

## **Week in Review**

Friday, April 4, 2008

### **AGRICULTURE**

Gov. Ted Strickland re-launched the states marketing program Ohio Proud with a new logo and tagline of Made in Ohio Grown in Ohio and a new website and fee structure to make it more accessible to smaller businesses including farm markets, farmers markets, pick-your-own farms and wineries.

### **APPALACHIA**

Four driving trails through Ohios Appalachian counties are featured in the latest issue of *National Geographic Travel* magazine.

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

In a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Attorney General Marc Dann joined with colleagues from 10 other states in condemning a proposed satellite radio monopoly created by the proposed buyout of XM by Sirius.

### **BUDGET**

A number of departments have begun to identify how they will be cutting their budgets over the remainder of this fiscal year and in FY09 in response to the states estimated \$733 million budget shortfall. Those include the departments of alcohol and drug addiction services, administrative services, agriculture, mental retardation/developmental disabilities and transportation as well as the governors office.

### **CORRECTIONS**

The draft settlement of a class action lawsuit against the Department of Youth Services, which calls for the hiring of additional juvenile correctional officers, increased training and a revision in discipline policies, is expected to cost between \$20 and \$30 million more per year obligations the governor said his administration will begin immediately to address despite the states budget shortfall.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

Sen. Dale Miller (D-Cleveland) presented sponsor testimony on his bill, SB305, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, applications for credit and public accommodations.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Senate President Bill Harris (R-Ashland) and Speaker of the House Jon Husted (R-Kettering) joined Gov. Ted Strickland this week to announce a compromise agreement on the governors Building Ohio Jobs stimulus package, reducing the total to \$1.57 billion from the original \$1.7 billion level and shifting the cost for all except \$400 million onto current sources. The \$400 million will need to go to the voters in November. Most controversial was the raiding of the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation for \$230 million.

### **EDUCATION**

State Superintendent Susan Tave Zellman said that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation have awarded Ohio \$1.3 million to explore new ways for students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge, in addition to standardized tests.

Ohio has once again surpassed the U.S. average for writing skills on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), though eighth-grade scores have slipped in the Buckeye State over the past five years.

## **ELECTIONS**

The Ohio Elections Commission imposed a record \$5+ million fine on the political action committees (PACs) All Children Matter in Ohio and All Children Matter in Virginia after the commission found the transfer of hundreds of thousands of dollars between the two was improper. Supporters of the two pro-charter school PACs promise legal action that may reach federal courts over First Amendment concerns.

A new poll from Quinnipiac University shows that Hillary Clinton would fare much better in the General Election against John McCain than Barack Obama in Ohio as well as in Florida and Pennsylvania two other states where Quinnipiac polls.

Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner sided with Democrats twice and Republicans three times in breaking tie votes on the appointments of the director of the board of elections in five counties.

Briefs were filed recently by both sides in the suit before the Ohio Supreme Court over Brunners rejection of two Summit County Republican Party nominees for the Summit County Board of Elections. The Court may decide the case based on the briefs and evidence without oral arguments.

The Ohio State Bar Associations Judicial Election Campaign Advertising Monitoring Committee announced that all four candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court had signed a clean campaign agreement.

## **ENERGY**

While stakeholders await the House version of the governors energy de-reg bill, SB221, the Alliance for Real Energy Options urged the inclusion of a by-passability amendment that would allow consumers to avoid generation-related charges they do not purchase from their incumbent utility.

The Ohio Consumers Counsel (OCC) requested the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to investigate FirstEnergys service reliability and cut the utilitys proposed distribution rate increase by at least \$300 million.

The PUCO approved the Dayton Power & Lights (DP&L) Green Pricing Rider option for a pilot period through 2009. This will provide DP&L customers the choice of paying a premium to enable the utility company to purchase renewable energy certificates associated with generation from renewable energy sources.

## **FEDERAL**

According to Congress.org, Ohios congressional delegation has lost power, dropping to 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation based on 20 criteria including tenure, committee assignments and ability to pass legislation.

## **FORECLOSURES**

The executive branch joined with the judicial branch this week to announce an expansion of the states foreclosure prevention efforts, Save the Dream, to include legal assistance through efforts of the Supreme Court of Ohio and 1,100 volunteer attorneys who signed up to assist Ohioans facing foreclosure. Besides the Department of Commerce, other participants in the statewide effort include the attorney general and state treasurer.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE**

Issues identified by leaders of the General Assembly for action over the next two months include passing the energy legislation, the capital appropriations/budget corrections measure and the governors economic stimulus package.

Rep. George Distel (D-Conneaut) resigned his 99<sup>th</sup> House District seat to become director of the Ohio Turnpike Commission. He was immediately replaced by Deborah Newcomb, former Ashtabula County commissioner and member of Conneaut City Council.

The Statehouse added three new cell phone tours these of the Lincoln-Vicksburg Monument in the Rotunda and of the House and Senate chambers voiced by Gov. Ted Strickland, Speaker Jon Husted and Senate President Bill Harris, respectively.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

The Futures Committee of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMR/DD) delivered its final report to the governor and, while the document sets forth steps to improve services, processes and supports for individuals and families, ODMR/DD Director John Martin said, It is not a cure-all [I]t would be disingenuous to present the report without acknowledging the daunting challenges that lie ahead.

