

OHIO

SENATE

JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025

SEVENTEENTH DAY
Senate Chamber, Columbus, Ohio
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer was offered by Senator Kyle Koehler, 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 Landis recognized Hunter Armstrong as the Gold Medalist in the 4x100m freestyle at the Paris Olympic Games.

Senator DeMora recognized the OSU Dance team as the 2025 UCA and UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Champions.

Senator DeMora recognized the OSU Spirit team for winning the 2025 UCA and UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Crown.

Senator Craig recognized the Bishop Watterson Girls Soccer team as the OHSAA Division II State Champions.

Senator Craig recognized members of the Tuskegee Airmen in honor of Black History Month.

Senator O'Brien recognized students from Newton Falls, 11th Grade class on their visit to the Statehouse.

Senator Schaffer recognized Chase Bennett, Perry County Commissioner, on his visit to the Statehouse.

Senator Weinstein recognized members of Junior Leadership Hudson on their visit to the Statehouse.

Senator Koehler recognized Dr. Kuti, President of Central State University, on his visit to the Statehouse.

Senator Koehler recognized Sarah Mays, Greene County Commissioner, on her visit to the Statehouse.

Senator Blackshear recognized elected officials and leaders from his district on their visit to the Statehouse.

Senator Manning requested a moment of silence in honor of former Senator Alan Zaleski.

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

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

S. C. R. No. 8-Senators Weinstein, Cutrona, et al.

To urge the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 971, known as The Reducing Accidents in Locomotives (RAIL) Act.

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. C. R. No. 9-Senator Lang, et al.

To urge the Congress of the United States to make the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent and protect prosperity.

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

S. B. No. 111-Senators Craig, Johnson, et al.

To enact section 5.2322 of the Revised Code to designate October 4th as "Henrietta Lacks Day."

To the Committee on Government Oversight and Reform.

S. B. No. 112-Senators Reynolds, Craig

To enact sections 3523.13, 3523.14, 3523.15, 3523.16, 3523.17, 3523.18, and 3523.99 of the Revised Code to establish procedures for appointing delegates to a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution.

To the Committee on General Government.

S. B. No. 113-Senator Brenner, et al.

To amend sections 3314.03, 3326.11, and 3328.24 and to enact section 3313.475 of the Revised Code to prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools.

To the Committee on Education.

S. B. No. 114-Senator Patton

To enact section 109.70 of the Revised Code to prohibit law enforcement agencies from using quotas for arrests and citations.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. B. No. 115-Senators Lang, Wilson, et al.

To amend sections 1707.01, 1707.03, 1707.09, 1707.091, 1707.092, 1707.13, 1707.23, and 1707.39 of the Revised Code to make changes to the Securities Law.

To the Committee on Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology.

S. B. No. 116-Senator Lang

To amend section 5727.111 of the Revised Code to reduce the tangible personal property tax assessment rate for pipe-line companies.

To the Committee on Public Utilities.

S. B. No. 117-Senator Lang

To amend section 1321.21 and to enact sections 1320.01, 1320.02, 1320.03, 1320.04, 1320.05, 1320.06, 1320.07, 1320.08, 1320.09, and 1320.10 of the Revised Code to regulate the provision of earned wage access services.

To the Committee on Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology.

S. B. No. 118-Senator Lang

To amend sections 321.261, 701.10, 729.49, 735.29, 743.04, and 743.06 and to enact sections 319.65, 701.101, 701.102, 701.103, 701.20, 701.21, 701.22, 701.23, 701.24, 701.25, 701.26, 701.30, 701.31, 701.32, 701.33, 701.35, 701.36, 701.37, 701.38, 701.39, 701.40, 729.491, 729.492, 729.493, 735.291, 735.292, 743.041, 743.042, 1901.187, and 1907.033 of the Revised Code regarding limitations on recovery and lien imposition by municipalities against property owners of non-owner-occupied properties for unpaid water, sewer, and disposal services rates and charges.

To the Committee on Local Government.

S. B. No. 119-Senator Brenner

To enact section 5534.967 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of U.S. Route 36 in Delaware County as the "Freedom Parkway."

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. B. No. 120-Senator Hicks-Hudson, et al.

To amend sections 3781.06, 3781.061, and 5713.30 of the Revised Code relating to temporary greenhouses and building codes, to establish the Urban Farmer Youth Initiative Pilot Program, to codify certain property tax requirements for agricultural land, and to make an appropriation.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. B. No. 121-Senator Blackshear, et al.

To enact section 5.2322 of the Revised Code to designate April as "Counseling Awareness Month."

To the Committee on Health.

S. B. No. 122-Senator Hicks-Hudson

To amend sections 303.21 and 519.21 of the Revised Code to eliminate the authority of townships and counties to adopt zoning resolutions for agricultural land under certain circumstances.

To the Committee on Local Government.

S. B. No. 123-Senator Hicks-Hudson, et al.

To amend section 149.43 of the Revised Code to prohibit a law enforcement agency for charging a fee for preparing or producing a video public record for a person known or presumed to be depicted in the video.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. B. No. 124-Senators Craig, Patton

To amend sections 2903.13 and 2917.41 and to enact section 306.20 of the Revised Code to increase the penalty for assault when the victim is an operator of an Ohio transit system bus or rail car; to authorize Ohio transit systems to post a sign regarding abuse or assault of staff; and to increase the penalty for evading payment of the known fares of a public transportation system.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. B. No. 125-Senator Patton

To amend sections 715.27, 3781.102, 4740.01, 4740.02, 4740.04, 4740.12, 4740.13, and 4764.03 of the Revised Code to require licensure of commercial roofing contractors.

To the Committee on Workforce Development.

S. B. No. 126-Senators Wilkin, Lang

To amend section 5739.02 of the Revised Code to exempt from sales and use tax items purchased by a logistics business to transport manufactured products, general merchandise, and grocery products.

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES

Senator Roegner submitted the following report:

The standing committee on General Government, to which was referred **S. B. No. 56**-Senator Huffman, having had the same under consideration, reports back a substitute bill and recommends its passage.

YES - 5: KRISTINA D. ROEGNER, THERESA GAVARONE, STEPHEN A. HUFFMAN, BILL REINEKE, JANE M. TIMKEN

NO - 2: WILLIS E. BLACKSHEAR, JR., WILLIAM P. DEMORA

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

The report of the committee was accepted.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE

S. C. R. No. 1-Senator Johnson.

Cosponsors: Senators Schaffer, Patton, Weinstein.

To urge the 119th Congress to introduce and pass legislation similar to the Stop Our Scourge Act of 2023, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate illicit fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction.

WHEREAS, According to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid fifty times more potent than heroin and one hundred times more potent than morphine; and

WHEREAS, According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fentanyl has become the number one cause of death for Americans eighteen to forty-five years of age; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed by physicians and other authorized health care providers to treat severe pain, especially after surgery or for advanced stage cancer, and may also be used as an anesthetic or in other hospital or treatment settings legally; and

WHEREAS, Illicit fentanyl, both illegally made fentanyl and diverted pharmaceutical fentanyl, is often distributed through criminal drug markets in different forms, including liquid or powder, making its detection complex and its distinction from other drugs increasingly difficult; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, fentanyl and drugs similar in chemical structure to fentanyl are being mixed into counterfeit opioid pills, heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine, and people who use only non-opioid drugs are more likely to overdose if they are exposed to drugs mixed with opioids, including fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Center for Health Statistics, overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl, were estimated to be 74,702 in 2023; and

WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health, fentanyl was involved in seventy-eight per cent of Ohio's unintentional drug overdose deaths in 2023; and

WHEREAS, United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized more than twenty-one thousand pounds of illicit fentanyl in federal fiscal year 2024; and

WHEREAS, CBP's fentanyl seizures have increased more than eight hundred per cent since federal fiscal year 2019; and

WHEREAS, The dangers of fentanyl are further evidenced by such events as those in 2002 when, in response to Chechen rebels taking over eight hundred hostages in a Moscow theater, Russia deployed an unknown gas,

later confirmed by the Russian Health Minister to contain fentanyl-related compounds, to neutralize the rebels, which resulted in the death of 117 hostages from effects of the gas; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 136th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the 119th United States Congress to introduce and pass legislation that is similar to a previous proposal known as the Stop Our Scourge Act of 2023, directing the United States Secretary of Homeland Security to designate illicit fentanyl a weapon of mass destruction; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

The question being, “Shall the concurrent resolution, **S. C. R. No. 1**, be adopted?”

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 concurrent resolution was adopted.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Brenner, Cirino, Cutrona, Gavarone, Koehler, Landis, Manning, O'Brien, Reineke, Reynolds, Roegner, Romanchuk, Timken."

The question being, “Shall the motion be agreed to?”

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

BILLS FOR THIRD CONSIDERATION

Am. S. B. No. 17-Senators Reynolds, Craig.

Cosponsors: Senators Patton, Schaffer, Weinstein.

To enact section 5.212 of the Revised Code to designate March 9th as "6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day", was considered the third time.

The question being, "Shall the bill, **Am. S. B. No. 17**, 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, Blessing, Brenner, Chavez, Cirino, DeMora, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Ingram, Johnson, Koehler, Landis, Liston, O'Brien, Reineke, Roegner, Romanchuk, Smith, Timken, Wilkin, Wilson."

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

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

S. B. No. 20-Senators Antonio, Manning.

Cosponsors: Senators Romanchuk, Wilson, Craig, DeMora, Weinstein, Liston, Roegner, Johnson, Ingram.

To enact section 5.2540 of the Revised Code to designate the first week of May as "Ohio Stroke Awareness Week", was considered the third time.

The question being, "Shall the bill, **S. B. No. 20**, 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: "Blackshear, Blessing, Brenner, Cirino, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Huffman, Landis, Patton, Reineke, Reynolds, Schaffer, Timken, Wilkin."

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

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

Sub. S. B. No. 56-Senator Huffman.

To amend sections 9.79, 121.04, 121.08, 519.21, 715.013, 928.03, 3376.07, 3780.01, 3780.10, 3780.22, 3780.23, 3780.31, 3796.01, 3796.02, 3796.03, 3796.032, 3796.05, 3796.06, 3796.061, 3796.07, 3796.09, 3796.10, 3796.11, 3796.12, 3796.13, 3796.14, 3796.15, 3796.16, 3796.17, 3796.18, 3796.19, 3796.20, 3796.21, 3796.22, 3796.24, 3796.27, 3796.28, 3796.29, 3796.30, 4729.80, 4735.18, 4743.09, 4776.01, 4796.25, 5502.01, 5502.13, 5502.14, and 5713.30; to enact sections 2953.321, 3796.04, 3796.062, 3796.221, 3796.32, and 3796.99; and to repeal sections 3780.02, 3780.03, 3780.04, 3780.05, 3780.06, 3780.07, 3780.08, 3780.09, 3780.11, 3780.12, 3780.13, 3780.14, 3780.15, 3780.16, 3780.17, 3780.18, 3780.19, 3780.20, 3780.21, 3780.25, 3780.26, 3780.27, 3780.28, 3780.29, 3780.30, 3780.32, 3780.33, 3780.34, 3780.35, 3780.36, 3780.90, 3780.99, and 3796.021 of the Revised Code to consolidate the administration of the marijuana control program and to revise the medical and adult-use marijuana laws, was considered the third time.

The question being, "Shall the bill, **Sub. S. B. No. 56**, pass?"

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

So the bill passed.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Brenner, Cirino, Reineke, Reynolds, Schaffer, Wilson."

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, February 23, 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. 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.

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.

OFFERING OF RESOLUTIONS

Senator Antonio offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 41-Senator Antonio.

Authorizing Cleveland State University to use the Ohio Senate Chamber on March 13, 2025.

WHEREAS, Cleveland State University's Columbus Seminar will provide students with the opportunity to better appreciate and understand government and its components by simulating a Senatorial session. Indeed, the knowledge gained through events such as this will be of great value to participants in the years to come; and

WHEREAS, By utilizing the facilities that accommodate those involved in the state legislative process, Cleveland State University's Columbus Seminar will offer students an accurate depiction of government and the manner in which legislation is created and processed. This is a prime example of how various state bodies collaborate to help tomorrow's leaders shape a more promising future for themselves and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Through participation in Cleveland State University's Columbus Seminar, students will be better prepared to become productive members of our complex and ever-changing society. The maturity and insight participants will gain through their involvement in this program will not only enrich their total educational experience but also enable them to make better-informed decisions as they assume the responsibilities of adult citizenship;

therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 136
 The question being, “Shall the resolution, **S. R. No. 41**, be adopted?
 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 resolution was adopted.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Senators Brenner, Cirino, Craig, DeMora, Gavarone,
 Hicks-Hudson, Johnson, Patton, Reineke, Reynolds, Roegner, Smith,
 Weinstein, Wilson."

The question being, “Shall the motion be agreed to?”

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

Message from the House of Representatives

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform you that the Speaker of the House of
 Representatives has signed the following concurrent resolution:

H. C. R. No. 5-Speaker Huffman, Representative Russo

Attest: Bradley J. Young,
Clerk.

The President signed said resolution.

Message from the House of Representatives

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform you that the Speaker of the House of
 Representatives has signed the following bill:

Am. H. B. No. 14-Representatives Roemer, Workman – et al.

Attest: Bradley J. Young,
Clerk.

The President signed said bill.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Pursuant to Section 4906.02(A)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code, the President of the Senate appoints the following senators to serve as non-voting members on the Power Siting Board:

Senator Shane Wilkin

Senator Andrew Brenner, as alternate

On the motion of Senator Reineke, the Senate adjourned until Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Attest:

VINCENT L. KEERAN,
Clerk.