



# Ohio Legislative Report

Volume Two-Alpha; Number Seven

July 2025

## Statehouse Happenings

### HELPFUL LINKS

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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.

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Editor: David K. Root

As in the past couple of months the Budget Bill (House Bill 96) took up a lot of everyone's time.

The Senate was holding hearings during the first week. During the second week the bill bounced back and forth between the two chambers. On Monday the Senate Finance Committee voted 11 to 3 for favorable passage of their version of the bill. Tuesday the full Senate passed it with a vote of 23 to 10 and it went back to the House. The members of the House refused to concur with the Senate amendments (1 to 85) and it was sent back to the Senate, but they insisted on the amendments and asked for a Committee of Conference.

The Conference Committee was formed on Thursday. It consisted of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate plus the three leaders of each chamber's finance committee. The committee consisted of Speaker **Matt Huffman** (HD-78) and President **Rob McColley** (SD-1), and Chair **Brian Stewart** (HD-12), Vice Chair **Michael D. Dovilla** (HD-17), and Ranking Member **Bride Rose Sweeney** (HD-16) from the House Finance Committee, and Chair **Jerry C. Cirino** (SD-18), Vice Chair **Brian M. Chavez** (HD-30), and Ranking Member **Paula Hicks-Hudson** (HD-11) from the Senate Finance Committee. Their task –to finalize a bill both chambers would accept.

On Wednesday, June 25th both they agreed to the Conference Committee bill, and it was sent to Governor DeWine on Friday. On the 30th, the Governor signed the bill into law –after reportedly vetoing 67 different items.

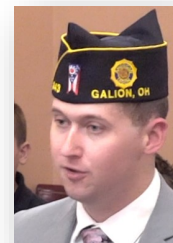
For the Governor's vetoes to be overturned, they must be agreed to with a two-thirds vote in both chambers.

During the month of June, your legislators introduced six veteran/military bills. The senators introduced two and the representatives four. (see page seven)

#### June 2-6

The House Finance Committee scheduled sponsor testimony for HB 95 on Tuesday morning, but Chair Stewart deferred the testimony until the next week due to time issues. It did not get the hearing before summer break began.

In the House Education Committee that afternoon House Concurrent Resolution 7 had its 2nd hearing. The resolution was introduced by Representatives **Haraz N. Ghanbari** (HD-7) and **Joseph A. Miller, III** (HD-53) in February to support and encourage the work of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State and the American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State in providing a premier educational and leadership program to the youth of Ohio. Testimony was presented by Jacob Brault, Legislative Coordinator for the American Legion Department of Ohio. Members of the committee also received written testimony from four other members of the Department of Ohio American Legion and Auxiliary. Following Bault's testimony



Brault

Continued on next Page...

and questions from the committee, a motion to favorably pass the resolution was made and the committee voted 11-0 to do so. On June 11 the House voted 91-0 in favor of HCR 7.

Wednesday morning two pieces of legislation from the Senate that had made their way over to the House were scheduled for hearings before the House Veterans and Military Development Committee. The first was SB 39, a bill introduced in January by Senators **Terry Johnson** (SD-14) and **Hearcel F. Craig** (SD-15) that would enact section 4113.13 of the Revised Code regarding the creation and display of a poster containing information on benefits and services for veterans. There were no witnesses, but the committee voted 12-0 for favorable passage. It passed in the House (92 to 0) on the 11th and was sent to the Governor for his signature.

SCR 7 was the other piece of legislation before the committee. One witness testifying in person and four others who sent in written testimony—all were proponents. It was the second hearing for the resolution introduced in February by Senator **Kyle Koehler** (SD-10) to urge Congress to reissue Department of Defense Civilian Retiree Identification Cards.

In the afternoon the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee met to hold a third hearing for Senator Johnson's bill to amend sections and enact a section of the Revised Code to verify the veteran status of imprisoned individuals and individuals facing imprisonment. There were no witnesses, and the committee voted 5-0 to favorably pass Senate Bill 179. It was also passed by the Senate with a vote of 33 to 0 on June 11. It was then sent to the House and referred to the House Veterans and Military Development Committee.

