



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter

February 23, 2026



IN THE NEWS

[Ohio Bill Threatens Fines for AI Chatbots That Encourage Harm of Self or Others](#)

[Ohio Lawmakers Move to Add Golf Carts to State's Vehicular Homicide Law](#)

[Ohio Lawmakers Propose Stiffer Fines for Ignoring, Harassing School Crossing Guards](#)

[Area House Rep Touts Bill to Modernize, Streamline Ohio's Criminal Reporting System, Background Checks](#)

OPAA NEWS

The OPAA Spring Training is Moving to a New Location – The Ohioan Hotel and Event Center at Polaris. Save the Date for April 23 – 24.

Signed by Governor

[Senate Bill 295 \(Competency Restoration\)](#) sponsored by Sens. Manning (R – North Ridgeville) and Patton (R – Strongsville) extends the competency restoration time period to 3 years for cases where a defendant is facing a life sentence, tolls the time period during periods of non-compliance with treatment, and requires notice to the court of non-compliance with treatment. The bill was signed February 20, 2026 and went into effect immediately.

Introduced

[House Bill 689 \(Modernize Fingerprint, Disposition Reporting\)](#) sponsored by Rep. White (R – Kettering) seeks to improve background check information by ensuring at various stages of a case that fingerprints have been taken and submitted to BCI.

[House Bill 690 \(School Crossing Guards\)](#) sponsored by Reps. White (R – Kettering) and Young (R – Washington Twp.) enacts penalties for failing to obey a school crossing guard including changes to vehicular homicide and vehicular assault, and enhances the penalty for assault of a crossing guard.

[Senate Bill 357 \(Violent Offender Database\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Gavarone (R – Bowling Green) includes F2 strangulation in the offenses for which a person must register with the violent offender database and requires that public records in the database be made available on the internet and that database information be made available in LEADS.

[House Bill 701 \(Juvenile Offender CQE\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Williams (R – Toledo) and Humphrey (D – Columbus) creates a process by which a juvenile offender can apply for a certificate of qualification for employment.

[House Bill 703 \(Surety Bail Bonds\)](#) sponsored by Rep. Williams (R – Toledo) permits the surrender of a defendant by a surety bail bond agent and to require surety bail bond agents to be licensed property and casualty insurance agents.

[House Bill 705 \(Alford Pleas\)](#) sponsored by Rep. Williams (R – Toledo) prohibits a sentencing court from imposing, as a condition of community control, a requirement that the offender admit guilt if the offender was found guilty after entering an Alford plea.

[Senate Bill 355 \(Aggravated Menacing – Utility Workers\)](#) sponsored by Sens. Smith (D – Cleveland) and Cirino (R – Kirtland) enhances the penalties for aggravated menacing involving a utility worker.

For a complete list of bills that the OPAA is tracking and OPAA positions on legislation, please visit www.ohiopa.org.