



HELPFUL LINKS

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:
www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO GOVERNOR:
www.governor.ohio.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:
www.ohiosos.gov

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL:
www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov

OHIO CHANNEL:
www.ohiochannel.org



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'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

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

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

To subscribe, send your name and email address to:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

Your state legislators are spending most of their time in their districts. Some are campaigning for reelection, some are enjoying some rest and relaxation (R&R), and some have been holding district open houses or town hall meetings for their constituents.

We know what they are not doing. Holding committee hearings and full sessions. But that does not mean they are not working. They still have offices with staff members to run and many are still sending out newsletters and attending various meetings.

What does that all mean for the veterans of Ohio and our active-duty members? The next couple of months is an extremely important time. It is when they should be the most active in the legislative process.

The first thing to consider is the November election. There are 99 districts in the Ohio House of Representatives and 33 districts in the Ohio Senate. Elections are being held for all 99 house districts and the even numbered districts in the senate. Many districts have incumbents running but there are a lot of new names on ballots as well. It is important to pay attention and do as much homework as possible before the election. The outcome of the November election will affect us all for the next four years and beyond.

The second thing to consider is that when the break is over, and the legislators return to work, it will be in mid-November. The 135th General Assembly will adjourn on December 31st. Before they adjourn, they will have a couple of weeks off for the holidays. That means they will only have about one month to pass bills. It is a lame-duck session. When the 135th G.A. ends, any bills not passed will die.

What that means to the citizens of Ohio is that now is the time to be emailing, writing, or emailing their legislators and advocating for what they want them to get passed during the one-month period. Now more than any other time it is important to make their wishes known. Bills still need to have hearings and be voted on during that month if they are to become law.

The current general assembly is one of the least productive ones Ohio has had in many, many years. Since day one (January 3, 2023) the members have introduced less than 1,000 bills. Of those bills, less than six percent of them were passed and signed into law. If less than 75 bills get passed in a span of eighteen months, one must wonder how many will be passed in only one month. The time to advocate for important bills is now -before they return in November.

Anyone who is unsure about who represents them in Columbus

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or how to contact them can find the answers on the official website of the Ohio Legislature. It is: www.legislature.ohio.gov. On that website you can track all the bills and resolutions, check the calendar for sessions and hearings, and read the session journals. The house and senate directors and committees are there as well as the Ohio Constitution and the current Ohio Revised Code. There are also several helpful publications that can be downloaded.

The directories will take you to the personal page of each of the 132 members where you can see all the contact information, sign up for newsletters, and link to social media accounts.

There are other helpful links listed on the front cover of every issue of OLR. Check them all out and get to know the workings of the Ohio State Government.

To subscribe to **Ohio Legislative Report** send your name and email address to oh.leg.report@gmail.com -put 'subscribe' in the subject.

ATTENTION LEGISLATORS

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

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

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

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

Email photos and all info to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com

OUT IN THE DISTRICTS

PEOPLE FIRST TOWN HALL

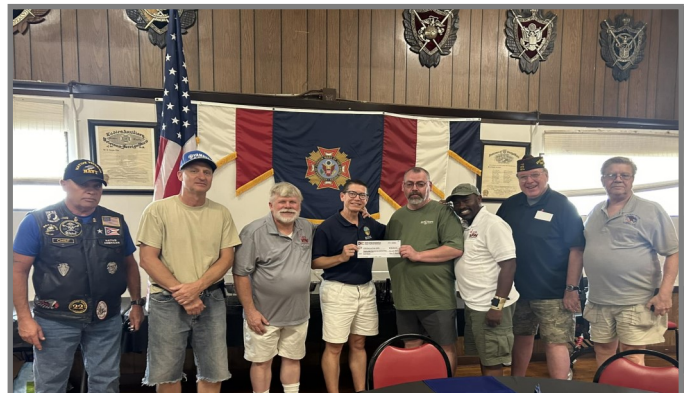
September 10th | 6PM

Northwest Library, Trillium Meeting Room
2280 Hard Rd. | Columbus, OH 43235

- ✓ Legislative Updates
- ✓ Meet the Representatives
- ✓ Share your thoughts & ideas



COME JOIN US!



State Representative Sean Brennen (ctr. blue shirt) presents a check to members of the Parma VFW Post 1974 for roof repairs. The money was allocated in House Bill 3 –the Capital Appropriations and Reappropriations Bill.



