



Ohio Legislative Report

Volume Two-Alpha; Number Five

May 2025

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 'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the start of each month to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus that could affect the lives of Veterans, Military Personnel, their families, and Veteran Organizations in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

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Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

The General Assembly was pretty busy in April despite being on spring break for two weeks. With a five-week month, they were able to hold committee hearings during three.

The House Finance Committee ended hearing for the budget bill (HB 96), made all of their amendments and passed a substitute bill out of committee on April 8. The next day during a three-hour general session the House passed it. The vote was 60 to 39. Substitute House Bill 96 was sent over to the Senate the next day. The Senate began working on it when they returned from break.

During the month there were only four pieces of veteran/military legislation introduced. One bill and one resolution in the Senate and two new bills in the House. (see page six)

March 1—April 4

Tuesday afternoon the House Education Committee had sponsor testimony for House Concurrent Resolution 7. It had been introduced by Representatives **Haraz N. Ghanbari** (HD-) and **Joseph A. Miller III** (HD-53) in February. The purpose of the resolution is to support and encourage the work of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State and the American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State in providing a premier educational and leadership program to the youth of Ohio. Both representatives offered testimony for their resolution.



*Reps Ghanbari
and Miller*



Rep Lawson-Rowe

The same day in the House Community Revitalization Committee sponsor testimony was given for House Bill 135 by Representative **Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe** (HD-5). Representative **Terrence Upchurch** (HD-20) who sponsored the bill with Lawson-Rowe was unable to be at the hearing. Their Bill would amend sections 4112.01 and 4112.02 of

the Revised Code to prohibit discrimination in rental housing based on lawful source of income. One of the sources listed in the bill is income from programs administered by the United States department of veterans' affairs or veterans' administration for any service-connected disability. The bill was introduced in February.

House Veterans and Military Development Committee members heard presentations from veteran organizations Wednesday morning. The first presentation was from William Hartman; Executive

Continued on next Page...

Director for the Department of Ohio made the presentation for Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The next organization was Military/Veterans Education Foundation, Inc. The presenters were Carrie Killingsworth, President and Merle Pratt, Trustee.



Killingsworth And Pratt

Logistics Inc.

Finishing the hearing was Lee Gidden with a presentation for Alpha 11 Veterans



Hartman



Gidden

April 7—11

The first hearing of the week was Tuesday in the House General Government Committee where sponsor testimony was given on two bills. Senators



Senators Craig and Reynolds

Michele Reynolds (SD-3) and **Hearcel F. Craig** (SD-15) offered testimony on their bill AmSB 17. The bill was introduced in January and passed on the Senate floor with a 32 to 0 vote. It would enact section 5.212

of the Revised Code to designate March 9th as "6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day." Following their testimony Senators **Andrew O. Brenner** (SD-19) and **Bill Reineke** (SD-26) gave testimony on Senate Bill 21. Their bill would enact section 5.2322 of the Revised Code to



Senators Brenner and Reineke

Reflections

"Do it! What are you waiting on? Do it! Stand up for what you believe in. The world needs your voice. Whoever you are, you have something to say. Say it."

- Ban Ki-moon

designate October 4 as "Rutherford B. Hayes Day." It was introduced in January and in February it passed in the Senate 32-0 .

The House Veterans and Military Development Committee met Wednesday morning to hear testimony on SB 39 and HB 204. It was the first hearing in the house for both bills. Senate Bill 39 was introduced in January by Senators **Terry Johnson** (SD-14) and **Craig**. It had passed unanimously on the Senate floor in March. The bill would enact section 4113.13 of the Revised Code regarding the creation and display of a poster containing information on benefits and services for veterans.



Senators Craig and Johnson

Representatives **Erika White** (HD-41) and **Melanie Miller** (HD-67) offered testimony on their bill, HB 204. It would enact section 5.212 of the Revised Code to designate March 9th as "6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day." It was introduced in March as a companion bill to Senate Bill 17.



Reps White and Miller

April 28—May 2

Following the Spring break there were plenty of committee meetings in both chambers. The House Veterans and Military Development Committee Chair, **Tracy Richardson** (HB-86) held the committee meeting at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force on Monday. It consisted of a tour of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and presentations



Members of the Veteran & Military Development Committee

from the 88th Air Base Wing of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, 178th Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard, The Air Force Museum, and other community organizations.

The members learned more about the unit's organization, general mission and base priorities, as well as any challenges or issues that the legislature might be able to address. Speaker of the House **Matt**

Continued on next Page...

Huffman (HD-78) also attended the meeting.

