



Ohio Legislative Report

Volume Two-Alpha; Number Ten

October 2025

Statehouse Happenings

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'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the beginning 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.

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Editor: David K. Root

After a two-and-a-half-month summer break the members of the Ohio General Assembly were back to work in their offices, committee rooms and chambers. The next three months will be a rush to move bills through the legislative process. While it is not as pressing as a lame duck the legislators seem to like to end the year in a productive manner.

Top priorities for the moment are still the same –property tax relief, redistricting, and overriding the 67 items vetoed by the governor in House Bill 96 (the appropriations bill).

In the month of September, members of the House dropped four bills and four resolutions pertaining to veterans and/or the military. Senators dropped one of each. The new legislation is listed beginning on page six.

Hearings Held for Veteran/Military Legislation

September 15-19

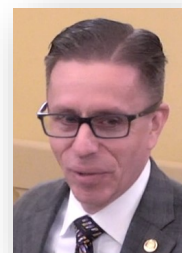
There was only one bill slated for a hearing this week. Amended Senate Bill 17 was on the agenda of the House General Government Committee on Tuesday afternoon. It was the 3rd hearing for the bill that would designate March 9th every year in Ohio as "6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day." There was no testimony given. The bill was introduced in January by Senators **Michele Reynolds** (SD-3) and **Hearcel F. Craig** (SD-15). In February the Senate, with a 32 to 0 vote, passed the amended bill.

September 22-26

On Wednesday, the House Veterans and Military Development Committee held the only hearing of the week. There were four concurrent resolutions on the agenda. All were introduced on September 15, and it was their first hearings.

The first sponsor testimony was from Representative **Michael D. Dovilla** (HD-17) for HCR 20 which will honor the distinguished service and exceptional valor of the men and women of the United States Navy and commemorate the 250th anniversary of its founding. His cosponsor, Representative **Nick Santucci** (HD-64) was unable to attend the hearing but submitted written testimony for the committee members.

Next on the agenda was HCR 18 sponsored by Representatives



Rep. Dovilla

See Happenings on Page Three...

A look at what the bills say... *In a Nut Shell*

Summaries from the OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DRAFTING

Currently there are two bills, both in the House, that would amend the Ohio Revised Code dealing with 'specialty license plates'.

One (HB 339) will allow the existing "Purple Heart" license plate to be purchased by surviving spouses of veterans who were awarded Purple Heart Medals.

The other (HB 419) will create a new specialty license plate to raise fund for the organization known as Save22.

House Bill 339—To 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.

The Analysis

"Purple Heart" license plate

The bill allows the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient to retain or obtain the "Purple Heart" license plate if the spouse has not remarried and if the deceased recipient was issued or was eligible for the "Purple Heart" license plate. Currently, the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient cannot apply to obtain or retain the license plate. Under current law, when the ownership of a motor vehicle is transferred after the owner's death, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles must replace the "Purple Heart" license plate with a non-Purple Heart license plate.

Under the bill, in order to retain or obtain the "Purple Heart" license plate, a surviving spouse must apply to the Registrar. The surviving spouse must include with the application documentary evidence of the deceased person's Purple Heart award and any other evidence the Registrar requires. The surviving spouse may retain or obtain the license plate upon payment of the required regular registration taxes and fees and compliance with all applicable laws relating

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

to the registration of motor vehicles.

House Bill 419—To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.727 of the Revised Code to create the "Save22" license plate.

The Analysis

License Plate

Save22 license plate, which must display an appropriate logo and words selected by the representatives of Save22 and approved by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Recipients

Available to all applicants.

Eligible Vehicles

Any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle approved by the Registrar.

Contribution;

Additional BMV Fee;

Use of Contribution

\$22 required contribution.

\$10 additional administrative BMV fee.

Contributions must be paid to Save22, which must use the contributions for any purpose it determines to be necessary.

Requirements for Issuance

1. Submission of an application;
2. Payment of the regular license tax, any local tax, contribution, administrative fee, any special reserved license plate fee if necessary; and
3. Compliance with all other relevant laws relating to motor vehicle registration.

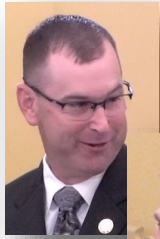
Ohio In-Person Voting ID Requirements

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

Happenings, from Page One

Ty D. Mathews (HD-83) and **Kevin D. Miller** (HD-69). They both offered testimony on their resolution that



would urge Congress to recognize United States troops who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992 and issue an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, or similar recognition.



Representative **Jean Schmidt** (HD-62) was next, and she gave sponsor testimony for HCR 21.

Rep. Miller & Mathews

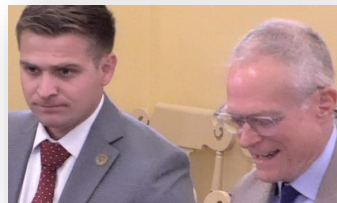
The resolution

would recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps.