State Representatives Susan Manchester (left) and Tim Barhorst (2nd from right) spent time in the veterans tent at the Champaign County Fair listening to stories of their service in the military.

OPINION PAGE

Study Hard Before the Election

To vote in a federal election an individual must be a U.S. citizen over 18 and meet their state's residency requirements.

In Ohio an individual must be a registered voter. According to the Ohio Secretary of State website to be qualified to register all of the following requirements must be met:

1. You are a citizen of the United States;
2. You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the next general election. (If you will be 18 on or before the general election, you may vote in the primary election to nominate candidates, but you cannot vote on issues or party central committees until you are 18);
3. You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote;
4. You are not incarcerated (in prison or jail) for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States;
5. You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court; and
6. You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violating the election laws.

I think by now every resident of Ohio is aware that this is an election year, and a general election is going to be held on November 5th. Most voters will have a ballot that will list candidates that are running for federal, state, county, and local offices. In addition, there will be state, county, and/or local issues to be considered.

Everything on the ballot is important. Every voter should vote with a thorough knowledge of every candidate and every issue. The outcome of the election will impact the lives of all Ohioans for many years to come.

Ohio has a diverse group of citizens. Voters come from all walks of life and have different wants and needs. While one citizen is concerned about the economy, jobs, and education their neighbor might be worried about their senior citizen benefits and taxes. The man across the street might be concerned about gun control while his wife thinks women's health is a more important issue.

Voters should spend more time looking into

the background and records of candidates and less time listening to the opinions of relatives and friends or reading the memes on social media. In other words –everyone should do their own homework and not copy from the person next to them.

What can a voter look for when researching the candidates? They could try these to start with:

- √ How did they vote on the issues that are the most important?
- √ How many bills did they introduce while in office? How many became law?
- √ Who are the big supporters (monetary) of their campaign and what do they stand for?
- √ What does their resume say about their experience dealing with the important issues?
- √ How long have they lived in their district and what have they contributed to it?

Since the ultimate goal of every voter is to elect officials who will fight for what the voter wants, it is first necessary for them to know what it is that they want. They could make a list of all the important issues with the most important at the top and the least important at the bottom. Then as they investigate each candidate, they will know better how the candidate rates compared to their own wants and needs and will be able to compare each candidate with the other.

There are plenty of sources an Ohio voter can utilize in their research. If they are an incumbent the

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OLR welcomes letters to the editor

- * Letters are 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 YOUR LETTERS TO:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com

candidate's attendance and voting record can be found on the official website of the government body where they have held positions. If a search engine is used, it is important to study many of the sites shown, not just one or two to get a better overall image of the candidate. There are some websites that will list all the candidates and provide very useful information on each one. One such site is www.ballotpedia.org but there are others as well.

November 5th is about two months away. OLR suggests that every Ohio voter find their county board of elections website and look up a sample ballot so they will know who is running and for which offices (they might be surprised to learn there are eleven individuals running for President?). Look up the issues also. They could impact your future over the next several years -or longer.

- * Know what is important to you.
- * Know who the candidates and issues.
- * Know which ones best align with you.
- * Make a list of who you are voting for.
- * You are now an educated voter.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 5th

Oct. 07: Deadline for voter registration for Nov. 5 general election (30 days before general election)

Oct. 08: Early in-person absentee voting begins (first day after close of voter registration)

Oct. 29: Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for Nov. 5 general election must be received by boards of elections by the close of business (7 days before general election)

Nov. 05: General Election Day. -Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls

If you will turn 18 on or before November 5th, you can register to vote now.

Go to: VoteOhio.Gov

* Last step ...Make sure you vote.

If you have questions about registering or voting in Ohio, go to the Ohio Secretary of State website for information and answers.

www.voteohio.gov

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OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION # 14 ~ SEARCH WARRANTS AND GENERAL WARRANTS

Effective: 1851

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and possessions, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated; and no warrant shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, particularly describing the place to be searched and the person and things to be seized.

SECTION # 15 ~ NO IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT

Effective: 1851

No person shall be imprisoned for debt in any civil action, on mesne or final process, unless in cases of fraud.

SECTION # 16 ~ REDRESS FOR INJURY; DUE PROCESS

Effective: 1912

All courts shall be open, and every person, for an injury done him in his land, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and shall have justice administered without denial or delay.

