

OHIO

House

of

Representatives

JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

TWENTY-THIRD DAY

Hall of the House of Representatives, Columbus, Ohio

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00 o'clock a.m.

The hour having arrived for the meeting of the two houses in joint convention for the purpose of listening to the address of the Honorable Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, before the joint convention.

The members of the Senate preceded by the President and Clerk appeared within the bar of the House.

The President of the Senate called the joint convention to order.

Senator Reineke and Representative Manning announced that a quorum of each house, respectively, was present.

Prayer was offered by Rabbi Gershon Avtzon, Rabbinical Yeshiva, Cincinnati, Ohio. Highland High School Navy JROTC presented the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the posting of the colors.

The Governor was escorted to the rostrum by the committee appointed where he addressed the joint convention.

On motion of Senator Reineke, the joint convention was dissolved.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Pursuant to House Rule No. 25, the Clerk called the House to order.

Representative Newman was selected to preside under the Rule.

The journal of the previous legislative day was read and approved.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following bills were introduced:

H. B. No. 161 - Representatives Bird, Thomas, J.

Cosponsors: Representatives Brennan, Hiner.

To amend sections 351.01, 351.021, 353.06, 5739.01, 5739.08, 5739.09, 5739.091, and 5741.01 of the Revised Code to extend sales and use taxes and local lodging taxes to short-term rentals and to require collection of those taxes by short-term rental platforms.

H. B. No. 162 - Representative Click.

Cosponsors: Representatives King, Williams, Gross, Fowler Arthur, John, Bird, Pizzulli, Dean, Klopfenstein, Odioso.

To enact section 3798.05 of the Revised Code related to medical records of minors and to name the act the My Child-My Chart Act.

H. B. No. 163 - Representatives Rader, Deeter.

Cosponsors: Representatives Fischer, Williams, Lett, Glassburn, McNally, Brennan, Synenberg, White, E., Sigrist, Somani, Brewer, Russo, Miller, J., Thomas, D., Robinson, Grim, Brent, Troy, Cockley, Piccolantonio, Miller, K., Thomas, C., Denson, Upchurch, Abdullahi.

To amend sections 5101.54 and 5101.542 and to enact section 5101.543 of the Revised Code to require Ohio's SNAP program to begin using chip-enabled EBT cards, to name this act the Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act of 2025, and to make an appropriation.

H. B. No. 164 - Representatives Robinson, Miller, J.

Cosponsors: Representatives White, E., Rader, Piccolantonio, Brennan, McNally, Brownlee, Russo.

To enact sections 103.44, 103.45, 103.46, 103.47, 103.48, 103.49, and 103.50 of the Revised Code and to repeal Section 733.40 of H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly to reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee and to make an appropriation.

H. B. No. 165 - Representatives Miller, J., Brewer.

Cosponsors: Representatives Brent, White, E., McNally, Somani, Synenberg, Russo, Cockley, Sims, Grim, Jarrells, Isaacsohn, Rader, Abdullahi, Lett, Brownlee.

To amend sections 3314.03, 3326.11, and 3328.24 and to enact section 3319.2214 of the Revised Code regarding implicit bias training for licensed educators and to make an appropriation.

H. B. No. 166 - Representatives Lawson-Rowe, Williams.

Cosponsors: Representatives Brennan, Brent, Piccolantonio, Brownlee, Click, Fowler Arthur, Jarrells, King, Lett, Miller, K., Rader, Sigrist, Sims, Sweeney, Synenberg, Thomas, D., Upchurch.

To enact section 5.2324 of the Revised Code to designate March 10 as "Harriet Tubman Day."

H. B. No. 167 - Representative White, A.

To amend sections 5725.98, 5726.98, 5729.98, 5747.98, and 5751.98 and to enact sections 5725.39, 5726.62, 5727.242, 5727.301, 5729.22, 5736.51, 5747.87, and 5751.56 of the Revised Code to authorize nonrefundable tax credits for certain employer-provided child care expenditures.

