Ohio Legislative Report

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www.legislature.ohio.gov

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www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:
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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.

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

To subscribe, send your name and email address to:
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Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

NEW LEGISLATIONS IN AUGUST:

House members introduced a total of 30 pieces of legislation in August. There were 12 Bills and 18 resolutions. Members of the Senate introduced a total of 12. They were one bill and eleven resolutions.

Not one of the 42 bills and resolutions was for the veterans or military in Ohio.

With only two months left before the November midterm election, our legislators as a whole are not spending too much energy on the business of the current General Assembly. Most of them are thinking about what they will be doing when this General Assembly ends. Some are hoping to keep the seat they now have while others are looking for something new.

And that is also what the voting citizens of Ohio should be thinking about. Because what they do at the polls will determine who will be representing them for the next two or four years. What the elected legislators do during those years will have a big effect on the lives of Ohioans for many years to come.

With no hearings to report on and no voting sessions being held there are no August *Happenings* for us to talk about. What seems to be most important right now is the midterm election coming up in two months.

First thing to remember is that every voter should check their registration on the Secretary of State website and make sure everything is up to date and correct. Readers can also check to see what ID will be accepted at the polls. The deadline to register is Monday, October 5.

Early voting will begin on Tuesday, October 6 and for those who want an absentee ballot, the application must be received at the board of elections by the close of business on Wednesday, October 28.

While being prepared to vote is very important, preparing to vote intelligently is just as important. Who will be on the ballot and what issues will be seen is the first thing to learn. The next step is to learn everything you can about those candidates and issues.

Our long-time readers

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know that OL Report will not tell anyone what party or individual should get their vote. Everyone is looking for something different in their life and what we want will not be the same thing our readers want. Every individual needs to make the decision of who to vote for themselves.

OL Report believes in voting for the best candidates. Ones that will accomplish what the voter wants to have done. We do not recommend voting a straight ticket. We firmly believe in learning everything possible about the past, present, and future of every candidate and vote for the one that is the most likely to do the work each voter hopes for.

Let's look at what the voters of Ohio will be seeing on ballets in this election. There will only be one statewide issue and that will be Issue #3. It will ask each voter if the Ohio Constitution should be amended to include the following language…

Section 5. (A) Electors shall provide photo identification in order to vote in person at a polling place or other voting location designated by law, in accordance with laws passed by the general assembly, except that the laws may provide an alternative method of verifying the identity of an elector who does not have photo identification because the elector has a sincere religious objection to being photographed.
(B) At a minimum, and in accordance with laws passed by the general assembly, electors shall provide photo identification or, if authorized by law, a signature and at least one other unique identifier in order to vote by any other method authorized by law.
(C) As used in this section:
(1) "Photo identification" means one of the following documents that is issued by an agency of this state or the United States, includes the elector's name and photograph, and is not expired:
(a) A driver's license or state identification card issued by the Ohio bureau of motor vehicles or its successor agency or a temporary document issued by that

See *Happenings* on Page Four...

Reflections

"Every great political campaign rewrites the rules; devising a new way to win is what gives campaigns a comparative advantage against their foes."

-John Podhoretz

2026 GENERAL ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 3rd

September 18: Military and overseas voting begins

Oct. 05: Deadline for voter registration for Nov. 3 general election

Oct. 06: Early in-person voting and absentee voting by mail begins (first day after close of voter registration)

Oct. 28: Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for Nov. 3 general election must be received by boards of elections by the close of business

Nov. 03: General Election Day. -Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls

A look at what the bills say... ***In a Nutshell***

Summaries from the OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DRAFTING

Bills get classified as a veteran/military bill due to the effect it will have on our Ohio veterans and military members. Just because a bill does not have the words 'veteran' or 'military' in them does not mean they are not important to veterans or military members.

We have several such bills in the legislation listed at the end of every issue of OL Report. Look them over. Can you find them?

