



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter – 133rd General Assembly

March 4, 2019



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OPAA NEWS

Registration is open for
OPAA's Spring
Training, April 25 – 26
in Columbus.

Introduced

[Senate Bill 54 \(Prohibit Death Penalty – Serious Mental Illness\)](#) sponsored by Sens. Eklund and Williams is a reintroduction of House Bill 81/Senate Bill 40 from the previous General Assembly. The bill prohibits imposing the death penalty when the offender had one of five specified serious mental illnesses at the time of the offense and demonstrates that the illness affected their capacity to conform their conduct to the law or appreciate the nature, consequences, or wrongfulness of their conduct. *The OPAA opposes this legislation.*

[Senate Bill 55 \(Enhance Penalties – Drug Trafficking\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Gavarone enhances penalties for certain drug trafficking offenses committed in the vicinity of community addiction services provider. *The OPAA supports this legislation.*

[Senate Bill 57 \(Decriminalize Hemp\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Steve Huffman decriminalizes hemp and hemp products and establishes a hemp cultivation licensing program. *The OPAA has not yet taken a position.*

[House Bill 85 \(Capital Case Costs\)](#) sponsored by Reps. Wilkin and Rogers authorizes the Attorney General and the State Public Defender to request funding from the Controlling Board to be transferred to a county, upon request, to defray the costs associated with certain capital cases. *The OPAA supports this legislation.*

[House Bill 87 \(OVI Charge Sealing\)](#) sponsored by Rep. Antani authorizes an offender to apply for the sealing of charges that were dismissed after successful completion of intervention in lieu of conviction when those charges are connected to a conviction for OVI. *The OPAA supports this legislation.*

[Senate Bill 58 \(Nonviolent Criminals – Mental Illness\)](#) sponsored by Sen. Gavarone is a placeholder bill that expresses the intent of the General Assembly to reform the process of restoring the competency of individuals with serious mental illness charged with nonviolent crimes and to provide alternatives for treatment. Because the bill is only a placeholder, it has not yet been reviewed by the OPAA.

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