A recent survey by the Department of Aging found that 92 percent and 94.5 percent of seniors were overwhelmingly pleased with the services provided under the PASSPORT and Choices Medicaid programs respectively while 74.1 percent of participants in the assisted living program were very or extremely satisfied. The latter is the newest of the departments Medicaid home- and community-based waiver programs.

Two new health care programs kicked off on April 1: the Medicaid Buy-In program for Workers with Disabilities (MBI-WD) and the Childrens Buy-In Program for uninsured, special needs children in families with incomes above 300 percent of poverty.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut delivered Ohios first *Strategic Plan for Higher Education* to the governor on Monday. The 10-year, 140-page document includes, among numerous other suggestions, a single administrative report card for all state-funded colleges and universities while the performance of the University System of Ohio as a whole will be measured by 20 separate criteria within four primary goals: access, quality, affordability and efficiency, and economic leadership.

## **INSURANCE**

Three bills mandating health insurance coverage for cancer, clinical trials and autism were heard this week in the House Insurance Committee.

## **JUDICIAL**

Debate continued on Rep. Larry Wolperts (R-Hilliard) proposed reforms of the states mayors courts with another omnibus amendment offered and accepted this week by the House Judiciary Committee. Much of the debate now revolves around dollars and cents.

Under an amendment accepted by the House Criminal Justice Committee Thursday to HB130 (White), Ohio prosecutors would have to have at least five years of experience practicing in Ohio before being eligible to run for the office.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher backpedaled this week when he told the *Toledo Blade* that he misspoke when he said Great Lakes water might someday be sold to drought-stricken parts of the country a view repudiated by the governor who said he has consistently opposed selling Great Lakes water even when I was in Congress.

Spring wild turkey hunting opens in all 88 Ohio counties on Monday, April 21 and continues through Sunday, May 18.

The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee heard Sen. Tim Grendell (R-Chesterland) present sponsor testimony on his alternative to the Great Lakes Compact bill sponsored by Rep. Matt Dolan (R-Novelty), eliciting extensive debate on issues such as water rights, regional development, environmental protection, federal jurisprudence and a multi-state approval process.

The Ohio Wildlife Council removed bald eagles, osprey and peregrine falcons from the states endangered species list although they will continue to be federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

The Ohio Wildlife Council also approved the 2008-09 hunting and trapping regulations, designating Sept. 1 as the kick off for the states fall hunting season.

### **PEOPLE**

Sen. Kevin Coughlin (R-Cuyahoga Falls) received the Cancer Advocacy Award from the American Cancer Society for his sponsorship of legislation mandating health care coverage for colorectal cancer screenings.

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) named Megan Gordon-Lakey regional economic development director of the Central Ohio region. In addition, former department spokeswoman Nikki Jaworski was promoted to director of outreach, reporting directly to department director, Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The Senate Highways and Transportation Committee heard from Ohio Department of Transportation Director James Beasley that the department is over-committed by \$3.5 billion over the next seven years on Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) projects. Causes include lower fuel tax revenues, inflation, federal cuts and mandated TRAC commitments.

### **TREASURER OF STATE**

State Treasurer Richard Cordray was joined by House Minority Leader Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus) and Ohio State University President Gordon Gee to kick off April as Financial Literacy Month.

## WORKERS COMPENSATION

The Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) Board of Directors approved a 5 percent reduction in premiums effective July 1. This is the first reduction approved since 2001.

- HB8 STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS** (HAGAN, R) To crack down on felons taking advantage of Ohio's five state retirement systems.  
*Current Status:* 6/20/2007 - Referred to Judiciary - Criminal Justice Committee
- HB21 DRIVER SAFETY** (FESSLER, D) To require a driver to pull over or slow down upon approaching a stationary road service vehicle that is displaying flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber lights while servicing a disabled vehicle.  
*Current Status:* 5/23/2007 - House Infrastructure, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, (Third Hearing)
- HB29 MOTOR FUEL TAX** (HARWOOD, S) To exempt from the motor fuel tax any sales of motor fuel sold to school districts or educational service centers for school district or service center operations.  
*Current Status:* 2/20/2007 - Referred to Finance and Appropriations Committee
- HB30 TRAFFIC LAW PHOTO-MONITORING** (MCGREGOR, R) To require any local authority that enforces any traffic law by means of traffic law photo-monitoring devices to erect signs on every highway or freeway that is part of the state highway system and that enters that local authority, informing inbound traffic that the local authority utilizes traffic law photo-monitoring devices to enforce traffic laws.  
*Current Status:* 4/1/2008 - BILL AMENDED
- HB46 CONSUMER'S CREDIT REPORT** (STEWART, J) To require a consumer reporting agency to place a security freeze on a consumer's credit report in response to a consumer's request.  
*Current Status:* 5/23/2007 - Referred to Judiciary - Civil Justice Committee
- HB49 BINGO** (GIBBS, B) To allow a charitable organization to obtain a short term license to conduct bingo, instant bingo at a bingo session, or instant bingo other than at a bingo session.  
*Current Status:* 3/22/2007 - State Government and Elections, (Third Hearing)
- HB67 TRANSPORTATION BUDGET** (PATTON, T) To make appropriations for, and to prescribe terms and conditions pertaining to, transportation purposes.  
*Current Status:* 4/3/2007 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; App. eff. 4/3/07; other sections different dates
- HB67 TRANSPORTATION BUDGET** (PATTON, T) To make appropriations for, and to

prescribe terms and conditions pertaining to, transportation purposes.