#### June 9-13

House Bill 344 was introduced in the House on Tuesday, June 10 and was not referred to the House Finance Committee until the next day. However, on the 10th Bill sponsors Representative Dovilla and Representative **Gaile Manning** (HD-52) stood before

members of the committee and gave an informational presentation. At that time the bill had not even received its number.

Their presentation only lasted six minutes but they then spent half an hour fielding questions from the members of

the committee. The bill would amend multiple sections and enact many new sections of the Revised Code to expand the locations and manner in which electronic instant bingo may be conducted, to authorize and establish regulations for retailer video lottery terminals, and to levy a tax on electronic instant bingo. Part of the bill deals with video lottery terminals (VLTs) and part of it deals with electronic instant bingo (ebingo). The bill summary, prepared by the Office of Research and Drafting can be found on page four.

That same afternoon the House Transportation Committee heard sponsor testimony from Representatives **Jack K. Daniels** (HD-32) and **Bill Roemer** (HD-31) on the bill they introduced in May. HB 259 would designate a portion of State Route 241 in Summit County as the "Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway." Captain McClimans was killed in

action by indirect fire on April 22, 2011, while serving as an Army nurse in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring

Freedom. He served in Iraq with the 86th Combat Support Hospital during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After Iraq he became the commander of his unit in Twinsburg, Ohio but in 2011 he deployed again, this time to Afghanistan. Two months into that deployment, Captain McClimans was killed by a sniper on his way to work at the base hospital. The committee received written testimony from Captain McClimans daughter, Emily. Following testimony, the bill was unanimously passed out of committee.

Wednesday morning two bills received their 2nd hearings in the Senate Transportation Committee. House Bill 50, sponsored by Representative **Angela N. King** (HD-84), was introduced in February and passed by the House in March. It would designate a portion of State Route 47 in Darke County as the "PFC John Wayne Richard Memorial Highway." House Bill 51 was also introduced in February and passed by the House in April. HB 51 was sponsored by



*Reps. Manning and Dovilla*



*Reps. Daniels and Roemer*

## Reflections

*"One difficulty in making the Senate work the way it was intended is that America's electorate is increasingly divided into red and blue states, with lawmakers representing just one color or the other."*

*- Olympia Snowe*

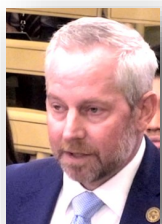
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Representatives **Roy Klopfenstein** (HD-82) and King. And would designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Auglaize County as the "Lt. James A. Kirkendall Memorial Highway." PFC Richard served in the U.S. Army in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He was killed while fighting communist forces on May 21, 1969. Lt. Kirkendall was a WWII veteran who served with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for 21 years. On October 28, 1970, he was killed in an automobile collision on U.S. Route 33 when he lost control of his patrol vehicle due to slick road surfaces. There were no witnesses for either bill and they both passed favorably out of committee with 7 to 0 votes. SB 50 passed on the Senate floor on June 18 and SB 51 was passed by the Senate on the 25th. They were both sent to the Governor for his signature.

#### June 16-20

The House Finance Committee met again on Tuesday morning for a hearing on HB 344—the bill Regarding electronic instant bingo and lottery terminals. There were more than a dozen witnesses plus several written testimonies during the hearing that was more than an hour in length. Testimony was heard from spokespersons of organizations representing the gaming, bowling, bar, and grocery industries—all proponents of the bill.

In the House Transportation Committee that afternoon Representative **Jeff LaRe** (HD-73) gave sponsor testimony for House Bill 316, a bill he introduced two weeks earlier. It would designate a portion of Chillicothe Lancaster Road in Fairfield County as the "MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway." MSGT Kilbarger served in the U.S. Army for 21 years during World War II, Korean and Vietnam. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on February 13, 1951. He was also awarded a Bronze Star. He passed away in 2005. With a 12 to 0 vote the committee gave it favorable passage out of committee.



