



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Legislative Newsletter – 133rd General Assembly

July 13, 2020



IN THE NEWS

[Senate Votes to Overhaul Ohio Drug Laws](#)

[Bill Would Allow Attorney General to Prosecute Those Who Damage State Buildings](#)

[Cleveland Browns Player Fights for Second Chance for Juveniles with Life Sentence](#)

[Supreme Court Justice Calls for Plea Agreement Reform](#)

[DeWine to Veto Bill to Lower Fines for Violating Health Orders](#)

Passed by Senate

[Senate Bill 3](#) (Drug Law Reform) sponsored by Sens. Eklund and O'Brien was passed by the Senate on June 30 by a vote of 25 – 4. Prior to passing, the bill was amended in Committee to lower the misdemeanor threshold for heroin possession from 5 grams to 3 grams, grant jurisdiction over misdemeanor drug possession to the common pleas court, authorize the use of TCAP funds for misdemeanor drug possession offenses, and provide that the court keeps jurisdiction over a case if an offender is sent to prison for a technical violation.

Introduced

[House Bill 723](#) (State Property – Prosecution) sponsored by Rep. LaRe authorizes the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute criminal activity that was committed at, or on, any state property and provides that the Attorney General has exclusive supervision and control of all investigations and prosecutions initiated under the bill.

[House Bill 714](#) (Drones) sponsored by Reps. Crossman and Holmes prohibits the use of drones to commit trespass, voyeurism, and stalking.

[House Bill 715](#) (Juvenile Interrogations) sponsored by Reps. Crossman and Upchurch provides that any statement made by a child during a custodial interrogation is inadmissible unless certain conditions such as the presence of a parent, guardian, or attorney during the interrogation, are met.

[House Bill 719](#) (Sentence Reductions) sponsored by Reps. West and Crawley authorizes an offender to apply to the sentencing court for a modification of the penalty, forfeiture, or punishment if the legislature has enacted a law that reduces the penalty, forfeiture, or punishment for the offense of conviction.

[House Bill 716](#) (Strangulation – Law Enforcement) sponsored by Reps. Lepore-Hagan and Galonski prohibits a law enforcement officer acting in the capacity of a law enforcement officer from knowingly causing serious physical harm to another by knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood by applying pressure to the throat or neck and makes the offense a felony of the third degree.

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