*Current Status:* 4/3/2007 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; App. eff. 4/3/07; other sections different dates

- HB71**      **COMPANION ANIMALS** (WHITE, J) To apply certain impoundment provisions in the companion animal statutes to the confiscation of dogs under the statute prohibiting dog fighting.  
*Current Status:* 11/14/2007 - Senate Agriculture, (Third Hearing)
- HB74**      **SPYING** (SCHLICHTER, J) To make spying on a minor in a state of nudity for the purpose of sexual gratification or arousal a felony of the third degree under all circumstances.  
*Current Status:* 4/3/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)
- HB83**      **SORN LICENSE PLATES** (DEBOSE, M) To create a SORN Law license plate; to provide mandatory prison terms and jail terms for persons convicted of a sexually oriented or child-victim oriented offense who are subject to a SORN Law license plate order and use a motor vehicle without such license plates in committing the offense, to arrive at the location where it was committed, or to flee immediately after committing it; and to expand the offense of "wrongful entrustment of a motor vehicle" to apply to a person who in specified circumstances permits a person subject to a SORN Law license plate order to drive the offender's motor vehicle without such license plates.  
*Current Status:* 3/15/2007 - Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- HB95**      **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS** (KOZIURA, J) To specify conditions under which a claimant's unemployment compensation benefits are not reduced by the amount the claimant concurrently receives in social security retirement benefits.  
*Current Status:* 3/13/2007 - Referred to Commerce and Labor Committee
- HB96**      **PROBATE FEES** (HEALY, II, W) To exempt estates of members of the United States Armed Services who died while serving in a combat zone from being charged any fees associated with the filing of the decedent's will for probate or the administration of the decedent's estate or any fees for relieving the estate from administration or granting an order for summary release from administration.  
*Current Status:* 4/19/2007 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED
- HB104**      **LICENSE APPLICANTS -BACKGROUND CHECKS** (CORE, A) To require initial license applicants for specified licensed professions to obtain a criminal background check from the bureau of criminal investigation and identification and to require the appropriate licensing board to consider the results of those checks in determining a person's eligibility for licensure.  
*Current Status:* 12/21/2007 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 3/28/08
- HB108**      **DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND** (PATTON, T) To require a court to impose an additional court cost of five dollars for a moving violation to fund grants to local drug law enforcement task forces, to create the Drug Law Enforcement Fund in the

Division of Criminal Justice Services of the Department of Public Safety, and to create the Drug Law Enforcement Fund Advisory Committee to make funding recommendations to the Division.

*Current Status:* 4/26/2007 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)

**HB115 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS (WILLIAMS, B)** To allow a charitable organization to conduct games of chance and raffles three times per year at certain food service facilities.

*Current Status:* 5/17/2007 - House State Government and Elections, (First Hearing)

**HB116 HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (BLESSING, L)** To require public employers to make health savings accounts available to public employees.

*Current Status:* 5/10/2007 - House State Government and Elections, (Second Hearing)

**HB130 DYS OPERATIONS (WHITE, J)** To modify sentencing procedures with respect to post-release control and related releases from prison, to conform the Revised Code to the decision of the Ohio Supreme Court in State ex rel. Bray v. Russell (2000) 89 Ohio St. 3d 132 by removing provisions related to bad time, to authorize courts to participate in the supervision of released prisoners, to provide released prisoners with identification cards and additional procedures for access to social services, to make other changes relative to opportunities for prisoner training and employment, to modify procedures for the judicial or medical release of prisoners and intervention in lieu of conviction, to grant the Adult Parole Authority more flexibility in determining periods of post-release control, to adopt other cost-control measures, to create the Ex-offender Reentry Coalition, to modify the grounds for disciplinary action by occupational licensing boards against licensees charged with criminal offenses, to provide for the indemnification of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for legal costs incurred in certain cases, to provide for legal representation of Department employees charged with offenses in certain cases until a grand jury has acted, to create a fund for the deposit of money received in certain federal law enforcement cases, to authorize the Department to enter into contracts to provide water and sewage treatment services, to make other changes related to the operations of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, to clarify the duties of juvenile parole officers, to establish reimbursement rates paid by the Department of Youth Services for outside medical providers, to authorize the Director of Youth Services to designate a deputy director, to modify the formula for expending appropriations for the care and custody of felony delinquents and the purposes for which money in the Felony Delinquent Care and Custody Fund may be used, to allow for unlimited reappointments of members of the Release Authority, and to make other changes related to the operations of the Department of Youth Services.

*Current Status:* 4/3/2008 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED

**HB132 UNLAWFUL PROPERTY BURNING (HUGHES, J)** To create the offense of unlawful property burning.

*Current Status:* 5/17/2007 - House Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)

