



Ohio's Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline

135th General Assembly (2023-2024)

March 2025

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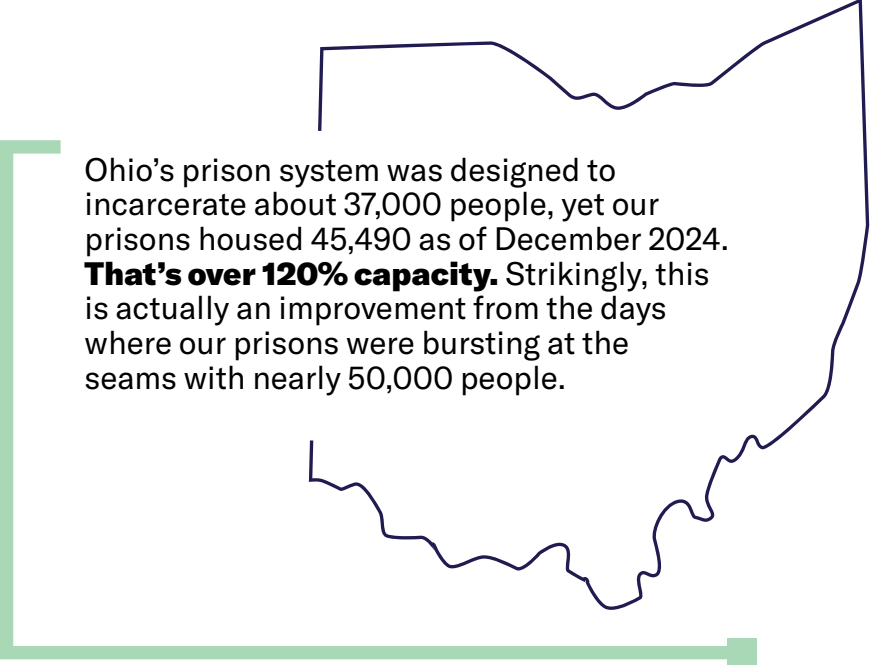
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Welcome to the ACLU of Ohio's latest edition of our Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline Report. This report is our fifth full legislative session overview, spanning the past 10 years (5 legislative sessions). With this report, we seek to demonstrate the sheer volume of bills introduced and passed by the Ohio General Assembly (OGA) designed to pack even more people into our overcrowded and expensive prisons and jails.

It is important to note all bills are not equal when it comes to their impact on mass incarceration. Some will have minimal effect because they target such a narrow type of behavior or action. While others will have a major impact, perhaps even necessitating the expansion of or building new prisons or jails.

As with past reports, we are compelled to include not just legislation that passed into law but also bills that were introduced but did not cross the finish line. Bills that do not become law still fuel a variety of mass incarceration problems. For example, inside and outside the Statehouse, these bills amplify the idea that the solution to various, sometimes complex, problems is to lock people away, or for longer periods of time. When that line of thinking permeates the Statehouse, we see more and more bills of this type.

It's important to consider a huge number of bills are introduced which do not pass in the first attempt. It may take one, two, three, or more legislative sessions before ultimate passage and enactment. Again, this perpetuates an atmosphere of mass incarceration by a thousand cuts.



Ohio's prison system was designed to incarcerate about 37,000 people, yet our prisons housed 45,490 as of December 2024. **That's over 120% capacity.** Strikingly, this is actually an improvement from the days where our prisons were bursting at the seams with nearly 50,000 people.

