Ohio Legislative Report

Volume Two-Bravo; Number Three March 2026

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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.

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Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

The 136th General Assembly held hearings in their committees for the first time since November 19. February, however, proved to be fairly busy, despite the House having one week of no hearings and the Senate not holding hearings in two different weeks. Nearly 20 pieces of veteran/military legislation had hearings in 14 committee meetings.

HB 720 and SB 372 were both introduced on the first working day in March. The two bills will be worked on in each house and then combined as one bill to be passed and signed by the governor, which he must do on or before June 30. The bills provide state funding for capital improvement throughout the state and are one -time grants. More in depth coverage of them will begin in the next issue of OL Report.

More legislation was introduced during the month of February than in all three previous months combined. Representatives dropped three bills and one resolution, while our Senators came up with four new bills and three resolutions during the month.

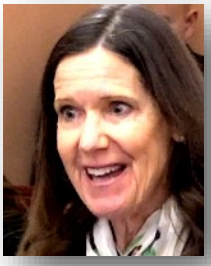
OL Report predicts each month will get a little busier than the previous because the legislators will be working hard to introduce and pass as many of their bills as possible before the end of this lame duck session.

Hearings Held for Veteran/Military Legislation

February 2-6

Only the House held committee hearings this week –one on Tuesday and three on Wednesday. There were not any scheduled for the Senate.

The House Children and Human Services Committee met Tuesday morning for a hearing on HB 464. Testimony was given by bill sponsor Representative **Tracy M. Richardson** (HD-86). Her bill would amend Ohio's Revised Code to exempt family childcare providers certified by the U.S. armed forces from the law governing the regulation of childcare providers, including the requirement that certain family



Rep. Richardson

See *Happenings* on Page Five...

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

Summaries from the Office of Research and Drafting

A bill that would encourage Ohio companies to hire not only veterans and members of the military, but their spouses as well, was introduced last October and sent to the House Ways and Means Committee where it has only had one hearing.

The bill sponsors, Mark Sigrist (HD-10) and Jean Schmidt (HD-62) gave testimony on February 11. The bill is House Bill 529. When introduced it had eight representatives agreeing to be cosponsors.

The bill would do two things.

- One, it would authorize a refundable tax credit, claimable over up to five years, against several state taxes for an employer that hires certain veterans, service members, and their spouses and
- Two, it would compute the credit amount on a scale from $100 up to $750 per year depending on the disability and employment status of the qualifying employee.

House Bill 529-

The Detailed Analysis

As Introduced

Tax credit for hiring veterans, service members, and spouses

The bill authorizes a refundable tax credit, to be claimed over as many as five years, for employers that hire certain veterans, service members, and their spouses (referred to in the bill as "qualifying employees"). To obtain a credit, an employer must file an application with the Tax Commissioner by January 15 on the basis of a qualifying employee hired in the preceding year. The employer must include on the application the hiring date and, if applicable, termination date, the total hours the qualifying employee worked in the preceding year, and the tax against which the employer will claim the credit, which may include the insurance premiums, financial institutions, public utilities excise, petroleum activity, income, or commercial activity tax. The Tax Commissioner is required to evaluate applications in the order in which they are received, but may only issue initial determinations after the application window closes on January 15. An employer awarded a credit may claim it against the preceding year's tax liability in the calendar year the credit is first awarded and in the following four years, so long as the employee remains employed at the specified hours and the employer submits continuing applications. The bill requires the Tax Commissioner, by December 1 of each of those four following years, to provide continuing applications to each employer that was initially awarded a credit. These employers then have until December 31 to submit the application and reserve a continuing credit. The Commissioner evaluates the continuing applications to determine if employers are still entitled to the credit and issues new certificates before January 15, after which first-time credit awards begin to be distributed. The value of the credit is determined by whether the employee qualifies as a disabled veteran, the hours the employee worked for at least half of the preceding year, and whether it is the first or a subsequent year of the credit period. The following table lists the value of the credit in the first year and the up to four following years based on the classification of the subject employee in the preceding year:

Employee classification in the preceding year	1st Yr.	Subsequent Yrs.
Disabled Veteran: employed full time for 180 or more days	$750	$750
Disabled veteran: less than full time for 180 or more days	$375	$375
Other qualifying employees: full time for 180 or more days	$500	$200
Other qualifying employees: less than full time for 180 or more days	$250	$100

An employee may change classifications from year to year, including if an employee becomes a disabled veteran, and the credit amount can be increased or decreased accordingly in the remaining years of the credit period. If an employee is employed for fewer than 180 days of the year, the amounts described above are multiplied by the percentage of days out of the year the employee worked to arrive at the reduced credit value. The Tax Commissioner may not issue more than $1 million in credits in each calendar year, with priority given to continuing applications.