- HB139 STATUTORY NAME CHANGE** (SKINDELL, M) To prohibit a court from ordering a statutory change of name for person who has committed identity fraud or who must register under SORN Law.  
*Current Status:* 5/10/2007 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- HB140 VEHICLE TOWING** (WIDENER, C) To provide that the owner of a motor vehicle that is removed from a public road may be prevented from registering any vehicle until the towing and storage fees on the vehicle removed are paid.  
*Current Status:* 4/3/2007 - Introduced
- HB145 CITIZENS ON PATROL PROGRAMS** (DRIEHAUS, S) To impose the same criminal penalties for assaulting a resident participating in a citizens on patrol program as are imposed for assaulting a peace officer.  
*Current Status:* 4/26/2007 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- HB152 ALTERNATIVE RETIREMENT PLANS** (WIDENER, C) To require school boards to establish alternative retirement plans for teachers and school employees.  
*Current Status:* 6/21/2007 - 6/21/2007 - House Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities, (Third Hearing)
- HB153 WILDLIFE VIOLATORS COMPACT** (LATTA, R) To direct the Chief of the Division of Wildlife in the Department of Natural Resources to enter into the Wildlife Violators Compact and to authorize the Chief to enter into agreements with law enforcement agencies outside of this state for joint law enforcement operations.  
*Current Status:* 7/19/2007 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 10/18/07
- HB154 MAYOR'S COURTS** (WOLPERT, L) To abolish mayor's courts and to create community courts and to modify the compensation of municipal court judges in territories having a population of more than 50,000.  
*Current Status:* 4/3/2008 - BILL AMENDED
- HB195 DRUG POSSESSION OFFENSES** (CORE, A) To provide that the prescription-related exemption from the drug possession offenses applies only when the controlled substance is obtained pursuant to a lawful prescription and to modify the penalty for "deception to obtain a dangerous drug" under specified circumstances.  
*Current Status:* 1/23/2008 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Sixth Hearing)
- HB204 SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL OFFICERS** (BOYD, B) To permit the board of a school district or educational service center to employ school security personnel officers and to authorize training programs that qualify persons as school security personnel officers.  
*Current Status:* 5/8/2007 - Referred to Education Committee
- HB206 SCRAP COPPER/ALUMINUM DEALERS** (DOMENICK, J) To establish new record-keeping requirements for dealers in scrap copper, scrap aluminum siding, or scrap catalytic converters.  
*Current Status:* 3/11/2008 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & AMENDED

- HB207**     **TRAFFIC VIOLATION PENALTIES** (PETERSON, J) To provide for increased penalties when a person violates the motor vehicle traffic law assured clear distance ahead provision or commits a failure to yield the right-of-way offense that results in serious physical harm or death to another person.  
*Current Status:* 5/17/2007 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- HB209**     **SEXUAL BATTERY OFFENSE** (CORE, A) To expand the offense of "sexual battery" to prohibit a peace officer from engaging in sexual conduct with a minor who is not the officer's spouse.  
*Current Status:* 3/13/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)
- HB215**     **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** (COLLIER, T) To list Salvia divinorum as a controlled substance.  
*Current Status:* 4/3/2008 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED
- HB219**     **TESTIMONIAL PRIVILEGE** (PATTON, T) To create a testimonial privilege for communications between a representative of an employee organization and a bargaining unit member.  
*Current Status:* 1/29/2008 - House Commerce and Labor, (Second Hearing)
- HB225**     **CONCEALED HANDGUNS** (ADAMS, J) To authorize a person to carry a concealed handgun without obtaining a license to the same extent as if the person had obtained such a license if the person qualifies for a concealed carry license and is legally permitted to purchase a handgun; to remove the requirements that a concealed carry licensee must be carrying the license in order to carry a concealed handgun, must inform approaching law enforcement officers that the person has a license and is carrying the handgun when the person is carrying a concealed handgun, and must submit a new or renewed competency certification when renewing the license; to eliminate as premises in which a concealed carry licensee may not carry a concealed handgun public or private institutions of higher education, places of worship, day-care centers and homes, and government buildings other than schools, courthouses, law enforcement offices, and correctional facilities; to replace the prohibitions that apply only to a concealed carry licensee who is carrying a handgun is a motor vehicle with a prohibition against a licensee who is in a motor vehicle that is stopped by a law enforcement officer knowingly menacing or threatening an officer with a loaded handgun or knowingly pointing a loaded handgun at an officer; to remove the "in plain sight or secure encasement" criterion that a concealed carry licensee must satisfy to legally possess a handgun in a motor vehicle; to repeal the "journalist exception" to the provision that otherwise makes confidential the records a sheriff possesses regarding concealed handgun licenses and applications for such licenses; and to amend the version of section 2923.129 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect September 19, 2007, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date.  
*Current Status:* 2/7/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- HB240**     **PUBLIC RETIREES** (GOODWIN, B) Regarding employment of retired members of the Public Employees Retirement System, School Employees Retirement System, State Teachers Retirement System, and Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.  
*Current Status:* 10/30/2007 - House Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities, (Third Hearing)

