



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter

January 26, 2026



IN THE NEWS

[Voting Rights Groups Threaten Lawsuit Over New Ohio Elections Law](#)

[GOP Ohio Lawmaker Calls for Camera Monitoring System to Prevent Child Care Fraud](#)

[Ohio Lawmakers Want AG to Have Power to Crack Down on Childcare Fraud](#)

[Panel in Secretary of State's Office Replaces Elections Commission, Holds First Meeting](#)

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.

Introduced

[House Bill 647 \(Publicly Funded Child Care\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Plummer (R – Dayton) and Young (R – Washington Twp.) revises the law governing publicly funded child care to eliminate the calculation of payments based on a child's enrollment rather than attendance, to prohibit a provider from seeking or accepting payment for a child not in attendance, and to expedite the suspension process for child care providers. The legislation grants the Attorney General authority to investigate and prosecute criminal violations.

[House Bill 649 \(Child Care Surveillance and Attendance\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Williams (R – Toledo) and Swearingen (R – Huron) requires video surveillance of child care centers, establishes an online portal for tracking child care center attendance, requires investigations of waste, fraud, and abuse allegations relating to providers of publicly funded child care, and grants the Attorney General authority to investigate and prosecute criminal violations.

[House Bill 622 \(Mental Health, Substance Abuse Pilot Program\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Williams (R – Toledo) and Robb Blasdel (R – Columbiana) requires a prosecutor to file for civil commitment of a defendant who is found incompetent to stand trial and who is charged with a felony or a misdemeanor offense of violence. Creates the mental health and substance abuse community-based correctional facility pilot program.

[House Bill 626 \(Court Hearings – Electronic Notification\)](#) sponsored by Rep. Williams (R – Toledo) requires courts to supply certain electronic notification of hearings to defendants in criminal and traffic cases.

[House Bill 631 \(Marijuana – Underage Possession\)](#) sponsored by Reps. K. Miller (R – Newark) and Ghanbari (R – Perrysburg) provides that possession of marijuana by a person under the age of 21 is a misdemeanor of the third degree and authorizes courts to place a person charged with underage possession of marijuana into a diversion program.

[House Bill 615 \(Retail Theft\)](#) sponsored by Rep. Williams (R – Toledo) prohibits knowingly participating with one or more others to engage in theft when the property involved is retail property with a value of one thousand dollars or more. The penalty for a violation is an F5 if committed by fewer than 4 people, an F3 if committed by 4 or more other persons, and an F2 if committed by 10 or more other persons and the value of the property is \$5,000 or more.

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