Application date and administrative rules

A tax credit authorized by the bill may first be claimed for employees hired in the first year following the bill's 90-day effective date. The bill requires the Tax Commissioner to adopt rules establishing what qualifies an employee as a veteran, disabled veteran, service member, or spouse of one of the former as well as what hours qualify an employee as full time. These rules are not subject to the requirements in continuing law governing agency review of rules to identify regulatory restrictions or the removal of two regulatory restrictions upon adoption of one regulatory restriction

—OLR—

OL Report OPINION Page

THE WORDS OF OUR LEGISLATORS

By State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Some acts of courage are so profound that they echo across generations. One such act was carried out by a young man from Parma, Ohio named Frank A. Herda.

That is why I recently introduced House Bill 607, legislation to designate a portion of State Route 94 in Parma as the "Specialist Fourth Class Frank A. Herda, Medal of Honor Recipient, Memorial Highway." I am proud that this effort is bipartisan, with my colleague, Representative Mike Dovilla of Berea, joining me as joint sponsor.

Frank A. Herda (circa 1968)

Frank Herda was more than a soldier—he was a son of Parma and an example of the very best our community has to offer. During the Vietnam War, on June 29, 1968, Specialist Herda demonstrated extraordinary bravery under fire. When an enemy grenade landed among his fellow soldiers, he made a split-second decision that would save their lives. He threw himself onto the grenade, shielding his comrades from the blast.

That act of selflessness is difficult to comprehend. In a moment when most people would instinctively seek safety, Frank Herda chose to protect others instead. For this incredible courage and devotion to duty, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military award.

Frank passed away in 2023, but his legacy continues to inspire those who learn about his life and sacrifice.

Designating a portion of State Route 94 in his name will not change the past, nor can it fully capture the depth of his heroism. But it will ensure that the people who drive that road every day—residents,

See *Words* on Page Four...

Reflections

"As the happiness of the people is the sole end of government, so the consent of the people is the only foundation of it, in reason, morality, and the natural fitness of things."

-John Adams

READERS WRITE

I have two brief things for the letters to the editor and the readers of the OLR.
First, one of the items brought up in the article on how to make Ohio more veteran friendly (January 2026 issue) and the other is a brief statement on OH HB 708.

I read how a Veterans Service Commission said having 2 more Veterans home, so each corner of the state is covered, I agree with. Currently the 2 Veterans homes are over 3 hours from the Northeast and Southeast portions of Ohio. That time and distance can cause issues for family or friends to visit their veterans, it would take about a whole morning to drive there, spend a few hours, and then drive all the way back at night. I know we are leaving our Central area of Ohio in less than a 3-hour drive (less than 2 for some) from it. So yes, I believe Ohio should open 2 more Veterans homes.

The second item is Ohio HB 708, from reading it, it does not seem to really protect veterans,

See *Letters* on Page Five...

Words, from Page Three

visitors, students, and families—will see his name and be reminded that someone from their own community demonstrated extraordinary courage in service to our country.

Memorial highway designations are about more than signs. They are about memory. They are about teaching the next generation that heroes are not only found in history books—they often come from our own neighborhoods.

May 14, 1970

President Richard M. Nixon presented Herda with the Medal of Honor "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

Frank Herda grew up here. He walked our streets, attended our schools, and shared the same sense of community that so many Parma families cherish today. By honoring him in this way, we make sure that his story continues to be told.

I am grateful to be working across party lines with Representative Dovilla to move this legislation forward. Honoring our veterans and those who have served with distinction should never be a partisan issue.

Frank Herda's courage represents the highest ideals of service, sacrifice, and love for one's fellow citizens. Naming this stretch of highway in his honor is a small but meaningful way to ensure that Parma never forgets one of its own.

