



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter

February 5, 2024



IN THE NEWS

[Bill Introduced in Ohio Senate Aims to Protect Children from AI Abuse](#)

[DeWine Ways in on Death Penalty, Redistricting, Abortion and More](#)

[Human Traffickers Could Face Life Sentences Under New Ohio House Bill](#)

[Gov. DeWine: Close Ohio's Three Youth Prisons, Build a Dozen Smaller Facilities](#)

[DeWine Takes on Candy Styled Delta-8 THC Products](#)

OPAA NEWS

OPAA's Spring Training is April 18-19 at a new location – Hilton Polaris outside Columbus.

Passed by House

[House Bill 258 \(Tobacco Products – Minors\)](#) sponsored by Rep. Carruthers (R – Hamilton) passed the House 83 – 8 on January 10. The bill increases the fines for repeatedly selling tobacco products to minors and applies the public nuisance law to places where such sales occur.

Introduced

[House Bill 366 \(Organized Retail Theft\)](#) sponsored by Rep. Ghanbari (R – Perrysburg) creates an organized retail theft task force within OCIC, creates the offense of organized retail theft, raises the penalty for criminal mischief to an F3 when the property is a retail pump or EV charging station, specifies that theft of mail is a minimum of an F5 offense, amends the counterfeiting statute to prohibit using a scanning device or encoding machine, and makes changes to corrupt activity as it relates to retail theft.

[House Bill 377 \(Human Trafficking Prevention\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Williams (R – Toledo) and Santucci (R – Warren) increases the penalties for kidnapping, abduction, and human trafficking under circumstances where those offenses are committed for the purpose of holding another in a condition of involuntary servitude or with a sexual motivation specification. Reduces the mens rea for human trafficking to recklessly.

[House Bill 385/Senate Bill 214 \(Human Trafficking – Record Expungement\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Williams (R – Toledo) and Richardson (R – Marysville), and Sen. Kunze (R – Columbus) allows victims of human trafficking who have not been convicted of soliciting, loitering to engage in solicitation, or prostitution, to have records of misdemeanors, F5s, and F4s expunged if they can show by clear and convincing evidence that the offense was the result of human trafficking victimization.

[House Bill 367 \(Deepfakes\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Mathews (R – Lebanon) and Hillyer (R – Uhrichsville) creates a private cause of action for malicious deepfakes and amends the extortion statute to prohibit certain uses of malicious deepfakes.

[Senate Bill 197 \(Sealing/Expungement OVI\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Antani (R – Miamisburg) allows for the sealing or expungement of charges dismissed through intervention in lieu of conviction when those charges are connected to an OVI offense.

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