- HB242 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING** (BRINKMAN, T) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization, to expand the scope of unfair labor practices under that law, to make other changes in the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law, to prohibit any requirement that employees of private employers join or pay dues to any employee organization and to require public and private employers to post notes to that effect, to prohibit certain actions by private employers relative to employee organization membership, and to establish civil and criminal penalties against private employers who violate those prohibitions.  
*Current Status:* 6/12/2007 - Referred to Commerce and Labor Committee
- HB243 PREVAILING WAGE LAW** (BRINKMAN, T) To repeal the Prevailing Wage Law.  
*Current Status:* 6/12/2007 - Referred to Commerce and Labor Committee
- HB246 CONCESSION OWNERS** (STEWART, J) To require concession owners and operators, amusement ride owners and operators, and certain food establishments to provide the names and addresses of their employees when requested by the chief of police or county sheriff.  
*Current Status:* 9/19/2007 - House Civil and Commercial Law, (Second Hearing)
- HB247 CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER** (BROWN, E) To allow a court to issue a civil protection order to a child who has had or has a dating relationship with the respondent if certain offenses are alleged and to include foster parents under the scope of the domestic violence laws.  
*Current Status:* 4/2/2008 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT
- HB252 MEMORIAL HIGHWAYS** (HUGHES, J) To require the Director of Transportation to designate portions of state highways, county or township roads, or streets or highways located within municipal corporations as memorial highways in honor of each State Highway Patrol trooper, county sheriff, deputy sheriff, township constable, or police officer of a township police department or district or law enforcement agency of a municipal corporation who is or has been killed in the line of duty.  
*Current Status:* 6/20/2007 - 6/20/2007 - House Infrastructure, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
- HB256 PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR** (WAGONER, M) To establish the office of Public Access Counselor in the Court of Claims to receive complaints and issue advisory opinions concerning the Public Records Law and Open Meetings Law.  
*Current Status:* 1/10/2008 - House Judiciary, (Third Hearing)
- HB264 SELF-DEFENSE** (WACHTMANN, L) To provide a criminal defendant who properly establishes the affirmative defense of self-defense or defense of another with immunity from civil liability for damages related to the acts of self-defense or defense of another and to create a rebuttable presumption that a criminal defendant who raises the affirmative defense of self defense or defense of another acted properly if the defendant or the person defended by the accused was suffering or

was about to suffer a felony offense of violence or a forcible trespass upon the home of the defendant or of the person defended by the accused.

*Current Status:* 3/13/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)

**HB267 REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION** (HUFFMAN, M) To permit the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to establish a loan repayment program for recruitment of nurses and to modify the laws governing the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee.

*Current Status:* 2/7/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

**HB270 STATE RETIREES** (SCHNEIDER, M) To provide that a member of the Public Employees Retirement System, Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, State Teachers Retirement System, or School Employees Retirement System who retires and then returns to public employment in the same position will not receive a pension while earning a salary for that employment.

*Current Status:* 1/31/2008 - House Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities, (Third Hearing)

**HB272 9-1-1 CALLS** (PATTON, T) To prohibit broadcasting an actual 9-1-1 call that has been made available as a public record.

*Current Status:* 12/4/2007 - House Infrastructure, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)

**HB278 MOTORCYCLE SEIZURE** (LETSON, T) To modify the guidelines governing seizure of a motorcycle by a law enforcement officer when the identity of the motorcycle cannot be determined and to establish limited civil liability if the law enforcement officer or agency fails to comply with specified guidelines.

*Current Status:* 1/23/2008 - House Civil and Commercial Law, (First Hearing)

**HB292 VEHICLE VALIDATION STICKER** (DEGEETER, T) To provide that theft of a vehicle validation sticker is a felony of the fifth degree.

*Current Status:* 9/10/2007 - Referred to Criminal Justice Committee

**HB296 REPEAT OFFENDERS** (HUGHES, J) To establish a presumption that a court should impose on a repeat offender the longest prison term authorized for an offense and to specify longer prison terms that a court may impose on felony offenders with two or more previous felony violations.

*Current Status:* 2/7/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

**HB310 MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION** (YUKO, K) To prohibit a person who is no operating a motor vehicle from fleeing from a law enforcement officer who gives a lawful order to stop and to increase the minimum penalty for fleeing and eluding a police officer in a motor vehicle after receiving a visible or audible signal to stop.

*Current Status:* 9/27/2007 - Referred to House Criminal Justice

**HB312 LIQUOR PROVIDED FOR UNDERAGE PERSON** (BACON, K) To permit the suspension for up to 180 days of the driver's license of any person who buys for or furnishes to an underage person beer or intoxicating liquor.

*Current Status:* 4/3/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)

- HB315 STRS HEALTH CARE FUND (OELSLAGER, S)** To create the Health Care Fund in the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and make other changes in STRS law.  
*Current Status:* 9/27/2007 - Referred to House Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities
- HB320 BOOSTER SEATS (JONES, S)** To require certain children who are between four and eight years of age to be secured in a booster seat and to require children less than age eighteen to be restrained in an occupant restraining device if not otherwise required to be in a child restraint system or booster seat.  
*Current Status:* 4/2/2008 - House Infrastructure, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, (Third Hearing)
- HB343 PRISONER RELEASE NOTIFICATION (BACON, K)** To require automatic notice to victims of first, second, or third degree felony offenses of violence of certain prisoner or alleged juvenile offender release of transfer proceedings; to expand victim participation in parole hearings; to require five years of post-release control for offenders who commit first, second, or third degree felony offenses of violence; to require the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to keep information on such offenders in a publicly accessible database for ten years following final discharge; to require the Department to provide certain information related to paroles to designated public officials; to require the Department to notify the appropriate prosecuting attorney when a felon serving a specified sentence is released pursuant to a pardon, commutation of sentence, parole, or completed prison term; to prohibit the Parole Board from considering a sentence in effect since July 1, 1996, in making parole determinations; to make other changes related to the release of prisoners and victim's rights; to provide that voluntary manslaughter committed with a sexual motivation is a sexually oriented offense, makes an offender or juvenile offender registrant who commits it a tier III sex offender/child-victim offender, and may qualify a juvenile offender registrant who commits it as a public registry-qualified juvenile offender registrant; to name the victim and family notification provisions Roberta's Law; and to declare an emergency.  
*Current Status:* 10/10/2007 - Referred to Committee House Criminal Justice
- HB380 WORKER RECORDS (COLEY, W)** To require a commercial or public entity to maintain records regarding each worker who performs services for that entity and to establish penalties for failure to maintain those records.  
*Current Status:* 12/4/2007 - Referred to Civil and Commercial Law Committee
- HB392 BMV-NEXT OF KIN DATABASE (MCGREGOR, J)** To establish a next of kin database within the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.  
*Current Status:* 3/11/2008 - Referred to Highways and Transportation Committee
- HB414 FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD VIOLENCE (LATTA, R)** To modify when a defendant who is accused of committing an offense of violence against a family or household member must personally appear for the setting of bail.  
*Current Status:* 1/8/2008 - Referred to Criminal Justice Committee