Heroes like Frank Herda deserve nothing less.

To help get this bill passed, please reach out to your state representative and state senator and respectfully ask that they support HB 607.

Brennan is the Ohio State Representative (HD-14)

—OLR—

Statehouse Announcements

No Tours on March 14, 2026

On Ohio History Day, no tours of the Ohio Statehouse will be available. The Capitol will be in use all day by students and judges for the Ohio History Day competition. *PLEASE NOTE:* Due to the nature of the competition, certain spaces may not be available to the public. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Visitors are welcome to tour the Ohio Statehouse using the self-guided tour brochure and the cell phone tour available in the Map Room. At this time, guided tours are available weekdays on the hour, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on weekends on the hour, 12 to 3 p.m. Tours start in the Map Room.

The Ohio Statehouse Museum is closed for maintenance until the end of March. The Ohio Statehouse Museum is located on the ground floor of the Ohio Statehouse.

Located on the ground floor of the Ohio Statehouse, the Capitol Cafe is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Exhibits...

~Flags of Honor Through July 31
South Light Court

In partnership with the Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio, the exhibit shines a light on Ohio's service members, showcasing their uniforms and equipment. Also featured prominently are American and Ohio flags that belonged to veterans during their service.

~Mapping the American Revolution Though July 28
Map Room

Tony Holbrook, longtime member of the Brigade of the American Revolution and collector of American Revolution artifacts share with the Statehouse his 18th century surveying equipment. This exhibit includes maps from the time period of the Revolution, as well as maps made in the 18th century manner by Tony himself.

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Letters, from Page Three

especially Ohio veterans from Claim Sharks. I'll be one of the first to say that a veteran should be able to use who they want to help them with a claim at the VA, but I will also be one of the first to say that if a veteran uses a non-VA Accredited person/organization that there should be a legal limit as to how much said person/organization can take from the veteran and if said veteran wants to cancel and terminate the contract with a person/organization, especially before the veteran gets any real help from them, they should not be able to come back and send a debt collection after them. This bill seems to do nothing to really protect veterans from Claim Sharks nor does it seem to keep Claim Sharks from operating within the state of Ohio.

Andrea Neutzling *(Neutxling is a Member-at-Large of the Ohio VFW)*

———————

Dear Editor,

Not that I want to support an individual company or product, but I think we should support the use of THC based products and those derived from hemp to create Delta 8 and Delta 9 THC products. The Governor's ban on these products goes into effect later this month and they will no longer be available in Ohio. Many Veterans with anxiety/ptsd and chronic pain issues use these products to help alleviate their symptoms and I believe they should be available to informed consumers.

I support keeping these products available and legal.

Mike Milam *(Milam is the current State Commander of Ohio VFW)*

——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:
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Happenings, from Page One

childcare homes be licensed by the Department of Children and Youth. She introduced her bill last September.

Wednesday morning HB 500, sponsored by Representatives **Ty D. Mathews** (HD-83) and **Kevin Ritter** (HD-94), had its third hearing. There was no testimony submitted but Ritter motioned for an amendment that would allow National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) program to be included in the bill with the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program as part of the district's career-technical education (CTE) program. The amendment also requires the Department of Education and Workforce to include in the calculation of a school district's CTE funding any JROTC or NDCC program a district designates as part of its CTE program. The amendment was accepted without objection. The two Representatives introduced the bill in October.

Rep. Ritter

Two bills were on the agenda in the Veterans and Military Development Committee that morning –House Bill 292 for a 3rd hearing and House Bill 452 for its first.

HB 292 was introduced last year in May by

Continued on next Page...

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, May 5th

Apr 06: Deadline for voter registration for May 6 primary/special election

Apr 07: Early in-person absentee voting begins

Apr 28: Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for May 6 primary/special election must be received by boards of elections by close of business

May 05: Primary/Special 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

Happenings, from Page Five

Representatives Ty Mathews and **Nick Santucci** (HD-64) establishes the Defense Industry Expansion Program under which the Ohio Defense Commission may make grants to support economic development related to the defense industry. It also establishes the Ohio Defense Fund and specifies allocation requirements for money in the fund. Any revenue from interest earned on bonds of the State of Israel, in the state treasury, be deposited into the Ohio Defense Fund. There were two present to give testimony supporting the bill and ten other proponents who submitted written testimony.

