



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter – 134th General Assembly

March 1, 2021



NEWS

[Aisha's Law Back in Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee](#)

[Bill Seeks Party Labels for Judicial Elections](#)

[Grand Juries and Police Shootings: How Ohio's Process Hurts Public Confidence in Justice System](#)

[Bipartisan Group of Lawmakers Pushes to End State's Death Penalty](#)

[Governor Turns to Budget to Toughen Sentences for Felons with Guns](#)

OPAA NEWS

The OPAA Spring Training is scheduled for April 15 – 16 in Columbus. We have applied for 9 hours of CLE. Attendance is likely to be limited to allow for social distancing.

Introduced

[House Bill 110](#) (Biennial Budget) sponsored by Rep. Oelslager is the state operating budget. Of primary interest to prosecutors are provisions that would reduce the duration of community control and post-release control depending on the seriousness of the offense, provisions increasing the penalties for weapons under disability, unlawful transactions in weapons, improperly furnishing firearms to a minor, and certain weapons specifications, and provisions related to the entry of protection orders and certain warrant information into LEADS and NCIC. The bill also creates several grant funding opportunities related to public safety.

[Senate Bill 90](#) (Domestic Violence – Strangulation) sponsored by Sens. Antonio and Kunze would enact a felony strangulation provision in domestic violence circumstances. The act of strangulation would be an F3 on a first offense and an F2 on any subsequent offense. The legislation specifically provides that it is not necessary to prove that the victim suffered physical harm, serious physical harm, or other visible injury.

[House Bill 121](#) (Sex Crimes – Spousal Exceptions) sponsored by Reps. Boggs and Lanese eliminates the spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, and importuning and permits a person to testify against the person's spouse in a prosecution for any of those offenses.

[House Bill 109](#) (Penalties – Riot Related Offenses) sponsored by Reps. Abrams and Carruthers increases the penalties for certain assault, vandalism, and riot offenses and prohibits bias motivated intimidation of first responders.

[House Bill 116](#) (Computer Crimes) sponsored by Rep. Baldrige updates Ohio computer crimes law. Among other things, it enacts the offenses of electronic computer service interference, electronic data tampering and manipulation, computer trespass, electronic data theft, and unauthorized data disclosure.

[House Bill 150](#) (Public Defender Loan Repayment) sponsored by Reps. Hillyer and Leland enacts a student loan forgiveness program for attorneys who agree to serve as public defenders in areas designated by the state public defender commission as public defender shortage areas and establishes a task force to study Ohio's indigent defense system.