Tuesday morning the House Public Safety Committee heard proponent testimony for House Bill 1. The bill was introduced in January by Representatives **Angela N. King** (HD-84) and **Roy Klopfenstein** (HD-82) and would amend sections of the Revised Code to modify the law that prohibits certain governments, businesses, and individuals from acquiring certain real property. In February a companion bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Johnson. There were four written testimonies received by the committee and they heard testimony from four witnesses in person. They were representatives of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, State Armor, and American Legislative Exchange Council as well as Representative **Bernard Willis** (HD-74).



Rep Willis

In the afternoon the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee heard testimony on HB 95. It was the first hearing for the bill that would make an appropriation to support higher education institutions that are members of the Ohio Veterans Education Council. The Committee heard testimony from the bill sponsors, Representatives **Andrea White** (HD-36) and **Brian Stewart** (HD-12).

Also, that afternoon the second hearing for SB 21 was held by the House General Government Committee. The only testimony was submitted by the Director of Government Relations at Ohio History Connection. SB 21 is the bill of Senators Brenner and Reineke that would designate October 4 as "Rutherford B. Hayes Day."



Reps Stewart and White

In the Senate General Government Committee that afternoon Senator Johnson's bill that would prohibit certain governments, businesses, and individuals from acquiring certain real property had a third hearing. The committee members heard testimony from a representative of State Armor in support of SB 88. Written testimony was provided by four interested parties. The City Manager of Moraine, Ohio submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill.

An informal hearing for the budget Bill (HB-96) was held in the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. A presentation was given by ODVS Director Debrah Ashenhurst. She informed the

Continued on next Page...

OUT IN THE DISTRICTS



Legislators Meet With Veterans Services

April 10, 2025

Columbus Ohio - Members of Lorain County Veterans Service Commission and Ohio Veteran Service Commission met with Senator **Nathan Manning** and Representative **Joseph A. Miller, III** in the Statehouse. The main topic was future training possibilities for the veteran service officers and commissioner of Ohio's 88 counties.

Pictured (l-r): LCVS Deputy Director Larry Amato, Manning, LCVSC Executive Director Jacob D. Smith, ODVS Director Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Miller, and ODVS Chief Policy Officer Lucas Denny.



Senator Presents Proclamation To 106 Year Old WWII Veteran

April 25, 2025

Dayton VA Medical Center - A birthday party was thrown by the Low Vision Clinic at the Dayton VA and there were plenty of friends, family, staff, and dignitaries present. They were all there to celebrate the 106th birthday of World War II Army Veteran, for John Dorsey.

State Senator Willis E. Blackshear, Jr. was there to present the Veteran with a Senate Proclamation.

Pictured (l-r) John Dorsey and Sen. Blackshear.

members about how state funds were being used and the need for upgrades and modernization at the two Ohio Veterans Homes and the progress to get it accomplished. She talked about the many other programs the ODVS does for Ohio veterans because of the support of the legislators. When she was finished, she announced to the Committee that the next day would be her last day as Director. She was stepping down so she could enjoy retirement with her husband.

Following the director were presentations by several Veteran Service Organizations. Written testimonies were received from officers of the American Legion and the 37th Division Veterans Association. Giving in person presentations were Michael Stith of the Disabled American Veterans, David Root of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Don McCauley of American Veterans, and Richard Arthur of the Vietnam Veterans of America.



Director Ashenhurst



Stith

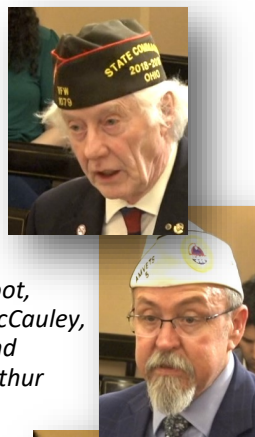
They each talked about the many things their organizations do and how important the state funding is and how it

enables them to carry out their programs.

On Wednesday morning House Bill 22 had a fourth hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee and there was no testimony offered. The bill introduced by

Representatives **Brian Lorenz** (HD-60) and **David Thomas** (HD-65) would amend sections of the Revised Code to authorize a full homestead exemption for surviving spouses of members of the uniformed services killed in the line of duty.

The Senate Transportation Committee met Wednesday morning and heard testimony first from Representative King. Her bill, House Bill 50, would enact section 5533.106 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 47 in Darke County as the "PFC John Wayne Richard Memorial Highway." She informed the members that PFC John Wayne



Root,
McCauley,
And
Arthur



Richard served in the United States Army in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He was killed while courageously fighting communist forces after being caught in a deadly ambush on May 21, 1969. King introduced her bill in February and the House passed it in March with a 92 to 0 vote.

Testimony was heard next for Senate Bill 148. The bill was introduced in March by Senator **Jerry C. Cirino** (SD-18) and this was the second hearing for it. The bill would enact section 5534.675 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 2 in Lake County as the "Specialist Lloyd Andrew Sellers Memorial Highway." The only witness was the son of SP4 Sellers. He talked about the father he never met and his short time on earth. SP4 Sellers began his tour in Vietnam on January 28, 1967. His son was born February 9. Sellers was killed June 19, 1967, at the age of 21. After the testimony the committee members favorably passed the bill out of committee with a 7 to 0 vote.