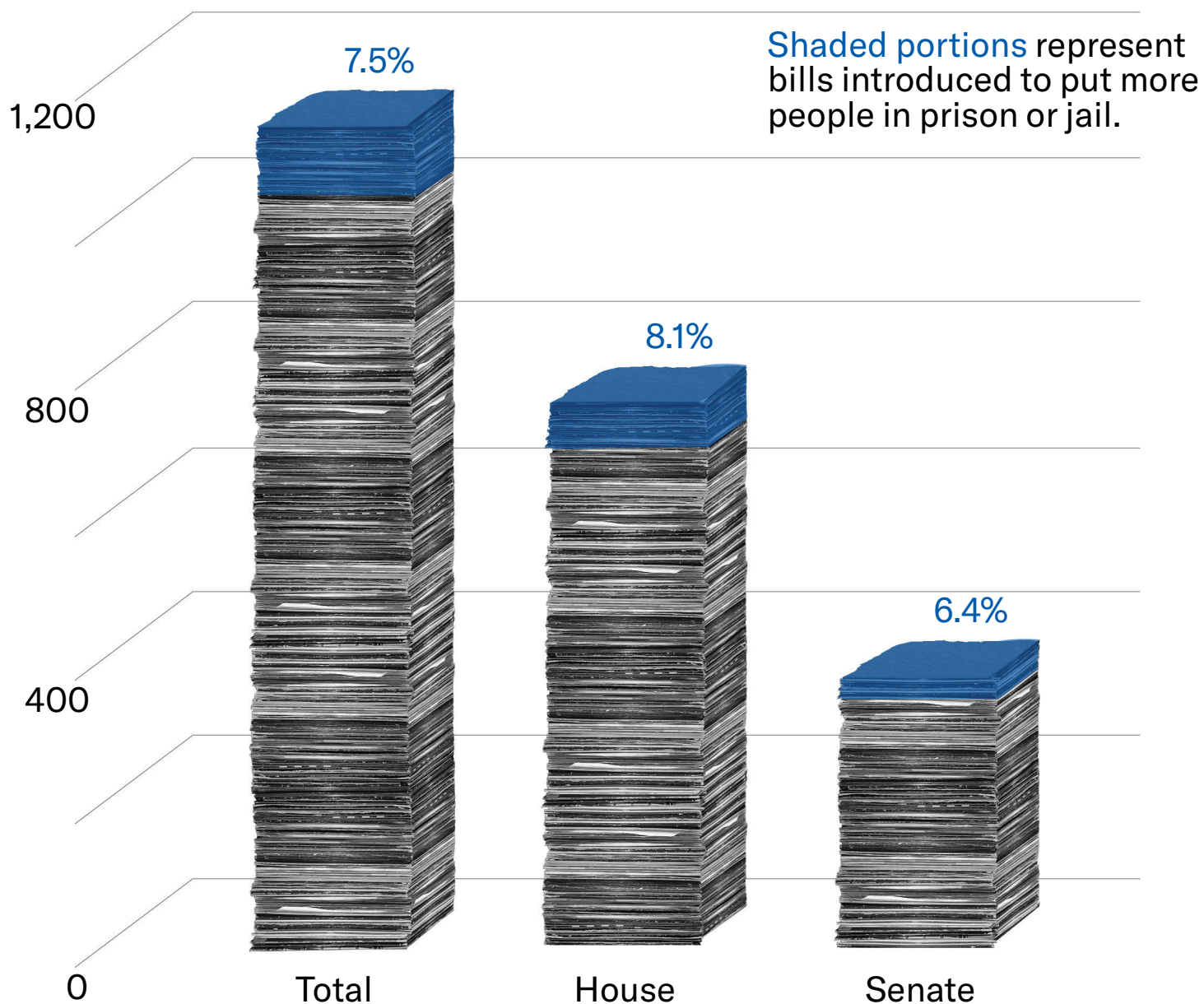
More specifically, Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline bills earn that designation by any combination of:

1. **Creating a new criminal offense;**
2. **Enhancing punishments and penalties for current criminal offenses;**
3. **Expanding and tweaking the reach of current laws to include new actors and similar scenarios; and / or**
4. **Removing or altering time limits for prosecution of certain offenses.**

The 135th Ohio General Assembly (2023-2024)

From January 2023 to December 2024, 1,058 bills were introduced in the Ohio General Assembly (OGA). Of those, 79 bills (7.5%) are what we consider Pipeline bills. More specifically, **58 of the 716 (8.1%) House bills and 22 of the 342 (6.4%) Senate bills contained mass incarceration provisions.**

The 135th OGA introduced bill breakdown



In the 135th General Assembly, 14 Pipeline bills passed.

Comparing the Last Five Legislative Sessions

Of the past five sessions (ten years) the ACLU of Ohio has been publishing the **Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline Report**, the 135th GA shows improvement over the others in a few ways. 79 total Pipeline bills introduced is the lowest in five sessions. Additionally, the 135th OGA also introduced the least bills overall since the 131st OGA. Notably, the percentage of Pipeline bills to total bills is 7.5% – the best over this five-session period. However, looking at ten years of data shows the legislature has a “two steps forward, one step backward” approach when it comes to Pipeline bills. The trend is that there is no real trend and whether and how many Pipeline bills are introduced and ultimately passed largely comes down to the whims of current leadership.

Multiyear Bill Breakdown and OGA Session Comparison

| | | Bills | | |
|---|--------|----------------|------------|--------|
| | | Total | Pipeline | Passed |
| 135 th OGA | House | 714 (716)* | 58 (8.1%) | |
| | Senate | 342 | 22 (6.4%) | |
| | Total | 1,056 (1,058)* | 79 (7.5%) | 14 |
| <i>* NOTE: THERE WAS ALSO A "SPECIAL SESSION" IN 2024 CALLED BY GOV. DEWINE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PASSING TWO ELECTION LAW BILLS. TO AVOID CONFUSION, HOUSE BILL 1 FROM THAT SPECIAL SESSION IS INCLUDED HERE AS IF IT WERE PART OF THE REGULAR 135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SESSION).</i> | | | | |
| 134 th OGA | House | 755 | 63 (8.3%) | |
| | Senate | 369 | 28 (7.5%) | |
| | Total | 1,124 | 91 (8.1%) | 15 |
| 133 rd OGA | House | 805 | 60 (7.4%) | |
| | Senate | 389 | 52 (13.3%) | |
| | Total | 1,194 | 112 (9.4%) | 9 |
| 132 nd OGA | House | 796 | 94 (11.8%) | |
| | Senate | 348 | 43 (12.3%) | |
| | Total | 1,144 | 137 (12%) | 22 |
| 131 st OGA | House | 628 | 67 (10.6%) | |
| | Senate | 376 | 24 (6.4%) | |
| | Total | 1,004 | 91 (9.1%) | 16 |

A Closer Look at the Pipeline

By far, the most consequential bill introduced last session was **House Bill 230**. This bill sought to significantly increase penalties for selling fentanyl/related compounds, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

Drug trafficking is already the #2 reason a person lands in an Ohio prison and has been the case for many years. We believe passage of HB 230 would have necessitated spending hundreds of millions of dollars over the coming years to build and operate at least one new prison while doing very little, if anything, to impact those harmed by the availability of these substances.

