



Ohio Legislative Report



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HELPFUL LINKS

UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

www.congress.gov

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.house.gov

US SENATE:

www.senate.gov

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:

www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:

www.ohiosos.gov

FEBRUARY SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

FEB 7th SENATE: President of the Senate appointed Senator Frank Hoagland to serve on the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Board for the 135th General Assembly.

FEB. 9th HOUSE: Speaker of the House announced the appointments to all the House Standing Committees and Sub Committees.

Speaker of the House reappointed Leader Russo to the Ohio Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

Feb. 14th Senate: President of the Senate appointed Senator Terry Johnson to serve on the state council on educational opportunity for military children, Ohio Military Children's Compact Commission, for the 135th General Assembly.

If you know of another Ohio VFW or Auxiliary member who would enjoy reading Ohio Legislative Report please forward this issue to them and let them know they can subscribe to it. They just need to email us their name and email address and tell us which Ohio VFW Post they are a member of. *Find the Email on page one.*

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published [at least] once per month to report the latest information about legislative issues –from both Washington, DC and Columbus, OH - that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families members in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to members of the Veteran Service Organizations who subscribe.

Editor: David K. Root
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Reflections

"The most important political office is that of the private citizen."

-Louis D. Brandeis

Primary elections are just months away. VFW encourages members to be involved but wants to make sure they are doing it the right way. Here are things you need to remember.

VFW Involvement in Elections and Political Activities

VFW members can make a difference in any election by getting involved in the political process. Hold voter registration drives, town hall meetings, and other events featuring candidates for public office. Veterans are a strong voting bloc and a constituency that most candidates want on their side. As we approach the next election cycle, here are a few items to keep mind as you get involved and attend or host candidate functions and town hall meetings:

DO's

- ◆ Do attend candidate town hall meetings and other events and ask candidates where they stand on our issues.
- ◆ Do set up voter registration drives /Get Out the Vote Campaigns on the local level.
- ◆ Do provide carpool service on Election Day to help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booth.
- ◆ Do support and work for your favorite candidates as an individual voting constituent.
- ◆ Do wear your VFW cap at public events such as town halls, rallies, forums, or debates.

DON'Ts

- ◆ Don't endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW National Organization, Department, District or Post.
- ◆ Don't wear your VFW cap when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate.

The key is to stay informed on veterans' issues and use your influence to urge new candidates and those up for reelection to support veterans. It does not matter which candidates you support as long as they know you are a VFW member and are concerned about your fellow veterans, service members, and their families.

For more information on how to get involved, read the VFW's [Veterans Vote brochure](#)

Stay informed by reviewing the [VFW's Legislative Priority Goals](#)

If you have questions, please contact the VFW at vfwac@vfw.org

Some Veterans Bills To Watch In Congress

HR 41: Introduced on January 1st by Congressman James R. Baird (IN)

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that when a veteran enrolled in the VA health care system contacts the VA by telephone to schedule an appointment for care or services at a VA facility, the scheduling for the appointment occurs during that telephone call.

HR 562: Introduced on January 26th by Congressman Brin J. Mast (FL)

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to permit a Member of Congress (upon request) to use a VA facility to meet with constituents. The VA and the General Services Administration must jointly identify available spaces in VA facilities for such purposes.

The VA must prescribe regulations regarding such use of a VA facility by a Member of Congress.

S 42: Introduced on January 24th by Senator Jon Tester (MT)

A bill to improve the management and performance of the capital asset programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs so as to better serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, and for other purposes.

S 132: Introduced on January 30th by Senator Sherrod Brown (OH)

This bill requires the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to jointly carry out a five-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing certain services and a module comprised of specified elements as part of the pre-separation transition process for members of the Armed Forces for the purpose of reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans.

Follow all the bills in Congress at...
www.congress.gov

Ohio Became The 17th State 220 Years Ago This Month

On April 30, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed into law an enabling act that authorized “the inhabitants of the eastern division of the territory northwest of the river Ohio” to initiate the procedures necessary to be admitted to the Union as a state. The act fixed a date for a constitutional convention and established terms for voting for delegates to the convention. The convention adopted the first Constitution of Ohio on November 29, 1802. Congress accepted the Constitution and President Jefferson approved it on February 19, 1803, after which Ohio was admitted to the Union as a state.



The celebration of Ohio's statehood is in commemoration of the first time the General Assembly conducted state business on March 1, 1803, in Chillicothe. The state constitution was signed by President Thomas Jefferson a few weeks earlier and had been approved by Congress in early 1803.

Follow all the action of the 135th Ohio General Assembly on our facebook page and be in the know at all times

VFW of OHIO—State Legislation

VETERANS IN THE OHIO SENATE

In the last issue of the *OL Report* we published a list the Veterans serving in the Ohio House.

Hearcel F. Craig District S15 (D)

He proudly served our nation in the United States Army from 1970 – 1972.