Rep King

That same morning HB 22 had its fourth hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee but there was neither written nor in person testimony provided.

The month of May will keep the Senate busy with hearings in multiple committees as they hear from the people of Ohio concerning the budget as it was passed by the House. At some point, Legislative Service Commission will be instructed to draft a substitute bill to incorporate the changes the Senate would like to make in the House-passed version of the bill. The substitute bill will be considered and amended in the Finance Committee and then passed by the full Senate.

Since the House is not likely to concur with the Senate amendments, the bill will probably be sent to a committee of conference. Conference committee meetings usually take place over a period of at least two weeks, after which the conference committee prepares a committee report to submit to the House and Senate.

Once both houses agree to the report of the conference committee, it will be printed and presented to the Governor.

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Ohio Legislative Report

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OUT IN THE DISTRICTS



Commemoration Presented by State Reps

April 25, 2025

Toledo, OH - When the Lucas County Veterans Service Commission celebrated the move into their new location, State Representatives **Michele Grim** and **Erika White** stopped by to present them with a Commendation from the Ohio House of Representatives.

Pictured (seated l-r): Rep Grim, LCVSC Executive Director David Oravec, and Rep White.



'Dinner With a Vet' Night for State Rep

April 24, 2025

Clyde, OH - When State Representative D.J. Swearingen attended the Seneca & Sandusky County 2025 Lincoln Day Dinner he ate with a Paul E. Heiser, Sr. Heiser is a 101 year old veteran of World War II who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Pictured (l-r): Swearingen and Heiser.

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State Rep Attends Dedication Ceremony

April 24, 2025

Paulding, OH - United States Highway number 24 now has a new name in Paulding County, thanks to legislation introduced by State Representative **Roy Klopfenstein** during the previous general assembly. A dedication ceremony was held at the Paulding VFW post as the highway will now be known as Paulding County Purple Heart Memorial Highway. US 24 is the only non-interstate in Ohio to have that distinction according to the Post Facebook page.

Pictured (l-r): Klopfenstein, Post Commander John Daeger, and Jon Lichty.



State Rep Visits 121st Air Refueling Wing

April 13, 2025

Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base - State Representative **Meredith Lawson-Rowe** took the opportunity to learn a little of the Ohio's Air National Guard. She was able to see and touch one of their KC-135R Stratotankers and learn about it and the 121st ARW.

Pictured (l-r): Lawson-Rowe, Major General John C. Harris, Jr., and Chief Master Sergeant Michael Dumas

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

If you have news or photos of a state representative or senator doing veteran/military stuff in their district, send it to us.

Email photos along with all info about the event and the photo to: oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Meet With Your Legislators

Coffee with Rep. Rader

Coffee with Rep. Rader: Connecting Over Coffee and Conversation

Join State Representative Tristan Rader for an informal and engaging community event! "Coffee with Rep. Rader" is your chance to sit down, ask questions, share your concerns, and have an open conversation about the issues that matter most to you and your community. These relaxed gatherings offer a unique opportunity to meet your representative face-to-face, hear about Tristan's work in the Ohio Statehouse, and discuss ways we can build a brighter future together.

Next Up: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

May 30th: Root Cafe – 15118 Detroit Ave., Lakewood

June 27th: Koffie Cafe – 2517 Market Ave., Cleveland, 44113 (Ohio City)

Whether you want to discuss local issues, state policies, or simply get to know Tristan better, we'd love to see you there! Stop by for as little or as long as you'd like. Coffee and great conversation are on us!

MAY COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

An opportunity to meet me, your State Representative of House District 5!

May 15, 2025
8:15AM to 9:30AM

Meredith Lawson-Rowe
State Representative

Raider Nutrition Reynoldsburg
6993 E. Main St.
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

People first.



Constituent Coffee

with

State Representative Nick Santucci &
State Representative David Thomas

All events run from 9:00 - 10:00 AM

- May 29 at The Station (Austinburg)
- June 26 at Cortland Main (Cortland)
- July 31 at Market House (Howland)
- August 28 at Twisted Peacock (Vienna)
- September 25 at KT's Coffee (Hubbard)
- October 30 at Wall Street Coffee (Jefferson)
- November 20 at Scribblers (Geneva)
- December 11 at Lakeshore (Andover)

Residents of the 64th and 65th districts are invited to join Representative Santucci and Representative Thomas for coffee to discuss their questions and concerns.

You're Invited!