H. B. No. 168 - Representatives Williams, Brennan.

Cosponsors: Representatives Gross, Klopfenstein, Odioso, Miller, K., Dean, Schmidt, Deeter.

To amend sections 2905.05 and 2950.01 of the Revised Code to require that a person act with a sexual motivation or an unlawful purpose to commit the

offense of criminal child enticement.

H. B. No. 169 - Representatives Abdullahi, Somani.

Cosponsors: Representatives Cockley, Brennan, Jarrells, Baker, Brent, Denson, Sims, Brownlee, Upchurch, Sweeney, Piccolantonio, Grim, McNally, Russo, Brewer.

To enact section 5.42 of the Revised Code to designate March 8 as International Women's Day in Ohio.

H. B. No. 170 - Representatives Robb Blasdel, Peterson.

To enact sections 1509.71, 1509.72, 1509.73, 1509.75, 1509.76, 1509.77, 1509.79, 5301.57, 5301.58, 5301.59, and 5301.60 of the Revised Code to establish a process to regulate carbon capture and storage technologies and the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide for long-term storage.

H. B. No. 171 - Representative Schmidt.

To enact section 5534.673 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 28 in Clermont County as the "CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway."

H. B. No. 172 - Representative Newman.

Cosponsors: Representatives Click, Dean, Lear, John, Klopfenstein, Ritter, Ferguson, Mullins, Mathews, T., Creech, Miller, M., Workman, Salvo, Fowler Arthur, Williams.

To amend sections 2151.461, 3129.03, 3313.473, 3798.07, and 3798.12 and to repeal section 5122.04 of the Revised Code to prohibit the provision of mental health services to minors without parental consent.

H. B. No. 173 - Representative Thomas, D.

To amend section 4905.02 and to enact sections 4933.51, 4933.52, 4933.54, 4933.56, 4933.57, 4933.59, 4933.60, and 4933.63 of the Revised Code to exempt from regulation as a public utility certain persons or entities providing behind-the-meter utility services and to allow the Public Utilities Commission to register providers of such services.

H. B. No. 174 - Representatives Rader, Tims.

Cosponsors: Representatives White, E., Brent, McNally, Sigrist, Denson, Synenberg, Lett, Upchurch, Abdullahi, Brennan, Mohamed, Brownlee, Thomas, C.

To enact section 5101.548 of the Revised Code to establish a program to refund SNAP recipients who have been victims of electronic theft or fraud, to name this act the No Hungry Families Act, and to make an appropriation.

H. B. No. 175 - Representatives Klopfenstein, Hoops.

Cosponsors: Representatives Williams, Rogers, White, E., Grim.

To enact section 5534.853 of the Revised Code to designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Ohio as the "Heartland Highway."

H. B. No. 176 - Representatives Fischer, Lorenz.

Cosponsors: Representatives Ferguson, Newman, Santucci, Thomas, D., Gross, Johnson, Workman.

To enact sections 1357.01, 1357.02, 1357.03, 1357.04, 1357.05, 1357.06, 1357.07, 1357.08, 1357.09, 1357.10, 1357.11, and 1357.12 of the Revised Code to create a regulatory relief division within the common sense initiative office and to establish a universal regulatory sandbox program.

Said bills were considered the first time.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES AND BILLS FOR SECOND CONSIDERATION

Representative Troy submitted the following report:

The standing committee on Transportation to which was referred **S. B. No. 24**-Senators Johnson, Huffman, et al., having had the same under consideration, reports it back and recommends its passage.

RE: ADOPT THE 1905 WRIGHT FLYER III AS THE STATE AIRPLANE

Representative Daniels moved to amend the title as follows:

Add the name: "Lorenz"

BERNARD WILLIS

ROY KLOPFENSTEIN

RIORDAN T. MCCLAIN

ISMAIL MOHAMED

JUSTIN PIZZULLI

DANIEL P. TROY

JACK K. DANIELS

BRIAN LORENZ

KEVIN D. MILLER

JOHNATHAN NEWMAN

ELGIN ROGERS, JR.