*Rep. LaRe*

The Transportation Committee on the Senate side met Wednesday morning to hear sponsor testimony on two bills that had already passed in the House. House Bill 56 would designate a portion of State Route 421 in Medina County as the "CPL David James Amheiser Memorial Highway." It was introduced by Representative **Sharon A. Ray** (HD-66) in February and passed by the House in May. CPL Amheiser served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was killed in action by communist forces at the age of 19 on August 29th, 1970, while serving his second tour in Vietnam. House Bill 171 was introduced in March by Representative **Jean Schmidt** (HD-62). It would designate a portion of State Route 28 in Clermont County as the "CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway" and the House had also passed it in May. Captain Speidel served in the U.S. Army as a helicopter pilot. On April 23, 1971, his helicopter



*Rep. Ray*

was shot down by communist forces during a mission in Vietnam and he sustained serious injuries which lead to his passing on June 25, 1971.



*Rep. Schmidt*

#### June 23-27

The Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee met Wednesday morning and the first order of business was a presentation from Major General John C. Harris, Jr. who recently retired as Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard, a job he held since 2019. Governor DeWine nominated General Harris to serve as the new director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services following the retirement of Director Deborah Ashenurst. Harris gave a brief rundown of his achievements and experience. The Committee then voted unanimously to approve the Governors nomination.



*Gen. Harris*

Senate Bill 223—sponsored by Senator **Thomas F. Patton** (SD-24) and Senate Bill 218—sponsored by Senator **Kristina D. Roegner** (SD-27) were scheduled for their first hearings. Senator Patton presented his testimony on the bill he introduced the previous week. It would require the ODNR Chief of the Division of Parks and Watercraft to establish a discount program for veterans and service members for park services and rentals. There are some discounts for some veterans and retired and active military under current law. SB 218 would exempt family child care providers certified by the U.S. armed forces from the law governing the regulation of child care providers, including the requirement that certain family child care homes be licensed by the Department of Children and Youth in order to operate. Senator Roegner introduced the bill earlier in the month. She could not give her testimony because she was unable to attend the hearing.



*Rep. Patton*

Beginning July 1, the General Assembly is officially on summer break and will be until they resume hearings and sessions in mid-September. Your elected officials will be spending their time with family, but they will also be busy in their districts. Some will be campaigning for themselves or others and holding or attending fundraisers. Others will hold town hall meetings or district office hours to meet with their constituents. Most will spend some time attending community events or speaking at local functions. It is safe to say they will all be busy in some way.

Readers can still contact your legislators through their office phone, email, or in some cases through social media. The response time to get a reply may run longer than normal—don't forget, they are on summer break—so be prepared for that.

— O L R —



**House Bill 344** - *To amend sections and to enact sections of the Revised Code to expand the locations and manner in which electronic instant bingo may be conducted, to authorize and establish regulations for retailer video lottery terminals, and to levy a tax on electronic instant bingo.*

### **The Summary**

#### Video lottery terminals (VLTs)

- Expands the State Lottery Commission's (LOT's) operation of VLTs to retail locations operated by lottery sales agents.
- Limits each establishment to three retailer VLTs in the first year after the bill takes effect, then to five retailer VLTs thereafter.
- Requires a retailer VLT player to be at least 21.
- Requires LOT to administer the retailer VLT program in conjunction with the Ohio Casino Control Commission (CAC).
- Requires CAC to license retailer VLT operators, establishments, distributors, and manufacturers in consultation with LOT, and provides for the certification of service employees.
- Requires 35% of retailer VLT proceeds to be deposited in the Lottery Profits Education Fund and generally requires the operator and the establishment to split the remainder of the proceeds between themselves.
- Provides requirements for the certification, maintenance, placement, operation, and monitoring of retailer VLTs.
- Limits advertising for retailer VLTs to certain print and indoor advertising and requires LOT to adopt rules to ensure that advertisements are in good taste and do not negatively impact or affect the integrity of the industry.
- Requires retailer VLT operators to withhold state and municipal income tax from patrons' winnings over a certain threshold.
- Exempts certain retailer VLT-related records from disclosure under the Public Records Law.
- Prohibits certain activities related to retailer VLTs and similar devices.
- Prohibits local regulations of retailer VLTs.

#### Electronic instant bingo (ebingo)

- Expands ebingo in Ohio by allowing a 501(c)(3)

nonprofit organization to offer ebingo at a bar or restaurant (an "instant bingo host,") similar to how a 501(c)(3) currently may offer instant bingo.

