



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter – 133rd General Assembly

September 28, 2020



OPAA NEWS

The OPAA Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 10 – 11 at the Hilton at Easton in Columbus. We are currently planning to hold this event in person. Registrations will be on a first come first served basis due to safety precautions.

The OPAA Awards Committee will soon be seeking nominations for our 2020 awards. Please keep your eyes out for the nomination form and submit your nominations!

We will also soon be discussing OPAA Committee Appointments for 2021. If you are interested in serving on a Committee please let us know!

Passed by Senate

[Senate Bill 256](#) (Juvenile Parole) sponsored by Sens. Lehner and Manning passed the Senate on September 23 (vote 28 – 4). The bill repeals JLWOP and provides for parole eligibility after 25 years for homicide offenses, and after 18 years for non-homicide offenses. The bill also creates a new category of offense, the “aggravated homicide offense” (defined as the purposeful killing of three or more person) for which they may be sentenced to up to 30 years to life. OPAA remains opposed to this bill in its current form.

Introduced

[Senate Bill 353](#) (Bail Reform) sponsored by Sens. Manning and S. Huffman encourages the Supreme Court to amend Crim. R. 46 to reflect the changes recommended by the Supreme Court Task Force to Examine the Ohio Bail System, to require courts to use a risk assessment tool in setting bail, to encourage law enforcement agencies to adopt cite-and-release policies for non-violent misdemeanors and F5s, to require prosecutors to screen cases before a person’s initial appearance for the purpose of determining the appropriate charge, and to require prosecutors to determine the feasibility of expanding or increasing the availability of diversion, among other things.

[Senate Bill 369](#) (Crime Victim Reparations) sponsored by Sens. Lehner and Manning revises the eligibility standards and procedure for awarding reparations to crime victims.

[Senate Bill 370](#) (Arson) sponsored by Sen. Brenner increases the penalties for aggravated arson, arson, disrupting public services, vandalism, criminal damaging, and criminal mischief.

[Senate Bill 359](#) (Emergency Service Responders) sponsored by Sen. Schaffer creates a civil action for law enforcement for abridgement of their civil rights and provides for increased penalties for assault, felonious assault, and intimidation of emergency service responders and specified others.

[House Bill 753](#) (Negligent Assault) sponsored by Rep. Becker prohibits individuals age 18 and older from negligently causing physical harm to a person under age 12 and provides that a violation is an M4.

[House Bill 755/Senate Bill 356](#) (Land Banks) sponsored by Rep. Patton and Sen. Dolan respectively update and modernize Ohio Land Bank law.

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