

Legislative News: Two-Week Review



October 19, 2026

In Case You Missed It:

[To Date, the Governor has Pardoned 323 Individuals in Expedited Pardon Project](#)

[The OSBA Launches Judicial Votes Count in Advance of Election](#)

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.

- [SB 477](#) (Sen. DeMora) **E-Bikes and Other Mobility Devices**, introduced 10.7.26. The bill requires all personal electric devices to be registered with the state, along with their approved operators. An approved operator would need to provide a driver's license, learner's permit, or certificate of completion from an approved safety course, along with a 1-time registration fee of \$25, with the devices required to display the registration sticker. See also HB 948 (Reps. Miller, A., and White).
- In [In Re A.S. \(Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-3906\)](#), decided on 10.7.26, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that when a natural parent has, through a court order in a delinquency case, regained legal custody a child who previously was determined to be a dependent child and the juvenile court closes that dependency case, a juvenile court **may not terminate the custody order** under R.C. 2151.42(B) without first finding that the natural parent has become unsuitable since the time the order was issued – otherwise, a natural parent's constitutional rights are violated.
- In [State v. Thoen, 2025-0093 \(Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-3976\)](#), decided 10.13.26, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that whether the **double jeopardy** clauses of the U.S. and Ohio constitutions bar further proceedings depends on whether a defendant has acquired a legitimate expectation of finality in the guilty-plea proceeding and whether concerns of prosecutorial overreach are implicated. This case involved an appellant's guilty plea to an unlawful bill of information, which the Court found could not culminate in a lawful judgment of conviction, and finality interests were therefore never implicated.
- **Save the Date:** the Ohio Public Defender Symposium, hosted by the Supreme Court, takes place 11.4.26, both in-person and virtually. It has been approved for 2.5 hours of CLE.
- **Save the Date:** on 11.6.26, the University of Cincinnati is hosting a day-long CLE (approved in Ohio for six hours, 1.25 professional conduct), which is designed for judges, defense attorneys and prosecutors to obtain cutting-edge information relevant to their work. Registration for "[Modern Trends in Forensic Science, AI, and Evidence](#)" is open now.
- **Save the Date:** the **Ohio Forensic Mental Health Conference** takes place 11.13.26 at the Ohioan in Lewis Center. This year's theme is "AI and Complex Forensic Mental Health Systems: Navigating the New Frontier" and 5.5 hours of CLE have been approved. Featured sessions include a keynote on AI-augmented forensic practice, updates on Ohio forensic laws, and an examination of some ethical considerations surrounding the use of AI in forensic practice. View the full agenda and register [here](#).
- **Save the Date:** the Supreme Court's Annual [Veterans Summit](#) takes place on 11.19.26 at Villa Milano in Columbus. The conference, titled "Lean Forward: Helping Through Healing," can be attended in-person or virtually and 5.75 hours of CLE have been requested. Register through [OhioCourtEDU](#).

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



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