- Allows a 501(c)(3) to contract with an instant bingo host that has an A-1-A, A-1c, or class D liquor permit to offer ebingo on behalf of the 501(c)(3) to customers who are 18 or older on up to seven ebingo terminals at the host's location.
- Requires the 501(c)(3) to retain 26.5% of the proceeds, with 6% going to the host as a commission, 32.5% going to the distributor, and 35% paid to the state by the distributor in the form of a tax.
- States that the tax revenue must be used for the purposes of supporting arts projects and programs, supporting construction and renovation of major sports facilities and minor league sports facilities throughout Ohio for the benefit of the state, and supporting veterans.
- Requires an instant bingo host to comply with certain bingo-related prohibitions that currently apply to charitable organizations that conduct bingo.
- Clarifies that a charitable organization may lease bingo equipment from a licensed distributor for a reasonable rental rate instead of owning that equipment.
- Adds a requirement that a bingo distributor keep records for at least three years that include the nonrepeating serial numbers of all ebingo deals the distributor sells, in addition to the serial numbers of all instant bingo deals as under current law.
- Exempts the sale of ebingo plays from state and local sales tax when sold by an instant bingo host or a veteran's or fraternal organization.
- Exempts the sale of ebingo deals by licensed distributors from state and local sales tax, when the distributor sells a deal to a 501(c)(3) or a veteran's or fraternal organization.
- Expands the hours during which a veteran's or fraternal organization may offer ebingo or a veteran's, fraternal, or sporting organization may offer instant bingo.

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

To find a bill put the bill number in the search bar and go from there.

Find the Ohio Legislature's website here:  
**[www.legislature.ohio.gov](http://www.legislature.ohio.gov)**

# OUT IN THE DISTRICTS



Representatives Tracy M. Richardson (3rd from left) and Sean P. Brennan (4th from left) met on Tuesday, June 3 with witnesses following the hearing for House Bill 117—Enact The Pledge of Allegiance Act which they coauthor. Pictured with the representatives are Cynthia Boehnlein (far left) of American Legion Auxiliary of Ohio, Unit 2 and Merle Pratt (2nd from left) of AMVETS.



Representative Joseph A. Miller, III (back) stopped by to show his support of Gold Star Families during the SSG James P Hunter 2nd Annual Memorial Basketball Game 2025 on Saturday June 21 in Amherst. All the funds raised will help pay for deployment care packages sent by SSG James P Hunter Memorial Foundation, LLC.



Representatives Kellie Deeter and Joseph A. Miller, III (standing, l to r) helped celebrate the 100th birthday of World War II Army Veteran Mike Gronsky in South Amherst on June 8.



During the Vietnam Veterans of America—Buckeye State Council Banquet held Saturday, June 28 State Representative Angela N. King was honored to be named the VVA-BSC Legislator of the year in recognition of her “...unselfish dedication, service and support to Ohio’s veterans.”



It was Flag Day and the US Army's birthday in Findlay and the Hancock County Veterans Service Commission organized and hosted Flag City Community VET FEST Music Festival. Army Veteran and State Representative Ty D. Mathews attended and had a very enjoyable time.

Pictured with Mathews (left) are Nicole Coleman (center) Executive Director of the Hancock County Veterans Service Commission and Jason Evatt (right) CEO of Airborne Outfitters, one of the event sponsors.

## 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](mailto:oh.leg.report@gmail.com)



## More... *District Activities*



Steve Jeziorski, a 100-year-old Army veteran jumped out of an airplane over Ashland County Airport on Saturday, June 28 and he was accompanied by his grandson, David Jeziorski. There were friends, family, and dignitaries from far and wide on hand to witness the skydiving event. State Representative Melanie Miller was there to congratulate the centenarian and present him with a United States Army flag.

Pictured (left to right) are David Jeziorski, Steve Jeziorski, and Rep. Miller



On Saturday, June 14 Representative Bernard Willis (2nd from left and Representative Gary Click (3rd from left) attended the graduation ceremonies of the Ohio Wing Civil Air Patrol and addressed the 2025 Encampment graduates.