- HB415 ANIMAL FIGHTING** (BLESSING, L) To increase the penalty for animal fighting, including cockfighting and dogfighting.  
*Current Status:* 3/13/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- HB416 GREAT LAKES COMPACT** (DOLAN, M) To ratify the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and to establish related requirements.  
*Current Status:* 3/11/2008 - Referred to Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- HB418 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS** (COMBS, C) To revise the penalties and sentencing provisions regarding violations of the cruelty to animals statutes and to include the protection of companion animals in temporary protection orders, domestic violence protection orders, anti-stalking protection orders and related protection orders.  
*Current Status:* 3/13/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- HB425 TEXT MESSAGING/DRIVING** (FESSLER, D) To prohibit driving a vehicle while text messaging or typing on a mobile communication device and to establish the violation as a secondary traffic offense.  
*Current Status:* 1/16/2008 - House Infrastructure, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
- HB431 FIREFIGHTER /EMS DISABILITIES** (PATTON, T) To provide that a firefighter or emergency medical services worker who is disabled as a result of cancer or certain contagious or infectious diseases is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the disease while performing official duties as a firefighter or emergency medical services worker.  
*Current Status:* 4/1/2008 - House Commerce and Labor, (Third Hearing)
- HB448 MISSING PERSONS** (WILLIAMS, S) Relative to missing persons in Ohio.  
*Current Status:* 1/29/2008 - Referred to Criminal Justice Committee
- HB450 HANDGUN PURCHASE** (GOODWIN, B) To permit a member of the armed services or the Ohio National Guard who is between the ages of 18 and 21 to purchase a handgun if the person has received firearms training,  
*Current Status:* 3/13/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- HB461 WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS** (BATCHELDER, W) To allow an employer to reimburse the Administrator of Workers' Compensation for the first fifteen thousand dollars of medical bills incurred in any type of workers' compensation claim rather than allow an employer to pay directly only those medical bills incurred in medical-only claims.  
*Current Status:* 2/12/2008 - Referred to Commerce and Labor Committee
- HB466 POLICE COMMANDER TRAINING** (STRAHORN, F) To exempt an individual who is appointed to a command position with a police department of an Ohio municipal corporation from Ohio's peace officer certification and training requirements if the individual has served in a command position with a police department of a municipal corporation in another state and has completed a basic training program comparable to Ohio's peace officer basic training program and the other state provides a similar

exemption.

*Current Status:* 2/12/2008 - Referred to Criminal Justice Committee

**HB467**     **DNA COLLECTION** (STRAHORN, F) To require the collection of a DNA specimen from all persons who are convicted of, plead guilty to, or are adjudicated a delinquent child for a misdemeanor other than a misdemeanor for which a citation is issued.

*Current Status:* 2/12/2008 - Referred to Criminal Justice Committee

**HB468**     **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAW** (STRAHORN, F) To eliminate an exemption from the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law for specified educational employees.

*Current Status:* 3/11/2008 - House Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)

**SB6**        **CONSUMER'S CREDIT REPORT** (NIEHAUS, T) To allow a consumer to place a security freeze on the consumer's credit report, to specify that Social Security numbers are confidential, to specify that certain personal information is not a public record, to require a public office to redact from a document that is otherwise a public record certain personal information.

*Current Status:* 10/30/2007 - Referred to Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities Committee

**SB9**        **FELONY SEX OFFENSE PROSECUTION** (CLANCY, P) To permit a prosecution of felony sex offense or kidnapping offense involving a victim under 13 years of age to be commenced at any time after the commission of the offense.

*Current Status:* 6/21/2007 - 6/21/2007 - House Criminal Justice, (Fifth Hearing)

**SB10**     **SORN LAW** (AUSTRIA, S) To formally state the General Assembly's intentions in its upcoming deliberations on revising Ohio's Sex Offender Registration and Notification Law.

*Current Status:* 6/30/2007 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 6/30/2007; certain sections different dates

**SB18**     **SEALED CRIMINAL RECORDS** (CLANCY, P) To prohibit an offender from having a criminal record sealed when the underlying offense is importuning.

*Current Status:* 7/10/2007 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 10/10/2007

**SB21**     **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** (COUGHLIN, K) To adopt the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act.

*Current Status:* 3/28/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)

**SB22**     **SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS** (FABER, K) To require that sexually violent predators who are released from prison be monitored by global positioning system devices.

*Current Status:* 5/9/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Sixth Hearing)

**SB23**     **INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE** (GOODMAN, D) To prohibit involuntary servitude,

sexual servitude of a minor and trafficking in persons for forced labor.