Two members of the committee were next to give sponsor testimony for HB 452, a bill they introduced in September that would designate October 1st every year as "761st Tank Battalion Day" in Ohio. Committee members **Cecil Thomas** (HD-25) and **Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe** (HD-5), who is Ranking Member of the committee testified that the 761st Tank Battalion was a tank battalion of the U.S. Army during World War II whose ranks

Reps. Lawson-Rowe & Thomas

Continued on next Page...

Meet With Your Legislators

UPCOMING COFFEE WITH REP. RADER

- ~~**February 20th**~~, 10am - 12pm @ Root Café
  - 15118 Detroit Ave. Lakewood, ~~OH 44107~~
- **March 27th**, 10 - 12am @ Las Villas Deli and Pastries
  - 3216 W 41st St, Cleveland, OH 44109
- **April 24th**, 10am- 12pm @ Civilization Coffee
  - 2366 W 11th St, Cleveland, OH 44113

Come join me at our monthly coffee chats for a chance to connect, discuss the issues that matter most to you, and work together for a stronger community! I want to hear from you!

ATTENTION LEGISLATORS

Ohio Legislative Report will publish an announcement of your upcoming Town Hall or District Meeting.

Send your press releases to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com
by the end of each month to be included.

February 12, 2026

Beginning this year, March 9th will be recognized in Ohio as 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day.

Governor Mike DeWine signed into law Senate Bill 17, recognizing the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion — the only unit composed of women of color to serve overseas during World War II.

He was joined by Judith and Stanley Earley, the children of LTC Charity Adams, the battalion's commanding officer and highest-ranking Black female officer in the U.S. Army during WWII.

The bill sponsors, Senators **Michele Reynolds** (SD-3) and **Hearcel F. Craig** (SD-15) stand on either side of DeWine.

February 17, 2026

Amidst a large turn out for the quarterly Veterans Legislative Caucus, Representative **Bernard Willis** (HD-74) announced that we was stepping down as chairman of the caucus due to new commitments recently added to his already full plate.

Taking over the reigns will be Representative **Michael D. DoVilla** (HD-17). Dovilla served as a representative in the 136th Ohio General Assembly and has a lengthy history with the US Navy Reserve currently holding the rank of Commander.

Happenings, from Page Six

primarily consisted of African American soldiers. The Battalion first saw action in Northern France in October 1944.

The final bill to have a hearing on Wednesday was House Bill 22 that would amend the Revised Code to authorize a full homestead exemption for surviving spouses of members of the uniformed services killed in the line of duty. Representatives **Brian Lorenz** (HD-60) and **David Thomas** (HD-65) introduced their bill a year ago January and since then it has had six hearings as well as being amended twice (see June 2025 issue). In this hearing the bill was once again amended, and it became Substitute Bill 22. This amendment was made by bill sponsor, Thomas, and reduced the exemption for the spouse of a fallen military service member for a full exemption to an enhanced exemption of $59,300. per year. Testimony was heard from Carl Price Legislative Chair for the Ohio Military Order of the Purple Heart. His testimony was the only one given.

Price

February 9-13

There were no committee hearings on Tuesday, but on Wednesday there were two in the Senate while the House had one.

Senate Bill 302 was the first bill to have a hearing, and it was before the Senate Transportation Committee. It was the second hearing for the bill sponsored at the end of October by Senator **Terry Johnson** (SD-14) The bill would create the "Land of U.S. Grant" license plate which could be purchased for any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle. In addition to the $10 additional administrative BMV fee, a $20 contribution would be paid by the applicant. The contributions would be paid to the Land of U.S. Grant to further the organization's mission. Testimony was heard from the a witness who spoke on behalf of the organization, Land of U.S. Grant as well as five other organization which authorize him to express their support of the Bill. Written testimony was also submitted by the president of the General Sherman Civil War Roundtable.

In the Senate Armed Services, Veterans affairs and Public Safety Committee, SB 218 sponsored by Senator **Kristina D. Roegner** (SD-27) had a third hearing. The first to give testimony was the Manager of Engagement, Dayton Development Coalition, followed by Great Lakes Regional Liaison at the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness. Both voiced strong support for the bill that exempts family childcare providers certified by the U.S. armed forces from the law governing the regulation of childcare

Continued on next Page...

