



Ohio Legislative Report

Volume Two-Alpha; Number Four

April 2025

Statehouse Happenings

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:

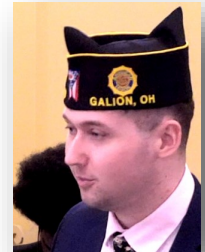
Ohio legislators were busy in March working on the state’s biennium budgets. The transportation budget (HB 54) passed in the House in February and the Senate spent much of March with lengthy hearings and drafting amendments. They passed Am. Sub. HB 54 on the 19th and the house concurred on the same day. It was then sent to Governor DeWine and he signed it March 31 without any lines vetoed. It will go into effect on July 1. It does not have anything directly affecting our veterans or Ohio’s military. It creates funding for critical transportation infrastructure projects across the state.

The operating budget (HB 96) continues to have hearings. It is still in the house, but is required to be signed by Governor DeWine by June 30.

Two new bills were introduced in the house and one bill and one resolution in the senate. (See page six) They bring the total number of veteran/military pieces of legislation in this general assembly to 13 for the house and 10 for the senate. Committee hearing continued throughout the month.

March 3 - 7

The House Veterans and Military Development Committee met Wednesday morning and heard a presentation from American Legion Department of Ohio’s Jacob Brault, their Legislative and National Security Director. He informed the committee about the Legion’s Four Pillars, their purpose and the various programs under each pillar. Brault concluded his presentation with a list of the Department’s legislative goals for the General Assembly and Congress.



Jacob Brault

That same morning in the House Ways and Means Committee House Bill 22 had its second hearing. Only written proponent testimony had been received. They were from Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a Gold Star Spouse whose husband had been killed in Iraq in 2005, and the great grandson of two Gold Star Mothers. HB 22 would authorize a full homestead exemption for surviving spouses of members of the uniformed services killed in the line of duty. It was introduced by Representatives **Brian Lorenz** (HD-60) and **David Thomas** (HD-65).

In the afternoon the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee met. On the agenda were SR 21, SR 22, and SCR 7. It was the third hearing for SR 21 and SR 22. Both resolutions were sponsored by Senator **Tim Schaffer** (SD-20). SR 21 would urge Congress to support the provision of prompt and



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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, their families, and Veteran Organizations in Ohio.

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

To subscribe, send your name and email address to:

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Editor: David K. Root

Continued on next Page...

comprehensive mental health treatment to military personnel and veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other service-related stress disorders. SR 22 would urge the President, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Congress to take prompt action to reduce the processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims. There was no testimony oral or written for either resolution. Both resolutions unanimously passed favorably out of Committee. SR 21 was adopted by the full senate on the 26th.

SCR 7 had a second hearing. The concurrent resolution would urge Congress to reissue Department of Defense Civilian Retiree Identification Cards and was introduced by Senator **Kyle Koehler** (SD-10) on February 10. Testimony was provided by four retired DOD workers –one oral and three written, in support of SCR 7.

March 10 - 14

The House Transportation Committee met Tuesday afternoon with HB 27 and HB 50 on the agenda. It was the first hearing for both bills. House Bill 27 was

introduced January 28 and would designate the bridge spanning the Grand River in Lake County as the "Specialist Jacob A. Ashton Memorial Bridge."



Reps Troy & Callender

Testimony was provided by the bill sponsors, Representatives **Jamie Callender** (HD-57) and **Daniel P. Troy** (HD-23). Ashton was a resident of Perry, OH and enlisted in the Army following graduation from Perry

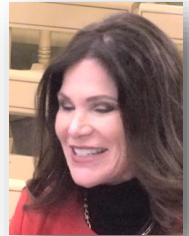


State Rep Holds Mini Townhall at Local VFW

March 8, 2025
Parma, OH - There were quite a few veterans in attendance when State Representative Sean P. Brennan (standing in blue shirt) held a mini townhall meeting at their VFW Post. He gave them and other constituents an update on issues before the general assembly and bill he has sponsored.

High School. He deployed to Iraq in 2023. In August 2024, less than five months before his enlistment would end, he was found murdered in the barracks parking lot at Fort Drum in New York. He was 21 years old.