The report was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and placed on the calendar.

Representative Troy submitted the following report:

The standing committee on Transportation to which was referred **H. B. No. 27**-Representatives Callender, Troy, et al., having had the same under consideration, reports it back and recommends its passage.

RE: DESIGNATE SPECIALIST JACOB A. ASHTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Representative Troy moved to amend the title as follows:

Add the name: "Lorenz"

BERNARD WILLIS
ROY KLOPFENSTEIN
RIORDAN T. MCCLAIN
JOHNATHAN NEWMAN
ELGIN ROGERS, JR.

JACK K. DANIELS
BRIAN LORENZ
KEVIN D. MILLER
JUSTIN PIZZULLI
DANIEL P. TROY

The report was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and placed on the calendar.

Representative Troy submitted the following report:

The standing committee on Transportation to which was referred **H. B. No. 50**-Representative King, having had the same under consideration, reports it back and recommends its passage.

RE: DESIGNATE PFC JOHN WAYNE RICHARD MEMORIAL
HIGHWAY

Representative Daniels moved to amend the title as follows:

Add the name: "Lorenz"

BERNARD WILLIS
ROY KLOPFENSTEIN
RIORDAN T. MCCLAIN
ELGIN ROGERS, JR.

JACK K. DANIELS
BRIAN LORENZ
KEVIN D. MILLER
DANIEL P. TROY

The report was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and placed on the calendar.

Representative Troy submitted the following report:

The standing committee on Transportation to which was referred **H. B. No. 38**-Representative Fowler Arthur, having had the same under consideration, reports it back and recommends its passage.

RE: DESIGNATE DR. STEVEN TAKACS VETERAN MEMORIAL
HIGHWAY

BERNARD WILLIS
ROY KLOPFENSTEIN
RIORDAN T. MCCLAIN
JOHNATHAN NEWMAN
DANIEL P. TROY

JACK K. DANIELS
BRIAN LORENZ
KEVIN D. MILLER
ELGIN ROGERS, JR.

The report was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and placed on the calendar.

Representative Brennan submitted the following report:

The standing committee on Public Insurance and Pensions to which was referred **H. B. No. 81**-Representative Stewart, having had the same under consideration, reports it back with the following amendments and recommends its re-referral to the committee on Rules and Reference.

RE: MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMP FOR FY 2026-27

Representative Teska moved to amend the title as follows:

Add the names: "Miller, J., Roemer"

Representative Brennan moved to amend as follows:

In line 1 of the title, after "4121.13" insert ", 4121.41, 4121.45"

In line 12, after "4121.13" insert ", 4121.41, 4121.45"

After line 645, insert:

"Sec. 4121.41. (A) The administrator of workers' compensation shall operate a program designed to inform employees and employers of their rights and responsibilities under Chapter 4123. of the Revised Code and as part of that program prepare and distribute pamphlets, which clearly and simply explain at least all of the following:

- (1) The rights and responsibilities of claimants and employers;
- (2) The procedures for processing claims;
- (3) The procedure for fulfilling employer responsibility;
- (4) All applicable statutes of limitation;
- (5) The availability of services and benefits;
- (6) The claimant's right to representation in the processing of a claim or to elect no representation.

The administrator shall ensure that the provisions of this section are faithfully and speedily implemented.

(B) The bureau of workers' compensation shall maintain an ongoing program to identify employers subject to Chapter 4123. of the Revised Code and to audit employers to ensure an optimum level of premium payment. The bureau shall coordinate such efforts with other governmental agencies which have information as to employers who are subject to Chapter 4123. of the Revised Code.