*Current Status:* 4/25/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)

**SB27 BOOSTER SEATS** (KEARNEY, E) To require certain children between four and eight years of age to be secured in a booster seat.

*Current Status:* 6/26/2007 - 6/26/2007 - Senate Highways and Transportation, (Second Hearing)

**SB36 HOME RULE GOVERNMENT** (SCHULER, R) To permit townships with a population of less than five thousand in its unincorporated territory to adopt a limited home rule government under certain conditions.

*Current Status:* 11/30/2007 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 3/1/08

**SB44 BRIDGE NAME** (CAREY, JR., J) Permit local jurisdictions to request the Director of Transportation to designate a name for a bridge that is part of the highway system.

*Current Status:* 4/2/2008 - House Infrastructure, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, (Second Hearing)

**SB46 YOUTH ATHLETICS** (MUMPER, L) Develop a coach's conduct and ethics policy for volunteer coaches involved in recreational youth athletics.

*Current Status:* 2/14/2008 - House State Government and Elections, (First Hearing)

**SB53 CLINICAL COUNSELORS** (CLANCY, P) Permit licensed professional counselors to take persons into custody and transport them to a hospital.

*Current Status:* 10/3/2007 - 10/3/2007 - House Health, (Fourth Hearing)

**SB56 LICENSE PLATES** (COUGHLIN, K) To create a SORN Law license plate.

*Current Status:* 11/7/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)

**SB73 DRUG ABUSE LAW** (MILLER, R) Eliminate distinction between powdered and crack cocaine in Drug Abuse Law.

*Current Status:* 10/30/2007 - Referred to Criminal Justice Committee

**SB84 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY** (SCHAFFER, T) To specify an additional type of Emergency Management Agency for which a political subdivision may make an appropriation.

*Current Status:* 4/1/2008 - PASSED BY HOUSE

**SB88 REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY** (GARDNER, R) To allow a subdivision that is a member of a regional transit authority to withdraw from the authority.

*Current Status:* 5/1/2007 - Senate Highways and Transportation, (Second Hearing)

**SB91 ROAD RAGE** (GRENDALL, T) To provide that if a person is convicted of committing a state motor vehicle moving violation immediately after initiating a road rage

incident, the moving violation is at least a fourth-degree misdemeanor and the court must fine the person at least \$100 and require the person to attend a road rage abatement seminar, and to require remedial driving courses to be taken in person.

*Current Status:* 4/25/2007 - S - Judiciary - Criminal Justice (First)

**SB100**     **CRIMES AGAINST JUDGES** (AUSTRIA, S) To increase the penalties for certain offenses when a judge or magistrate is the victim, to prohibit a person from threatening a judge or magistrate, and to make the killing of a judge or magistrate an aggravating circumstance for the imposition of the death penalty for aggravated murder.

*Current Status:* 11/28/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

**SB108**     **CRIMINAL OFFENSE-PUBLIC OFFICE HOLDER** (SCHAFFER, T) To prohibit a court from granting judicial release to any person serving a prison term for a criminal offense committed while the person held public office.

*Current Status:* 5/24/2007 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

**SB129**     **ROADWAY REMOVAL OF DAMAGED VEHICLES** (SCHAFFER, T) To permit local law enforcement agencies and fire departments to remove motor vehicles from the roadway after a motor vehicle accident and to provide immunity to local law enforcement agencies and fire personnel for the removal of damaged or inoperable vehicles from roadways.

*Current Status:* 4/24/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Civil Justice, (Second Hearing)

**SB137**     **ASSAULT VICTIMS** (AUSTRIA, S) To increase the penalty for assault when the victim of the offense is seventy years of age or older.

*Current Status:* 4/17/2007 - Referred to Judiciary - Criminal Justice Committee

**SB145**     **LAW ENFORCMENT ORDER** (STIVERS, S) To prohibit a person from fleeing from a law enforcement officer who gives a lawful order to stop.

*Current Status:* 4/3/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)

**SB171**     **PAWNBROKERS LAW** (STIVERS, S) To make certain changes to the Pawnbrokers Law and the Secondhand Dealers Law.

*Current Status:* 3/31/2008 - Referred to State Government and Elections Committee

**SB177**     **9-1-1 CALLS** (SAWYER, T) To prohibit billing or other administrative activities regarding a 9-1-1 call until the emergency is stabilized.

*Current Status:* 6/19/2007 - 6/19/2007 - Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

**SB180**     **COURTHOUSE ASSAULT** (CAFARO, C) To make an assault or aggravated menacing committed in a courthouse a felony of the fifth degree.