House Bill 50 would designate a portion of State Route 47 in Darke County as the "PFC John Wayne Richard Memorial Highway." It was introduced February 4 by Representative **Angela N. King** (HD-84). John Wayne Richard, born and raised in Versailles, Ohio and after graduating from high school he enlisted in the Army and was deployed to Vietnam. In the early morning hours of May 21, 1969, Richard and five other soldiers were in a night defensive position when they came under attack from enemy forces on three sides. Richard and four of his fellow soldiers, lost their lives in the engagement according to King's testimony.



Rep. King

House Bills 27 and 50 were both passed favorably out of committee with unanimous votes. On March 26, HB 27 passed on the house floor with a 95 to 0 vote. On the 19th of March HB 50 passed on the house floor. The vote was 92 to 0.

On Wednesday HB 40 and HB 22 were on the agenda in the House Ways and Means Committee. HB 22 had its third hearing but there was no written or oral testimony offered. That was not the case, however with HB 40, up for its second hearing. The bill would increase the enhanced homestead exemption for certain disabled veterans. It was introduced February 3 by Representatives **Tracy M. Richardson**



(HD-86) and **Michael D. Dovilla** (HD 17). Proponent testimony was provided by (pictured: starting a top going clockwise) Gary Cox Jr. of American Legion Department of Ohio, Don McCauley of American Veterans Department of Ohio, William Hartman of Disabled American Veterans Department of Ohio, and Michael Stith of Disabled American Veterans Department of Ohio. Testimony was also heard from two other witnesses. A 100% disabled retired Army veteran and a manager with Dayton Development Coalition.

Continued on next Page...

March 17 - 21

This week there was only one veteran/military bill scheduled for a hearing. It was House Bill 40 for its third hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. There was no one attending to testify in opposition to the bill and no written testimony was received.

March 24 - 28

During the last week of the month there was only one veteran/military bill to get a hearing. It was the first hearing for Senate Bill 148. Senator **Jerry C. Cirino** (SD-18), the bill's sponsor, introduced it on March 18 and provided sponsor testimony before the Senate Transportation Committee. SB 148 would designate a portion of State Route 2 in Lake County as the "Specialist Lloyd Andrew Sellers Memorial Highway." Sellers, a native of Euclid, Ohio was drafted into the army in 1966 and began a tour in Vietnam in January 1967. On June 19, 1967, he was killed in action. He left behind a 19-year-old wife and a 5-month-old son. He was 21.



Senator Cirino



Reps Attend Legion Oratorical Contest

March 30, 2025

Delaware, OH - When the American Legion's 2025 Department Oratorical Contest was held at their department headquarters, two state representatives were there. The Oratorical Program is a constitutional speech contest for high school students. The main purpose of the Legion's 80 year old Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among students. The department's first place winner will advance and compete on the national level.

Pictured (l-r): Rep. Melanie Miller, 2nd place winner Nissi Xavier, 1st place winner Patience Persing, and Rep. Brian Lorenz.

— OLR —



First Veterans Caucus of The 136th Held

March 18, 2025

Columbus, OH - Representative Bernard Willis (standing) kicked off the first Veterans Caucus for the 136 General Assembly. He discussed the purpose of the caucus and his goals during this General Assembly. There was a good representation of veteran service organizations, legislators, and other interested parties in attendance.

Senator Terry Johnson (center) talked about some of the bills he has introduced or is working on. Johnson is Chair of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee.

Representative Tracy Richardson (2nd from left), Chair of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee outlined her goals for the committee and talked about some of the bills she has sponsored.

A question-and-answer period followed to finish the meeting.



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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 along with all info about the event and the photo to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com

Reflections

"To be an activist is to speak. To be an advocate is to listen. Society can't move forward without both."

