



## HELPFUL LINKS

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:  
[www.legislature.ohio.gov](http://www.legislature.ohio.gov)

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:  
[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)

OH SENATE:  
[www.ohiosenate.gov](http://www.ohiosenate.gov)

OHIO GOVERNOR:  
[www.governor.ohio.gov](http://www.governor.ohio.gov)

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:  
[www.ohiosos.gov](http://www.ohiosos.gov)

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL:  
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'Ohio Legislative Report'

## Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the start of each month to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus that could affect the lives of Veterans, Military Personnel, and their families in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to all who would like to receive it.

To subscribe, send your name and email address to:

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Editor: David K. Root

## Statehouse Happenings

The 135th Ohio General Assembly returned to work following the summer break and got right down to business. The break begins on the first of July and ends in mid-September. That is two and one-half months.

If you are thinking that it must be nice to have that much vacation time, here is more for you to think about. Come mid-December they will break again and return after the first of the year. They will also get a couple of weeks off again at Easter time.

Let us look at all that 'time off' first and then we will talk about what the Ohio GA has been up to since their return last month.

During the breaks, both chambers are still holding sessions every week, however the members do not conduct all the business they usually carry out. Why is that? Here are the rules of the General Assembly as printed in A Guidebook for Ohio Legislators, printed for the 135th General Assembly by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission:

"Newly elected legislators formally take office when the General Assembly convenes on the first Monday in January in each odd-numbered year (or on the next day if the first Monday is a legal holiday). Each General Assembly meets during a two-year period or biennium that is divided into two annual regular sessions."

Once a General Assembly has convened, neither house may adjourn for more than five consecutive days, excluding Sunday, without the consent of the other house. So, during the breaks, each house meets each week but with a limited number of members and since there is no quorum the business is limited. An example is new bills can be introduced but the members cannot vote on any bills.

Also, during the breaks, there are no committee hearings. When a bill is introduced, it goes to the Rules and Reference Committee who then sends it back with their recommendation for assignment to a standing committee. That means bills introduced during the break bills have to wait until full sessions reconvene following the break.

But even though it is a break, most legislators are still working hard and keeping very busy. They spend their time researching and drafting new bills, holding office hours or town hall meetings in their district, visiting the many businesses and organizations in their district, and dealing with constituent issues. There is also fundraising and campaigning for either themselves or others. And yes, there is even time spent on family vacations for many of them.

Their offices are still open and operating during the break. They still get their emails, and their staffers pass on all phone messages and keep them updated on all activities and business that need to be addressed.

There you have how the breaks work in a very abridged version. Now that the GA is back 'at work', let's talk a little about what happened during the first couple of weeks after returning from break.

We told you that bills can be introduced but they can't be referred to a committee and there are no committee hearings. That means all the bills that were introduced during the summer break were referred to committees in the first week and committee hearings were immediately scheduled.

During the two and a half summer months, there were 24 bills introduced

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# **BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN SEPTEMBER**

## **SB 152:**

Introduced by Senator Kristina D. Roegner (District 27) on September 12th.  
It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill will enact section 5534.651 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 8 in the municipal corporation of Cuyahoga Falls as the "Cpl. Jack O. McClure Memorial Highway."

## **HCR 9:**

Introduced by Representatives Jennifer Gross (District 45) and Bernard Willis (District 74) on September 12th.  
It was referred to the House Homeland Security Committee.

The Concurrent Resolution urges the United States Congress to restore the Department of Defense's superior warfighting principles of recruiting, assigning, training, promoting, and retaining personnel solely based on merit and ensuring such personnel maintain and display a warrior ethos, and to name this resolution the "Restoration of America's Readiness (ROAR) Resolution."

## **SB 154:**

Introduced by Senator Kristina D. Roegner (District 27) on September 13th.  
It was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.

