



Ohio Legislative Report

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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.

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Editor: David K. Root

Statehouse Happenings

After a very long summer break, our state legislators went back to work. But it was only for two weeks before their Thanksgiving break. Those two weeks were packed with plenty of hearings and some fast action taking place on many bills. Here is the November hearings recap.

November 11-15

The first hearing was Tuesday morning at 11:00 when Senator **Kristina D. Roegner** (District 27) gave her sponsor testimony on SB 208 before the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Her bill would require a city,



Sen. Roegner gives testimony on Sub SB 208

exempted village, or local school district to permit a student who is not a native student of the district to open enroll in the district if the student's parent is an active-duty member of the armed forces of the United States who is stationed in Ohio. Roegner introduced the bill in December 2023, and it passed in the Senate unanimously in May 2024.

In the afternoon on Tuesday the House Transportation Committee heard sponsor testimony on five separate bills which would create memorial highways in Ohio.



Rep. Fischer provides testimony for HB 510

Testimony was given by Representative **Tex Fischer** (District 58). HB 510 would create a section of State Route 11 in Mahoning County as the "Army Lt. Col.



Rep. Ghanbari giving testimony on HB 611

Robert R. Melnick Memorial Highway." The bill was introduced in April 2024 by State Senator **Al Cutrona** (District 33) when he was a State Representative.

Representative **Haraz N. Ghanbari** (District 75) offered his testimony on HB 611. The bill, introduced in May 2024, would designate a portion of State Route 199 in Wood County the "U.S. Army Private First Class Jerry Bockbrader Memorial Highway."

Members of the committee heard testimony from Representative **Jon Cross** (District 83) on House Bill 631 which he introduced in June 2024. The bill would

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OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION # 19B ~ PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS IN GROUND WATER, LAKES AND OTHER WATERCOURSES

Effective: 2008

(A) The protection of the rights of Ohio's property owners, the protection of Ohio's natural resources, and the maintenance of the stability of Ohio's economy require the recognition and protection of property interests in ground water, lakes, and watercourses.

(B) The preservation of private property interests recognized under divisions (C) and (D) of this section shall be held inviolate, but subservient to the public welfare as provided in Section 19 of Article I of the Constitution.

(C) A property owner has a property interest in the reasonable use of the ground water underlying the property owner's land.

(D) An owner of riparian land has a property interest in the reasonable use of the water in a lake or watercourse located on or flowing through the owner's riparian land.

(E) Ground water underlying privately owned land and nonnavigable waters located on or flowing through privately owned land shall not be held in trust by any governmental body. The state, and a political subdivision to the extent authorized by state law, may provide for the regulation of such waters. An owner of land voluntarily may convey to a governmental body the owner's property interest held in the ground water underlying the land or nonnavigable waters located on or flowing through the land.

(F) Nothing in this section affects the application of the public trust doctrine as it applies to Lake Erie or the navigable waters of the state.

(G) Nothing in Section 1e of Article II, Section 36 of Article II, Article VIII, Section 1 of Article X, Section 3 of Article XVIII, or Section 7 of Article XVIII of the Constitution shall impair or limit the rights established in this section.

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designate a portion of State Route 273 in Hardin County as the "Major David McGue Memorial Highway."



Rep. Cross gives testimony for HB 631

Senator **Vernon Sikes** District 28) gave testimony on his bill, SB 141. It was introduced in July 2023 and passed in the Senate 31-0 last May. The bill would designate a portion of Interstate-77 in Akron as the "American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Memorial Highway."

Amended House Bill 183 would designate a portion of Interstate-90 in Cuyahoga County as the "Lance Corporal Jimmy Rizzo Memorial Highway." Senator **Nickie J. Antonio** (District 23) introduced the bill in November



Sen. Sykes giving testimony on SB 141

2023 and the senate unanimously passed it in May 2024.



Sen. Antonio gives testimony on SB 183

The committee members passed all five bills favorably out of committee with unanimous votes.

Wednesday morning the House Insurance Committee heard testimony from Senator **George F. Lang** (District 4). He sponsored and introduced Amended Senate Bill 63 in February 2023 and following seven hearings was passed out of committee and then in May 2024 it was passed by the senate with a vote of 21-10. The bill would among other things require a plaintiff in a tort action alleging an asbestos claim to file a sworn statement of specified disclosures within 60 days of filing the complaint.



