



# Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter

July 3, 2023



## IN THE NEWS

[Keeping Secrets: Ohio Moves to Block Court Records, Spending from View](#)

[Lawmakers Want to Purge Slavery As a Punishment for Crimes from Ohio Constitution](#)

[Patrol Commander Says Texting Law, Blitzes May be Making Roads Safer](#)

[Rape Survivor Advocates Push for Right to Know Provisions in State Budget](#)

## OPAA NEWS

OPAA Will Host a Webinar on Closing Arguments at Noon on July 20 with Steve Taylor Presenting

## Introduced

### [House Bill 230 \(Drug Trafficking, Organized Trafficking of Persons\)](#)

sponsored by Reps. Abrams (R – Cincinnati) and Swearingen (R – Huron) increases penalties for trafficking cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and methamphetamine. Creates a 5-year specification for involuntary manslaughter based on the presence of lethal amount of fentanyl. Removes the clause in the drug possession statute relative to fentanyl-related compounds mixed with Schedule III, IV, and V substances. Creates the offense of participating in an organization or operation for trafficking in persons.

[House Bill 233 \(Self Defense – Pretrial Motion\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Williams (R – Toledo) and Hillyer (R – Urichsville) creates a process by which a person accused of an offense that allegedly involved the person’s use of self-defense can file a pretrial motion requesting the court to establish a rebuttable presumption of self-defense. The motion must be supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

[House Bill 221 \(Post-Conviction Relief\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Schmidt (R – Miami Twp.) and Upchurch (D – Cleveland) expands who may file a petition for post-conviction and second or successive petitions for post-conviction relief based on “qualifying DNA testing.”

[House Bill 212 \(Ohio Property Protection Act\)](#) sponsored by Reps. King (R – Celina) and Klopfenstein (R – Haviland) establishes a process by which “foreign adversaries” can be prohibited from owning real property in Ohio. The process authorizes the county auditor to refer property transfers to the county prosecutor for investigation when the auditor has a reason to believe that someone would be prohibited from purchasing the property due to their status as a “foreign adversary.”

[House Bill 206 \(School Expulsions\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Click (R – Vickery) and Robb Blasdel (R – Columbiana) permits a school to establish a policy that authorizes expulsion based on actions that pose an “imminent and severe endangerment to the health and safety of other students or employees.

## Passed by House

[House Bill 34 \(Jury Duty – Breast Feeding Exception\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Klopfenstein (R – Haviland) and King (R – Celina) permits a prospective juror who is a mother who is breast feeding to be excused from jury service.

For a complete list of bills that the OPAA is tracking and OPAA positions on legislation, please visit [www.ohiopa.org](http://www.ohiopa.org).