November 16, 2026

In Case You Missed It:

OSBF Hosts Symposium: The Intersection of Neurodiversity & the Law, 11.17.26

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 484** (Sen. Cutrona) **Struthers Municipal Court**, introduced 10.29.26. The bill changes the status of the Struthers Municipal Court (Mahoning County) from part-time to full-time.
◦ **SB 487** (Sen. Timken) **Protection Orders**, introduced 11.9.26. The bill adds strangulation to the list of offenses for which a protection order may be obtained and increases the penalty for violating a protection order, from an F5 to an F4. In addition, the violation can be an F3 if the offender violates the protection order while committing an offense of violence or if the offender has been previously convicted of violating a protection order two or more times (currently, the violation is an F3 only if the offender violates the protection order while committing a felony offense).
◦ **HB 1037** (Reps. Claggett, Miller, K.) **Licking County Common Pleas Court**, introduced 11.9.26. The bill adds a judgeship to the Licking County Court of Common Pleas.
◦ **HJR 11** (Rep. Ferguson) **Lower Veto Override Threshold**, introduced 11.9.26. The bill proposes a ballot item for citizens to vote on amending Section 16 of Article II of the Ohio Constitution to decrease the number of votes required for a veto override from a three-fifths majority of the legislature to a simple majority.
◦ In *State v. Dowell* (Slip Opinion 2026-Ohio-4094), decided on 10.26.26, the Ohio Supreme Court clarified that **obstruction of official business** (RC 2921.31) occurs when the defendant commits an unprivileged, voluntary act, legal or illegal, that obstructs police officers from performing their duties, even if the offense may have occurred while the defendant was being involuntarily committed (under RC 5122.10).
◦ In *State v. Holliman* (Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-4232), decided 10.29.26, the Ohio Supreme Court clarified that when an offender is convicted of two or more **firearm specifications** related to the same felony, the trial judge, not the prosecution, decides which specification to impose.
◦ In *Estate of Price v. Kidney Care Specialists, L.L.C.* (Slip Opinion No. 2026-Ohio-4270), decided 11.2.26, the Ohio Supreme Court found that while R.C. 2313.17 does not grant judges discretion when a valid challenge is made pertaining to a juror who will not follow the law, a trial judge must consider *all* the answers given by a potential juror during **jury selection** when an attorney seeks to bar the person from jury service based on a claim that some of the answers the potential juror gave indicate the person will not follow the law.
◦ Public comment is open until 11.30.26 on a proposed changed to Rule 21 of the Appellate Rules of Practice and Procedure, concerning **scheduling and requesting oral argument**. The Rule would require that "unless an emergency or extraordinary circumstance exists, judges assigned to hear oral argument shall be physically present in the courthouse during oral argument. Parties, counsel, and other participants may appear by remote means when authorized by law, local rule, or order of the court."

For a complete list of bills & the latest Enactment News, please visit the OJC website.



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