The bill will amend sections 122.925, 124.23, 145.30, 742.52, 742.521, 2151.4210, 3307.75, 3309.02, 3313.471, 3319.085, 3511.01, 4731.36, 4743.041, 5747.01, 5903.01, 5903.02, 5907.01, 5907.04, and 5910.01 of the Revised Code to include Space Force in the definition of the armed forces, armed services, and uniformed services of the United States, and to amend the version of section 4743.041 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect December 29, 2023, to continue the change on and after that date.

## **HB 269:**

Introduced by Adam Holmes (District 97) on September 18th.  
It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill will enact section 5534.847 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 60 in Muskingum County as the "Sgt Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway."

**A bill is a document by which a member of the General Assembly proposes to enact a new law or amend or repeal an existing law. The term "bill" is used to refer to the document from the time it is drafted and delivered to the member until it is considered and approved by both the House and the Senate. After passing both houses, a bill becomes an "act" and must be presented to the Governor for acceptance or rejection. If accepted, or if the Governor does not take any action for ten days, it becomes a "law."**

An idea for a new law or a change in an existing law might originate with a member of the General Assembly, an administrative agency of the state, the Governor, a special interest group, or a private citizen.

# OUT IN THE DISTRICTS

Please join Representative Jennifer Gross  
**Next Town Hall Meeting in October:**

**Where:** Morgan Township Administrative Building  
 3141 Chapel Rd. Okeana, OH 45053  
**When:** Monday, October 23, 2023 from 5:00-6:00 PM



**Senator Joins Veterans To Honor Long Missing WWII Airman**

September 23, 2023  
 Bridgeport, OH -Senator Frank Hoagland (center, in blue jacket) and veterans from all over Ohio paid honor and respect for pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. 1st Lt. Charles G. Reynolds had been missing since his B-25D Mitchell was shot down in New Guinea on November 27, 1943. His remains were identified in July and he was buried with full military honors beside his mother and father.

**JOIN US:** COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY  
 DUBLIN BRANCH, MTG ROOM 2  
 75 N HIGH STREET  
 DUBLIN, OHIO 43017  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH**  
 4:30-5:30 P.M.



**REPRESENTATIVES**  
**ANITA SOMANI AND ADAM MILLER**

**END OF SUMMER ROUNDTABLE**

As summer recess at the Ohio Statehouse comes to an end, enjoy a community discussion on legislative priorities for the end of the year.

Meet local leaders and come prepared with questions or legislative concerns.



**LATTES WITH LEGISLATORS**

Monday, October 23  
 7:30 - 9 a.m.

McKinley Memorial Museum, Niles

**YOUNGSTOWN WARREN**  
 REGIONAL CHAMBER

**NICK SANTUCCI**  
 District 64 Representative

**STEVE DEMETRIOU**  
 District 35 Representative



**Gary Click**

September 1 at 6:47 PM · 🌐

It will always be a highlight of my life to visit The Wall That Heals with one of my heroes, Jerry Widmer. He earned the Purple Heart in Vietnam. On this day we did a pencil rubbing with the names of a couple of his friends who made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you to Jerry and all who serve and have served.



**Rep. Holmes Helps VFW Post Celebrate 100 Years**

August 26, 2023  
 Zanesville, Ohio - When Zanesville VFW Post 1058 had celebrated 100 years as a Post they invited some VIPs to help them celebrate. Joining the Post members were Representatives from District and State levels of the VFW, Congressman Troy Balderson, Mayor Donald Mason and State Representative Adam Holmes (seated far left).

*Ohio Legislative Report* is on facebook

## IN OTHER STATES

### Illinois Veterans Could be Getting an Improved Homestead Exemption Law

In the September issue of Ohio Legislative Report, we looked at the contents of the seven different veterans homestead exemption bills that are before the Ohio General assembly.

Since then, we received information about a veteran homestead exemption bill that looks very much like it will become law in Illinois. It was passed in both chambers and sent to Governor JB Pritzker for his signature. The legislation would expand the state's current Disabled Veterans Standard Homestead Exemption.