Suits may be brought against the state, in such courts and in such manner, as may be provided by law.

SECTION # 17 ~ NO HEREDITARY PRIVILEGES

Effective: 1851

No hereditary emoluments, honors, or privileges, shall ever be granted or conferred by this state.

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN AUGUST

HB 652:

Introduced by Representative **D.J. Swearingen** (District 89) on July 15th.
It has not been referred to a committee yet.

The bill would enact section 5534.482 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 2 in Ottawa County as the "Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway."

SB 310:

Introduced by Representative **Brian M. Chavez** (District 30) on August 28th.
It has not been referred to a committee yet.

The bill would enact section 5534.672 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of I-77 in Noble County as the "U.S.S. Shenandoah Memorial Highway."

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

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

- HB 2 Direct state funds for economic growth and community development
- HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- HB 53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- HB 202 Designate Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway
- HB 212 Enact the Ohio Property Protection Act
- HB 231 Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line
- HB 232 Create Historical and Patriotic Education license plate
- HB 242 Establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds
- HB 250 Revise the Military Enlistment diploma seal
- HB 252 Designate SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway
- HB 253 Designate Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor
- HB 254 Expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans
- HB 269 Designate Sgt Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway
- HB 286 Designate Vienna Township Veterans Bridge
- HB 294 Designate Delaware County Veteran's Memorial Highway
- HB 299 Designate Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway
- HB 310 Regards STRS member purchase of military service credit
- HB 317 Designate Sgt. Cory M. Endlich Corridor

More Legislation on next page...

- HB 335 Designate Ottawa County Veterans Memorial Highway
 HB 350 Designate Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk Memorial Highway
 HB 355 Designate Licking County Veterans Memorial Highway
 HB 365 Designate multiple memorial highways
 HB 378 Permit homestead exemption-surviving spouses of service members
 HB 409 Create the Ohio Cold War Victory Medal
 HB 423 Create "Blue Star Banner" license plate
 HB 431 Designate Staff Sgt. Zachary Wobler Memorial Highway
 HB 447 Regards property tax exemptions, restrictions and land value
 HB 453 Designate Staff Sergeant George P. Mizik (USMC) Memorial Highway
 HB 458 To designate "Gold and Blue Star Family Memorial Bridge" and "POW/MIA Memorial Viaduct."
 HB 483 Create "Save a Warrior" license plate
 HB 487 Designate TSgt. Grover Lee Swearingen Memorial Highway
 HB 493 Designate Lance Corporal Gerald Subler Memorial Highway
 HB 494 Designate SSgt Gene F. Morrison Memorial Bridge
 HB 510 Designate Army Lt. Col. Robert R. Melnick Memorial Highway
 HB 517 Allow military to participate in homeownership savings program
 HB 523 Regards info poster on benefits and services for veterans
 HB 611 Designate U.S. Army Private First Class Jerry Bockbrader Mem Hwy
 HB 620 Designate Paulding County Purple Heart Memorial Highway
 HB 621 Designate Van Wert County Veteran's Memorial Highway
 HB 625 Regards American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion license plates
 HB 628 Designate SSG Jack W. Coy Memorial Highway
 HB 629 Make capital appropriations and reappropriations
 HB 631 Designate Major David McGue Memorial Highway
 HB 641 Designate the SSG Jack W. Coy Memorial Highway
 HB 652 Designate Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway.
- HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
 HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalik Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial
 HR 221 Honoring Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
 HR 222 Honoring Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
 HR 258 Honoring American Legion DeWitt McConnell Post 235 on its Centennial
 HR 302 Honoring Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1090 on its Centennial
 HR 316 Honoring Jay Wilson American Legion Post 112 on its Centennial
 HR 431 Observing April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Ohio
 HR 434 Honoring American Legion Toledo Post 335 on its Centennial
- HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the U.S. Space Command
 HCR 9 Adopt Restoration of America's Readiness (ROAR) Resolution
- SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
 SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
 SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
 SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
 SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
 SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
 SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
 SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
 SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
 SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway

More Legislation on next page...