COFFEE, DONUTS AND CONSTITUENTS

with State Representative
Johnathan Newman

When: May 31st at 9 AM

Where: Arcanum Opera House - 102 West South Street, Arcanum, OH



MIKE DOVILLA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 17 OFFICE HOURS

at your local library

9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

JOIN US

Saturday, May 31st - North Royalton Branch



State Representative Jodi Salvo

District Office Hours

March - June

Thursdays at 6 PM - Saturdays at 9 AM

Dover Library - 525 N Walnut St,

Dover, OH 44622

More on next Page...



Leading Ladies of the Legislature

LEVERAGING AND LIFTING LISTENING TOUR

Ohio's women legislators are hitting the road to listen, learn, and lead with you! ODWLC is embarking on a statewide listening tour to connect with communities, hear your concerns, and amplify the voices of women and families across Ohio.

JOIN US

**MAY 19th
AT 5:30PM**

**SHARONVILLE LIBRARY
10980 THORNVIEW DR.
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45241**



JOIN THE
OHIO JEWISH CAUCUS
FOR A



TOWNHALL MEETING

Join us for a Jewish community townhall and reception to share your thoughts, ask questions, and hear the latest updates from the members of the Ohio Jewish Caucus.

 Senator Casey Weinstein
  Representative Dani Isaacsohn
  Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
  Representative Karen Brownlee
  Representative Christine Cockley
  Representative Eric Synenberg

THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD ON

 **THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025**

 **TOWNHALL: 5:00 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.**
RECEPTION: 6:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

 **SHAW JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF AKRON**
750 WHITE POND DR, AKRON, OH 44320



PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO RSVP

WHILE RSVPS ARE APPRECIATED, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND
PLEASE REACH OUT TO WEINSTEIN@OHIOSENATE.GOV WITH ANY QUESTIONS



LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN APRIL

- HB 228** Introduced on April 7 by Representatives **Josh Williams** (HD-44) and **Elgin Rogers, Jr.** (HD-42).
The bill would enact section 5534.617 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of I-280 in Lucas County as the "SSG Jack W. Coy Veterans Memorial Highway."
It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.
- SR 97** Introduced on April 8 by Senator **Casey Weinstein** (SD-28).
It resolves that the members of the Senate acknowledge the Month of the Military Child in Ohio, April 2025, and urges all citizens to participate in appropriate programs and activities associated with it.
It was adopted by the Senate the same day.
- HB 234** Introduced on April 15 by Representative **D.J. Sweringen** (HD-89).
The bill would enact section 5534.607 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 2 in Ottawa County as the "Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway."
It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.
- SB 179** Introduced on April 23 by Senator **Terry Johnson** (SD-14).
The bill would amend sections 341.02 and 5901.03 and to enact section 341.43 of the Revised Code to verify the veteran status of imprisoned individuals and individuals facing imprisonment.
It was referred to the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.

Legislation In The 136th Ohio General Assembly

Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard and Their Families

- HB 1 Enact Ohio Property Protection Act
- HB 22 Authorize homestead exemption for surviving military spouses
- HB 27 Designate Specialist Jacob A. Ashton Memorial Bridge
- HB 40 Increase disabled veteran enhanced homestead exemption
- HB 50 To designate a portion of SR 47 the "PFC John Wayne Richard Memorial Highway."
- HB 56 To designate a portion of SR 421 the "CPL David James Amheiser Memorial Highway."
- HB 61 Modify homestead exemption, owner-occupancy tax credit amount
- HB 95 Support members of Ohio Veterans Education Council
- HB 96 Make state operating appropriations for FY 2026-27
- HB 135 Prohibit source of income discrimination in rental housing
- HB 171 Designate a portion of State Route 28 the "CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway."
- HB 204 Designate 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day
- HB 228 To designate a portion of I 280 the "SSG Jack W. Coy Veterans Memorial Highway."
- HB 234 Designate Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway

- HCR 7 To support the work of the Am. Leg. Buckeye Boys State and the Am. Leg. Aux. Buckeye Girls State

- SB 17 Designate 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day
- SB 21 Designate Rutherford B. Hayes Day
- SB 39 Provide for informational poster on veteran benefits and services
- SB 88 Enact the Ohio Property Protection Act
- SB 92 Authorize total property tax exemption-totally disabled veterans
- SB 148 Designate a portion of State Route 2 the "Specialist Lloyd Andrew Sellers Memorial Highway."
- SB 179 Verify veteran status of imprisoned individuals

- SCR 7 Urge Congress reissue DoD Civilian Retiree Identification Cards

- SR 21 Urge Congress support military, veteran mental health treatment
- SR 22 Urge federal govt reduce processing time-veteran disability claim
- SR 52 Honoring the DAR Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter on its 150th Anniversary
- SR 97 Observing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Ohio

Details of every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel thorough committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You will find the Ohio Legislature's website here:
www.legislature.ohio.gov