



ENACTMENT SUMMARY

Senate Bill 179

Veteran Status of Imprisoned Individuals

Effective September 23, 2026

On June 24, 2026, Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 179 (Sen. Johnson) into law. The bill creates new requirements for incarcerating institutions to investigate and verify the veteran status of individuals under their supervision. The bill also codifies an attorney general opinion that permits money from a county Veterans Service Commission to be used by a court's specialized docket veterans treatment program.

Funding for Veterans Court Outreach Program

Under continuing law, a county veterans service commission can establish outreach and coordination programs with other agencies to enhance veterans' services within a county. SB 179 specifies that the programs can include providing financial services assistance to a veterans' treatment court to establish and fulfill an outreach program, and the hiring and compensation of a person who will work at a veterans' treatment court to assist the court with an outreach program.

The bill passed the Ohio Senate by a vote of 33-0 on June 11, 2025 and the Ohio House of Representatives by a vote of 93-0 on June 3, 2026. The Senate voted on June 10, 2026 to concur in House amendments by a vote of 33-0. It was signed into law on June 24, 2026 and becomes effective on September 23, 2026.