Got a pic of your legislator? We want it.

February 25, 2026

Congratulations to Representative **Haraz Ghanbari** (HD-75) for his promotion to U.S. Navy Commander.

"This promotion isn't just about a new rank—it's a recognition of the people who've helped shape me along the way: my family and friends, and the leaders who invested in me with their mentorship and guidance. Above all, it's a reminder that I'm entrusted with carrying forward a legacy of service built by those who went before me," said Ghanbari.

Photo: Speaker of the House, **Matt Huffman** (HD-78) *(r.)* presents Ghanbari *(l.)* with an Ohio Flag that flew over the Statehouse.

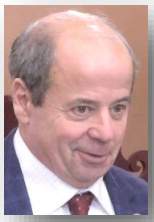
DON'T FORGET

REGISTER TO VOTE

Happenings, from Page Seven

providers, including the requirement that certain family childcare homes be licensed by the Department of Children and Youth in order to operate.

The one House committee was the Ways & Means Committee that had scheduled the first hearing for HB 529. Sponsor testimony was given by Representative **Mark Sigrist** (HD-10) and written testimony was provided from Representative **Jean Schmidt** (HD-62). The bill would allow for a refundable tax credit, against several state taxes for an employer that hires certain veterans, service members, and their spouses. A more detailed explanation of the bill can be found in the column, *In a Nut Shell* on page two. It was introduced in October of last year.



Rep. Sigrist

February 16-20

The House was busy this week. There were two committees meeting on Tuesday and two on Wednesday, while the Senate only had one and it was on Wednesday.

Tuesday morning the Children and Human Services Committee met and held a second hearing for Representative Richardson's HB 464. Testimony was heard from the Manager of Engagement, Dayton Development Coalition while the Senior Director of Policy Groundwork Ohio provided the members with written testimony. Both witnesses were supporters of the bill.

That same afternoon the 4th hearing for House Bill 500 was held in the House Education Committee. Representative Ritter made a motion to favorably pass the bill out of committee and recommend its passage The motion passed with a vote of 12 to 0.

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-put 'subscribe' in the subject.

At 9:00 in the morning the next day, the House Natural Resources Committee met and held the second hearing for Amended Senate Bill 223. Am SB 223 is the bill of Senator **Thomas F. Patton** (SD-24) that would establish a discount program for all veterans and service members who present, in a manner determined by the chief, a valid form of documentation. The discount program shall provide a twenty-five per cent discount for all park services and rentals. It had passed in the Senate with a vote of 33 to 0 last October. Patton gave sponsor testimony in the House Committee in November. Proponent testimony was given in person by David K. Root, State Legislative Chairman of the Department of Ohio VFW and written testimony by Cynthia Boehnlein, Legislative Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2.

Root

Later the same morning, members of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee had three bills on their agenda. HB 576 was first. Jacob Brault, Legislative Coordinator for the American Legion Department of Ohio had submitted written proponent testimony and Retired Master Sergeant Greg White gave his proponent testimony in person. White is a 30 plus year veteran of the Ohio Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. HB 756 would designate November each year as Veterans' Month to encourage the observance of events recognizing the contributions of Ohio veterans. The bill was sponsored by Representative **Riordan T. McClain** (HD-87) during the first week of November.

White

Vice Chair Mathews

The second bill to have a hearing was HB 292. Representative Mathews, the bill sponsor and Vice Chair of the Committee made a motion to amend his bill making it a substitute bill. The sub bill would make several amendments to the original bill. It would change the composition of the Commission and provide a number of other items

Continued on next Page...

Happenings, from Page Eight

for the purpose of adding additional transparency and accountability. The name of the commission would also change because of the addition of the aerospace industry. The new name would be the Ohio Defense and Space Commission. The motion was agreed to and the sub bill was accepted. Two written testimonies had been submitted by proponents of the bill.

