

OHIO

SENATE

JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

NINETEENTH DAY
Senate Chamber, Columbus, Ohio
Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer was offered by Pastor Brian Solomon, Capitol Ministries in Columbus, Ohio, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

The following guests were recognized by the Senate prior to the commencement of business:

Senator Koehler recognized members from the SOAR Retreat, Dr. Jo Blondin, Khalil Scott, Sarah Hagenbuch, Caity Sellers, Jessica Adams, and Kristen Bancroft, on their visit to the Statehouse.

Senator Brenner recognized members of the American Nurse's Association of Ohio on their visit to the Statehouse for Policy Influencer Bootcamp.

Senator Antonio recognized Minority Legal Counsel, Scott Stockman, for his outstanding service to the Ohio Senate.

Senator Antonio recognized Ruby Dee in honor of Women's History Month.

**REPORTS OF REFERENCE AND BILLS FOR SECOND
CONSIDERATION**

Senator McColley reports for the standing committee on Rules and Reference, recommending that the following bills, standing in order for second consideration, be referred to committee as recommended:

Sub. H. B. No. 43-Representatives Fowler Arthur, Thomas, D., et al.

To waive the required minimum instructional hours for Ashtabula Lakeside High School due to the school building being unusable and to declare an emergency.

To the Committee on Education.

Sub. H. B. No. 54-Representative Stewart, et al.

To amend sections 154.01, 306.35, 306.43, 717.02, 1548.061, 3503.11, 3704.14, 4501.01, 4503.038, 4503.10, 4503.102, 4503.103, 4503.19, 4505.08, 4506.01, 4506.11, 4507.01, 4507.061, 4507.13, 4507.21, 4507.52, 4508.02, 4511.01, 4511.031, 4511.09, 4511.091, 4511.092, 4511.094, 4511.11, 4511.13, 4511.131, 4511.132, 4511.18, 4511.204, 4511.211, 4511.214, 4511.432, 4511.46, 4511.48, 4511.512, 4511.61, 4511.62, 4511.64, 4511.65, 4511.68, 4511.701, 4511.712, 4513.071, 4513.38, 4513.41, 4517.02,

4519.401, 4955.50, 4955.51, 5501.20, 5501.441, 5502.68, 5513.01, 5515.01, 5515.02, 5515.99, 5517.02, 5517.021, 5525.03, 5525.04, 5525.08, 5525.14, 5571.01, 5736.02, 5736.04, and 5736.13; to enact sections 1548.062, 4503.183, 4503.261, 4503.262, 4505.072, 4511.15, 4511.765, 4561.03, 4955.52, 4955.53, 4955.55, 4955.57, 4981.36, 4981.361, 5501.041, 5511.11, 5515.10, 5517.06, and 5517.08; and to repeal sections 4506.072, 4507.021, 4507.063, 4507.511, 4511.351, 4511.491, and 5501.60 of the Revised Code and to amend Section 755.20 of H.B. 23 of the 135th General Assembly to make appropriations for programs related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. B. No. 127-Senator Brenner

To amend sections 3301.0712, 3302.03, 3302.034, 3302.036, 3302.12, 3313.413, 3314.012, 3314.016, 3314.017, 3314.0211, 3314.03, 3314.05, 3314.29, 3314.352, 3314.353, and 3314.354; to enact new section 3314.35 and section 3326.53; and to repeal sections 3314.35, 3314.351, 3314.355, and 3314.36 of the Revised Code regarding closure requirements or other actions for poor-performing public schools.

To the Committee on Education.

S. B. No. 128-Senators Brenner, Roegner

To amend sections 113.51 and 113.53 of the Revised Code regarding Ohio ABLE accounts and to make an appropriation.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. B. No. 129-Senator Koehler, et al.

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, 5747.74, and 5751.56 of the Revised Code to authorize a refundable tax credit for a portion of employer group health plan premiums.