This is what the bill, if passed, will do for Illinois veterans. Veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 30% to 50% will have the first \$2,500 in equalized assessed value of the property exempt from taxes. Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 50% to 70% will have the first \$5,000 in equalized assessed value of the property exempt from taxes. Any veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher, will be exempt from paying taxes on the first \$250,000 of the equalized assessed value of the property.

The same will apply to the spouse of a deceased veteran who qualified for the above. Also included in the bill is the provision to exempt any World War II veteran from all their property tax regardless of the level of their disability rating.

There are specific requirements that the veteran and/or spouse must meet to qualify for the exemptions. The bill would take effect in the tax year following it becoming law.

Governor Pritzker issued an amendatory veto recommending specific changes to the bill. Those specific changes do not affect any of the homestead exemption for veterans and it is hoped that the General Assembly will agree by accepting the governor's amendatory veto and pass it with his recommended changes.

## OUR OPINION

### Two Common Sense Bills

Before the General Assembly there are a couple of bills that will help catch Ohio up to the current times. Senate Bill 113 and Senate Bill 154 seem to be nothing more than common sense bills.

Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) introduced SB 113 in April and last month it was unanimously approved by the members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, but the next day a motion to recommit the bill back to the committee was passed on the senate floor.

The passage of this bill will bring Ohio law inline with the federal law that has been in effect since the Thurmond Amendment to the Defense Authorization Act became part of the US Code in 1985. The Thurmond Amendment required registration with the Selective Service Board as a prerequisite for appointment to most federal jobs.

According to the analysis of the Legislative Service Commission's Office of Research and Drafting, anyone who does not register with the selective Service System that is required to would not be able to hold an appointed or elected position with a state agency, public institution, or political subdivision. It also disqualifies them from an initial appointment to employment with a state

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## Reflections

*The life of a republic lies certainly in the energy, virtue, and intelligence of its citizens."*

*- Andrew Jackson*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Ohio Legislative Report** welcomes letters to the editor.

- Letters are limited to 200 words.
- Letters with over 200 words may be edited.
- Letters will be subject to editing for accuracy, clarity, length, and taste.
- Letters must include writer's name, address, and phone number for the purpose of verification.

**EMAIL LETTERS TO:** [oh.leg.report@gmail.com](mailto:oh.leg.report@gmail.com)

# Legislation In The 135<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly

## Pertaining to Ohio Veterans, Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard, and Their Families

- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of and expand the homestead exemption
- ◇ HB 69 Revise membership of county veterans service commissions
- ◇ HB 90 Authorize property tax exemption for disabled veterans, spouses
- ◇ HB 123 Designate Honor and Remember flag to honor fallen service members
- ◇ HB 126 Expand municipal income tax exemption for military pay
- ◇ HB 131 Designate Army SSgt. Charles V. Kettler Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 132 Designate Army Sgt. Herbert C. Linville Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 133 Designate Army Sgt. Ronnie Blair Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 150 Prohibit rental discrimination based on lawful source of income
- ◇ HB 202 Designate Specialist Dennis Alan Combs Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 231 Establish 9-8-8 suicide prevention, mental health telephone line
- ◇ HB 242 Establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds
- ◇ HB 250 Revise the Military Enlistment diploma seal
- ◇ HB 252 Designate SM1 Cornelius Anthony McCafferty, Jr. Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 253 Designate Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor
- ◇ HB 254 Expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans
- ◇ HB 269 Designate Sgt Bradley J. Harper USMC Memorial Highway
  
- ◇ HR 95 Urge Congress to extend GI Bill benefits
- ◇ HR 189 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 221 Honoring Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 222 Honoring Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 258 Honoring American Legion DeWitt McConnell Post 235 on its Centennial
  
- ◇ HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command
- ◇ HCR 9 Adopt Restoration of America's Readiness (ROAR) Resolution
  