HCR 23 was the final resolution on the agenda. Sponsors of the legislation were Representatives Ty Mathews and **Johnathan Newman** (HD-80). Their resolution is to recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Army and of the United States Army Chaplain Corps. Both Representatives were there to testify.



Rep. Schmidt



Rep. Mathews & Newman

**September 29–
October 3**

The final hearing for the month was for HCR 7 in the Senate

See Happenings on Page Five...

Reflections

"We love the ability of the people to influence the actions of decision-makers, of lawmakers and presidents to be removed from or elevated to office by the will of voters, and of the community to connect amongst diverse populations through the ballot box."

- Charles B. Rangel

Tidbits

Committee Changers

September 9

Speaker of the House **Matt Huffman** (HD-78) announced the removal of Representative **Nick Santucci** (HD-64) from the Rules and Reference Committee and the appointment of Representative **Brian Stewart** (HD-12) in his place. Stewart is an infantry veteran of the Iraq War.

September 15

Speaker Huffman announce that he appointed the following representatives to the Joint Committee on Congressional Redistricting: **Adam C. Bird as Co-Chair, Nick Santucci, Brian Stewart, D.J. Swearingen, Dani Isaacsohn, and Desiree Tims**. The only veteran is Stewart.

September 18

Senate President, **Rob McColley** (SD-1) announced the appointment of the following senators to the Joint Committee on Congressional Redistricting: **Jane M. Timken as Co-Chair, and Theresa Gavarone, Stephen A. Huffman, Bill Reineke, Nickie J. Antonio, and Willis E. Blackshear, Jr.** as committee members.

September 17

Speaker Huffman made changes to a dozen House Standing Committees. The following affected the legislators who are Veteran:

In the Veterans and Military Development Committee. Representative **Derrick Hall** (HD-34) was removed as Ranking Member and Representative **Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe** (HD-5) was designated as the new Ranking Member. Hall serves as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer in the Army Reserve. Lawson-Rowe is not a veteran.

In the House Insurance Committee the speaker removed Representative Tims and appointed Hall as to the committee and Ranking Member.

In the Ways and Means Committee Representative Hall was removed and Representative **Chris Glassburn** (HD-15) was appointed. Glassburn is not a veteran.

September 23

The following changes to the committee on Rules and Reference by Speaker Huffman: Removed Representative Stewart; appointed Representative Santucci.

Meet With Your **Legislators**

Please save the date! I will be hosting town hall meetings to discuss the budget & what I am doing for you at the Statehouse. I encourage you to come and bring your own view on our community's needs.

• Saturday, November 1, 1:00 at the Gahanna Library

You may RSVP or submit a question you would like answered here: <https://forms.gle/RDrbf8geisZSNiN49>

Sincerely,

Beryl Brown

Beryl Brown Piccolantonio
House Minority Whip
House District 4



CASEY WEINSTEIN
OHIO STATE SENATOR
TOWN HALL FORUM
FEATURING TALLMADGE MAYOR
CAROL SICILIANO-KILWAY
& REPRESENTATIVE DERRICK HALL
Thursday, October 16th
5:30-7:00pm
@ The Tallmadge Branch Library
ALL CONSTITUENTS OF SENATE DISTRICT 28 ARE WELCOMED



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL TROY
TOWN HALL
Join Us!
Legislative Updates and Q&A with your local State Representative
Saturday
October 11, 2025
1:30 - 3:30PM
Willoughby Public Library Meeting Room
30 Public Square
Willoughby, OH 44094

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.



Constituent Coffee

with

State Representative Nick Santucci &
State Representative David Thomas

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

- 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.



TOWN HALL 2025
14 OCTOBER TUESDAY
6:00 - 7:30 PM
WHETSTONE LIBRARY
3909 N HIGH ST.
COLUMBUS, OH



P.L.A.N. OHIO
PREVENT, LISTEN, ACT, NAVIGATE
TOWN HALL
State Rep. Darnell Brewer
State Senator Cecil Thomas
State Rep. Rachel Baker
State Rep. Karen Brownlee
MONDAY
October 6, 2025
at 5:30PM
Deer Park Library
Meeting Room A
4020 E Galbraith Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45326

Happenings, from Page Three

Education Committee. The resolution was introduced in February by Representatives **Haraz N. Ghanbari** (HD-75) and **Joseph A. Miller, III** (HD-53) and passed in the House in June unanimously.



Rep. Ghanbari & Miller

The resolution would 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.

In the Month of October

The first full month following summer break will be much busier for our legislators. There will be more hearings with many pieces of legislation on a fast track. It is the month leading into the November Primary Elections so there will be plenty of campaigning. There is an increase of townhall meetings in the districts (see page four).

Early voting begins on October 7 and goes until Election Day Tuesday, November 4. Study all the ballot issues that will be on your ballot. Do your homework and vote wisely.