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

S. B. No. 130-Senators Antonio, Cirino, et al.

To enact section 5.266 of the Revised Code to designate April as "Arab American Heritage Month."

To the Committee on Government Oversight and Reform.

S. B. No. 131-Senator Cutrona

To amend section 2315.18 of the Revised Code to clarify compensatory damages for damaged vehicles.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

YES - 12: NICKIE J. ANTONIO, ANDREW O. BRENNER, BRIAN M. CHAVEZ, JERRY C. CIRINO, HEARCEL F. CRAIG, THERESA GAVARONE, BETH LISTON, ROB MCCOLLEY, BILL REINEKE, MICHELE REYNOLDS, TIM SCHAFFER, KENT SMITH

NO - 0.

The question being, "Shall the report of the committee be accepted?"

The report of the committee was accepted.

Said bills were considered a second time and referred to committee as recommended.

BILLS FOR THIRD CONSIDERATION

S. B. No. 27-Senator Johnson.

Cosponsors: Senators Romanchuk, Liston, Ingram.

To enact section 5.2540 of the Revised Code to designate March 20th as "Ameloblastoma Awareness Day", was considered the third time.

The question being, "Shall the bill, **S. B. No. 27**, pass?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 32, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Liston	Manchester	Manning	O'Brien
Patton	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith	Timken
Weinstein	Wilkin	Wilson	McColley-32

So the bill passed.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Antonio, Blackshear, Brenner, Cirino, Craig, DeMora, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Huffman, Landis, Patton, Reineke, Roegner,

Schaffer, Weinstein."

The question being, "Shall the motion be agreed to?"

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

S. B. No. 33-Senators Wilson, Lang.

To amend sections 4109.08, 4111.09, 4112.07, 4115.07, 4123.54, 4123.83, and 4167.11 of the Revised Code to allow employers to post certain labor law notices on the internet, was considered the third time.

The question being, "Shall the bill, **S. B. No. 33**, pass?"

Senator Ingram moved to amend as follows:

In line 1 of the title, after "sections" insert "121.08,"

In line 5, after "sections" insert "121.08,"

After line 7, insert:

"Sec. 121.08. (A) There is hereby created in the department of commerce the position of deputy director of administration. This officer shall be appointed by the director of commerce, serve under the director's direction, supervision, and control, perform the duties the director prescribes, and hold office during the director's pleasure. The director of commerce may designate an assistant director of commerce to serve as the deputy director of administration. The deputy director of administration shall perform the duties prescribed by the director of commerce in supervising the activities of the division of administration of the department of commerce.

(B) Except as provided in section 121.07 of the Revised Code, the department of commerce shall have all powers and perform all duties vested in the deputy director of administration, the state fire marshal, the superintendent of financial institutions, the superintendent of real estate and professional licensing, the superintendent of liquor control, the superintendent of industrial compliance, the superintendent of unclaimed funds, the superintendent of marijuana control, and the commissioner of securities, and shall have all powers and perform all duties vested by law in all officers, deputies, and employees of those offices. Except as provided in section 121.07 of the Revised Code, wherever powers are conferred or duties imposed upon any of those officers, the powers and duties shall be construed as vested in the department of commerce.

(C)(1) There is hereby created in the department of commerce a division of financial institutions, which shall have all powers and perform all duties vested by law in the superintendent of financial institutions. Wherever powers are conferred or duties imposed upon the superintendent of financial institutions, those powers and duties shall be construed as vested in the

division of financial institutions. The division of financial institutions shall be administered by the superintendent of financial institutions.

(2) All provisions of law governing the superintendent of financial institutions shall apply to and govern the superintendent of financial institutions provided for in this section; all authority vested by law in the superintendent of financial institutions with respect to the management of the division of financial institutions shall be construed as vested in the superintendent of financial institutions created by this section with respect to the division of financial institutions provided for in this section; and all rights, privileges, and emoluments conferred by law upon the superintendent of financial institutions shall be construed as conferred upon the superintendent of financial institutions as head of the division of financial institutions. The director of commerce shall not transfer from the division of financial institutions any of the functions specified in division (C)(2) of this section.