## OHIO LEGISLATIVE REPORT IS ON FACEBOOK

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## Meet With Your **Legislators**



### Coffee and Constituents

with

State Representative Nick Santucci &  
State Representative David Thomas

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

- **July 31** at Market House (Howland)
- **August 28** at Twisted Peacock (Vienna)
- **September 25** at K'T's Coffee (Hubbard)
- **October 30** at Wall Street Coffee (Jefferson)
- **November 20** at Scribblers (Geneva)
- **December 11** at Maggie's Donuts (Andover)

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

Join me, for an important Town Hall July 10! Let's talk about the issues that matter most to our community in Ohio's budget—how it impacts our schools, neighborhoods, and essential services.

# TOWN HALL MEETING

**Harvard Community Service Center**  
18240 Harvard Ave, Cleveland

**6:00PM**

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OHIO STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JUANITA O. BRENT**

## ATTENTION LEGISLATORS

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

Send your press releases to:  
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by the end of each month to be included.

# LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN JUNE

**HB 316** introduced on June 3 by Representative **Jeff LaRe** (HD-73).

The bill would enact section 5534.927 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of Chillicothe Lancaster Road in Fairfield County as the "MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway."

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

**HB 339** introduced on June 10 by Representative **James M. Hoops** (HD-81).

The Bill would amend section 4503.571 of the Revised Code to allow the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient to retain or obtain the "Purple Heart" specialty license plate.

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

**HB 344** introduced on June 10 by Representatives **Michael D. Dovilla** (HD-17) and **Gayle Manning** (HD-52).

The bill would amend sections and enact sections of the Revised Code to expand the locations and manner in which electronic instant bingo may be conducted, to authorize and establish regulations for retailer video lottery terminals, and to levy a tax on electronic instant bingo.

It was referred to the House Finance Committee.

**SB 218** introduced on June 10 by Senator **Kristina D. Roegner** (SD-27).

The bill would amend section 5104.02 of the Revised Code to exempt from licensure family child care providers certified by a branch of the United States armed forces.

It was referred to the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee.

**HB 360** introduced on June 12 by Representatives **Sean P. Brennan** (HD-14) and **Ty D. Mathews** (HD-83).

The bill would enact section 5534.966 of the Revised Code to designate the interchange of I-480 and West 150th Street in Cleveland as the "SPC Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange."

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

**SB 223** introduced on June 17 by Senator **Thomas F. Patton** (SD-24).

The bill would amend section 1546.04 of the Revised Code to require the ODNR Chief of the Division of Parks and Watercraft to establish a discount program for veterans and service members for park services and rentals.

It was referred to the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee.

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

An idea for a new law or a change in an existing law might originate with a member of the General Assembly, an administrative agency of the state, the Governor, a special interest group, or a private citizen.

# **Legislation In The 136<sup>th</sup> 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
- HB 228 To designate a portion of I 280 the "SSG Jack W. Coy Veterans Memorial Highway."
- HB 234 Designate Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway
- HB 259 Designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway
- HB 267 Regards creation, display of veterans benefit and services poster
- HB 297 Regards funds provided by county for Memorial Day expenses
- HB 316 LaRe Designate MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway
- HB 339 Allow surviving spouse to retain Purple Heart license plate
- HB 344 Regards electronic instant bingo, lottery terminals; levy a tax
- HB 360 Designate SPC Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange
  
- HCR 7 To support the work of the Am. Leg. Buckeye Boys State and the Am. Leg. Aux. Buckeye Girls State
  
- HR 133 Honoring Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary.
  
- 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."
- SB 179 Verify veteran status of imprisoned individuals
- SB 193 Designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway
- SB 197 Legalize, tax internet gambling; make other Gambling Law changes
- SB 218 Exempt armed forces-certified child care provider from licensure
- SB 223 Require ODNR discount program for veterans, service members
  
- SCR 7 Urge Congress reissue DoD Civilian Retiree Identification Cards
  
- SR 21 Urge Congress support military, veteran mental health treatment
- SR 22 Urge federal govt reduce processing time-veteran disability claim
- SR 52 Honoring the DAR Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter on its 150th Anniversary
- SR 97 Observing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Ohio
- SR 123 Honoring Deborah A. Ashenhurst on her retirement from the OVDS