not been impounded; the court can also authorize someone to visit the equine to assess care and to determine whether the equine should be impounded.
- At the federal level, the **Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act** may be amended by [S. 2993](#), which would expand the LEOSA provisions to judges – but only federal judges. LEOSA, codified at [18 U.S.C. §§ 926B](#) and [926C](#), was enacted in 2004 to address a practical problem: law enforcement officers who traveled across state lines faced inconsistent firearms laws that could render them unable to carry concealed weapons for self-defense outside their home jurisdictions. S. 2993 would extend LEOSA's protections to prosecutors and federal judges but excludes state court judges. Consider reading [Judge Lucci's article](#) on the topic.
- On 8.18.26, the Ohio Supreme Court [rejected a challenge](#) to the 2023 amendment to the Ohio Constitution that safeguards abortion rights and that was approved by voters through a ballot initiative. In April, a writ of mandamus was filed asking the justices to find the amendment unenforceable because the amendment eliminates juvenile court authority over judicial by-pass proceedings. The state sought dismissal due to lack of standing and lack of subject matter jurisdiction and the Court dismissed the case.
- On 8.20.26, the Ohio Attorney General issued [Opinion 2026-010](#), stating that R.C. 2101.01 prevents a probate court from holding hearings or other proceedings anywhere other than at the county seat.
- A new study committee, with two appointed judges, is set to evaluate the placement of delinquent children in residential facilities, starting 8.24.26. The committee is hoping to develop recommendations that can be taken up this session.
- The Legislature's summer recess is wrapping up. The Senate is scheduled to resume committee hearings starting on September 15, with session scheduled for September 16, if needed. The first sessions with both chambers after summer break is scheduled for November 10.
- **Did you know?** Constitution Day is September 17 and it commemorates the ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1789. The push to make Constitution Day a holiday was spearheaded by Ohioan Olga T. Weber in 1952; a resolution was signed by President Eisenhower in 1957. This year, September 17 falls during the OJC's Annual Meeting. If you are joining us, you'll have an opportunity to observe Constitution Day with your colleagues.

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



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