(D) There is hereby created in the department of commerce a division of liquor control, which shall have all powers and perform all duties vested by law in the superintendent of liquor control. Wherever powers are conferred or duties are imposed upon the superintendent of liquor control, those powers and duties shall be construed as vested in the division of liquor control. The division of liquor control shall be administered by the superintendent of liquor control.

(E) The director of commerce shall not be interested, directly or indirectly, in any firm or corporation which is a dealer in securities as defined in sections 1707.01 and 1707.14 of the Revised Code, or in any firm or corporation licensed under sections 1321.01 to 1321.19 of the Revised Code.

(F) The director of commerce shall not have any official connection with a savings and loan association, a savings bank, a bank, a bank holding company, a savings and loan association holding company, a consumer finance company, or a credit union that is under the supervision of the division of financial institutions, or a subsidiary of any of the preceding entities, or be interested in the business thereof.

(G) There is hereby created in the state treasury the division of administration fund. The fund shall receive assessments on the operating funds of the department of commerce in accordance with procedures prescribed by the director of commerce. All operating expenses of the division of administration shall be paid from the division of administration fund.

(H) There is hereby created in the department of commerce a division of real estate and professional licensing, which shall be under the control and supervision of the director of commerce. The division of real estate and professional licensing shall be administered by the superintendent of real

estate and professional licensing. The superintendent of real estate and professional licensing shall exercise the powers and perform the functions and duties delegated to the superintendent under Chapters 4735., 4763., 4764., 4767., and 4768. of the Revised Code.

(I) There is hereby created in the department of commerce a division of industrial compliance, which shall have all powers and perform all duties vested by law in the superintendent of industrial compliance. Wherever powers are conferred or duties imposed upon the superintendent of industrial compliance, those powers and duties shall be construed as vested in the division of industrial compliance. The division of industrial compliance shall be under the control and supervision of the director of commerce and be administered by the superintendent of industrial compliance.

(J) There is hereby created in the department of commerce a division of unclaimed funds, which shall have all powers and perform all duties delegated to or vested by law in the superintendent of unclaimed funds. Wherever powers are conferred or duties imposed upon the superintendent of unclaimed funds, those powers and duties shall be construed as vested in the division of unclaimed funds. The division of unclaimed funds shall be under the control and supervision of the director of commerce and shall be administered by the superintendent of unclaimed funds. The superintendent of unclaimed funds shall exercise the powers and perform the functions and duties delegated to the superintendent by the director of commerce under section 121.07 and Chapter 169. of the Revised Code, and as may otherwise be provided by law.

(K) There is hereby created in the department of commerce a division of marijuana control, which shall have all powers and perform all duties vested by law in the superintendent of marijuana control. Wherever powers are conferred or duties are imposed upon the superintendent of marijuana control, those powers and duties shall be construed as vested in the division of marijuana control. The division of marijuana control shall be under the control and supervision of the director of commerce and be administered by the superintendent of marijuana control.

(L) The department of commerce or a division of the department created by the Revised Code that is acting with authorization on the department's behalf may request from the bureau of criminal identification and investigation pursuant to section 109.572 of the Revised Code, or coordinate with appropriate federal, state, and local government agencies to accomplish, criminal records checks for the persons whose identities are required to be disclosed by an applicant for the issuance or transfer of a permit, license, certificate of registration, or certification issued or transferred by the department or division. At or before the time of making a request for a criminal records check, the department or division may require any person whose identity is required to be disclosed by an applicant for the issuance or

transfer of such a license, permit, certificate of registration, or certification to submit to the department or division valid fingerprint impressions in a format and by any media or means acceptable to the bureau of criminal identification and investigation and, when applicable, the federal bureau of investigation. The department or division may cause the bureau of criminal identification and investigation to conduct a criminal records check through the federal bureau of investigation only if the person for whom the criminal records check would be conducted resides or works outside of this state or has resided or worked outside of this state during the preceding five years, or if a criminal records check conducted by the bureau of criminal identification and investigation within this state indicates that the person may have a criminal record outside of this state.