Indeed, the focus of the OGA, as well as other legislatures around the country, on fentanyl and related compounds is nothing more than an ongoing extension of the failed War on Drugs. This “war” remains a bipartisan one, as evidenced by the movement of this bill through the Ohio House.

HB 230 passed out of its original committee with an 11-1 vote. Because it contained an appropriation of funds, its next stop was the Finance Committee where it passed 12-0. The full House then approved it 80-13. Notably, legislators on both sides of the aisle who have publicly proclaimed the War on Drugs is a failure had no problem voting for HB 230. As is often the case in politics, rhetoric often does not match voting records. Ultimately, whether because of timing or the well-documented power struggles among the Republican caucus last session, HB 230 saw little action on the Senate side. But, another version of this bill has already reemerged this current session (the 136th OGA).

Per usual, we also saw a variety of bills to increase punishments for existing criminal offenses based on the category of victim. The goal of House Bill 139 was to raise penalties for Assault when the victim is a sports official, such as a referee. It passed the House 69-6. Senate Bill 88, a bipartisan bill, increased the offense of Aggravated Menacing when the victim is a utility worker. House Bill 525, another bipartisan bill, focused on assaults against school staff. Keep in mind, Ohio already has existing laws to penalize this behavior no matter the victim. These bills, like others before them, all sought to elevate some victims above others.

Responding to news headlines via legislation never ends. That is why we saw bipartisan bills like House Bill 328, which passed the House 93-2, and Senate Bill 165. Both bills increased theft penalties involving catalytic converters. House Bill 56 passed the House 83-6, the Senate 30-0, and is now law. It targets “hooning” i.e. street takeovers by people engaging in reckless, dangerous driving. Again, actions already covered by several laws existing before the passage of HB 56. House Bill 366 and Senate Bill 223 specifically targeted retail theft for further punishment, HB 366 passed the House 69-24, the Senate 30-0, and is now law.

Another example that may seem innocent and playful at first but would have severe negative real-world consequences if passed, was House Bill 700. Following a loss to Michigan by the Ohio State University football team in their home stadium, some Michigan players attempted to plant a flag with their team’s colors on the Ohio State logo in the center of the field. This resulted in a scuffle between players and law enforcement intervened. HB 700 created not just a criminal offense, but a felony offense, for planting a flag specifically on, and only on, Ohio State’s football field before, during, or after a game. In other words, HB 700 would have allowed for prison time for rival college football players for such an act, regardless of whether it led to any altercations or law enforcement involvement.

An alarming new frontier in the Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline emerged during the 135th General Assembly – the criminalization of democracy. Stemming from repeatedly debunked claims by President Trump that the 2020 election was “stolen,” Ohio legislators began pushing for more election-related conduct to be illegal and subject to criminal penalties. Specifically, HB 1 of the 135th General Assembly’s Special Session was passed to create new misdemeanor and felony level offenses for new classes of individuals, including green card holders, natural born citizens, and organizations who raise and spend money in support or opposition to ballot issue campaigns.

Additionally, through the general penalty provisions of the Ohio Rev. Code § 3599, it is now a first-degree misdemeanor offense to assist voters with filling out any election related form, except where the voter receiving assistance affirms they suffer from “blindness, disability, or illiteracy.” What was once common practice during voter registration drives, petition circulation, or even spouses filling out each other’s absentee ballot requests at the dinner table, is now illegal. There are no indications the OGA will halt this dangerous and corrosive practice in the 136th General Assembly. Many bills were left on the cutting room floor which, should they be re-introduced and signed into law, would further criminalize lawful election-related conduct.

Positive Bills Introduced During the 135th OGA

For many years, the Ohio General Assembly's approach to mass incarceration has been a single giant bill, once every several years, that addresses and improves the workings of the system(s) but does not provide needed, true comprehensive reform. These bills typically provide some relief regarding record sealing and/ or expungement, collateral sanctions, alternatives to prison, judicial release, and various other aspects of the criminal legal system. The ACLU of Ohio routinely supports these efforts. The most recent examples of such omnibus bills that became law are **House Bill 86** (129th GA, effective Sep. 30, 2011), **Senate Bill 66** (132nd GA, effective Oct. 29, 2018), and **Senate Bill 288** (and its House companion, **House Bill 699**, 134th OGA, effective April 4, 2023).

Collateral sanctions are additional civil penalties that attach to a criminal conviction

Last session saw no major criminal legal system reform specific omnibus legislation. Instead, several piecemeal bills were introduced, and a few even passed. Most notable are **HB 29** and **SB 198** (amended into a lame duck "Christmas tree bill" – **HB 315**).

A Christmas tree bill is a political term referring to a bill that includes several, often unrelated, amendments.

House Bill 29: Driver's License Suspensions

Primary Sponsors: Brewer (D); Humphrey (D)

CoSponsors: 7 D

Status: *Signed by Governor*

Info: Largely eliminated debt-related driver's license suspensions. Removes the possibility of a driver's license suspension for drug abuse offenses, except when a vehicle was used to further the commission of the offense.

Note: *Senate Bill 37 (Blessing; Ingram) advanced these policy goals for much of the 135th OGA.*

Senate Bill 198: Vital Documents for Individuals Leaving Incarceration

Primary Sponsors: Lang (R); Manning (R)

CoSponsors: none at introduction

Status: *Signed by Governor (as part of HB 315)*

Info: Requires the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) and the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to make available and submit completed applications for state identification cards or temporary identification cards on behalf of those in their custody and to initiate this process before the person's reentry. Also requires DRC to assist incarcerated people with obtaining vital government documents to assist them in obtaining post-release employment.

The Pipeline

Of the 1,058 bills introduced during the 135th OGA, the following are what the ACLU of Ohio refers to as Pipeline bills. In short, these are bills that would put more people in Ohio’s prisons and jails.

Like past reports, this list does not include bills where the punishment starts as a minor misdemeanor and/or a fine but ultimately scales up to possible prison or jail sentences with repeated violations. Bills like those do not lead to the overwhelming mass incarceration problems we wish to highlight in this report.

Key:

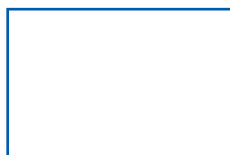
Primary Sponsor(s) = The legislator(s) responsible for the bill’s creation and introduction.

Cosponsors: Legislators who have formally signed on in support of the bill.

Status: How far the bill progressed during the legislative session.

Info: Brief detail regarding how the bill fuels the Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline.

NOTE: There was also a “special session” in 2024 called by Gov. DeWine for the sole purpose of passing two election laws bills. To avoid confusion, House Bill 1 from that special session is included here as if were part of the regular, existing 135th General Assembly (session).



A rectangle indicates a bill that was signed into law by the Governor

House Pipeline Bills

House Bill 1: Election Laws*

Primary Sponsors: Seitz(R)

Cosponsors: (Unknown/unavailable)

Status: Passed House 64-31; passed Senate 24-7; signed by governor

Info: Criminalizes directly or indirectly soliciting or receiving funds from a foreign national, or donating funds as a foreign national, in furtherance of a statewide ballot issue.

*** Indicates this bill is from the 2024 special session.**

House Bill 20: Computer Crimes

Primary Sponsor: Swearingen(R)

Cosponsors: 6 R, 1 D

Status: 4 hearings in House Criminal Justice

Info: Creates five new felony offenses and modifies two others, all relative to unauthorized tampering, theft, interference, etc. with computers, computer networks, and computer systems.

House Bill 37: OVI Laws

Primary Sponsors: Johnson, M(R); Miller, K.(R)

Cosponsors: 53 R, 16 D

Status: Passed House 92-0; passed Senate 83-0; signed by governor

Info: Increases felony penalties and mandatory prison terms for Aggravated Vehicular Homicide when the offense involves operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and with prior offenses.

House Bill 56: Hooning

Primary Sponsors: Plummer(R), White(R)

Cosponsors: 40 R; 9 D

Status: Passed House 83-6; Passed Senate 30-0; House concurred with Senate amendments 91-1; signed by governor

Info: Creates two new misdemeanor offenses for “stunt driving” in various locations and lending assistance to those offenses; increases penalties for Failure to Comply with Order or Signal of Police Officer; expands vehicular homicide and vehicular assault offenses to include additional vehicles.

House Bill 74: Election Laws

Primary Sponsors: Hall(R); Lightbody(D)

Cosponsors: 2 R; 2 D

Status: *Passed House 78-0; passed Senate 24-7; House concurred with Senate amendments 61-27; signed by governor*

Info: Expands circumstances when someone may commit a misdemeanor offense to include when a compensated signature gatherer for a party formation petition does not file necessary paperwork.

House Bill 77: Drone Regulation

Primary Sponsor: Willis(R)

Cosponsors: 35 R; 12 D

Status: *Passed House 88-2; passed Senate 30-0; House concurred with Senate amendments 80-3; signed by governor*

Info: Creates several new offenses regulating the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by private parties and people.

House Bill 97: Certified Mental Health Assistants

Primary Sponsor: Pavliga(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: *3 hearings in House Health Provider Services*

Info: Creates criminal penalties for functioning as a certified mental health assistant without a license and related actions.

House Bill 102: Respiratory Therapists

Primary Sponsors: Young, T.(R); John(R)

Cosponsors: 2 R

Status: *6 hearings in House Health Provider Services*

Info: Creates criminal penalties for functioning as a certified respiratory therapist without a license, violating reporting duties, and various related actions.

House Bill 110: Catalytic Converter Theft

Primary Sponsor(s): Young, B.(R); Roemer(R)

Cosponsors: 23 R; 5 D

Status: *3 hearings in House Criminal Justice*

Info: Enhances Theft and Receiving Stolen Property penalties and expands the offense of Complicity when those offenses involve catalytic converters.

House Bill 111: Domestic Violence

Primary Sponsor(s): LaRe(R); Miller, K. (R)

Cosponsors: 38 R; 22 D

Status: *Passed House 89-0; passed Senate 29-0; signed by governor*

Info: Increases felony penalties for Domestic Violence.

House Bill 122: Intimidation Offenses

Primary Sponsors: Pavliga(R); Miller, A.(D)

Cosponsors: 6 R; 21 D

Status: *Passed House 63-27; 1 hearing in Senate Judiciary*

Info: Expands Intimidation and Intimidation in Criminal Case offenses to include guardian ad litem and court appointed special advocates as victims.

House Bill 124: Rape Laws/Statute of Limitations

Primary Sponsors: Galonski(D); Miranda(D)

Cosponsors: 10 D

Status: *1 hearing in House Criminal Justice.*

Info: Eliminates statutes of limitation for Rape and related offenses.

House Bill 139: Assaults/Sports Officials

Primary Sponsors: Roemer(R); Miller, J.(D)

Cosponsors: 22 R; 10 D

Status: *Passed House 69-6; 1 hearing in Senate Judiciary*

Info: Increases Assault penalties when victim is a sports official.

House Bill 161: Spousal Exemptions - Rape

Primary Sponsors: Miranda(D); Hillyer(R)

Cosponsors: 45 R; 27 D

Status: *Passed House 74-1; passed Senate 32-0; signed by governor*

Info: Eliminates spousal exemptions for Rape, Sexual Battery, Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Gross Sexual Imposition, and Sexual Imposition.

House Bill 170: Extreme Risk Protection Orders/Firearms

Primary Sponsors: Grim(D); Thomas(D)

Cosponsors: 22 D

Status: *1 hearing on House Government Oversight*

Info: Criminalizes having a firearm while subject to an extreme risk protection order; expands Having Weapons While Under Disability offense to include extreme risk protection orders; and criminalizes filing a false report when seeking an extreme risk protection order.

House Bill 230: Drug Trafficking; Human Trafficking

Primary Sponsors: Abrams(R); Swearingen(R)

Cosponsors: 38 R; 4 D

Status: *Passed House 79-13; 1 hearing in Senate Judiciary*

Info: Increases numerous penalties for felony Drug Trafficking; creates felony offense Participating in an Organization or Operation for Trafficking in Persons.

House Bill 245: Drag Shows

Primary Sponsors: King(R); Williams(R)

Cosponsors: 41 R

Status: *2 hearings in House Criminal Justice*

Info: Creates new offense Unlawful Adult Cabaret Performance with misdemeanor and felony penalties.

House Bill 295: Age Verification

Primary Sponsor: Demetriou(R)

Cosponsors: 21 R; 1 D

Status: *4 hearings in House Criminal Justice*

Info: Creates two new felony offenses relating to failing to verify the age of a consumer of online material when they access material deemed harmful to juveniles or obscene and other for when a minor attempts to circumvent the law.

House Bill 322: Grooming

Primary Sponsors: Seitz(R); Abrams(R)

Cosponsors: 44 R; 7 D

Status: *Passed House 90-1; passed Senate 30-0; signed by governor.*

Info: Creates the offense of Grooming targeted at behavior meant to entice, etc. a juvenile into sexual activity with an adult. This is part of a larger bill with provisions about sex offender reporting requirements.

House Bill 328: Catalytic Converter Theft

Primary Sponsors: Roemer(R); Plummer(R)

Cosponsors: 21 R; 3 D

Status: *Passed House 93-2*

Info: Enhances Theft and Receiving Stolen Property penalties and expands the offense of Complicity when those offenses involve catalytic converters.

House Bill 346: Auto Sears (Gun Devices)

Primary Sponsor: Dell'Aquila(D)

Cosponsors: 9 D

Status: *1 hearing in House Criminal Justice*

Info: Creates a felony offense for the manufacturing, purchasing, sale, etc. of auto sears.

House Bill 351: Companion Animal Corpses

Primary Sponsor: Young, T.(R)

Cosponsors: 6 R; 1 D

Status: *Passed by House Criminal Justice*

Info: Criminalizes the abuse of a companion animal corpse.

House Bill 354: Cannabis Laws

Primary Sponsor: Callender(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: *4 hearings in House Finance*

Info: Makes changes to voter-approved cannabis laws, including those for private cultivation and gifting cannabis to another.

House Bill 366: Retail Theft

Primary Sponsor: Ghanbari(R)

Cosponsors: 33 R; 6 D

Status: *Passed House 69-24, passed Senate 30-0, signed by governor*

Info: Increases various theft penalties for repeat offenses, creates two new offenses – Theft of Mail and Organized Theft of Retail Property, expands Counterfeiting offense.

House Bill 367: Deepfakes

Primary Sponsors: Mathews(R); Hillyer(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: *Passed House Government Oversight*

Info: Expands offense of Extortion when a person circulates or exhibits a malicious deepfake recording falsely depicting or recording a person's conduct with the purpose of gaining a thing of value from the victim or to motivate them to commit an illegal act.

House Bill 372: Railroad Crossings

Primary Sponsors: Grim(D); Hoops(R)

Cosponsors: 15 R; 28 D

Status: *Passed House 91-1*

Info: Expands current criminal penalties for failure to stop, watch, or listen for a train to include the same for on-track equipment.

House Bill 377: Human Trafficking

Primary Sponsors: Williams(R); Santucci(R)

Cosponsors: 33 R; 4 D

Status: *1 hearing in House Criminal Justice*

Info: Increases and enhances Kidnapping penalties to include human trafficking and age of victim; increases penalty for Abduction when it involves involuntary servitude or a sexual motivation.

House Bill 401: Deepfakes

Primary Sponsors: Miller, K.(R); Demetriou(R)

Cosponsors: 5 R; 2 D

Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice

Info: Creates offense of Nonconsensual Distribution of a Deepfake.

House Bill 416: Traffic Cameras

Primary Sponsor: Patton(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: 3 hearings in House Homeland Security

Info: Criminalizes violations of the bill's licensing requirements.

House Bill 417: Weapons Under Disability

Primary Sponsors: Grim(D); Abdullahi(D)

Cosponsors: 21 D

Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice

Info: Expands Having Weapons While Under Disability offense to include when someone has been charged with, or convicted of, first degree misdemeanor domestic violence.

House Bill 419: Firearm Transfers

Primary Sponsors: Robinson(R); Isaacsohn(D)

Cosponsors: 30 D

Status: 1 hearing in House Government Oversight

Info: Criminalizes the transfer of firearms when the person transferring or receiving the firearm is not properly licensed.

House Bill 433: Mass Casualty Weapons

Primary Sponsor: Blackshear(D)

Cosponsors: 18 D

Status: 1 hearing in House Government Oversight

Info: Modifies current offense of Unlawful Possession of a Dangerous Ordnance to include mass casualty weapons.

House Bill 450: Drones/Voyeurism

Primary Sponsors: Lampton(R); Young (R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: 2 hearings in House Criminal Justice

Info: Expands offenses of Voyeurism, Criminal Trespass, Aggravated Trespass, and Criminal Trespass on Place of Public Amusement to include when they are committed using drones.

House Bill 478: Eviction Law

Primary Sponsors: Edwards(R); LaRe(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: 3 hearings in House Criminal Justice

Info: Expands Criminal Mischief offense to include occupying or trespassing upon a residential dwelling and causing damage; creates offense of Title Fraud.

House Bill 480: Eviction Law

Primary Sponsors: Young(R); Demetriou(R)

Cosponsors: 25 R

Status: Passed House Criminal Justice

Info: Expands Criminal Mischief offense to include occupying or trespassing upon a residential dwelling and causing damage; creates offense of Title Fraud.

House Bill 486: Domestic Violence

Primary Sponsors: Carruthers(R); Brent(D)

Cosponsors: 14 R; 19 D

Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice

Info: Expands Aggravated Murder offense to include murder of family or household members when person has previous offenses of Domestic Violence or Violence; expands offense of Violating a Protection Order to include emergency protection orders, created by the bill.

House Bill 489: Parking Fees Data

Primary Sponsors: Dell'Aquila (D); Brewer(D)

Cosponsors: 1 R; 4 D

Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice

Info: Criminalizes selling personal data of consumers by a parking fee collection service.

House Bill 500: Unauthorized Displays

Primary Sponsors: Carruthers(R); Upchurch(D)

Cosponsors: None

Status: 1 hearing in House Government Oversight

Info: Expands Aggravated Trespass offense to include entering or remaining on land, in a vehicle, etc. to cause physical harm or fear of physical harm; creates offense Unauthorized Image Projection on Private Property; criminalizes covering traffic and railroad signs, signals, and devices; expands Ethnic Intimidation offense for disturbing some religious services or meetings.

House Bill 503: Feeding Feral Swine**Primary Sponsors:** Peterson(R); Jones(R)**Cosponsors:** 34 R; 11 D**Status:** *Passed House 89-0; passed Senate 31-0; signed by governor***Info:** Expands various wildlife laws with criminal penalties to include feral swine and wild boar.**House Bill 522: Firearms Laws/Repeat Offenders****Primary Sponsor:** Willis(R); Williams(R)**Cosponsors:** 9 R; 1 D**Status:** *1 hearing in House Criminal Justice***Info:** Enhances Weapons While Under a Disability penalties for some repeat offenses; increases and enhances numerous other penalties for a variety of firearms offenses.**House Bill 525: Assault Victims/School Staff****Primary Sponsors:** Brennan(D); Pizzulli(R)**Cosponsors:** 1 R; 9 D**Status:** *1 hearing in House Criminal Justice.***Info:** Increases penalties for Assault when victim is a school employee or volunteer.**House Bill 528: Intimidating an Election Officer****Primary Sponsor:** Troy(D)**Cosponsors:** 1 R; 6 D**Status:** *1 hearing in House Criminal Justice***Info:** Increases penalties from misdemeanor to felony for intimidating an election officer and preventing an election official from performing their duties.**House Bill 529: Solar Radiation Modification****Primary Sponsor:** Young(R)**Cosponsor:** 3 R**Status:** *1 hearing in House Energy & Natural Resources***Info:** Criminalizes engaging in solar radiation modification.**House Bill 531: Sexual Extortion/Images****Primary Sponsors:** Lear(R); Lorenz(R)**Cosponsors:** 61 R; 24 D**Status:** *Passed House 96-0, passed Senate 30-0, House concurred with Senate amendments 30-0, signed by governor***Info:** Creates felony offense of Sexual Extortion for when one threatens to release or distribute certain private images for various extortion purposes.**House Bill 532: Assault/Bailiffs, etc.****Primary Sponsor:** Lorenz(R)**Cosponsors:** 6 R, 2 D**Status:** *2 hearings in House Government Oversight***Info:** Increases penalties for Assault when the victim is a bailiff, probation officer, or other court officials or employees.**House Bill 544: Unauthorized Displays****Primary Sponsors:** Carruthers(R)**Cosponsors:** None**Status:** *1 hearing in House Government Oversight***Info:** Expands Aggravated Trespass offense to include entering or remaining on land, in a vehicle, etc. to cause physical harm or fear of physical harm; creates offense Unauthorized Image Projection on Private Property; criminalizes covering traffic and railroad signs, signals, and devices; expands Ethnic Intimidation offense for disturbing some religious services or meetings.**House Bill 551: Undocumented Immigrants/Firearms****Primary Sponsor:** Wiggam(R)**Cosponsors:** 14 R**Status:** *1 hearing in House Government Oversight***Info:** Expands current law to criminalize owning, possessing, using, etc. firearms to undocumented immigrants.**House Bill 556: Pandering Obscenity/Librarians****Primary Sponsor:** Mathews (R)**Cosponsors:** None**Status:** *1 hearing in House Criminal Justice***Info:** Modifies pandering obscenity offenses to include school librarians as possible perpetrators.**House Bill 564: Unlawful Presence/Immigrants****Primary Sponsor:** Lear(R); Plummer(R)**Cosponsors:** 4 R**Status:** *No hearings***Info:** Criminalizes harboring, transporting, sheltering, etc. undocumented immigrants; criminalizes falsely claiming to be a parent or guardian of a minor for purposes of applying for public benefits and similar situations.

House Bill 624: Debt Adjusting

Primary Sponsor: Lipps(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: 1 hearing in House Financial Institutions

Info: Criminalizes non-compliance with federal laws relating to debt adjusting.

House Bill 639: Riots/Masks

Primary Sponsors: Williams(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: No hearings

Info: Enhances penalties for Aggravated Riot to include when one commits the offense while masked.

House Bill 644: Firearms/Bump Stocks

Primary Sponsors: Thomas(D); Grim(D)

Cosponsors: 9 D

Status: No hearings

Info: Creates felony offense Illegal Rate-of-Fire Acceleration Conduct for owning, possession, selling, manufacturing, etc. devices and accessories that accelerate rate of fire of a semi-automatic weapon; expands Having Weapons While Under Disability to include violations of this bill.

House Bill 653: Vehicular Assault and Manslaughter

Primary Sponsor: Lorenz(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: No hearings

Info: Expands Vehicular Assault and Vehicular Manslaughter offense to include causing serious harm to a person or their unborn child when committing a minor misdemeanor traffic offense.

House Bill 671: Unlawful Presence/Immigrants

Primary Sponsors: Click(R); Santucci(R)

Cosponsors: 14 R

Status: No hearings

Info: Criminalizes presence of immigrants in Ohio when they are undocumented under federal immigration law.

House Bill 672: Naturopathic Medicine Regulations

Primary Sponsors: Barhorst(R); Santucci(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: No hearings

Info: Criminalizes operating or representing oneself as a naturopathic medicine practitioner without a license.

House Bill 678: Companion Animals

Primary Sponsors: Fischer(R)

Cosponsors: 1 R, 1 D

Status: 1 hearing in House Agriculture

Info: Expands current laws regarding animal cruelty to clarify the laws include all cats and dogs.

House Bill 690: Voyeurism

Primary Sponsors: Thomas(D); Williams(R)

Cosponsors: 6 R; 1 D

Status: 2 hearings in House Criminal Justice

Info: Increases penalties for repeat violations of Voyeurism.

House Bill 700: Flags/Football Stadiums

Primary Sponsors: Williams(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: No hearings

Info: Creates a felony offense for planting a flag and flagpole before, during, or after a football game at Ohio State University's football stadium.

Senate Bill 60: Mental Health Assistants

Primary Sponsor(s): Gavarone(R)

Cosponsors: 1R

Status: Passed Senate 20-11; 2 hearings in House Health Provider Services

Info: Criminalizes acting as a certified mental health assistant without being licensed.

Senate Bill 68: Debt Adjusting

Primary Sponsor(s): Hackett(R)

Cosponsors: 1 R

Status: 5 hearings in Senate Financial Institutions & Technology

Info: Criminalizes non-compliance with federal laws relating to debt adjusting and charging higher fees than what the bill allows.

Senate Bill 88: Aggravated Menacing

Primary Sponsor(s): Smith(D); Cirino(R)

Cosponsors: 4 D

Status: 2 hearings in Senate Judiciary

Info: Expands Aggravated Menacing to include threatening utility workers with a deadly weapon.

Senate Bill 95: Remote Pharmacies

Primary Sponsor(s): Reynolds(R)

Cosponsors: 30 R; 12 D

Status: Passed Senate 31-0; passed House 84-0; signed by governor

Info: Creates criminal penalties for functioning as a certified mental health assistant without a license and related actions.

Senate Bill 100: Multiple Topics (Tracking Devices, OVI & Tobacco Sales)

Primary Sponsor(s): Manning(R); Antonio(D)

Cosponsors: 41 R; 15 D

Status: Passed Senate 31-0; passed House 85-0; Senate concurred with House amendments 30-1; signed by governor

Info: Creates offense Illegal Use of a Tracking Device or Application for installing a tracking device on someone's property without their consent.

Senate Bill 105: Mental Health Services

Primary Sponsor(s): Johnson(R); Sykes(D)

Cosponsors: 1 R; 2 D

Status: 5 hearings in Senate Community Revitalization

Info: Criminalizes acting as a recovery housing residence without proper licensing.

Senate Bill 109: Sex Offense Laws

Primary Sponsor(s): Hackett(R)

Cosponsors: 28 R; 14 D

Status: Passed Senate 32-0; passed House 84-0; Senate concurred with House amendments 31-0; signed by governor

Info: Expands Sexual Battery to include actions not in existing law, including some by licensed medical professionals; enhances penalties for repeat violations of Sexual Battery; expands definition of Rape; expands definition of "violent sex offense" for purposes of sentencing; expands offense Failure to Report a Crime regarding licensed medical professionals.

Senate Bill 127: Spousal Exemptions - Rape

Primary Sponsor(s): Kunze(R); Manning(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: No hearings

Info: Eliminates spousal exemptions for Rape, Sexual Battery, Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Gross Sexual Imposition, Sexual Imposition, and Importuning.

Senate Bill 164: Firearms Registry

Primary Sponsor(s): Craig(D)

Cosponsors: 3 D

Status: 1 hearing in Senate Veterans & Public Safety

Info: Criminalizes purchasing, owning, etc. a firearm if one is on the Do Not Possess Firearms Registry created by the bill; expands Unlawful Transaction in Weapons to include selling, giving, etc. firearms to someone on the registry.

Senate Bill 165: Catalytic Converter Theft

Primary Sponsor(s): Johnson(R)

Cosponsors: 2 R

Status: 1 hearing in Senate Judiciary

Info: Enhances Theft and Receiving Stolen Property penalties and expands the offense of Complicity when those offenses involve catalytic converters.

Senate Bill 187: Weapons/Domestic Violence

Primary Sponsor(s): Craig(D); Sykes(D)

Cosponsors: 4 D

Status: No hearings

Info: Expands Having Weapons While Under Disability offense to include when someone has been charged with or convicted of first degree misdemeanor domestic violence.

Senate Bill 193: Terrorism/Drug Crimes

Primary Sponsor(s): Hoagland(R); Johnson(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: *No hearings*

Info: Expands current definition of “act of terrorism” to include 24 different drug offenses when committed by someone designated a Major Drug Offender; expands Trafficking in Controlled Substances to include possessing, selling, etc. a pill press machine; criminalizes failing to register or reregister etc. a pill press machine with the registry created by the bill.

Senate Bill 209: Lost/Stolen Firearms

Primary Sponsor(s): Hicks-Hudson(D);

Ingram(D)

Cosponsors: 4 D

Status: *1 hearing in Senate Veterans & Public Safety*

Info: Increases penalty for Unlawful Transactions in Weapons for failing to report a lost or stolen firearm and other dangerous ordnances.

Senate Bill 217: Replica Images and Persona

Primary Sponsor(s): Blessing(R); Johnson(R)

Cosponsors: 1 D

Status: *3 hearings in Senate Judiciary*

Info: Expands offense Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor or Impaired Person to include simulated obscene material; expands Identity Fraud offense to include five new criminal offenses involving artificial replica images and people.

Senate Bill 223: Retail Theft

Primary Sponsor(s): Lang(R), Rulli(R)

Cosponsors: 1 R

Status: *2 hearings in Senate Judiciary*

Info: Increases various theft penalties for repeat offenses; creates two new offenses – Theft of Mail and Organized Theft of Retail Property; increases penalty for Criminal Mischief if offense involves retail pump or meter at electric charging station; expands Counterfeiting offense.

Senate Bill 233: Railroad Crossings

Primary Sponsor(s): DeMora(D); Kunze(R)

Cosponsors: 8 R; 6 D

Status: *Passed Senate 31-0, passed House Transportation*

Info: Expands current criminal penalties for failure to stop, watch, or listen for a train to include the same for on-track equipment.

Senate Bill 241: Eviction Law

Primary Sponsor(s): Huffman, S.(R); Brenner(R)

Cosponsors: 7 R

Status: *1 hearing in Senate Judiciary*

Info: Expands Criminal Mischief offense to include occupying or trespassing upon a residential dwelling and causing damage; creates offense of Title Fraud.

Senate Bill 263: Sexual Extortion

Primary Sponsor(s): Brenner(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: *1 hearing in Senate Judiciary*

Info: Creates felony offense of Sexual Extortion for when one threatens to release or distribute certain private images for various extortion purposes.

Senate Bill 278: Hemp and Cannabis Law

Primary Sponsor(s): Schuring(R);

Huffman, S.(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: *No hearings*

Info: Creates penalties for unauthorized hemp sales at a retail locations and surpassing home grow limits.

Senate Bill 289: Rape Laws/Statute of Limitations

Primary Sponsor(s): Antonio(D)

Cosponsors: 1 R; 4 D

Status: *No hearings*

Info: Eliminates statute of limitations for criminal prosecutions of rape offenses.

Senate Bill 307: Gun Regulations

Primary Sponsor(s): Smith(D); Craig(D)

Cosponsors: 5 D

Status: *1 hearing in Senate Veterans & Public Safety*

Info: Creates felony offense Illegal Rate-of-Fire Acceleration Conduct for owning, possession, selling, manufacturing, etc. devices and accessories that accelerate rate of fire of a semi-automatic weapon; expands Having Weapons While Under Disability to include violations of this bill.

Senate Bill 326: Intoxicating Hemp Product Sales

Primary Sponsor(s): Huffman, S.(R)

Cosponsors: None

Status: *3 hearings in Senate General Government*

Info: Criminalizes the sale of “intoxicating hemp products.”

Acknowledgements

The ACLU of Ohio staff is responsible for the contents of this report, which was researched and written by Gary Daniels, Chief Lobbyist. Jocelyn Rosnick, Policy Director, provided editorial support. Collin Marozzi, Deputy Policy Director, and Patrick Higgins, Policy Counsel, assisted with drafting. Celina Coming, Communications Director, and Ben Guess, Executive Director, provided additional feedback and technical edits. Sara Tkac, Digital Design Strategist, provided the design.

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