The third bill on the agenda was SB 244 which would designate August 26th as "Abbey Gate Remembrance Day." The bill was sponsored by Senators Roegner and **Jane M. Timken** (SD-29) in August and passed in the Senate 33-0 on November 5. Before testimony began, Representative **Haraz N. Ghanbari** (HD -75) moved to amend the bill. The bill which would commemorate U.S. service members who lost their lives in the attack at the Abbey Gate of Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on August 26, 2021. lists the name, city, and state of each of the 13 KIAs. The amendment would add the branch of service for each of them. There were no objections so the motion to amend was agreed to. The committee members then heard testimony from United States Navy veteran, Joe Burdick. It was Burdick who brought the issue to Roegner and asked her to sponsor it.

Rep. Ghanbari

Burdick

Only one bill was scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. It was Senator Roegner's bill, SB 218 and there was no oral testimony given nor any written testimony received by the committee.

February 23-27

The House held hearings for three bills in two committees –one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. The Senate did not schedule any hearings this week. It was a light week for the legislators after a heavy schedule the previous week.

The Tuesday Committee hearing was for HB 464 in the Children and Human Services Committee. It was the third hearing for the bill and there were no witnesses of any kind.

The next day members of the Veterans and Military Development Committee had two bills to consider for a possible vote. Neither HB 297 nor SB 244 had any witnesses testifying so Vice Chair Mathews motioned to favorably pass HB 297 out of committee. After the members voted, he motioned to do the same thing for SB 244, and again the members voted. For each motion the members voted 12 to 0 in favor.

Vice Chair Mathews

In The Month of March

You can expect both houses to be busy with their Capital Appropriation Bills. There will be many lengthy hearings and lobbyists and advocates wanting a few minutes of office time to push their cause.

Legislators will be looking at all possible ways to make sure their sponsored legislation makes it across the finish line before December 31 and the 136th Ohio General Assembly comes to an end. The months are going to get wilder as the year moves on.

Not only are we going into a lame duck session, but the time spent campaigning and fundraising will continue to increase. The Primary is in May, and the General is in November. OL Report reminds all voters to do their homework and vote wisely.

OLR

See you at the People's House!

The Ohio Statehouse is where history happens!

- The Ohio Statehouse is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; weekends from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed holidays.
- The Capitol Café is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays.
- The Ohio Statehouse Museum is open, and admission is free. Free guided tours are available.

* For education and museum information, contact 614-728-2697.
* Literature is available online and in the Map Room easily accessible from the Third Street entrance.
* Contact 888-OHIO-123 for more information.
* For more information about the Ohio Statehouse visit OhioStatehouse.org.

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LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN FEBRUARY

SB 346 was introduced on February 2 by Senator **Terry Johnson** (SD-24).

The bill would amend sections 4501.21 and 5910.07 and to enact section 4503.4913 of the Revised Code to create the "1905 Wright Flyer III" license plate.

It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

SB 351 was introduced on February 4 by Senator **Nathan H. Manning** (SD-13).

The bill would amend section 121.221 of the Revised Code to allow an active duty service member on deployment, and who is a member of a public body in the state, to attend meetings of the public body virtually.

It was referred to the Senate General Government Committee.

HB 681 was introduced on February 4 by Representative **Marilyn John** (HB-76).

The bill would enact section 5534.654 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 13 in Richland County as the "Marine PFC Glenn S. Wingenbach, Jr. Memorial Highway."

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

SB 356 was introduced on February 10 by Senator **Kyle Koehler** (SD-10).

The bill would temporarily increase the amount of the homestead exemptions and to declare an emergency.

It was referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

SB 362 was introduced on February 10 by Senator **Bill Reineke** (SD-26).

The bill would amend section 121.22 and to enact sections 113.052, 122.952, 122.953, and 122.954 of the Revised Code to establish the Ohio Defense and Space Commission.

It was referred to the Senate Workforce Development Committee.

HB 708 was introduced on February 4 by Representative **Bernard Willis** (HB-74).

The bill would amend section 1345.032 and to enact section 5901.10 of the Revised Code to govern the practice of providing veterans claim consulting assistance for compensation and to establish requirements for soliciting a fee for providing a copy of a military discharge record.

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

HB 721 was introduced on February 4 by Representatives **Lauren McNally** (HB-58) and **Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe** (HD-5).

The bill would enact section 122.381 of the Revised Code to establish the Veterans Organization Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

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

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

More on next Page...

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
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 Govern practice of providing veterans claim consulting assistance

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
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

More on next Page...

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
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

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."

The 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, find out 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.

You will find the Ohio Legislature's website here:
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