In the case of a criminal records check under section 109.572 of the Revised Code, the department or division shall forward to the bureau of criminal identification and investigation the requisite form, fingerprint impressions, and fee described in division (C) of that section. When requested by the department or division in accordance with this section, the bureau of criminal identification and investigation shall request from the federal bureau of investigation any information it has with respect to the person who is the subject of the requested criminal records check and shall forward the requisite fingerprint impressions and information to the federal bureau of investigation for that criminal records check. After conducting a criminal records check or receiving the results of a criminal records check from the federal bureau of investigation, the bureau of criminal identification and investigation shall provide the results to the department or division.

The department or division may require any person about whom a criminal records check is requested to pay to the department or division the amount necessary to cover the fee charged to the department or division by the bureau of criminal identification and investigation under division (C)(3) of section 109.572 of the Revised Code, including, when applicable, any fee for a criminal records check conducted by the federal bureau of investigation.

(M) The director of commerce, or the director's designee, may adopt rules to enhance compliance with statutes pertaining to, and rules adopted by, divisions under the direction, supervision, and control of the department or director by offering incentive-based programs that ensure safety and soundness while promoting growth and prosperity in the state.

(N) The director of commerce shall publish on the department of commerce's public web site information on employee rights, including information on all of the following laws:

(1) The minor labor law under Chapter 4109. of the Revised Code;

(2) The minimum fair wage standards law under Chapter 4111. of the Revised Code;

(3) The civil rights law under Chapter 4112. of the Revised Code;

(4) The prevailing wage law under sections 4115.03 to 4115.21 of the Revised Code;

(5) The workers' compensation law under Chapters 4121., 4123., 4127., and 4131. of the Revised Code;

(6) The public employment risk reduction program law under Chapter 4167. of the Revised Code;

(7) Any other information regarding employee rights that the director determines to be appropriate."

In line 18, after "chapter." insert "The director shall include information on how employees may access the web site containing information on employee rights published in accordance with division (N) of section 121.08 of the Revised Code on the abstract."

After line 24, insert:

"(3) If an employer chooses to post the abstract on the internet, the employer shall post a notice in the manner described in division (A)(2)(a) of this section that provides information on how employees may access the abstract on the internet."

In line 52, delete "(A)" and insert "(A)(1)"

In line 58, delete "(1)" and insert "(a)"

In line 60, delete "(2)" and insert "(b)"

After line 61, insert:

"(2) If an employer chooses to post the summary on the internet, the employer shall post a notice in the manner described in division (A)(1)(a) of this section that provides information on how employees may access the summary on the internet."

In line 67, after "Constitution." insert "The director shall include information on how employees may access the web site containing information on employee rights published in accordance with division (N) of section 121.08 of the Revised Code on the summary."

In line 77, after "chapter." insert "The commission shall include information on how employees may access the web site containing information on employee rights published in accordance with division (N) of section 121.08 of the Revised Code on the notice."

If a person chooses to post the notice on the internet, the person shall post a separate notice in a conspicuous place on the person's premises that provides information on how the notice may be accessed on the internet."

In line 111, after "contract." insert "The statement shall include information on how employees may access the web site containing"

information on employee rights published in accordance with division (N) of section 121.08 of the Revised Code.

If a contractor or subcontractor chooses to post the statement on the internet, the contractor or subcontractor shall post a notice in a prominent and accessible place on the site of the work that provides information on how the statement may be accessed on the internet."