Frank Hoagland District S30 (R)

Senator Hoagland served as a Navy SEAL for nearly 30 years, participating in combat zones including the International War on Terrorism and the War on Drugs in South America. After his last combat deployment in 2011, Senator Hoagland retired.

Terry A. Johnson District S14 (R)

Commissioned into the Ohio Army National Guard while a fourth-year medical student, he attained the rank of colonel in just 12 years. A senior flight surgeon and the Ohio Army National Guard's first State Aviation Medical Officer, Dr. Johnson was deployed overseas multiple times, including two tours in Iraq and one posting in Kuwait. He ended his military career in 2011 as the Army Guard's State Surgeon.

Steve Wilson District S7 (R)

He was honorably discharged as a Naval Officer in 1975.

KEEP INFORMED ABOUT WHAT YOUR VFW IS DOING FOR YOU ON THE HILL

Sign up today for

'VFW Action Corps Weekly'

www.vfw.org/advocacy

2023 OHIO PRIMARY/ SPECIAL ELECTIONS CALENDAR

March 17 Military and Overseas Absentee
Voting Begins

April 3 Deadline for Voter Registration for
May 2 Primary/Special
Election

April 4 Absentee Voting by Mail and Early
In-Person Voting Begins

April 25 Absentee Ballot Applications Must
be Received by Your Board of
Elections by Close of Business

May 2 PRIMARY/SPECIAL ELECTION DAY

Do you have questions about Elections
and Voting in Ohio?
Find answers are at the Secretary of
State website:

www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters

You can watch live every session of both
chambers, all committee hearings, Governor
DeWine's press conferences, and much more on
the Ohio Channel.

They are also archived for viewing at a
later date.

ohiochannel.org

Did you know Governor Mike DeWine has six
regional offices as well as his Columbus office to
better serve the citizens of Ohio?

Governor's Office

Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117
(614) 644-4357

Eastern Regional Office

161 South High Street, Room 404
Akron, OH 44308-1615

Northeast Regional Office

615 West Superior Avenue, 12th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44113-1187

Northwest Regional Office

1 Government Center, Suite 1520
Toledo, OH 43604-2205

Southeast Regional Office

2163 St. Rt. 821, Building 6-A
Marietta, OH 45750-5318

Southwest Regional Office

525 East Vine Street Suite 1040
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Western Regional Office

Fifth Third Center, 1 South Main Street, Suite 320,
Dayton, OH 45402-2065

**Learn about the *Ohio*
Department of Veterans Services.
Discover all of the programs,
responsibilities, endeavors and
goals of this state agency.**

www.dvs.ohio.gov

BILLS INTRODUCED DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

SB 45:

Introduced by Senator Sandra O'Brien (District 32) on February 7th.

Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

To enact section 5534.612 of the Revised Code to designate a bridge spanning the Mahoning River in Trumbull County as the "Veterans Memorial Bridge."

HB 18:

Introduced by Representative Tavia Galonski (District 33) on February 15th.

Referred to the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The bill requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to accept a county issued veterans identification card in lieu of an applicant's DD-214 as documentary evidence of service from a person who applies for a military license plate.

HB 23:

Introduced by Representative Jay Edwards (District 94) on February 15th.

Referred to the House Finance Committee.

To amend sections 124.152, 4981.02, 5503.031, and 5517.011; to enact sections 746.01, 746.02, 746.03, 746.04, 746.05, 746.06, and 746.07; and to repeal section 5501.09 of the Revised Code to make appropriations for programs related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

HB 53:

Introduced by Representative Jean Schmidt (District 62) and Adam C. Miller (District 6) on February 16th.

Referred to House Ways and Means Committee.

To amend sections 5725.98, 5726.98, 5729.98, 5747.98, and 5751.98 and to enact sections 5725.38, 5726.60, 5727.242, 5727.301, 5729.21, 5736.51, 5747.85, and 5751.55 of the Revised Code to authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans, service members, and their spouses.

More bills on the next page...

SB 63:

Introduced by Senator George F. Lang (District 4) on February 21st.

Referred to the Senate Insurance Committee.

To enact section 2307.931 of the Revised Code to require a plaintiff in a tort action alleging an asbestos claim to file specified disclosures.

SB 64:

Introduced by Senators William P. DeMora (District 25) and Steve Wilson (District 7) on February 21st.

Referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

To amend section 5919.34 of the Revised Code to expand the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program.

HB 69:

Introduced by Representatives Brian Stewart (District 12) and Bernard Willis (District 74) On February 27th.

Referred to the House armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee.

- Requires each county veterans' service commission to include at least two members who served in the military after September 11, 2001.
- Requires one member of each county veterans' service commission to be appointed by the board of county commissioners.

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel thorough 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 can find the Ohio Legislature's website with this link:

www.legislature.ohio.gov