(C) The administrator shall handle complaints through the service offices, the claims section, and the ombudsperson-programworkers' compensation customer advocacy office. The administrator shall provide toll

free telephone lines for employers and claimants in order to expedite the handling of complaints. The bureau shall monitor complaint traffic to ensure an adequacy of telephone service to bureau offices and shall compile statistics on complaint subjects. Based upon those compilations, the bureau shall revise procedures and rules to correct major problem areas and submit data and recommendations annually to the appropriate committees of the general assembly.

Sec. 4121.45. (A) There is hereby created ~~a the workers' compensation ombudsperson system customer advocacy office~~ to assist claimants and employers in matters dealing with the bureau of workers' compensation and the industrial commission. The industrial commission nominating council shall appoint a chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~. The chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~, with the advice and consent of the nominating council, may appoint such assistant ~~ombudspersons advocates~~ as the nominating council deems necessary. The position of chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~ is for a term of six years. A person appointed to the position of chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~ shall serve at the pleasure of the nominating council. The chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~ may not be transferred, demoted, or suspended during the person's tenure and may be removed by the nominating council only upon a vote of not fewer than nine members of the nominating council. The chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~ shall devote the chief ~~ombudsperson's customer advocate's~~ full time and attention to the duties of the ~~ombudsperson's chief customer advocate's~~ office. The administrator of workers' compensation shall furnish the chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~ with the office space, supplies, and clerical assistance that will enable the chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~ and the ~~ombudsperson system customer advocacy office~~ staff to perform their duties effectively. The ~~ombudsperson program office~~ shall be funded out of the budget of the bureau and the chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~ and the ~~ombudsperson system customer advocacy office~~ staff shall be carried on the bureau payroll. The chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~ and the ~~ombudsperson system customer advocacy office~~ shall be under the direction of the nominating council. The administrator and all employees of the bureau and the commission shall give the ~~ombudsperson system customer advocacy office~~ staff full and prompt cooperation in all matters relating to the duties of the chief ~~ombudsperson customer advocate~~.

(B) The ~~ombudsperson system customer advocacy office~~ staff shall:

(1) Answer inquiries or investigate complaints made by employers or claimants under this chapter and Chapter 4123. of the Revised Code as they relate to the processing of a claim for workers' compensation benefits;

(2) Provide claimants and employers with information regarding problems which arise out of the functions of the bureau, commission hearing

officers, and the commission and the procedures employed in the processing of claims;

(3) Answer inquiries or investigate complaints of an employer as they relate to reserves established and premiums charged in connection with the employer's account;

(4) Comply with Chapter 102. and sections 2921.42 and 2921.43 of the Revised Code and the nominating council's human resource and ethics policies;

(5) Not express any opinions as to the merit of a claim or the correctness of a decision by the various officers or agencies as the decision relates to a claim for benefits or compensation.

For the purpose of carrying out the chief ~~ombudsperson's customer advocate's~~ duties, the chief ~~ombudsperson-customer~~ advocate or the ~~ombudsperson-system customer advocacy office~~ staff, notwithstanding sections 4123.27 and 4123.88 of the Revised Code, has the right at all reasonable times to examine the contents of a claim file and discuss with parties in interest the contents of the file as long as the ~~ombudsperson-customer advocate~~ does not divulge information that would tend to prejudice the case of either party to a claim or that would tend to compromise a privileged attorney-client relationship, physician-patient relationship, or advanced practice registered nurse-patient relationship.

(C) The chief ~~ombudsperson-customer~~ advocate shall:

(1) Assist any service office in its duties whenever it requires assistance or information that can best be obtained from central office personnel or records;

(2) Annually assemble reports from each assistant ~~ombudsperson-customer~~ advocate as to their activities for the preceding year together with their recommendations as to changes or improvements in the operations of the workers' compensation system. The chief ~~ombudsperson-customer~~ advocate shall prepare a written report summarizing the activities of the ~~ombudsperson-system customer advocacy office~~ together with a digest of recommendations. The chief ~~ombudsperson-customer~~ advocate shall transmit the report to the nominating council.