In line 249, after "self-insurance." insert "The written notice required by division (B) of this section shall include information on how employees may access the web site containing information on employee rights published in accordance with division (N) of section 121.08 of the Revised Code."

After line 252, insert:

"If an employer chooses to post the notice on the internet, the employer shall post a separate notice conspicuously in the employer's place or places of employment that provides information on how employees may access the notice on the internet."

In line 484, after "due." insert "The notice shall include information on how employees may access the web site containing information on employee rights published in accordance with division (N) of section 121.08 of the Revised Code."

After line 488, insert:

"If an employer chooses to post the notice on the internet, the employer shall post a separate notice conspicuously in the employer's place or places of employment that provides information on how employees may access the notice on the internet."

In line 514, after "employees." insert "The rule shall require an employer who chooses to post a notice on the internet to post a separate notice conspicuously in the employer's place or places of employment that provides information on how employees can access the notice on the internet. The rule shall require any notice to contain information on how employees may access the web site containing information on employee rights published in accordance with division (N) of section 121.08 of the Revised Code."

In line 534, after "sections" insert "121.08,"

The question being, "Shall the amendment be agreed to?"

Senator Reineke moved that the amendment be laid on the table.

The question being, "Shall the motion be agreed to?"

A roll call was requested which was properly supported.

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 23, nays 9, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Blessing	Brenner	Chavez	Cirino
Cutrona	Gavarone	Huffman	Johnson

Koehler	Landis	Manchester	Manning
O'Brien	Patton	Reineke	Reynolds
Roegner	Romanchuk	Schaffer	Timken
Wilkin	Wilson		McColley-23

Those who voted in the negative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Craig	DeMora
Hicks-Hudson	Ingram	Liston	Smith
			Weinstein-9

The amendment was laid on the table.

The question recurred, "Shall the bill, **S. B. No. 33**, pass?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 29, nays 3, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Johnson	Koehler	Landis	Manchester
Manning	O'Brien	Patton	Reineke
Reynolds	Roegner	Romanchuk	Schaffer
Timken	Weinstein	Wilkin	Wilson
			McColley-29

Senators Ingram, Liston, and Smith voted in the negative-3.

So the bill passed.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Brenner, Cirino, Gavarone, Huffman, Johnson, Reineke, Roegner, Romanchuk, Schaffer."

The question being, "Shall the motion be agreed to?"

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

S. B. No. 39-Senators Johnson, Craig.

Cosponsors: Senators Romanchuk, Blackshear, Brenner, Weinstein, Schaffer, Wilson, Smith, Patton.

To enact section 4113.13 of the Revised Code regarding the creation and display of a poster containing information on benefits and services for veterans, was considered the third time.

The question being, "Shall the bill, **S. B. No. 39**, pass?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 32, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Liston	Manchester	Manning	O'Brien
Patton	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner

Romanchuk
Weinstein

Schaffer
Wilkin

Smith
Wilson

Timken
McColley-32

So the bill passed.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Antonio, Cirino, DeMora, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Huffman, Ingram, Koehler, Landis, Liston, Manning, O'Brien, Reineke, Reynolds, Roegner, Wilkin."

The question being, "Shall the motion be agreed to?"

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

MOTIONS

Senator Gavarone moved that Senators absent the week of Sunday, March 2, 2025, be excused, so long as a written explanation is on file with the Clerk pursuant to Senate Rule No. 17.

The question being, "Shall the motion be agreed to?"

The motion was agreed to.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The following bills were introduced and considered for the first time:

S. B. No. 132 - Senator Antonio.

Cosponsors: Senators DeMora, Smith, Hicks-Hudson.

To enact section 1509.023 of the Revised Code to prohibit the removal of oil or gas from under state lands via horizontal wells and to name this act the Protecting public Resources, Ecosystems, and Sensitive lands from Extraction, Violation, and Exploitation (PRESERVE) Act.