Sen. Lang testifying on SB 63

November 18-22

At noon on Tuesday the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee met and heard

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Sen. Johnson & Sen Chavez giving testimony on SB 257

testimony from Senators **Brian M. Chavez** (District 3) and **Terry Johnson** (District 14), sponsors of SB 257. The bill would do the following two things. 1. Include active-duty service members as eligible participants in the home ownership savings linked deposit program and 2.

Eliminate the interest rate applied to repayments for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, if the recipient failed to complete their term of enlistment due to being in active or reserve duty of the armed forces. The senators introduced the bill in May 2024, and it passed in the senate with a 31-0 vote in June.

House Bill 310 had its 4th hearing before the House Pensions Committee . Representative **Don Jones** (District 95), the Bill sponsor provided an explanation to the motion for a substitute bill. The substitute bill would require the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board to pay the current law cost to purchase



Rep. Jones providing testimony on HB 310

the credit on a member's behalf if they are a veteran by transferring an amount equal to its cost from the Military Veteran Educators Retirement Assistance (MVERA) Fund to the Teachers' Savings Fund and to pay the current law amount of interest on a member's behalf. It also creates the MVERA Fund to pay the costs to cover the amounts required to purchase military service credit on behalf of a member. The

substitute bill was agreed to by the committee with no objection.

The House Transportation Committee had four bills to consider. It was the first hearing for all four and the testimonies provided were from the bill sponsors. Following each testimony all were favorably passed out of committee with a 15-0 vote.

House Bill 641 was introduced in June 2024 by Representatives **Josh Williams** (District 41) and **Elgin Rogers, Jr.** (District 44). The bill would designate a portion of Intersate-280 in Lucas County as the "SSG

Jack W. Coy Memorial Highway." Testimony was heard from both representatives as well as Representative **Juanita O. Brent** (District 22) and a citizen.



Reps. Rogers, Williams, & Brent gave testimony on HB 641



Representative **D.J. Swearingen** (District 89) provided his sponsor testimony on HB 642 which would designate a portion of State Route 2 in Ottawa County as the "Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway." He introduced the bill in August.

The committee members heard Representative **Sharon A. Ray** (District 66) give testimony on her bill, HB 664. The bill, introduced in September would designate a portion of State Route 421 in Medina County as the "CPL David James Amheiser Memorial Highway."

Testimony was provided by Representative **Jean Schmidt** (District 62) on HB 673 which she introduced in October. A portion of State Route 28 in Clermont County would be designated as the "CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway" under her bill.

Wednesday morning SB 63 had a second hearing in the House Insurance Committee. In person testimony was provided by spokespersons for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the law firm Tucker Ellis. Written testimony was submitted by eight



Rep. Swearingen gives testimony on HB 652



Rep. Ray testified testimony on HB 664



Rep. Schmidt offered testimony on HB 673

Continued on next Page...

other proponents of the bill.



Rep. J. Miller offering testimony on HB 409

In the House State and Local Government Committee Representative **Joseph A. Miller III** (District 53) provided sponsor testimony on HB 409. His bill, introduced in February 2024, would create the Ohio Cold War Victory Medal and the Ohio Cold War Victory Medal Fund. The medal would be awarded to eligible members of the Ohio National Guard.

Senator Roegner testified before the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee on her bill that would require Ohio school districts to include an exception for military children in open enrollment policies. She introduced Senate Bill 208 in December 2023 and it passed in the Senate 31-0 in May.



Rep. Lorenz providing testimony on HB 378

On Wednesday afternoon the Senate Ways and Means Committee heard testimony from Representative **Brian Lorenz** (District 60). The bill, HB 378, sponsored by Lorenz and Representative **Nick Santucci**

(District 64) would create an enhanced homestead 100% exemption for the surviving spouses of uniformed service members killed in the line of duty and continue the exemption until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or cohabitates with another unrelated person. They introduced the bill in January 2024, and it passed 90-1 in the House in June 2024.