— **OLR** —

The details of every piece of legislation can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel through committees hearings and chamber sessions. You can check to see how the voting went and how each legislator voted. You can also read the testimony of every witness and much more.

To find a bill first type the bill number (example: SB 712 or HB 943) or resolution number (SR 895 or HR 792) into the search bar and go from there.

You will find the Ohio Legislature's website here:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

Discover your

Ohio Department of Veterans Services

Learn about the events, programs, responsibilities, endeavors and goals of this excellent state agency.

Find them at

www.dvs.ohio.gov

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 4th

Oct. 06: Deadline for voter registration for Nov. 4 general election (30 days before general election)

Oct. 07: Early in-person absentee voting begins (first day after close of voter registration)

Oct. 28: Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for Nov. 4 general election must be received by boards of elections by the close of business (7 days before general election)

Nov. 04: 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

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER

SB 253 introduced on September 3 by Senators **Hearcel F. Craig** (SD-15) and **Michele Reynolds** (SD-3).

The bill would enact section 5.213 of the Revised Code to designate February 20th as "Black Ohioan Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient Day."

It has not been referred to a committee yet.

HB 434 introduced on September 3 by Representatives **Bernard Willis** (HD-74) and **Brian Lampton** (HD-70).

The bill would amend section 4507.21 of the Revised Code to exempt certain military-related limited term driver's license applicants from the driver's education requirements and to declare an emergency.

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

HB 451 introduced on September 15 by Representatives **Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe** (HD-5) and **Jeff LaRe** (HD-73).

The bill would enact section 5534.931 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of Interstate 70 in Franklin and Fairfield counties as the "CPL Lindsey William Mitchell Memorial Highway."

It has not been referred to a committee yet.

HB 452 introduced on September 15 by Representatives **Cecil Thomas** (HD-25) and **Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe** (HD-5)

The bill would enact section 5.2322 of the Revised Code to designate October 1st as "761st Tank Battalion Day."

It has not been referred to a committee yet.

HCR 18 introduced on September 15 by Representatives **Ty D. Mathews** (HD-83) and **Kevin D. Miller** (HD-69).

The concurrent resolution would urge Congress to recognize United States troops who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992.

It was referred to the House Veterans and Military Development Committee.

HCR 20 introduced on September 15 by Representatives **Michael D. Dovilla** (HD-17) and **Nick Santucci** (HD-64).

The concurrent resolution would honor the distinguished service and exceptional valor of the men and women of the United States Navy and to commemorate the 250th anniversary of its founding.

It was referred to the House Veterans and Military Development Committee.

HCR 21 introduced on September 15 by Representative **Jean Schmidt** (HD-62).

The concurrent resolution would recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps.

It was referred to the House Veterans and Military Development Committee.

HCR 23 introduced on September 15 by Representatives **Johnathan Newman** (HD-80) and **Ty D. Mathews** (HD-83).

The concurrent resolution would recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Army and the United States Army Chaplain Corps.

It was referred to the House Veterans and Military Development Committee.

SR 192 introduced on September 17 by Senator **Andrew O. Brenner** (SD-19).

The resolution would recognize Rutherford B. Hayes Day in Ohio October 4, 2025.

It was adopted the same day it was introduced.

Continued on next Page...

HB 476 introduced on September 29 by Representatives **Meredith Craig** (HD-77) and **David Thomas** (HD-65).

The bill would amend sections 2915.01, 2915.092, and 2915.14 of the Revised Code to authorize online raffles under the Charitable Gaming Law and to declare an emergency.

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 198 Regulate manufacture, sale of inhalable, ingestible hemp products
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
HB 383 Designate Litten Brothers Memorial Highway
HB 384 Designate Staff Sergeant Melvin Trushel, Sr. Memorial Highway
HB 385 Designate PFC Thomas "Tommy" Pizzino Memorial Highway
HB 414 Designate Navy Seaman Jadwisiak Memorial Highway
HB 419 Create the Save22 license plate
HB 434 Exempt military driver's license applicants from driver's ed
HB 451 Designate CPL Lindsey William Mitchell Memorial Highway
HB 452 Designate 761st Tank Battalion Day
HB 476 Authorize online raffles under the Charitable Gaming Law

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

HCR 18 Urge Congress to recognize US troops who served in Honduras

HCR 20 Honor the United States Navy; commemorate its 250th anniversary

HCR 21 Recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps

HCR 23 Recognize 250th anniversary of United States Army, Chaplain Corps

HR 133 Honoring Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary.

Continued on next Page...

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 56 Revise medical and adult-use marijuana laws; levy marijuana taxes
 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
 SB 253 Designate Black Ohioan Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient Day

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
 SR 192 Recognizing Rutherford B. Hayes Day in Ohio October 4, 2025

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.

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- * Contact 888-OHIO-123 for more information.
- * For more information about the Ohio Statehouse visit OhioStatehouse.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohio Legislative Report

welcomes letters to the editor

- Letters are limited to 200 words.
- Letters with over 200 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.

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