Ohio Legislative Report

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'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the beginning 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.

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Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

Busy! Busy! Busy! The General assembly just finished the first full month of hearings since June. There were more than 30 committee hearings held to hear testimony on veteran/military legislation. During the four and one half weeks. Redistricting of congressional districts and property tax reform also continued to be the hottest topics of the month.

House members dropped four new bills and two resolutions. Two new bills were dropped by our senators during the month.

Hearings Held for Veteran/Military Legislation

October 1-3

The House Veterans and Military Development Committee kicked off the month with a hearing Wednesday morning and had five pieces of veteran/military legislation on the agenda. There were three House Concurrent Resolutions scheduled to have their second hearings.

HCR 20 would honor the service and valor of the men and women of the United States Navy and commemorate the 250th anniversary of its founding. It was introduced by Representatives **Michael D. Dovilla** (HD-17) and **Nick Santucci** (HD-64) in September. Testimony was heard from two members of the Ohio VFW, both veterans of the Navy. Tim Zvoncheck, a retired Chief and State Judge Advocate and David K. Root, who served for four years during Vietnam and is the State Legislative Chairman gave oral testimony. There was also written testimony submitted from Thaddeus M. Brown, a former Navy Lieutenant.

Zvoncheck

Next was HCR 21. It was introduced in September by Representative **Jean Schmidt** (HD-62) to recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. Written testimony was submitted by Bill Mues, a veteran of the Marine Corps.

Root

HCR 23 was next with written testimony from Michael R. Stith, Adjutant of the Ohio DAV and a veteran of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. HCR 23 was introduced in September by Representatives **Johnathan Newman** (HD-80) and **Ty D. Mathews** (HD-83) to recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Army and the United States Army Chaplain Corps.

See *Happenings* on Page Three...

A look at what the bills say... In a Nut Shell

Summaries from the Office of Research and Drafting

Senator Kristina D. Roegner (SD-27) has introduced legislation that she says has been passed in 21 states with pending legislation in at least seven other states seeking to expand access to quality childcare for military families and reduce barriers for military spouses who support their families by operating family child care homes and move frequently between states with differing licensure requirements.

Senate Bill 218 would exempt family child care providers certified by the U.S. armed forces from the Ohio law governing the regulation of child care providers, including the requirement that certain family child care homes be licensed by the Department of Children and Youth in order to operate.

Senate Bill 218—

The Detailed Analysis

Military-certified family child care provider exemption

S.B. 218 exempts a family child care provider certified by any branch of the U.S. armed forces, including the U.S. Coast Guard, from the law governing the regulation of child care providers, including the requirement that certain family child care homes be licensed by the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) in order to operate in Ohio.

Child care definition

For purposes of Ohio law, child care is defined to mean (1) administering to the needs of infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and school-age children outside of school hours, (2) by persons other than their parents, guardians, or custodians, (3) for part of the 24-hour day, and (4) in a place other than a child's own home.

Child care regulation

DCY's regulation of child care providers involves certain activities, including all of the following: conducting background checks on child care administrators, staff, and any adults residing in family child care homes; performing inspections of license applicants; establishing minimum qualifications for administrators and staff; setting physical space requirements for child care centers; establishing child-to-staff ratios; ensuring that inspections related to building occupancy and fire safety occur; and investigating complaints.

Types of child care providers

Current law recognizes three main types of child care providers – child care centers, family child care homes, and in-home aides.5 Each child care center and type A family child care home must be licensed by DCY in order to provide child care in Ohio.6 A type B family child care home may provide child care without a license, unless the home seeks to provide publicly funded child care, in which case, a DCY-issued license is required.7 An in-home aide may provide child care without being certified by a county department of job and family services, but similar to a type B home, must be certified in order to provide publicly funded child care.

Definitions

A ***child care center*** is defined as any place that is not the permanent residence of the center's licensee or administrator in which child care or publicly funded child care is provided for seven or more children at one time.

A ***type A family child care home*** is the permanent residence of the administrator in which child care or publicly funded child care is provided for seven to 12 children at one time or a permanent residence of the administrator in which child care is provided for four to 12 children at one time if four or more children at one time are under two years of age.

A ***type B family child care home*** is defined to mean a permanent residence of the provider in which care is provided for one to six children at one time and in which no more than three children are under two years of age at one time.

An ***in-home aide*** is an individual who does not reside with the child but provides care in the child's home.

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Reflections

"People don't change under governments. Governments change. People remain the same."

- Will Rogers

Happenings, from Page One

All three concurrent resolutions were favorably passed with votes of 13 to 0.

Testimony was heard from Michael Young in support of HCR 18. It would urge Congress to recognize United States troops who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992. It was introduced in September by Representatives Ty Mathews and **Kevin D. Miller** (HD-83). This was the second hearing for the resolution.

Young

Finally, Representatives **Kevin Ritter** (HD-94) and Newman gave sponsor testimony on House Bill 297 that they introduced in May to increase the amount a county may provide to military and veterans organizations for Memorial Day expenses.

Reps. Newman & Ritter

In the Senate Transportation Committee members heard testimony from Representatives **Jamie Callender** (HD-57) and **Daniel P. Troy** (HD-23) on their bill. HB 27 would designate the bridge spanning the Grand River in Lake County as the "Specialist Jacob A. Ashton Memorial Bridge". They introduced it in January, and it was passed unanimously by the House in March.

Sens. Troy & Callender

Two other bills were on the Transportation Committee's agenda –HB 56 and HB 171. There was not any oral testimony for either bill and they both passed out of committee with a vote of 7 to 0.

HB 56 was introduced in February by Representative **Sharon A. Ray** (HD-66). Her bill would designate a portion of State Route 421 in Medina County as the "CPL David James Amheiser Memorial Highway." It passed in the House 88 to 0 in May. There was written proponent testimony submitted by Ed Zackery, Director of Medina County Veterans Service Commission.

Representative Schmidt introduced HB 171 in March to designate a portion of State Route 28 in

Continued on next Page...

Passed in the Chambers

During the month of October nearly a dozen veteran/military related bills and resolutions were passed in the two chambers. Only three bills advanced to the Governor's desk.

In the House Chamber

October 1

House Bill 259 to designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway passed 93 - 0. It was sent to the Senate.

House Concurrent Resolution 20 to Honor the United States Navy and commemorate its 250th anniversary passed 94-0. It was sent to the Senate.

October 8

House Bill 316 to designate MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway passed 92-0. It was sent to the Senate.

Amended House Bill 434 to exempt military driver's license applicants from driver's ed passed 95-0 after first allowing the emergency clause to stand as part of the bill 95-0. It was sent to the Senate.

House Concurrent Resolution 21 to recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps passed 93-0. It was sent to the Senate.

House Concurrent Resolution 23 to recognize 250th anniversary of United States Army and the Chaplain Corps passed 94-0. It was sent to the Senate.

October 22

Substitute House Bill 335 Regarding county budget commissions, property and sales tax, funds was amended 60-33 and then passed 71-24. It was sent to the Senate.

Substitute Senate Bill 56 to revise specified provisions of the liquor control, hemp, and adult-use marijuana laws, to levy taxes on certain hemp products, and to make an appropriation passed 87-8. It then returned to the Senate.

October 29

Substitute House Bill 27 to designate the bridge spanning the Grand River in Lake County as the "Specialist Jacob A. Ashton Memorial Bridge" and to make changes to the "Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation" license plate concurred to the Senate

See *Chambers* on Page Four...

Clermont County as the "CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway." It was passed by the House with a 95-0 vote in May. Written proponent testimony was submitted by Walter (Larry) Luecke, a Vietnam veteran, and close friend of Corporal Speidel.

The Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee met Wednesday morning and heard testimony for Senate Bill 233 and Senate Bill 218.

It was the second hearing for HB 223 which was introduced in June by Senator **Thomas F. Patton** (SD-24) and would require the ODNR Chief of the Division of Parks and Watercraft to establish a discount program for veterans and service members for park services and rentals. Proponent testimony was given by Root, of the Ohio VFW. Written testimony was also submitted in support of the bill from Adam Carr, Executive Vice President of Save A Warrior.

Root

Senator **Kristina D. Roegner** (SD-27) provided sponsor testimony for SB 218. She introduced her bill in June. It would exempt from licensure any family childcare provider who was certified by a branch of the United States armed forces.

Sen. Roegner

In the House Ways and Means Committee House Bill 335 had its second hearing. It was introduced in June by Representative **David Thomas** (HD-65). It would modify the law governing county budget commissions, property taxation, county sales taxation, and alternative apportionment formulas for local government and public library funds. Written testimony had been submitted, one from an interested party and one in opposition. There was no oral testimony, however Thomas did make an amendment to his bill that was approved by the committee members.

October 6-10

There was only one hearing on Tuesday and

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Chambers, from Page Three

amendments 93-0. It will be sent to the Governor.

A motion that the House insist on its amendments to Sub. S. B. No. 56-Senator Huffman, et al., and ask for a committee of conference was agreed to. It will be sent to a committee of conference.

In the Senate Chamber

October 8

House Bill 171 to designate a portion of State Route 28 the "CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway." Passed 28-0. It was then sent to the Governor.

October 22

Substitute House Bill 27 to designate Specialist Jacob A. Ashton Memorial Bridge Passed 33-0. It was returned to the House.

Amended Senate Bill 223 to require ODNR discount program for veterans and service members passed 33-0. It was sent to the House.

October 29

The Senate did not concur in the House of Representatives amendments of Substitute Senate Bill 56 to revise specified provisions of the liquor control, hemp, and adult-use marijuana laws, to levy taxes on certain hemp products 0-32. It was returned to the House.

House Bill 56 to designate a portion of State Route 421 in Medina County as the "CPL David James Amheiser Memorial Highway." passed 32-0. It will be sent to the Governor.

Substitute House Bill 434 to make corrections related to the transportation and main operating budgets, to make appropriations, and to declare an emergency was amended 23-9. After voting to allow emergency features to stand as a part of the bill 31-0, it was then passed 31-0. It will be returned to the House.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OLR welcomes letters to the editor

* Letters are limited to 250 words.
* Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.
* Letters must include writer's name, address, and phone number for the purpose of verification.

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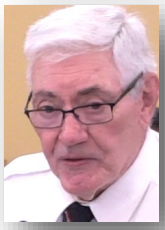
that was the House Transportation Committee. The committee heard sponsor testimony from Representatives **Bernard Willis** (HD-74) and **Brian Lampton** (HD-70). Their bill would exempt certain military-related limited term driver's license applicants from the driver's education requirements. There were also two written testimonies submitted in support of the bill. The representatives introduced House Bill 434 in September. Following their testimony the committee favorably passed it with a vote of 11 to 0.

Reps. Lampton & Wilis

The next day proved to be a busier day. The House Veterans and Military Development Committee had hearings for HB 297 and SB 179.

Root



Zimmerman

House Bill 297 was back again for a second hearing. There was written testimony from Les Rose, a retired Army veteran and Zvoncheck of the VFW. Oral testimony was provided by Root of the VFW and

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Meet With Your Legislators

Constituent Coffee

with

State Representative Nick Santucci &
State Representative David Thomas

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

- **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.

OUT IN THE DISTRICTS

Members of the House Veterans & Military Development Committee traveled to Springfield on October 20 to visit and tour National Air Mobility Center of Excellence.

Pictured l-r: Representatives Tracy M. Richardson, Bernard Willis, and Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe.

When Honor Flight Columbus flew over 100 veterans to Washington, DC on October 16 a veteran named Ernie (front far right) had State Senator Steve Huffman (next to Ernie) as his guardian for the day.

On October 30 State Representative Jodi Salvo *(seated right)* recognized the honor guard members of Newcomerstown American Legion, Thomas C. Montgomery Post 431 for their outstanding service and dedication to fellow veterans, their families, and the Newcomerstown community.

ATTENTION LEGISLATORS

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by the end of each month to be included.

Kenneth Zimmerman, a member of the American Legion, VFW, and DAV as well as being an Air Force veteran. All witnesses were in support of HB 297.

Senator **Terry Johnson** (SD-14) then provided sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 179 that would verify the veteran status of imprisoned individuals and individuals facing imprisonment. He introduced his bill in April and in June it passed 33 to 0 in the Senate.

Sen. Johnson

In the Senate Transportation Committee House Bill 228 had sponsor testimony from Representatives **Josh Williams** (HD-44) and **Elgin Rogers, Jr.** (HD-42). The bill would designate a portion of I-280 in Lucas County as the "SSG Jack W. Coy Veterans Memorial Highway." They introduced the bill in April, and it passed in the House 88 to 0 in May.

Reps. Williams & Rogers

HB 27 was back on the agenda for its second hearing. There was no testimony, and the committee favorably passed the bill 6 to 0 after an amendment that would make changes to the "Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation" license plate was approved.

There were two bills in the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee when it met Wednesday morning. SB 223 had its third hearing and SB 253 had its first.

SB 223 had an amendment approved and then was passed favorably out of committee with a 6 to 0 vote.

Sens. Reynolds & Craig

SB 253 would designate February 20th every year as "Black Ohioan Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient Day." The bill was introduced in June by Senators **Hearcel F. Craig** (SD-15) and **Michele Reynolds** (SD-3).

There was only one other bill that morning and it was HB 335 for a third hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. It was amended again but there was no testimony and no vote from the committee members.

October 13-17

On Tuesday morning the House Finance Committee met and heard testimony for the first time on HB 476. The bill would authorize online raffles under the Charitable Gaming Law. The bill sponsors, Representatives **Meredith Craig** (HD-77) and David Thomas provided their testimony and then the members of the committee heard from six proponents of the bill as well as had written testimony from five others.

Reps. Craig & Thomas

In the afternoon the House Education Committee heard sponsor testimony on House Bill 500 from Representatives Ty Mathews and Ritter. Their bill would designate a JROTC program offered by a school district as a career-technical education program. They introduced it the previous week.

Reps. Mathews & Ritter

HCR 7 had a second hearing before the Senate Education Committee that same afternoon. Representatives **Haraz N. Ghanbari** (HD-75) and **Joseph A. Miller, III** (HD-53) introduced the resolution in February and it passed unanimously in the Senate in June. It would 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. Testimony was given by Jacob Brault, Legislative Coordinator for the American Legion Department of Ohio in support of the resolution. Written proponent testimony was also submitted by Christie White, Gerald White, James Koppin, and Gwen Zulch, all members of the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio.

Brault

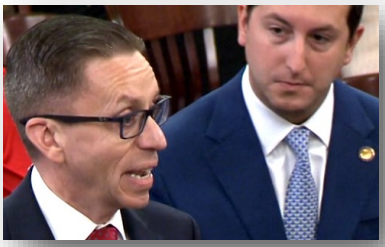
On Wednesday the House Veterans and Military Development Committee had HB 297 and HCR 18 scheduled for their third hearings, but there was no testimony and no action taken on either bill.

Continued on next Page...

In the House Ways and Means Committee, House Bill 335 was back for a fourth hearing. The Committee heard testimony from members of two different school districts voicing their opposition to the bill. Written testimony was also received –one a proponent and fifteen others in opposition to the bill.

The Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety met in the afternoon and heard sponsor testimony from Representatives Dovilla and Santucci on their resolution HCR 20.

Also on the agenda was SB 253 for a second hearing. There was one written testimony submitted to the committee from the President of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Col William Butler (USA Ret.) in support of the bill.



Reps. Dovilla & Santucci

October 20-24

There were no hearings in the morning Tuesday, but there were plenty in the afternoon.

The House Ways and Means Committee had the fifth hearing for HB 335. There was no testimony either written or oral, but there were amendments. First Thomas, the bill sponsor proposed an amendment and it was approved. Then Ranking Member, **Daniel P. Troy** (HD-23) proposed two separate amendments, and each one was approved. Following the amendment approvals the Committee voted 11 to 1 to favorably pass the amended bill out of committee.

In the House Judiciary Committee, a substitute SB 56 was accepted by the members. The bill would revise specified provisions of the liquor control, hemp, and adult-use marijuana laws, levy taxes on certain hemp products, and make an appropriation. It was introduced in February by Senator **Stephen A. Huffman** (SD-5) and passed by the Senate with a 23 to 9 vote the same month. An amendment to the bill was accepted after a roll call vote. The bill was then favorably passed out of committee with an 8 to 5 vote.

Rep. Moore

In the House Transportation Committee two bills sponsored by Representative **Ty Moore** (HD-95) had their first hearings. HB 384 would designate a portion of U.S. Route 22 in Harrison County as the "Staff Sergeant Melvin Trushel, Sr. Memorial Highway." and HB 485 would designate a portion of U.S. Route 22 in Harrison County as the "PFC Thomas "Tommy" Pizzino Memorial Highway." He introduced both bills in July. Moore provided testimony for each of his bills.

On the Senate side Senators **Theresa Gavarone** (SD-2) and **Andrew O. Brenner** (SD-19) gave sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 293 before the Senate General Government Committee. Their bill, introduced on October 14 would require all marked absent voter's ballots to be delivered to the board of elections by the close of the polls on Election Day in order to be counted.

Sens. Gavarone & Brenner

In the Senate Finance Committee Representatives Willis and Lampton presented their sponsor testimony on HB 434. There was no other testimony submitted.

House Concurrent Resolution 7 had its third hearing before the Senate Education Committee and the committee had not received any testimony. A unanimous vote favorably passed the bill.

Reps. Willis & Lampton

On Wednesday morning SB 56 was before the House Finance Committee because the bill made an appropriation. Representatives **Brian Stewart** (HD-12) and **Tex Fischer** (HD-59) testified before the committee. Following questions from the members the bill was favorably passed with a vote of 29-2.

Rep. Stewart

Rep. Fischer

In the House Veteran and Military Development Committee HB 297 had a third hearing but there was no written or oral testimony.

The first hearing for House Resolution 243 was also on the agenda. It was introduced on October 1

Continued on next Page...

and would request the Secretary of the Air Force select the 121st Air Refueling Wing at the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio, as the preferred main operating base for the KC-46 Pegasus refueling aircraft. Representatives **Tracy M. Richardson** (HD-86) and Ghanbari gave sponsor testimony.

Reps. Richardson & Ghanbari

There were two veteran/military bills before the Senate Transportation Committee that morning –HB 259 and HB 228. Both bills dealt with naming memorial highways.

House Bill 259 was introduced in May by Representatives **Jack K. Daniels** (HD-32) and **Bill Roemer** (HD-31) and it passed in the House with a vote of 93 to 0 on October 1. The bill would designate a portion of State Route 241 in Summit County as the "Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway." Both representatives provided testimony for the members.

Reps. Roemer & Daniels

It was the second hearing for House Bill 228 but there was no testimony submitted to the committee. A vote was taken, and the bill was unanimously passed out of committee.

That afternoon in the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee SB 253 had its third hearing. There was no oral testimony, but written proponent testimony was submitted by Brault of the Ohio American Legion and Root of the Ohio VFW. With a vote of 6 to 0 it was favorably passed.

Sens. Roegner & Timken

Senators Roegner and **Jane M. Timken** (SD-29) gave sponsor testimony on their Bill to designate August 26th as "Abbey Gate Remembrance Day" in Ohio each year. They introduced SB 244 in August.

Rep. Schmidt

The first hearing for HCR 21 was next. Representative Schmidt gave sponsor testimony and HCR 23 followed with sponsor testimony from Representatives Newman and Ty Mathews.

October 25-28

The second hearing for HB 476 was the only bill on the agenda of the House Finance Committee Tuesday morning. There were four individuals who offered oral testimony and two others who submitted written testimony. It was a mix of proponents, opponents, and interested parties.

Reps. Mathews & Newman

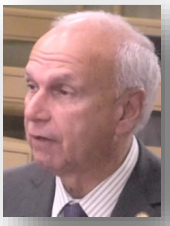
In the afternoon the Senate General Government Committee met and on its agenda was the second hearing for SB 293. Gavarone requested to amend the bill and the committee accepted the motion. The members then heard proponent testimony from an officer of Honest Elections Project Action.

The Senate Finance Committee held the second hearing for HB 434. Chairman **Jerry C. Cirino** (SB-18) provided an explanation to the members of the two budget corrections and other time sensitive or low-level budget clean ups that would be amended into the bill and why they were needed. The amendment was then agreed to by the members. A vote was then taken, and the amended bill was favorably passed 13 to 0.

The Senate Local Government Committee also met that afternoon and held an informal hearing for House Bill 335. Representative Thomas gave sponsor testimony by sharing his knowledge of the bill and explained the many amendments and the bill's intent.

Rep. Thomas

In the House Transportation Committee Tuesday afternoon Senator Cirino gave sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 148. He introduced it in March, and the Senate passed it in May with a vote of 33 to 0. The bill would designate a portion of State Route 2 in Lake County as the "Specialist Lloyd Andrew Sellers Memorial Highway." The members of the committee also had written testimony from Specialist Seller's son offering his full support of the bill. Following the testimony the committee voted 13 to 0 to favorably pass the bill.



Sen. Cirino

In the Senate Transportation Committee the next morning, the legislative aide of Representative **Jeff LaRe** (HD-73) gave sponsor testimony for HB 316

Continued on next Page...

that would designate a portion of Chillicothe Lancaster Road in Fairfield County as the "MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway." He introduced the bill in June, and it passed 92 to 0 in the House on October 8.

The Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee met Wednesday afternoon and passed several veteran/military bills that were there for their second hearings.

First was SB 244 which had two written testimonies submitted in support of the bill. One was from Seven Hills Mayor Anthony D. Biasio and the other was from Congressman Max L. Miller.

Check out the new Column on Page three

Next was HCR 20. There was no testimony submitted.

HCR 21 was next. Written testimony was submitted from Marine Corps veteran Cpl. Bill Mues who supported the bill.

Last was HCR 23 which did not have anyone testifying in writing or in person.

All four bills were favorably passed out of committee with votes of 6 to 0.

Insight on House Bill 335

The bill, introduced on June 4 by Representative David Thomas is listed as a veteran/ military bill because as introduced it would have ended inside millages for all Ohio counties.

According to the bill summary published by Legislative Service Commission (LSC) the bill "Expresses the General Assembly's intent to, beginning for tax year 2025, effectively repeal inside millage for most subdivisions except townships."

Inside millage are used to fund a number of things, but it is the main source of the revenue used by the boards of county commissioners to fund the County Veteran Service Commissions. Without the inside millage it is believed by many that the CVSCs would have to close their doors and would no longer be able to assist the veterans in their counties.

HB 335 held two hearings prior to the summer break. The first was sponsor testimony and the second hearing usually for proponents testimony instead had only opponent testimony –fifty seven oral or written testimonies were submitted to the committee.

During the summer break and throughout September and October the bill was amended many, many times. By the end of October the bill's language had changed to allow for inside millage but capped the annual increase that could be made.

County boards of commissioners would still be able to fund their CVSC and the CVSCs would still be able to serve the veterans of Ohio.

The bill was passed in the House and introduced into the Senate. Veterans and others should continue to monitor the bill as it travels through the Senate Local Government Committee.

—OLR—

Tidbits

New Standing House Committee

On October 1 the Speaker of the House, **Matt Huffman** (HD-78) created the Committee on Redistricting and then on October 7 he appointed the following members to the committee: Representatives **Adam C. Bird** (HD-63) as Chair, **Nick Santucci** (HD-64) as Vice Chair, **Kellie Deeter** (HD-54), **Michael D. Dovilla** (HD-17), **Marilyn John** (HD-76), **Adam Mathews** (HD-56), **Monica Robb Blasdel** (HD-12), **Brian Stewart**, and **D.J. Swearingen** (HD-89). Also joining the committee were: **Chris Glassburn** (HD-15) as Ranking Member, **Dani Isaacsohn** (HD-24), **Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.** (HD-19), and **Desiree Tims** (HD-38). Dovilla (Navy) and Stewart (Army) are the only two veterans on the committee.

Statehouse Announcements

The Ohio Statehouse will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 27, for Thanksgiving Day.

Working in partnership with the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio, the exhibit will shine a light on the service of Ohio's service members, showcasing uniforms and equipment used by these men and women. Also featured prominently are American and Ohio flags that belonged to these veterans during their service.

Camp Chase
Aug. 27 - Jan. 28
In the Map Room

Artifacts from the Civil War-era Camp Chase, a Union training and POW camp west of Columbus, are displayed in the Map Room, including POW carvings, letters, medical tools, and a detailed camp diorama. Visitors can also discover the legend of The Lady in Gray, said to haunt Camp Chase Cemetery where nearly 3,000 Confederate prisoners are buried.

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LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER

HR 243 was introduced on October 1 by Representatives **Tracy M. Richardson** (HD-86) and **Haraz N. Ghanbari** (HD-75).

The Resolution would request the Secretary of the Air Force select the 121st Air Refueling Wing at the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio, as the preferred main operating base for the KC-46 Pegasus refueling aircraft.

It was referred to the House Veterans and Military Development Committee.

HB 497 was introduced on October 7 by Representative **Angela N. King** (HD-84).

The bill would enact section 5534.855 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 49 in Darke county as the "PFC James Vincent PottKotter Memorial Highway."

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

HB 500 was introduced on October 7 by Representatives **Ty D. Mathews** (HD-83) and **Kevin Ritter** (HD-94).

The bill would enact sections 3313.907 and 3317.166 of the Revised Code to designate a JROTC program offered by a school district as a career-technical education program.

It was referred to the House Education Committee.

HB 516 was introduced on October 14 by Representatives **Heidi Workman** (HD-72) and **Nick Santucci** (HD-64).

The bill would enact section 5534.973 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 5 in Portage County and Trumbull County as the "83rd Ohio Division Memorial Highway."

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

SB 293 was introduced on October 14 by Senators **Theresa Gavarone** (SD-2) and **Andrew O. Brenner** (SD-19).

The bill would amend sections 3509.05, 3511.09, and 3511.11 of the Revised Code to require all marked absent voter's ballots to be delivered to the board of elections by the close of the polls on Election Day in order to be counted.

It was referred to the Senate General Government Committee.

HB 529 was introduced on October 15 by Representatives **Mark Sigrist** (HD-10) and **Jean Schmidt** (HD-62).

The bill would amend sections 5725.98, 5726.98, 5729.98, 5747.98, and 5751.98 and to enact sections 5725.39, 5726.63, 5727.242, 5727.301, 5729.22, 5736.51, 5747.88, and 5751.55 of the Revised Code to authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans, service members, and their spouses.

It was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

SB 302 was introduced October 21 by Senator **Terry Johnson** (SD-14).

The bill would amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.947 of the Revised Code to create the "Land of U.S. Grant" license plate.

It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

HCR 27 was introduced October 21 by Representative **Mark Johnson** (HD-92).

The concurrent resolution would support the use of state owned land in Chillicothe for a new Veterans Administration National cemetery.

It was referred to the House Veterans and Military Development Committee.

You can watch live every session of both chambers, all the committee hearings, Governor DeWine's press conferences, and much more on the Ohio Channel. They are also archived for viewing at a later date. go to: **www.ohiochannel.org**

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 198 Regulate manufacture, sale of inhalable, ingestible hemp products
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
HB 259 Designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway
HB 267 Regards creation, display of veterans benefit and services poster
HB 297 Regards funds provided by county for Memorial Day expenses
HB 316 Designate MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway
HB 335 Regards county budget commissions, property and sales tax, funds
HB 339 Allow surviving spouse to retain Purple Heart license plate
HB 344 Regards electronic instant bingo, lottery terminals; levy a tax
HB 360 Designate SPC Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange
HB 383 Designate Litten Brothers Memorial Highway
HB 384 Designate Staff Sergeant Melvin Trushel, Sr. Memorial Highway
HB 385 Designate PFC Thomas "Tommy" Pizzino Memorial Highway
HB 414 Designate Navy Seaman Jadwisiak Memorial Highway
HB 419 Create the Save22 license plate
HB 434 Exempt military driver's license applicants from driver's ed
HB 451 Designate CPL Lindsey William Mitchell Memorial Highway
HB 452 Designate 761st Tank Battalion Day
HB 476 Authorize online raffles under the Charitable Gaming Law
HB 497 Designate PFC James Vincent PottKotter Memorial Highway
HB 500 Designate a school JROTC program as a career-technical ed program
HB 516 Designate 83rd Ohio Division Memorial Highway
HB 529 Authorize tax credit if hiring veterans, service members, spouses

HCR 7 To support the work of the Am. Leg. Buckeye Boys State and the Am. Leg. Aux. Buckeye Girls State
HCR 18 Urge Congress to recognize US troops who served in Honduras
HCR 20 Honor the United States Navy; commemorate its 250th anniversary
HCR 21 Recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps
HCR 23 Recognize 250th anniversary of United States Army, Chaplain Corps
HCR 27 Support use of state land for a new VA National cemetery

HR 133 Honoring Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary

More on next Page...

HR 243 Urge selection of Rickenbacker as KC-46 Pegasus operating base

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 56 Revise medical and adult-use marijuana laws; levy marijuana taxes
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
SB 193 Designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway
SB 197 Legalize, tax internet gambling; make other Gambling Law changes
SB 218 Exempt armed forces-certified child care provider from licensure
SB 223 Require ODNR discount program for veterans, service members
SB 244 Designate Abbey Gate Remembrance Day
SB 253 Designate Black Ohioan Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient Day
SB 293 Revise deadline to return absent voter ballots
SB 302 Create the Land of U.S. Grant license plate

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
SR 123 Honoring Deborah A. Ashenhurst on her retirement from the OVDS
SR 192 Recognizing Rutherford B. Hayes Day in Ohio October 4, 2025

A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the members until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes a "law."

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 testimony of every witness.

To find a bill type the bill number (example: SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You will find the Ohio Legislature's website here:
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