S. B. No. 133 - Senators Antonio, Huffman.

To amend sections 9.07, 120.03, 120.041, 120.06, 120.14, 120.16, 120.18, 120.24, 120.26, 120.28, 120.33, 120.34, 149.43, 149.436, 1901.183, 2152.13, 2152.67, 2301.20, 2307.60, 2317.02, 2701.07, 2743.51, 2901.02, 2909.24, 2929.02, 2929.13, 2929.14, 2929.61, 2930.19, 2937.222, 2941.021, 2941.14, 2941.148, 2941.401, 2941.43, 2941.51, 2945.06, 2945.10, 2945.13, 2945.21, 2945.25, 2945.33, 2945.38, 2949.02, 2949.03, 2953.02, 2953.07, 2953.08, 2953.09, 2953.10, 2953.21, 2953.23, 2953.71, 2953.72, 2953.73, 2953.81, 2967.05, 2967.12, 2967.13, 2967.193, 2967.194, 2971.03, 2971.07, 5120.113, 5120.53, 5120.61, 5139.04, and 5919.16 and to repeal sections 109.97, 120.35, 2725.19, 2929.021, 2929.022, 2929.023, 2929.024, 2929.025, 2929.03, 2929.04, 2929.05, 2929.06, 2945.20, 2947.08, 2949.21, 2949.22, 2949.221, 2949.222, 2949.24, 2949.25, 2949.26, 2949.27, 2949.28, 2949.29, 2949.31, and 2967.08 of the Revised Code to abolish the death penalty and to

modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment.

S. B. No. 134 - Senators Antonio, Huffman.

Cosponsors: Senators Blackshear, Craig, Hicks-Hudson, Ingram, Blessing, Cutrona, Lang, Roegner, Wilson.

To amend sections 9.04, 9.07, 120.03, 120.041, 120.06, 120.14, 120.16, 120.18, 120.24, 120.26, 120.28, 120.33, 120.34, 149.43, 149.436, 149.45, 1901.183, 2152.13, 2152.67, 2301.20, 2307.60, 2317.02, 2701.07, 2743.51, 2901.02, 2909.24, 2929.02, 2929.13, 2929.14, 2929.61, 2930.19, 2937.222, 2941.021, 2941.14, 2941.148, 2941.401, 2941.43, 2941.51, 2945.06, 2945.10, 2945.13, 2945.21, 2945.25, 2945.33, 2945.38, 2949.02, 2949.03, 2953.02, 2953.07, 2953.08, 2953.09, 2953.10, 2953.21, 2953.23, 2953.71, 2953.72, 2953.73, 2953.81, 2967.05, 2967.12, 2967.13, 2967.193, 2967.194, 2971.03, 2971.07, 3901.87, 5101.56, 5120.113, 5120.53, 5120.61, 5139.04, and 5919.16 and to repeal sections 109.97, 120.35, 2725.19, 2929.021, 2929.022, 2929.023, 2929.024, 2929.025, 2929.03, 2929.04, 2929.05, 2929.06, 2945.20, 2947.08, 2949.21, 2949.22, 2949.221, 2949.222, 2949.24, 2949.25, 2949.26, 2949.27, 2949.28, 2949.29, 2949.31, and 2967.08 of the Revised Code to abolish the death penalty, to modify the number of jurors that may be challenged in cases where a defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment, and to prohibit public funding for the use of lethal injection drugs in nontherapeutic abortions, assisting suicide, and executing a death sentence.

S. B. No. 135 - Senator Brenner.

To amend sections 2127.38, 2329.01, 2329.151, 2329.152, 2329.153, 2329.17, 2329.18, 2329.19, 2329.20, 2329.211, 2329.26, 2329.27, 2329.312, 2329.52, and 5721.10 of the Revised Code relating to real property foreclosures and estate sales.

On the motion of Senator Reineke, the Senate adjourned until Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Attest:

VINCENT L. KEERAN,
Clerk.