In the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, hearings were held for Senate Bill 281 and House Concurrent Resolution 8. Senator **Hearcel F. Craig** (District 15) provided sponsor testimony on SB 281. He and cosponsor Johnson introduced the bill in May 2024. It would require the Director of Commerce, in consultation with



Sen. Craig giving testimony on B 281

the Director of Veterans Services, to create a veterans' benefits and services poster and make it available to any employer who requests it to hang in their premises. HCR 8 was introduced in June 2023 by Representatives **Thomas F. Patton** (District 17) and **Brian E. Lampton** (District 70). Before going to the Senate, the house passed it with a 90-2 vote. The resolution will be sent to members of congress, the president, and the secretary of defense. It urges the federal government to select Ohio for the location of the United States Space Command's permanent headquarters. Both representatives gave testimony before the committee.



Rep. Patton & Rep Lampton provided testimony on HCR 8

Reflections

"I don't like politics. I am not aligned to any political party. I have friends in all political parties."

-Gautam Adani

Wishing You And Yours A Safe, Happy, and Enjoyable New Year

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BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN NOVEMBER

HB 691:

Introduced by Representative **Jay Edwards** (District 94) and **Adam Holmes** (District 97) on November 11th. It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.429 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 13 in Athens County as the "Marshal Teddy Ray Holcomb 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 the Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- HB 132 Designate yhe Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- HB 133 Designate the Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- HB 202 Designate the 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 the SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway
- HB 253 Designate the Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor
- HB 254 Expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans
- HB 269 Designate the Sgt Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway
- HB 274 Authorize enhanced homestead exemption for certain homeowners
- HB 286 Designate the Vienna Township Veterans Bridge
- HB 294 Designate the Delaware County Veteran's Memorial Highway
- HB 299 Designate the Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway
- HB 310 Regards STRS member purchase of military service credit
- HB 317 Designate the Sgt. Cory M. Endlich Corridor
- HB 335 Designate the Ottawa Cunty Veterans Memorial Highway
- HB 350 Designate the Lance Corporal Austin B. Schwenk Memorial Highway
- HB 355 Designate the Licking County Veterans Memorial Highway
- HB 365 Designate multiple memorial highways
- HB 378 Permit homestead exemption-surviving spouses of service members
- HB 383 Designate the Corporal John E. Ruch Memorial Highway

More Legislation on next page...

- HB 409 Create the Ohio Cold War Victory Medal
- HB 423 Create "Blue Star Banner" license plate
- HB 431 Designate the Staff Sgt. Zachary Wobler Memorial Highway
- HB 447 Regards property tax exemptions, restrictions and land value
- HB 453 Designate the 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 the TSgt. Grover Lee Swearingen Memorial Highway
- HB 493 Designate the Lance Corporal Gerald Subler Memorial Highway
- HB 494 Designate the SSgt Gene F. Morrison Memorial Bridge
- HB 510 Designate the 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 the U.S. Army Private First Class Jerry Bockbrader Mem Hwy
- HB 620 Designate the Paulding County Purple Heart Memorial Highway
- HB 621 Designate the Van Wert County Veteran's Memorial Highway
- HB 625 Regards American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion license plates
- HB 628 Designate the SSG Jack W. Coy Memorial Highway
- HB 629 Make capital appropriations and reappropriations
- HB 631 Designate the Major David McGue Memorial Highway
- HB 641 Designate the SSG Jack W. Coy Memorial Highway
- HB 652 Designate the Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway
- HB 664 Designate the CPL David James Amheiser Memorial Highway
- HB 673 Designate the CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway
- HB 674 Designate the Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- HB 679 Designate the PFC John Wayne Richard Memorial Highway
- HB 691 Designate the Marshal Teddy Ray Holcomb Memorial Highway.
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- HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalis 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 282 Designate PFC Henry 'Rick' Hausman, Jr. Memorial Highway
- 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
- SB 315 Designate CPL Willard Boston Wallace Memorial Highway

- SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalics 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
- SR 334 Honoring Beavercreek HS AFJROTC B-1 Bombers drill team on winning two Nationals championships

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

Happy Holidays

To: All Our Readers

From: Ohio Legislative Report

Religious Holidays

December 2024

- Dec 1 First Day of Advent (Christian, Catholic)
- Dec 1 Gita Jayanti (Hindu)
- Dec 8 Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
- Dec 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic Christian)
- Dec 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Catholic Christian)
- Dec 20 Yud Tet Kislev (Jewish)
- Dec 21-25 Pancha Ganapati (Hindu)
- Dec 22 Yule (Wicca and Christian)
- Dec 25 Christmas (Christian, Catholic)
- Dec 25 Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
- Dec 25- Jan 2 Hanukkah (Jewish)
- Dec 26 Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)