- ◇ SB 12 Regards veteran-owned business enterprise certification program
- ◇ SB 14 Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license
- ◇ SB 15 Authorize Military License Plate Program permanent registration
- ◇ SB 43 Modify homestead exemption-surviving spouse of a disabled veteran
- ◇ SB 45 Designate Veterans Memorial Bridge in Trumbull County
- ◇ SB 63 Require plaintiff in asbestos claim to file specified disclosures
- ◇ SB 64 Expand Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
- ◇ SB 110 Designate Sgt. Anthony Kress Vinnedge Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 113 Regards failure to comply with Military Selective Service System
- ◇ SB 114 Designate Lance Corporal James F. Kimple Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 152 Designate Cpl. Jack O. McClure Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 154 Include Space Force in armed forces, armed and uniformed service
  
- ◇ SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary

You can watch live every session of both chambers, all the committee hearings, Governor DeWine's press conferences, and much more on the Ohio Channel.

They are also archived for viewing at a later date.

[www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org)

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in the senate and 35 in the house. Those 59 bills were referred to committees and added to the bills that were already in each committee. All 59 bills were sent to their respective rules and reference committees whose job it was to read each bill and determine which standing committee each one should go to. They then sent the bills back to their respective houses and in a full session the members voted whether to accept the recommendations of the rules and reference committee or not. Generally speaking, their recommendation would be accepted, and the bills would then be sent to the proper committees.

It then became the duty of each committee chair to look at each bill and fit it into the schedule for hearings. Each bill usually would get three or more hearings. During the first hearing for a bill, the committee would hear testimony from the bill's sponsor. In the second, proponent testimony would be heard and testimony from any opponents would be heard during the third hearing. If further hearing were needed, testimonies would usually be open to proponents, opponents, and interested parties.

The committee members may take several different actions on a bill while it is in their committee. It may report a bill favorably with no changes; adopt amendments and report the bill as an amended bill; redraft the bill or adopt numerous or lengthy amendments and report it as a substitute bill; combine two or more bills into one amended or substitute bill; indefinitely postpone the bill, thereby defeating it; or take no action at all. An affirmative vote of a majority of the committee members is necessary either to report a bill favorably or to postpone it indefinitely.

Once the committee members vote, the bill goes to the clerk of the respective house, and it is filed and then it goes back to the rules and reference committee who consider it for possible floor action.

Before a bill can be passed, become an act

that is sent to the governor for his consideration, and either sign into law or veto, it must pass with a majority vote of the first house, then be sent over to the other house and go through the same process all over again.

It is obvious that there are many steps a bill must take to become a law, and it can be a time-consuming process that can quite often take a long, long time. In the couple of weeks the members of the General Assembly have been back at work, much was completed, but more work is needed in order to fully catch up with what was not accomplished during the previous 2 and a half months.

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agency.

It is plain and simple... If you are required to register with the Selective Service and you don't, you can't work for the state. The same principals have applied to federal jobs since 1985.

For the exact details of the bill, read the text of Senate Bill 113 on The Ohio Legislature website.

We think Senate Bill 154 is also needed to keep the Ohio Revised Code current.

Senator Kristina D. Roegner (District 27) introduced the commonsense bill less than a month ago and it was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee. At this time, it has not been scheduled for a hearing.

This bill, if passed will do one thing. It will add the United States Space Force (USSF) to the definition of the U.S. Armed Forces, Armed Services, and Uniformed Services in the appropriate sections throughout the Ohio Revised Code.

The USSF became a branch of the United States Armed Forces in December of 2010 and is a part of the Department of the Air Force. It is past time to update the ORC and include the men and women (Guardians) of the USSF.

The O. L. Report supports both bills.

## OHIO CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

#### SECTION #6 SLAVERY AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE

Effective: 1851

There shall be no slavery in this state; nor involuntary servitude, unless for the punishment of crime.

### SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

If you have news or photos of a state representative or senator doing veteran/military stuff in their district, send it to us.

Email photos and all info to:  
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