-Eva Marie Lewis

OUT IN THE DISTRICTS



DISTRICT 17 OFFICE HOURS
at your local library
9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

JOIN US

Saturday, ~~February 15th~~ - Berea Branch
 Saturday, ~~March 1st~~ - Olmsted Falls Branch
 Saturday, ~~March 29th~~ - Strongsville Branch
 Saturday, ~~April 26th~~ - Brecksville Branch
 Saturday, ~~May 31st~~ - North Royalton Branch



JOIN ME FOR A
TOWN HALL
 APRIL 7 @ 7-8 PM

STOW SAFETY BUILDING
 3800 DARROW RD., STOW

STATEHOUSE UPDATE
 AND CONSTITUENT Q&A

DERRICK HALL
 HD 34 STATE REP



REPRESENTING STOW, HUDSON, MUNROE FALLS,
 TALLMADGE, SILVER LAKE, NORTH & NORTHWEST AKRON

State Representative Jodi Salvo
District Office Hours

March - June
 Thursdays at 6 PM - Saturdays at 9 AM
 Dover Library - 525 N Walnut St,
 Dover, OH 44622



Tristan Rader
 4,96 friends • 33 mutual

Coffee with Rep. Rader

Propaganda Coffee

Coffee with Rep. Rader: Connecting Over Coffee and Conversation

Join State Representative Tristan Rader for an informal and engaging community event! "Coffee with Rep. Rader" is your chance to sit down, ask questions, share your concerns, and have an open conversation about the issues that matter most to you and your community. These relaxed gatherings offer a unique opportunity to meet your representative face-to-face, hear about Tristan's work in the Ohio Statehouse, and discuss ways we can build a brighter future together.

April 25th: Civilization – 2366 W. 11th St., Cleveland, 44113 (Tremont)
 May 30th: Root Cafe – 15118 Detroit Ave., Lakewood
 June 27th: Koffie Cafe – 2517 Market Ave., Cleveland, 44113 (Ohio City)

Whether you want to discuss local issues, state policies, or simply get to know Tristan better, we'd love to see you there! Stop by for as little or as long as you'd like. Coffee and great conversation are on us!

**People First
 Town Hall!**

• Thursday, April 17th at 6:00 PM
 • Garfield Heights Civic Center, Room 117, 5407 Turney Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125



Hosted by State Representatives
 Darnell Brewer and Terrence Upchurch

Join us for an interactive discussion on:

- Gun Violence
- Senate Bill 1
- Public Education
- Property Taxes
- And more

Bring your questions, comments, and concerns!



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More... *District Activities*



Leading Ladies of the Legislature


LEVERAGING AND LIFTING LISTENING TOUR

Ohio's women legislators are hitting the road to listen, learn, and lead with you! ODWLC is embarking on a statewide listening tour to connect with communities, hear your concerns, and amplify the voices of women and families across Ohio.

JOIN US

APRIL 5th AT 9:30AM


ED DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER
730 PERKINS PARK DR.
AKRON, OH 44320

CASEY WEINSTEIN
OHIO STATE SENATOR

TOWN HALL FORUM
Thursday, April 3rd • 6:00-7:30pm
@ The Hudson Library & Historical Society

ALL CONSTITUENTS OF SENATE DISTRICT 28 ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US FOR A STATEHOUSE UPDATE WITH REP. DERRICK HALL, PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CLEVELAND BROWNS & THE SUMMIT COUNTY ADM BOARD + A Q&A TO FOLLOW!



Constituent Coffee
with
State Representative Nick Santucci & State Representative David Thomas

All events run from 9:00 - 10:00 AM

- ~~January 30 at The Mocha House (Warren)~~
- ~~February 27 at The Daily Grind (Girard)~~
- ~~March 27 at Raptis (Howland)~~
- April 24 at Cadence Coffee (Niles)
- May 29 at The Station (Austinburg)
- June 26 at Cortland Main (Cortland)
- July 31 at Market House (Howland)
- August 28 at Twisted Peacock (Vienna)
- September 25 at KT's Coffee (Hubbard)
- October 30 at Wall Street Coffee (Jefferson)
- November 20 at Scribblers (Geneva)
- December 11 at Lakeshore (Andover)

Residents of the 64th and 65th districts are invited to join Representative Santucci and Representative Thomas for coffee to discuss their questions and concerns.

People first.

TOWN HALL
& Legislative Update

Join Us!