*Current Status:* 11/28/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Second

Hearing)

- SB183**     **IMPORTUNING** (SCHAFFER, T) To provide mandatory minimum prison terms for persons who plead guilty to or are convicted of importuning by means of a telecommunications device.  
*Current Status:* 4/3/2008 - House Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)
- SB184**     **SELF-DEFENSE** (BUEHRER, S) To provide a criminal defendant who properly establishes the affirmative defense of self-defense of another with immunity from civil liability for damages related to the acts of self-defense or defense of another and to create a rebuttable presumption that a criminal defendant who raises the affirmative defense of self-defense or defense of another acted properly if the defendant of the person defended by the accused was suffering or was about to suffer a felony offense of violence or a forcible trespass upon the home of the defendant or of the person defended by the accused.  
*Current Status:* 4/2/2008 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Fourth Hearing)
- SB204**     **MOTORCYCLE SEIZURE** (CAFARO, C) To modify the guidelines governing seizure of a motorcycle by a law enforcement officer when the identity of the motorcycle cannot be determined and to establish limited civil liability if the law enforcement officer or agency fails to comply with specified guidelines.  
*Current Status:* 10/2/2007 - Referred to Judiciary - Civil Justice Committee
- SB208**     **REPEAT OFFENDERS** (GRENDALL, T) To establish a presumption that a court should impose on a target offender the longest prison term authorized for an offense and to specify longer prison terms that a court may impose on felony offenders with two or more previous felony violations.  
*Current Status:* 1/30/2008 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)
- SB209**     **OVI FINES** (CAREY, JR., J) To direct that a specified amount of OVI fines be credited to the State Public Defender for indigent criminal defense, to permit clerks of courts who serve as deputy registrars to impose an additional cost for the processing of motor vehicle titles, and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 3/26/2008 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. 6/26/2008
- SB216**     **SORN LAW** (MASON, L) To require a person who must register under the SORN Law to provide the address of any residential property owned by the person.  
*Current Status:* 10/24/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (First Hearing)
- SB218**     **POLICE/FIRE CHIEF APPOINTMENTS** (SCHURING, K) To permit the legislative authority of a city to grant the mayor authority to appoint the chief of the police or fire departments and to provide alternative procedures for the appointments.  
*Current Status:* 10/9/2007 - 10/9/2007 - Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)
- SB219**     **MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE** (SCHURING, K) To make the period of limitation for the

criminal prosecution of a person for an offense directly related to misconduct in office of a public servant of the same as the period of limitation for the criminal prosecution of that public servant's misconduct in office.

*Current Status:* 4/3/2008 - REPORTED OUT

- SB220**     **PROMOTING PROSTITUTION** (SCHURING, K) To provide increased penalties for the offenses of promoting prostitution, procuring, soliciting, loitering to engage in solicitation, and prostitution if the offense occurs in a school safety zone or within 1,000 feet of a school building or the boundaries of school premises.  
*Current Status:* 2/6/2008 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED & REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED
- SB222**     **COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SAFETY** (CATES, G) To add a representative from the Ohio Campus Law Enforcement Association to the Peace Officer Training Commission, to require the Commission to develop recommendations for training peace officers in conducting law enforcement activities in a higher education setting, and to provide qualified immunity to an officer or employee of a private college or university who reports a potential safety risk at the college or university.  
*Current Status:* 10/31/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Second Hearing)
- SB228**     **PRISONER RELEASE NOTIFICATION** (STIVERS, S) To require automatic notice to victims of first, second, or third degree felony offenses of violence of certain prisoner or alleged juvenile offender release or transfer proceedings; to expand victim participation in parole hearings; to require five years of post-release control for offenders who commit first, second, or third degree felony offense of violence; to require the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to keep information on such offenders in a publicly accessible database for ten years following final discharge; to require the Department to provide certain information related to paroles to designated public officials; to require the Department to notify the appropriate prosecuting attorney when a felon serving a specified sentence is released pursuant to a pardon, commutation of sentence, parole, or completed prison term to prohibit the Parole Board from considering a sentence in effect since July 1, 1996, in making parole determinations; to make other changes related to the release of prisoners and victim's rights; to provide that voluntary manslaughter committed with a sexual motivation is a sexually oriented offense, makes an offender or juvenile offender registrant who commits it as a tier III sex offender/child-victim offender registrant who commits it as a public registry-qualified juvenile offender registrant; to name the victim and family notification provisions Roberta's Law; and to declare an emergency.  
*Current Status:* 11/7/2007 - Senate Judiciary - Criminal Justice, (Third Hearing)
- SB246**     **POLITICAL ACTIVITIES** (SAWYER, T) To authorize classified employees to engage in political activities during nonworking hours, to broaden the prohibition against coercion or harassment of classified employees for political purposes, and to authorize the State Personnel Board of Review and local civil service commission to remedy such coercion or harassment.  
*Current Status:* 12/11/2007 - Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs, (First Hearing)

- SB249**      **BMV NEXT OF KIN DATABASE** (FABER, K) To establish a next of kin database within the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.  
*Current Status:* 2/14/2008 - House State Government and Elections, (First Hearing)
- SB252**      **COMMUNITY COURTS** (COUGHLIN, K) To abolish mayor's courts and to create community courts, to convert three part-time municipal court judgeships into full-time judgeships, and to modify the compensation of municipal court judges in territories having a population of more than 50,000.  
*Current Status:* 1/23/2008 - Senate Judiciary - Civil Justice, (First Hearing)
- SB264**      **TEACHER STRIKES** (CAREY, JR., J) To prohibit classroom teachers employed by boards of education from striking and instead require binding arbitration to settle their unresolved collective bargaining disputes and to make an appropriation.  
*Current Status:* 3/11/2008 - Senate Education, (Fourth Hearing)
- SB267**      **PERS** (FABER, K) Regarding the Public Employees Retirement System law enforcement division.  
*Current Status:* 4/2/2008 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED
- SB271**      **WATERCRAFT LAWS** (MUMPER, L) To make changes to the laws governing watercraft.  
*Current Status:* 4/2/2008 - Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee