OHIO’S STATEHOUSE-TO-PRISON PIPELINE:
132ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2017–2018)
OHIO AT A GLANCE

- Ohio prisons have hovered around 130% capacity for years
- Incarceration in Ohio has nearly quadrupled since 1980
- In 2016, Ohio had the 5th largest prison population in the country
- Black people comprise 44% of the prison population even though they only make up 12% of the adult population in Ohio
- In 2016, 16% of the Ohio prison population was serving time for a drug offense
Mass incarceration begins at the Statehouse. Each year, legislators of both parties introduce laws that create new crimes or expand the scope of existing laws and lengthen prison and jail sentences. This is the Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline.

Previously, we released similar reports for midway through the 131st Ohio General Assembly (2015-2016), the entire session of the 131st Ohio General Assembly, and midway through the 132nd Ohio General Assembly (2017-2018).

The purpose of this report is to highlight the role and responsibility of the Ohio General Assembly in maintaining our state’s ongoing, dangerously overcrowded prison system. Of course, this not a new concern as Ohio’s prison system has been shamefully operating far above capacity for decades.

Still, as the legislature prepares to consider and debate the State of Ohio’s next operating budget this spring, many senators and representatives will surely express surprise and dismay at preparing to spend an estimated $2 billion a year on our prison system. Indeed, this occurs every budget cycle.

What too many legislators fail to grasp is their direct role in imprisoning tens of thousands of Ohioans and the huge impact this has on our communities, our families, and our economy. When pressed, legislators who introduce, sponsor, or vote for sentencing enhancement bills will often attempt to deflect criticism and concerns by saying the specific bill they support will have only a minimal negative impact on overcrowding and other problems. But all bills of this type contribute to the problem. It’s mass incarceration by a thousand cuts.

Legislators must stop the continuous pipeline of bills that put more and more people behind bars.

The 132nd Ohio General Assembly (2017-2018)

The Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline continues to be a bipartisan creation in Ohio with legislators on both sides of the aisle often agreeing to a large - sometimes unanimous - degree to increase the prison population and further pack our local jails.

This past session, 1,144 bills were introduced. Of those, a whopping 137 bills - 12% of all bills introduced - contained provisions to send more people to prison or jail.*

Breaking these numbers down further, the House introduced 796 bills. Of those, 94 (or 11.8%) would throw more people in prison or jail. The Senate introduced 348 bills and 43 (or 12.3%) do the same.

* Of those 137 bills, 22 were approved by the legislature and became law.
A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PIPELINE

The following two bills are examples of the Ohio General Assembly’s default towards mass incarceration. Both bills are now law, both passed with substantial bipartisan support, and both will noticeably impact prison and jail numbers.

Senate Bill 1 aimed to address the problems of fentanyl and related substances across the state. Legislators are right to be concerned about the impact of fentanyl and its large role in Ohio’s overdoses and overdose deaths. The problem with SB 1 is its purported solutions are nothing more than a continuation of the thoroughly failed and discredited War on Drugs approach.

SB 1 was repeatedly framed as legislation to target traffickers while acknowledging low-level users need help. However, what was claimed and what SB 1 actually does are two different realities. SB 1 significantly increases punishment for possession of even the smallest amounts of fentanyl. Combine this with Ohio law that requires that any non-drug substance containing any amount of fentanyl be treated as 100% fentanyl (this is true for other drugs and substances, as well), and we have a recipe for even more packed prisons and jails throughout the state.

Senate Bill 1 passed the Senate 27-6 and passed the House 91-7.

Senate Bill 201 was introduced following the highly-publicized murder of an Ohio State University student by someone recently released from prison. It was one of three bills quickly introduced and meant to address possible shortfalls leading to this tragic incident. The legislature concluded that Ohio needed to adopt indefinite sentencing to ensure violent offenders who still pose a risk to others are not released.

Indefinite sentencing can be a positive development when used thoughtfully and when other, concurrent steps are taken to reduce prison populations so the end effect is not simply an increase in those numbers. The problem with the passage of SB 201 is it ignored those other needed steps. While SB 201 did contain provisions to theoretically make improvements, the legislature disregarded testimony from opponents that those steps did not go nearly far enough and, in some cases, expanded practices that are already underutilized. Even proponents admitted SB 201 will increase the prison population. The only question now is – by how much?

Senate Bill 201 passed the Senate 33-0 and passed the House 76-0.

** SB 1 also later went to conference committee and that report was adopted by the Senate 31-1 and the House 82-12.
Although it fell just short of becoming law last session, House Bill 296 is also worth mentioning. HB 296 would have increased the penalties for selling drugs in the vicinity of a treatment facility. It would have enhanced sentences, expanded mandatory minimums, and would not even require that the defendant knew they were near a treatment facility. We choose to highlight this bill because it illustrates everything wrong and counterproductive about Ohio’s failed but ongoing approach to drugs and drug offenses. Yet, HB 296 received overwhelming bipartisan support.

HB 296 passed the House 92-1 and passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee 7-2.

TO SEE PRISON AND JAIL NUMBERS REduced IN IMPACTFUL, POSITIVE WAYS, OHIO LEGISLATORS MUST STOP INTRODUCING AND PASSING BILLS THAT UNDERMINE REFORM EFFORTS AND KEEP OUR PRISONS AND JAILS PACKED BEYOND CAPACITY.

COMPARING THE 132ND OGA TO THE 131ST

Unfortunately, as the chart (opposite) demonstrates, almost every number tracked for the purposes of the Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline Report increased this past session when compared to the prior session. Some of the increases are more troubling than others.

For instance, while the Senate introduced 28 fewer bills in total, it included 19 more bills with mass incarceration implications when compared to the prior session. This is a jump from 6.4% to 12.3% of all bills introduced in the Senate.

Between both sessions, 38 total bills of this type became law — each one funneling more people into our overcrowded prisons and costing Ohio communities.

We call on legislative leaders to stop adding to a problem they say they are trying to fix. Legislative leaders must commit to:

- Stop introducing bills that create new crimes or place additional penalties into state law.
- Instruct caucuses not to advance legislation already introduced that create new crimes or criminal penalties.
- Freeze sentencing enhancements permanently or, at a minimum, until a simplified version of the criminal code has been adopted.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>132nd OGA</strong> (2017-2018)</th>
<th><strong>131st OGA</strong> (2015-2016)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bills Introduced</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Bills Introduced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1,144</td>
<td>1,004</td>
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<td><strong>Bills Which Put More People in Prison or Jail</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bills Which Put More People in Prison or Jail</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td><strong>Percentage of Total Bills Introduced</strong></td>
<td><strong>Percentage of Total Bills Introduced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td><strong>Bills That Became Law</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bills That Became Law</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>House Bills Introduced</strong></td>
<td><strong>House Bills Introduced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>796</td>
<td>628</td>
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<td><strong>House Bills Which Put More People in Prison or Jail</strong></td>
<td><strong>House Bills Which Put More People in Prison or Jail</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>67</td>
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<td><strong>Percentage of House Bills Introduced</strong></td>
<td><strong>Percentage of House Bills Introduced</strong></td>
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<td>11.8%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
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<td><strong>Senate Bills Introduced</strong></td>
<td><strong>Senate Bills Introduced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>348</td>
<td>376</td>
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<td><strong>Senate Bills Which Put More People in Prison or Jail</strong></td>
<td><strong>Senate Bills Which Put More People in Prison or Jail</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td><strong>Percentage of Senate Bills Introduced</strong></td>
<td><strong>Percentage of Senate Bills Introduced</strong></td>
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<td>12.3%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
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Comparing the 132nd Ohio General Assembly (2017-2018) to the 131st Ohio General Assembly (2015-2016)
HB 1: Domestic violence protection orders
Effect: Criminalizes violating the terms of a dating relationship domestic violence civil protection order.
Sponsors: Manning(R), Sykes(D); 55 Republicans, 38 Democrats
Status: Passed House 93-0, Passed Senate 32-0, Signed by Governor

HB 4: Cocaine offenses
Effect: Clarifies cocaine offense sentencing includes weight of actual cocaine plus any mixture or additives that are not cocaine.
Sponsors: Cupp(R), Rogers(D); 39 Republicans and 15 Democrats
Status: Passed House 97-0; 3 hearings in Senate Judiciary Committee

HB 6: Publication of criminal records
Effect: Criminalizes accepting or soliciting payment to remove, correct or modify the publication of criminal records.
Sponsors: Barnes(D); 41 Republicans and 21 Democrats
Status: Passed House 88-4; Passed Senate 33-0; Signed by Governor

HB 10: Crowdfunding
Effect: Adds to existing law various actions regarding funds and securities subject to criminal penalties.
Sponsors: Arndt(R); 24 Republicans, 15 Democrats
Status: Passed House 89-0, passed Senate 33-0

HB 19: Arson offenses
Effect: Expands offense of arson as it relates to manufacturing of controlled substances.
Sponsors: Blessing(R), Landis(R); 5 Republicans
Status: 2 hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 30: Prison terms – violent felonies
Effect: Enhances sentences for felony offenses of violence that cause permanent disabling harm to victims under six years of age.
Sponsors: Koehler(R); 4 Republicans, 2 Democrats
Status: Passed by House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 33: Storage of firearms
Effect: Criminalizes storing or leaving a firearm unsecured if a minor can gain access.
Sponsors: Patmon(D); No cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing in House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB 38: Aggravated murder
Effect: Expands offense of aggravated murder to include victims who are first responders or military members.
Sponsors: Greenspan(R); 57 Republicans and 5 Democrats
Status: Passed House 91-0; Passed Senate 31-0; House Concurrence 79-0; Signed by Governor

HB 63: Felonious assault
Effect: Enhances penalty to include a mandatory prison term for felonious assault when an accelerant is used.
Sponsors: Hughes(R); 65 Republicans and 27 Democrats
Status: Passed House 95-0; Passed Senate 33-0; Signed by Governor

HB 67: Judgment confessions
Effect: Creates offense of illegally obtaining a confession of judgment.
Sponsors: Young(R); No cosponsors
Status: 3 hearings in House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development Committee

HB 68: Voyeurism and obscenity law expansion
Effect: Expands penalties for voyeurism and obscenity laws to include victims who are impaired persons.
Sponsors: Anielski(R); 55 Republicans and 23 Democrats
Status: Passed House 93-0; Passed Senate 29-0
HB 77: Child care centers
Effect: Criminalizes operating a sick-child care center without a license.
Sponsors: Retherford(R); No cosponsors
Status: 3 hearings in House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 92: Public indecency
Effect: Expands sex offender registry for public indecency offenses in front of minors, which includes criminal penalties for not reporting.
Sponsors: Schaffer(R); 24 Republicans and 10 Democrats
Status: Passed House 80-0; Passed Senate 31-0; Signed by Governor

HB 97: Spousal exceptions – sex offenses
Effect: Eliminates spousal exceptions for offenses of rape, sexual battery, and several related offenses.
Sponsors: G. Johnson(D) and Boggs(D); 1 Republican and 14 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 109: Felony offenses against disabled or elderly victims
Effect: Enhances penalties for felony offenses committed against disabled or elderly victims.
Sponsors: Patmon(D); 2 Republicans
Status: 2 hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 111: Mental health commitments
Effect: Criminalizes providing certain alcohol and drug addiction services without a license.
Sponsors: Carfagna(R) and Ryan(R); 41 Republicans and 28 Democrats
Status: Passed House 94-0; Passed Senate 31-0; House Concurrence 86-4; Signed by Governor

HB 113: Union dues
Effect: Criminalizes requiring employees to join unions, pay union dues and fees, and related actions.
Sponsors: Brinkman(R); 12 Republicans
Status: No hearings

HB 120: Precious metals
Effect: Criminalizes advertising as precious metals dealer when not licensed.
Sponsors: Henne(R); 1 Republican and 1 Democrat
Status: 2 hearings in House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 141: Involuntary manslaughter
Effect: Expands involuntary manslaughter offense to include the sale, distribution, etc. of controlled substances.
Sponsors: Dever(R) and Wiggam(R); 8 Republicans
Status: 4 hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 148: Home improvement contractors
Effect: Prohibits acting as a home improvement contractor without board registration.
Sponsors: Patmon(D); 1 Republican
Status: 1 hearing in House Finance Committee

HB 149: Abortion trafficking
Effect: Expands scope of and enhances penalties for abortion trafficking.
Sponsors: Patmon(D) and Conditt(R); 23 Republicans
Status: 4 hearings in House Health Committee

HB 151: Firearms dealers
Effect: Creates offense “Illegal Transfer of a Firearm” with regard to certain firearms sales.
Sponsors: Patmon(D); no cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing in House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

HB 152: Hunting licenses
Effect: Criminalizes hunting with a firearm restricted license.
Sponsors: Patmon(D); no cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

HB 153: Imitation firearms
Effect: Creates a variety of criminal offenses regarding illegal manufacture, sale, alteration, disguising, etc. of imitation firearms.
Sponsors: Patmon(D); no cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

HB 182: Debt adjusting
Effect: Criminalizes not disclosing to debtors certain creditor information regarding settlement negotiations.
Sponsors: Seitz(R); 5 Republicans
Status: Passed House 58-37, 2 hearings in Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee
HB 190: Rail crossings
Effect: Criminalizes motorist’s failure to stop for on-track railroad equipment.
Sponsors: LePore-Hagan(D), Schuring(R); 25 Republicans, 29 Democrats
Status: Passed House 88-0

HB 191: Nurse anesthetists
Effect: Prohibits certified registered nurse anesthetists from issuing orders for drugs or directing others to do the same.
Sponsors: Gonzales(R); 5 Republicans, 1 Democrat
Status: 4 hearings in House Health Committee

HB 198: Lottery ticket purchases
Effect: Criminalizes accepting a credit card for lottery ticket purchases.
Sponsors: Koehler(R); 9 Republicans, 2 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB 199: Mortgage lending
Effect: Criminalizes various actions including acting as a mortgage lender or broker without proper certification.
Sponsors: Blessing III(R); 22 Republicans, 1 Democrat
Status: Passed House 67-17, passed Senate 80-8, signed by Governor

HB 211: Home inspectors
Effect: Prohibits unlicensed home inspectors and misrepresenting licensure.
Sponsors: Hughes(R), 20 Republicans, 17 Democrats
Status: Passed House 74-6, passed out of Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee

HB 213: Real estate appraisers
Effect: Criminalizes numerous actions including altering or modifying completed appraisal reports.
Sponsors: Dever(R); 8 Republicans, 11 Democrats
Status: Passed House 82-8, passed Senate 31-1, signed by Governor

HB 214: Down syndrome abortion ban
Effect: Criminalizes performing an abortion when there is a fetal diagnosis of Down syndrome or any other reason to believe a fetus may have Down syndrome.
Sponsors: LaTourette(R), Merrin(R); 52 Republicans
Status: Passed House 63-30, passed Senate 20-12, signed by Governor

HB 226: Fireworks laws
Effect: Prohibits negligently discharging, igniting, exploding fireworks while intoxicated.
Sponsors: Seitz(R), Sweeney(D); 7 Republicans
Status: Passed House 77-12, 3 hearings in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

HB 228: Gun laws
Effect: Expands unlawful transactions offense to include three additional situations.
Sponsors: Johnson(R), LaTourette(R); 60 Republicans
Status: Passed House 64-26, passed Senate 19-10, House veto override 67-22, Senate veto override 21-11

HB 233: Concealed firearms
Effect: Creates offense of criminal trespass with a deadly weapon.
Sponsors: Becker(R); 55 Republicans
Status: Passed House 64-31

HB 234: Reproductive health care access
Effect: Criminalizes impeding access to reproductive health care.
Sponsors: Howse(D), LePore-Hagan(D); 9 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 236: Elevator laws
Effect: Outlaws providing conveyance services or conducting inspections of the same without a license.
Sponsors: Cupp(R), Patton(R); 1 Republican
Status: 3 hearings in House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 258: Abortion ban
Effect: Criminalizes performing an abortion if a fetal heartbeat is detected.
Sponsors: Hagan(R), Hood(R); 61 Republicans, 1 Democrat

HB 276: Utility workers – aggravated menacing
Effect: Expands aggravated menacing offense to include protection of utility workers.
Sponsors: Greenspan(R), Rezabek(R); 20 Republicans, 19 Democrats
Status: Passed House 89-3, 3 hearings in Senate Judiciary Committee
**HB 278: Vehicular assault**  
Effect: Expands vehicular assault offense to include failure to comply with move-over law.  
Sponsors: Patton(R), Kelly(D); 1 Republican, 2 Democrats  
Status: Passed House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 282: Criminal mischief – rental property**  
Effect: Expands criminal mischief law to include rental properties when subject to mortgage and foreclosure actions.  
Sponsors: Hambley(R); 8 Republicans  
Status: 4 hearings in House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development Committee

**HB 296: Drug offenses – treatment facilities**  
Effect: Enhances penalties for some drug offenses near treatment facilities.  
Sponsors: Gavarone(R); 38 Republicans, 6 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 84-0, Passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee

**HB 303: Service animals**  
Effect: Criminalizes falsely claiming an animal is a service animal to gain access to public accommodations.  
Sponsors: Kelly(D), Lipps(R); 6 Republicans, 9 Democrats  
Status: 1 hearing in House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee

**HB 305: Protection orders**  
Effect: Prohibits possession of firearm if convicted of domestic violence, assault, etc. if the victim is a family or household member. Also prohibits the same if there is a court order or temporary protection order with regard to a family or household member.  
Sponsors: Antonio(D), Boyd(D); 10 Democrats  
Status: 1 hearing in House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

**HB 312: Political subdivision spending**  
Effect: Expands misuse of credit card laws to include new parties.  
Sponsors: Greenspan(R), Schuring(R); 47 Republicans, 17 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 90-0, passed Senate 32-0, House concurrence 91-0, signed by Governor

**HB 327: Importuning**  
Effect: Expands importuning offense to include mandatory prison terms when victims are minors under certain circumstances.  
Sponsors: Schaffer(R), K. Smith(D); 23 Republicans, 10 Democrats  
Status: 4 hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 348: Fentanyl penalties**  
Effect: Enhances various penalties with regard to possession of and trafficking fentanyl and carfentanil.  
Sponsors: Ginter(R); no cosponsors  
Status: No hearings

**HB 349: Search and rescue animals**  
Effect: Expands current law and increases penalties for assault of search and rescue animals.  
Sponsors: LaTourette(R); 10 Republicans, 7 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 69-11, 1 hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee

**HB 352: Dangerous dogs**  
Effect: Expands current law and increases penalties for various violations of dangerous dog laws.  
Sponsors: Rezabek(R), Huffman(R); no cosponsors  
Status: 1 hearing in House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

**HB 355: Sexting**  
Effect: Criminalizes sexting and related actions by those under 19 years of age.  
Sponsors: Hill(R), Rezabek(R); 20 Republicans, 13 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 85-0, 2 hearings in Senate Judiciary Committee

**HB 360: Bullying and hazing in schools**  
Effect: Increases penalty for hazing and creates additional hazing penalties.  
Sponsors: Greenspan(R); 13 Republicans, 4 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 68-26, 2 hearings in Senate Education Committee

**HB 365: Indefinite sentencing**  
Effect: Provides for indefinite sentencing for first, second, and some third degree felony offenses.  
Sponsors: Hughes(R), Boggs(D); 26 Republicans, 19 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 83-3
**HB 374: Child enticement**  
Effect: Increases penalties and creates new prohibitions regarding child enticement laws.  
Sponsors: Cupp(R), Duffey(R); 4 Republicans, 2 Democrats  
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 395: Firearm accessories**  
Effect: Criminalizes sale, transfer, and manufacture of devices or products to accelerate a semi-automatic firearm’s rate of fire.  
Sponsors: Patmon(D); 4 Democrats  
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 405: Counterfeiting**  
Effect: Creates counterfeiting offense.  
Sponsors: Perales(R); 49 Republicans, 25 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 87-1, passed Senate 29-0, signed by Governor

**HB 423: Masked intimidation**  
Effect: Creates the crime of masked intimidation.  
Sponsors: Lang(R), Seitz(R); 5 Republicans  
Status: 2 hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 426: School employees – sexual conduct**  
Effect: Expands offense of sexual battery to include additional school employees.  
Sponsors: Hagan(R); 9 Republicans, 1 Democrat  
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 432: Student loans**  
Effect: Creates numerous crimes with regard to student loans, including violating application requirements.  
Sponsors: Boggs(D), Kelly(D); 1 Republican, 7 Democrats  
Status: 1 hearing in House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development Committee

**HB 455: Cocaine and drug offenses**  
Effect: Increases penalties for certain drug offenses and clarifies cocaine offense sentencing includes weight of actual cocaine plus any mixture or additives that are not cocaine.  
Sponsors: Wiggam(R); 18 Republicans  
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 457: Failed drug tests**  
Effect: Requires jail (or treatment) for those who fail drug test for heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil while on parole or community control sanction.  
Sponsors: Antani(R); no cosponsors  
Status: 2 hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 482: Nuisance properties**  
Effect: Creates penalty for failing to comply with an order requiring abatement of a public notice.  
Sponsors: Lipps(R), A. Miller(D); 3 Democrats  
Status: 1 hearing in House Civil Justice Committee

**HB 484: Health districts**  
Effect: Expands misuse of credit card offense to include health district officers and employees.  
Sponsors: Brenner(R); 3 Republicans  
Status: Passed by House State & Local Government Committee

**HB 489: Financial institutions**  
Effect: Criminalizes acting as a mortgage servicer without proper registration.  
Sponsors: Dever(R); 31 Republicans, 10 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 86-6, passed Senate 30-0, House concurrence 83-0, signed by Governor

**HB 496: Assault penalties – public transportation**  
Effect: Increases assault penalties when the victim is a transit employee and increases penalty for evading fare.  
Sponsors: Kelly(D), Perales(R); 6 Democrats  
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 497: Private sexual images**  
Effect: Criminalizes dissemination of private sexual images without consent of subject.  
Sponsors: Rogers(D), Manning(R); 36 Republicans, 20 Democrats  
Status: Passed House 81-0, passed Senate 31-0, House concurrence 85-0, signed by Governor

**HB 498: Resisting arrest**  
Effect: Enhances penalties for resisting arrest offenses.  
Sponsors: Schuring(R); no cosponsors  
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee
HB 515: Parental rights
Effect: Expands in a few ways the offense of endangering children.
Sponsors: Pelanda(R); 4 Republicans, 5 Democrats
Status: 3 hearings in House Community & Family Advancement Committee

HB 520: Solicitation
Effect: Increases penalty for solicitation when person solicited is over 18.
Sponsors: A. Miller(D), Hughes(R); no cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 523: Abuse reporting
Effect: Prohibits a false report regarding those required to report animal abuse.
Sponsors: Lanese(R), Perales(R); 10 Republicans, 10 Democrats
Status: Passed House 80-6

HB 528: Corpse abuse
Effect: Expands the crime of and penalties for corpse abuse.
Sponsors: R. Smith(R), Rezabek(R); no cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 550: Family leave
Effect: Criminalizes failing to remit premiums withheld from employees' wages.
Sponsors: Boyd(D), Boggs(D); 25 Democrats
Status: No hearings

HB 552: Animal euthanasia regulations
Effect: Criminalizes performing chemical capture without proper certification or with unapproved drugs.
Sponsors: LaTourette(R); 13 Republicans, 10 Democrats
Status: Passed House 82-3, 2 hearings in Senate Agriculture Committee

HB 553: Theft in office
Effect: Increases penalties for theft in office.
Sponsors: Cupp(R); 3 Republicans
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 557: Art therapy
Effect: Prohibits engaging in art therapy or using the title of art therapist without a license.
Sponsors: Anielski(R); 3 Republicans, 6 Democrats
Status: Passed House Health Committee

HB 560: Pet food
Effect: Outlaws adulterating or distributing adulterated commercial feed or pet food.
Sponsors: Lanese(R); No cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing in House Agriculture & Rural Development Committee

HB 561: Spousal exceptions – sex offenses
Effect: Eliminates spousal exceptions for rape and similar offenses.
Sponsors: Boggs(D), Lanese(R); 2 Republicans, 2 Democrats
Status: Passed by House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 565: Abortion ban
Effect: Effectively bans and criminalizes abortion.
Sponsors: Hood(R), Vitale(R); 16 Republicans
Status: No hearings

HB 566: Cigarette prices
Effect: Criminalizes retailers purchasing or acquiring cigarettes for less than the minimum wholesale price and related actions.
Sponsors: Scherer(R), Cera(D); 5 Republicans
Status: Passed by House Ways & Means Committee

HB 585: Gun laws
Effect: Enhances and expands various existing gun penalties and prohibits purchasing or obtaining a firearm on behalf of a third party.
Sponsors: Henne(R); no cosponsors
Status: 4 hearings in House State & Local Government Committee

HB 597: Phone numbers
Effect: Criminalizes theft or conversion of a phone number and deceptive practices regarding caller ID services.
Sponsors: Faber(R), Dever(R); 9 Republicans
Status: 3 hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee

HB 629: Campaign finance
Effect: Outlaws knowingly using contributions to pay for or reimburse any person for travel costs outside the U.S.
Sponsors: Antani(R); no cosponsors
Status: No hearings

HB 633: Littering
Effect: Criminalizes littering on one's own property in quantities dangerous to life or health.
Sponsors: Boggs(D), Miller(D); No cosponsors
Status: 2 hearings in House State & Local Government Committee
**HB 638: Child abuse**
Effect: Extends period of time for commencing prosecution for child abuse or neglect.
Sponsors: Kent(D); no cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

**HB 655: Fertilizer use**
Effect: Criminalizes variety of reckless manure applications in Western Basin of Lake Erie.
Sponsors: Sheehy(D); 3 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in House Agriculture & Rural Development Committee

**HB 656: Law enforcement database**
Effect: Criminalizes unauthorized use of information obtained from database tracking law enforcement officer terminations and resignations.
Sponsors: Sheehy(D); 2 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

**HB 658: Child custody – gender dysphoria**
Effect: Outlaws government employees providing or authorizing gender dysphoria treatment to a minor without parental consent.
Sponsors: Brinkman(R), Zeltwanger(R); no cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing in House Community & Family Advancement Committee

**HB 674: Transit system employee assaults**
Effect: Increases penalties for assault of transit system employees.
Sponsors: Barnes(D); no cosponsors
Status: No hearings

**HB 684: Companion animals**
Effect: Creates criminal penalty for improper tethering if the animal becomes sick or dies as result.
Sponsors: Barnes(D); no cosponsors
Status: No hearings

**HB 685: Drone operation**
Effect: Criminalizes drone operation in certain areas and failing to track retail drone sales.
Sponsors: Barnes(D); no cosponsors
Status: No hearings

**HB 688: Pregnancy restraints**
Effect: Expands criminal offense of “interfering with civil rights” to include restraining a pregnant woman during her third trimester.
Sponsors: Antonio(D); 8 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in House Community & Family Advancement Committee

**HB 703: Concealed handguns**
Effect: Creates offense of illegal possession of a firearm in a government facility.
Sponsors: Becker(R); 9 Republicans
Status: 1 hearing in House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

**HB 717: Massage parlor regulation**
Effect: Criminalizes acting as a massager for a massage establishment without a license.
Sponsors: Brenner(R); 2 Republicans
Status: 3 hearings in House State & Local Government Committee

**HB 754: Animal ownership**
Effect: Prohibits those convicted of animal cruelty from owning or possessing a companion animal.
Sponsors: Brinkman(R); 5 Republicans
Status: 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice

**HB 793: Sexual battery**
Effect: Expands crime of sexual battery to include removing a condom without knowledge or consent during sexual conduct with another person.
Sponsors: Ramos(D); No cosponsors
Status: No hearings

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**HOUSE SUMMARY**

**HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED**

796

**HOUSE BILLS WHICH PUT MORE PEOPLE IN PRISON OR JAIL**

94

**PERCENTAGE OF HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED**

11.8%
SB 38: Minimum wage
Effect: Creates criminal penalties for violating various misclassification provisions.
Sponsors: Yuko(D); 5 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee

SB 42: Drug offenses
Effect: Ensures that drug offense penalties that refer to particular substances also include mixtures and compounds including any amount of that substance.
Sponsors: Eklund(R); 9 Republicans, 1 Democrat
Status: 3 hearings in Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 67: Violent offender database
Effect: Criminalizes failing to enroll in violent offender database or notify authorities of change of address.
Sponsors: Garder(R), Hite(R); no cosponsors
Status: 4 hearings in Senate Judiciary

SB 145: Abortion method
Effect: Outlaws performing or attempting to perform an abortion using dilation and extraction method.
Sponsors: Huffman(R), Wilson(R); 42 Republicans
Status: Passed Senate 24-9, passed House 62-27, Senate concurrence 23-9, signed by Governor

SB 150: Domestic violence - firearms
Effect: Outlaws failing to transfer firearms after a domestic violence, assault conviction against a family member, or after receiving certain protection orders.
Sponsors: Brown(D); 3 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 164: Down syndrome abortion ban
Effect: Criminalizes performing an abortion when there is a fetal diagnosis of Down syndrome or any other reason to believe a fetus may have Down syndrome.
Sponsors: LaRose(R); 16 Republicans
Status: Passed Senate 20-12, passed out of House Health Committee
SB 171: Protection orders
Effect: Enhances penalties for violations of certain protection orders.
Sponsors: Hottinger(R); 21 Republicans, 6 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 32-0, 4 hearings in House Criminal Justice Committee

SB 195: Dog laws
Effect: Enhances various penalties re: Ohio’s dangerous dog laws.
Sponsors: Beagle(R); 1 Republican
Status: 3 hearings in Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 196: Bullying
Effect: Creates the offense of aggravated bullying.
Sponsors: Williams(D); 1 Democrat
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 197: Bullying in schools
Effect: Creates the offense of aggravated bullying.
Sponsors: Williams(D); 1 Democrat
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Education Committee

SB 201: Prison terms and indefinite sentencing
Effect: Provides for indefinite sentencing for first, second, and some third degree felony offenses. Expands offense of pandering obscenity involving a minor and related crimes when the victim is an impaired person.
Sponsors: Bacon(R), O’Brien(D); 57 Republicans, 17 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 33-0, passed House 76-0, Senate concurrence 76-0, signed by Governor

SB 207: Strangulation
Effect: Expands offense of domestic violence to include suffocation and strangulation.
Sponsors: Kunze(R); 16 Republicans, 7 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 30-0

SB 214: Genital mutilation
Effect: Criminalizes female genital mutilation against those under age 18.
Sponsors: Terhar(R), Lehner(R); 50 Republicans, 22 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 31-0, passed House 86-0, signed by Governor

SB 215: Create Ohio Pharmaceutical Assistance Program
Effect: Criminalizes making false statement on application to participate in program.
Sponsors: Skindell(D); no cosponsors
Status: No hearings

SB 217: Brine disposal
Effect: Increases penalties for improper disposal of brine.
Sponsors: Schiavoni(D); 4 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

SB 219: Firearm accessories
Effect: Outlaws using devices to increase rate of fire for semi-automatic firearms.
Sponsors: Thomas(D); 5 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB 229: Regulation of controlled substances
Effect: Expands misuse of credit prohibitions to include board of health employees.
Sponsors: Eklund(R); 30 Republicans, 13 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 32-0, passed House 80-0, Senate concurrence 32-0, signed by Governor