State Rep. Desiree Tims



House Minority Leader C. Allison Russo

Thursday
April 10th, 2025
4:00-5:30pm

Central State University-Dayton
James A. Elam Hall
840 Germantown Street
Dayton, OH 45402

ATTENTION LEGISLATORS

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

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

Primary Election is Next Month

Make sure you are ready for the upcoming Ohio Primary Election. 1] Make sure you are registered to vote. You can check online at the Ohio Secretary of State website (see 'Helpful Links' on page one). There you can register, check to verify that you are registered, make changes to your registration – new address or a name change. 2] Know what is acceptable at the polling place so you have the correct ID and don't get turned away. 3] Get to know who is running and be ready to vote intelligently.

Monday April 7: Deadline for voter registration for May 6 primary/special election.

Tuesday April 8: Absentee Voting by mail begins.

Tuesday April 8: Early In-Person Voting begins.

Tuesday May 6: Primary/Special Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Go to the Secretary of State website for the answers to any questions you might have about voting in Ohio.

— OLR —



ID Type	Currently Allowed
Unexpired Ohio Photo ID (Driver's License or State ID)	YES ✓
U.S. or Ohio issued Military ID Card with name and photo	YES ✓
U.S. Passport or Passport Card	YES ✓
Utility or Cell Phone Bill	NO ✗
Bank Statement	NO ✗
Paycheck	NO ✗
Government Check	NO ✗
Government Document from Social Security or Ohio Jobs & Family Services	NO ✗

From the website of: *The Ohio Voter Rights Coalition*. www.ohiovoterrights.org

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN MARCH

HB 171 Introduced on March 12 by Representative **Jean Schmidt** (HD-62).

The Bill would enact section 5534.673 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 28 in Clermont County as the "CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway."
It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

SB 148 Introduced on March 18 by Senator **Jerry C. Cirino** (SD-18).

The bill would enact section 5534.675 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 2 in Lake County as the "Specialist Lloyd Andrew Sellers Memorial Highway."
It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

SR 52 Introduced on March 18 by Senator **Tim Schaffer** (SD-20).

The resolution will Honoring the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter on its One Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary.
It was adopted by the Senate on the same day.

HB 204 Introduced on March 26 by Representatives **Erika White** (HD-41) and **Melanie Miller** (HD-67).

The bill would enact section 5.212 of the Revised Code to designate March 9th as "6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day."
It has not been referred to a committee yet.

Legislation In The 136th Ohio General Assembly

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

- HB 1 Enact Ohio Property Protection Act
- HB 22 Authorize homestead exemption for surviving military spouses
- HB 27 Designate Specialist Jacob A. Ashton Memorial Bridge
- HB 40 Increase disabled veteran enhanced homestead exemption
- HB 50 To designate a portion of SR 47 the "PFC John Wayne Richard Memorial Highway."
- HB 56 To designate a portion of SR 421 the "CPL David James Amheiser Memorial Highway."
- HB 61 Modify homestead exemption, owner-occupancy tax credit amount
- HB 95 Support members of Ohio Veterans Education Council
- HB 96 Make state operating appropriations for FY 2026-27
- HB 135 Prohibit source of income discrimination in rental housing
- HB 171 Designate a portion of State Route 28 the "CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway."
- HB 204 Designate 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day

- HCR 7 To support the work of the Am. Leg. Buckeye Boys State and the Am. Leg. Aux. Buckeye Girls State

- SB 17 Designate 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day
- SB 21 Designate Rutherford B. Hayes Day
- SB 39 Provide for informational poster on veteran benefits and services
- SB 88 Enact the Ohio Property Protection Act
- SB 92 Authorize total property tax exemption-totally disabled veterans
- SB 148 Designate a portion of State Route 2 the "Specialist Lloyd Andrew Sellers Memorial Highway."

- SCR 7 Urge Congress reissue DoD Civilian Retiree Identification Cards

- SR 21 Urge Congress support military, veteran mental health treatment
- SR 22 Urge federal govt reduce processing time-veteran disability claim
- SR 52 Honoring the DAR Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter on its 150th Anniversary.

A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the member until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel through committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You will find the Ohio Legislature's website here:

www.legislature.ohio.gov