- SB 134 Modifies homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans
- SB 140 Designate Sgt. Todd M. Bates Memorial Highway
- SB 141 Designate American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Memorial Highway
- SB 145 Designate Cpl. David A. Johnston Memorial Highway
- SB 152 Designate Cpl. Jack O. McClure Memorial Highway
- SB 154 Include Space Force in armed forces, armed and uniformed service
- SB 167 Designate Marine Corporal Tim W. Russell Highway
- SB 169 Designate Cortland Veterans Memorial Bridge
- SB 183 Designate Lance Corporal James Patrick Rizzo Memorial Highway
- SB 191 Designate PFC Richard 'Rick' Wesley McFarland Memorial Highway
- SB 208 To require a military exception in an open enrollment policy
- SB 225 To designate September 22 as Veterans Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day
- SB 226 Enact the Ohio Property Protection Act
- SB 257 Allow military to participate in homeownership savings program
- SB 260 Designate SPC Connor Wilson-Reichert Memorial Highway
- SB 281 Regards info poster on benefits and services for veterans
- SB 285 Designate Pharmacist's Mate Third Class Willard L. Shupe Mem Hwy
- SB 288 Make supplemental operating appropriations
- SB 292 Make capital appropriations and reappropriations
- SB 310 Designate U.S.S. Shenandoah Memorial Highway.

- SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial VFW Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary
- SR 262 In memory of Senior Airman Brian "Kody" Johnson
- SR 315 Recognizing the Month of the Military Child in Ohio, April 2024

- SCR 8 Urge federal govt reduce processing time- veteran disability claim
- SCR 9 Urge Congress support military, veteran mental health treatment

WHAT OTHER STATES ARE DOING

There are many bills that will help veterans, military, or families of veteran or service member in just about, if not all the fifty states. Some of them are similar to bills we have in the Ohio General Assembly and some of them are unique to the states they are in.

There are the 'Hey, why didn't I think of that' variety and some that might make you shake your head in bewilderment.

OLR takes a look at some of the Vet/Military bills in other states. They are bills introduced within the past year or so. They may still be in committees, have passed out of committee, or have been signed into law. You can look at the progress of each by going to the websites of each of the state's legislature.

Maybe some of them will spark some interest and begin to grow in Ohio.



IN THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Bill 1331: Establish June 12 as Women 36 Veterans Day.

House Bill 1143: Amend the property tax exemption for disabled veterans, surviving spouses of disabled veterans, and minor dependent children of disabled veterans; to define "homestead" for purposes of the property tax exemption for disabled veterans, surviving spouses of disabled veterans, and minor dependent children of disabled veterans.

Continued on next Page...

House Bill 1023: Require flags purchased with public funds to be made and manufactured in the United States.

Senate Bill 193: Amend the Arkansas occupational licensing of uniformed service members, veterans, and spouses Act of 2021; to add consideration of national certifications toward initial occupational licensure and extend the application to spouses; to eliminate the one-year limit for veterans to apply service education, training, or certification toward initial occupational licensure.



IN THE UTAH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Concurrent Resolution 12: This resolution: encourages public and private employers to post for their employees a list of resources made available through the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to active military members, veterans, and their spouses.

House Bill 45: This bill: allows for reenlistment bonus assistance to a member of the Utah National Guard;

- modifies the constitution of the Utah State Defense Force;
- adds a provision for the acceptance of gifts to the Utah National Guard;
- amends provisions related to benefits for the executive director of the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs;
- requires the deputy director for veterans services to be a veteran;
- clarifies a definition related to veteran preference eligibility to include the words "service member";



-reenacts provisions related to a leave of absence from employment for reserve members of the armed forces; and

-makes technical corrections.

Senator Bill 108: This bill: renumbers a provision that expands the State Parks Honor Pass Program to all veterans

-with any percentage of disability rating from the Veterans Administration; and

-creates a one-year pilot program that expands free access to state parks on a limited basis to veterans who have an Interagency Military-Lifetime Pass for national parks and are a resident of the state.



IN THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

House Bill 5138: To provide free bus service on CT transit to veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

House Bill 5289: The sum of fifty thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, for the purpose of expanding fine and performing arts therapy programming at the Veterans Residential Services facility and the Healthcare Center.

House Bill 5206: That the general statutes be amended to include certain members of the National Guard in the definition of "veteran" for purposes of determining eligibility for state veterans' benefits.

Reflections

"The good news, to relieve all this gloom, is that a democracy is inherently self-correcting. Here, the people are sovereign. Inept political leaders can be replaced. Foolish policies can be changed. Disastrous mistakes can be reversed."

-Theodore C. Sorensen