In this issue we will cover one such bill. House Bill 279. It was introduced back in May 2025 and has had only two hearings while in the House Ways and Means Committee. It was introduced by Representatives **Adam Mathews** (HD-56) and **Josh Williams** (HD-44).

House Bill 279-

The Summary & Analysis

As Introduced

SUMMARY

▪ Authorizes a nonrefundable income tax credit for 30%, up to $2,000, of certain expenses incurred by family caregivers with income below a certain threshold to care for a family member above the age of 49.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Income tax credit for family caregivers

The bill creates a nonrefundable income tax credit for an eligible taxpayer that incurs certain eligible expenses to act as a caregiver for a family member above the age of 49. The amount of the credit is 30% of eligible caregiving expenses, up to a maximum credit of $2,000 per caregiver per year. If a taxpayer qualifies for the credit but cannot claim it in its entirety because it is greater than the taxpayer's liability, the taxpayer may carry the unclaimed portion forward indefinitely.

This credit is available for taxable years ending on or after the bill's 90-day effective date.

The Tax Commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to administer the credit.

Eligible taxpayers and family members

To qualify for the credit, a taxpayer's adjusted gross income must be above $7,500, exclusive of interest, dividends, royalties, rent, and capital gains. Also, spouses filing a joint return must have a modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) of less than $94,000. (MAGI is state taxable income, without deduction for capital gains and business income.) A spouse filing a separate return is limited to a MAGI of $56,500, and all other taxpayers have a MAGI limit of $69,000. In addition to the income conditions, the taxpayer must have incurred at least $1,000 in expenses to take care of a family member who has a documented need, certified by a licensed health care provider, for assistance with at least two activities of daily living, such as ambulating, eating, dressing, and hygiene.

An eligible family member is someone above the age of 49 as of the last day of the taxable year who is related to the taxpayer by blood or marriage. The bill allows more than one taxpayer to qualify for the credit based on expenses associated with caring for the same eligible family member, but not on the basis of the same expenses.

Eligible expenses

Credit-eligible expenses are out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the taxable year that are directly related to caring for the eligible family member and that have not been reimbursed or otherwise covered by another person, organization, or government entity. They include mobility or safety improvements made to a primary residence or motor vehicle; equipment or assistive technology purchased or leased to assist with activities of daily living; respite care, adult day care, or hiring a home care aide or other direct care worker; and other expenses such as transportation costs or legal and financial services. General household maintenance expenses, however, such as expenses related to painting, plumbing, electrical repairs, or exterior maintenance, do not qualify for the credit.

OLR

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

Happenings, from Page Two

agency to an applicant for a driver's license or state identification card that contains all of the information otherwise found on the license or card and that the applicant may use as a form of identification while waiting to receive the license or card;
(b) A United States passport or passport card;
(c) A United States military identification card, an Ohio national guard identification card, or an identification card issued by the United States department of veterans affairs or its successor agency.
(2) "Other unique identifier" means one of the following that is authorized by the general assembly by law for voting purposes:
(a) A unique numeric or alphanumeric descriptor assigned to the elector by an agency of this state or the United States;
(b) A truncated version of a descriptor described in division (C)(2)(a) of this section.

What needs to be foremost in every voter's mind is that this issue is not to decide if Ohio will require voter ID. It is to decide if the current law should be made a premiate part of the Ohio Constitution instead of the Ohio Revised Code.

What else will be on the ballots? A lot of names. They are the candidates running for local, county, and state offices. The only ones we are going to discuss are the ones running for an open seat in the 137th Ohio General Assembly. But we are not going to talk about the individuals, themselves.

What we are going to do is take a look at the makeup of this election and how the 137th G.A. might be different from the 136th G.A.

But first let's understand how the system works. Everyone should know that there are two chambers (two houses) in the Ohio General Assembly and they are the House of Representatives and the Senate. The members of the House serve two-year terms and the members of the Senate serve four-year terms. The House has 99 districts (seats) and the Senate has 33.

Members of the House are limited to four successive two-year terms. Elections for all 99 are held in November of every even-numbered year and the term begins on January I of each odd-numbered year following the election.

In the Senate approximately one half of the members are elected every other election. The senators in odd-numbered districts are all elected at the same time and the ones in even-numbered districts are in the election two years later.

When members become ineligible for reelection under term limits, they only become eligible for election to the same office again after a four-year absence from the office. That is why you will see

Continued on next Page...

Ohio Statehouse Bus Grants Soon Available!

Do you know an Ohio educator who wants to bring their students to the Ohio Statehouse? Spread the news! The Ohio Statehouse's School Transportation Grant application will be open September 4-13 for the 2026-2027 school year.

More than 70,000 students visit the Ohio Statehouse each year. Additional information about the grant and how to apply is available online at OhioStatehouse.org. This year, the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board is providing additional funding to the program, alongside the annual donation provided by the Capitol Square Foundation.

representatives who are term-limited run for a seat in the Senate or a term-limited senator run for a seat in the House. More than one member has been successful at serving in the General Assembly for ten or more years by jumping back and forth between the House and Senate.

This November there are 17 Senate seats up for election (the odd-numbered districts). Five candidates are currently serving in the House and nine are incumbents. Three of the 17 seats are a 3-way race –there are three candidates running for each seat. One seat has only one candidate and while they are not an incumbent, they did serve in the House previously (2017-2022). There are a total of 35 candidates vying for the 17 seats.

In the House all 99 seats are up for election and there are 203 individuals campaigning for them. There are 79 incumbents. Seven seats only have one candidate, but there are 14 that have three candidates. There are two candidates who are not incumbents but have served in the House before. Two other candidates served previously in the Ohio House as well as in Congress. One is an incumbent. The other is not.

There are a total of 238 candidates asking for your vote and there are only 116 seats. Those 238 break down as follows: 113 democrats, 109 republicans, 8 libertarians, and 8 independents.

As The Grail Knight said in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*,

"YOU MUST CHOOSE.... BUT CHOOSE WISELY."

—OLR—

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OL Report welcomes letters to the editor

- Letters should be limited to 250 words.
- Letters with over 250 words may be edited.
- 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.

EMAIL LETTERS TO:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Statehouse Announcements

Ohio Open Doors Tours at the Statehouse

The Ohio Statehouse's Museum and Education Center is taking part in Ohio Open Doors this year! This statewide initiative is about promoting and inspiring pride in Ohio's heritage as well as celebrating the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Ohio Statehouse will host five different tours as part of Ohio Open Doors:

* Monday, September 14 at noon: Women's History
* Tuesday, September 15 at noon: Art of the Statehouse
* Wednesday, September 16 at noon: Flags!
* Thursday, September 17 at noon: A Focus on Salmon P. Chase
* Friday, September 18 at noon: Grounds Tour (weather dependent)

The Ohio Statehouse will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2026, in observance of Labor Day.

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) will commemorate the anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, with a memorial flag display on the west lawn of the Ohio Statehouse.

On Wednesday, September 9, 2026, a short program will begin at 5:15 p.m. on the West Plaza of the Ohio Statehouse. After the program, volunteers from across central Ohio will install the 2,977 flags that make up the memorial.

-EXHIBITS-

Early Ohio Land Patent
September 11 - December 2026
Museum Gallery

New exhibit alert! Come check out an original Ohio Land Patent issued in 1808 to Jacob Dittoe of Fairfield County, Ohio. The patent has some presidential signatures!

Ohio Constitution Pages
Now
Ohio Statehouse Museum

Back on display! Head to the Ohio Statehouse Museum to see original, handwritten pages from the 1802 and 1851 Ohio Constitutions, courtesy of the Ohio History Connection. Adjacent displays explain the importance of these historic documents that have shaped the course of our state.

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 192 Enact the Community Pharmacy Protection Act
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 290 Enact the Atmosphere Protection Act
HB 292 Establish the Ohio Defense Commission
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 464 Exempt military-certified child care providers from licensure
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, spouse
HB 576 Designate November as Veterans' month
HB 580 Designate PFC Francis Guillozet Memorial Highway
HB 600 Designate PFC Wetzel Eldridge USMC Memorial Highway
HB 607 Name Spc. 4th Class Frank A. Herda, Medal of Honor Rec. Mem Hwy

More on next Page...

HB 632 Allow driver's license or ID card to show Gold Star Family status
HB 660 Regards the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
HB 681 Designate Marine PFC Glenn S. Wingenbach, Jr. Memorial Highway
HB 708 Govern practice of providing veterans claim consulting assistance
HB 721 Establish the Veterans Organization Grant Program
HB 730 Make capital reappropriations for biennium ending June 30, 2028
HB 731 Create the Land of U.S. Grant license plate
HB 738 Designate PFC Chris Dixon Memorial Highway
HB 740 Regards creation, display of veterans medical benefits poster
HB 748 Establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program
HB 759 Enact the Ohio Vets-Military Families Childcare Act
HB 771 Modify Governor's authority re: Ohio National Guard; deployments
HB 785 Enact the ASSET Act
HB 788 Regards paid military leave for law enforcement officers
HB 790 Miller, JDesignate the Honor and Remember flag; encourage flag display
HB 823 Regards deployed elected official's office, meeting attendance
HB 824 Allow deployed elected official to retain the official's position
HB 844 Authorize tax credit for qualifying technology investments
HB 879 Prohibit unlawful removal of item used as a memorial for the dead
HB 886 Enact the V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act
HB 933 Enact the Fair Trial Protection Act
HB 955 Expand homestead exemption - disabled veteran's surviving spouse
HB 959 Make capital appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2028
HB 961 Enact the V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act
HB 962 Create the Blue Star Mothers of America license plate
HB 974 Designate LCpl Richard O. Fisher Memorial Highway

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
HCR 42 Urge Congress to enact the Veterans' ACCESS Act

HJR 9 CA: Require identification to vote

HR 133 Honoring Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary
HR 243 Urge selection of Rickenbacker as KC-46 Pegasus operating base
HR 365 In memory of Master Sergeant Tyler Simmons
HR 370 In Memory of Captain Curtis J. Angst
HR 378 In memory of Captain Seth R. Koval
HR 390 Honoring Beavercreek High School Air Force JROTC as a 2026 U.S. Air Force Open Drill Nationals Champion
HR 447 Designate Honor and Remember Flag to honor fallen service members

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

More on next Page...

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 280 Allow registration of a humvee as a historical motor vehicle
SB 293 Revise deadline to return absent voter ballots
SB 302 Create the Land of U.S. Grant license plate
SB 346 Create the 1905 Wright Flyer III license plate
SB 351 Allow deployed service member to attend public meetings virtually
SB 356 Temporarily increase the amount of the homestead exemptions
SB 362 Establish the Ohio Defense and Space Commission
SB 372 Make capital reappropriations for biennium ending June 30, 2028
SB 401 Designate General William Tecumseh Sherman Day
SB 402 Designate General Philip Sheridan Day
SB 416 Regards board of education members deployed on active duty
SB 417 Enact the ASSET Act
SB 450 Make capital appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2028
SB 455 Designate Col. George A. Martin Memorial Highway

SCR 7 Urge Congress reissue DoD Civilian Retiree Identification Cards

SJR10 CA: Require identification to vote

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
SR 233 Honoring James W. Erisman on his One Hundredth Birthday
SR 299 In memory of Captain Seth R. Koval
SR 301 In memory of Captain Curtis J. Angst
SR 324 Recognizing the Month of the Military Child in Ohio, April 2026
SR 332 Honoring Beavercreek HS AFJROTC on winning two 2026 U.S. Air Force Open Drill Nationals championships

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."