(3) Comply with Chapter 102. and sections 2921.42 and 2921.43 of the Revised Code and the nominating council's human resource and ethics policies.

(D) No ~~ombudsperson-customer~~ advocate or assistant ~~ombudsperson-customer~~ advocate shall:

(1) Represent a claimant or employer in claims pending before or to be filed with the administrator, a district or staff hearing officer, the commission, or the courts of the state, nor shall an ~~ombudsperson-a customer~~

advocate or assistant ~~ombudsperson~~ customer advocate undertake any such representation for a period of one year after the ~~ombudsperson's~~ customer advocate's employment terminates or be eligible for employment by the bureau or the commission or as a district or staff hearing officer for one year;

(2) Express any opinions as to the merit of a claim or the correctness of a decision by the various officers or agencies as the decision relates to a claim for benefits or compensation.

(E) The chief ~~ombudsperson~~ customer advocate and assistant ~~ombudspersons~~ customer advocates shall receive compensation at a level established by the nominating council commensurate with the individual's background, education, and experience in workers' compensation or related fields. The chief ~~ombudsperson~~ customer advocate and assistant ~~ombudspersons~~ customer advocates are full-time permanent employees in the unclassified service of the state and are entitled to all benefits that accrue to such employees, including, without limitation, sick, vacation, and personal leaves. Assistant ~~ombudspersons~~ customer advocates serve at the pleasure of the chief ~~ombudsperson~~ customer advocate.

(F) In the event of a vacancy in the position of chief ~~ombudsperson~~ customer advocate, the nominating council may appoint a person to serve as acting chief ~~ombudsperson~~ customer advocate until a chief ~~ombudsperson~~ customer advocate is appointed. The acting chief ~~ombudsperson~~ customer advocate shall be under the direction and control of the nominating council and may be removed by the nominating council with or without just cause."

In line 2231, after "4121.13" insert ", 4121.41, 4121.45"

The motion was agreed to and the bill so amended.

BOB PETERSON
SEAN P. BRENNAN
THADDEUS J. CLAGGETT
ADAM MATHEWS
BILL ROEMER
DAVID THOMAS
TOM YOUNG

MICHELLE TESKA
ADAM C. BIRD
CHRIS GLASSBURN
JOSEPH A. MILLER, III
D. J. SWEARINGEN
ERIKA WHITE

The report was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and re-referred to the committee on Rules and Reference.

Representative Brennan submitted the following report:

The standing committee on Public Insurance and Pensions to which was referred **H. B. No. 80**-Representative Stewart, having had the same under

consideration, reports it back and recommends its re-referral to the committee on Rules and Reference.

RE: MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION FOR FY 2026-27

Representative Teska moved to amend the title as follows:

Add the names: "Mathews, A., Miller, J., Roemer"

BOB PETERSON

SEAN P. BRENNAN

THADDEUS J. CLAGGETT

ADAM MATHEWS

BILL ROEMER

DAVID THOMAS

TOM YOUNG

MICHELLE TESKA

ADAM C. BIRD

CHRIS GLASSBURN

JOSEPH A. MILLER, III

D. J. SWEARINGEN

ERIKA WHITE

The report was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and re-referred to the committee on Rules and Reference.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER

Pursuant to Section 107.12 (D)(1)(b) of the Ohio Revised Code, the Speaker of the House hereby makes the following appointment to the Governor's Advisory Board of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives:

Appoint Representative Mathews, A.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER

Pursuant to Section 103.11 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Speaker of the House hereby appoints the following members to the Ohio Legislative Service Commission:

Appoint Speaker Huffman (vice chair), Representatives Manning, Plummer, John, Bird, Russo, and Jarrells.

On motion of Representative Click, the House adjourned until Monday, March 17, 2025 at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

Attest:

BRADLEY J. YOUNG,
Clerk.