SB 231: Violent offender database
Effect: Criminalizes failing to enroll in violent offender database or notify authorities of change of address.
Sponsors: Gardner(R); 59 Republicans, 18 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 31-2, passed House 85-0, Senate concurrence 24-3, signed by Governor

SB 244: Prostitution
Effect: Increases penalties for promoting prostitution.
Sponsors: Dolan(R), Manning(R); 16 Republicans, 7 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 33-0, 1 hearing in House Criminal Justice Committee

SB 249: Terminal conditions
Effect: Criminalizes engaging in fraudulent activities when requesting aid-in-dying medication.
Sponsors: Tavares(D); 2 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee

SB 250: Critical infrastructure interference
Effect: Enhances some criminal penalties when directed at critical infrastructure sites.
Sponsors: Hoagland(R); 10 Republicans
Status: Passed Senate 23-5
SB 251: Dissemination of private sexual images
Effect: Outlaws the nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images.
Sponsors: Schiavoni(D); 15 Republicans, 7 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 31-0

SB 255: Occupational licensing
Effect: Establishes criminal penalties for performing home inspections without a license and making false representations about license status.
Sponsors: McColley(R)
Status: Passed Senate 24-8, passed House 55-27, Senate concurrence 24-8, signed by Governor

SB 260: Assault weapons
Effect: Outlaws possession or acquisition of assault weapons.
Sponsors: Skindell(D), Tavares(D); 5 Democrats
Status: No hearings

SB 261: Paid leave
Effect: Criminalizes failing to remit premiums withheld from employee wages.
Sponsors: Tavares(D); 1 Republican, 5 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee

SB 267: Soliciting
Effect: Increases penalty for solicitation.
Sponsors: Brown(D), Kunze(R); 1 Republican, 2 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 268: Theft in office
Effect: Expands offense of theft in office in numerous ways.
Sponsors: Wilson(R); 34 Republicans, 10 Democrats
Status: Passed Senate 32-0, passed House 86-0

SB 278: Access to firearms
Effect: Criminalizes having a firearm while subject to an emergency risk protection order and filing a false petition for an emergency risk protection order. Expands offense of having weapons while under a disability.
Sponsors: Schiavoni(D), Williams(D); 5 Democrats
Status: 2 hearings in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB 279: Firearm storage
Effect: Prohibits negligent storage of firearms.
Sponsors: Tavares(D), Sykes(D); 5 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB 283: Firearm transfer restrictions
Effect: Criminalizes three types of firearm transfers.
Sponsors: Thomas(D), Schiavoni(D); 6 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB 284: Firearm purchases
Effect: Increases penalty for improperly furnishing firearms to an underage person.
Sponsors: Thomas(D), Schiavoni(D); 6 Democrats
Status: No hearings

SB 285: Firearms transfers – gun shows
Effect: Criminalizes transfer of firearms involving unlicensed transferors and transferees.
Sponsors: Thomas(D), Schiavoni(D); 6 Democrats
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB 288: Firearm regulations
Effect: Expands weapons under disability prohibitions to include domestic violence, violating a protection order, and any felony offense. Expands offense of unlawful transactions in weapons and enhances some other penalties.
Sponsors: Eklund(R), Kunze(R); no cosponsors
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB 290: Telephone number theft
Effect: Creates four offenses regarding theft of or conversion of phone numbers and misleading caller ID information.
Sponsors: Burke(R); 2 Republicans, 1 Democrat
Status: 2 hearings in Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 304: Fertilizer use
Effect: Expands restrictions regarding manure application in western Lake Erie basin.
Sponsors: Brown(D), Yuko(D); 4 Democrats
Status: No hearings

SB 308: Elevator laws
Effect: Criminalizes violating elevator license law.
Sponsors: Uecker(R), Yuko(D); no cosponsors
Status: Passed Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee

SB 329: Hazing
Effect: Expands offense of hazing and increases the penalty.
Sponsors: Bacon(R); 1 Republican
Status: 1 hearing in Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee
SB 339: Statute of limitations for rape and related crimes
Effect: Eliminates statute of limitations for rape, conspiracy to commit rape, complicity in committing rape, and attempted rape.
Sponsors: Schiavoni(D); 5 Democrats
Status: No hearings

SENATE BILL INTRODUCED

SENATE BILLS WHICH PUT MORE PEOPLE IN PRISON OR JAIL
43
PERCENTAGE OF SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED
12.3%

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OHIO’S STATEHOUSE-TO-PRISON PIPELINE, PLEASE VISIT: ACLUOHIO.ORG/PIPELINE.