Ohio Legislative Report

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'Ohio Legislative Report'

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically at the beginning 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, their families, and Veteran Organizations 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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Statehouse Happenings

It was mentioned in the July issue of OL Report that all 99 House seats would be on the November ballots and there would be 17 Senate seats (the odd numbered districts). Most voters will have to decide who they are voting for. All but six of the 116 total districts have two or more candidates.

In the House there are 209 candidates running for the 99 district seats. There are 97 Democrats, 93 Republicans, 9 Libertarians, and 10 Independents, 4 of which are write-in candidates.
In the Senate there are 16 Democrats, 17 Republicans, one Libertarian, and one Independent.

In the 136th General Assembly

In this issue we are going to give our readers an update on the military veterans who are serving in the 136th Generals Assembly and which ones are running in the November Election. Then we'll look at the veterans wanting a seat in the 137th G.A.

At the start of the 136th there were 12 veterans in the House and four serving in the senate. They held 16 of the a132 seats. Only 12.12 per cent. At the end of the 137th we will lose three Representatives and two Senators; Representatives **Tracy M. Richardson** (HD-86) and **Beth Lear** (HD-61) are not running for re-election, and Representative **Steve Demetrious** (HD-35) is running for a seat in the Senate. Senators **Hearcel F. Craig** (SD-15) and **Steve Wilson** (SD-7) are both stepping down due to term limits.

The other representatives are campaigning for re-election, and all have one or more opponents hoping to unseat them. Senators **Terry A. Johnson** (SD-14) and **Casey Weinstein** (SD-28) are safe for now since their seats are not available until the 2028 election.

Vying for the 137th General Assembly

Campaigning for a seat in the House of Representatives are seven military veterans. In the Senate there is one. But before we go into any detail let us remind our readers that we are not endorsing any party or individual. Our only goal is to give readers a little bit of knowledge about the election. We want to add that we are not suggesting anyone vote for an individual simply because they are a veteran. Each voter must make their own decisions about who to vote for. OL Report is about Ohio Veteran/Military Legislation and Legislators.

We also want you to know where we found our information. The information we are about to report to you is taken from the website www.ballotpedia.org. We found 10 veterans running in the

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November election, but that does not mean there are not more veterans running. It means 10 is all we were able to find on the Ballotpedia website.

In House District 14 David Morgan (R) served from 1885 to 1993 in the US Army Reserves. He is running against Incumbent **Sean Brennan** (D).

In District 58 John Bocceiri (D) is running against Heather Fronk (R). Bocceiri served in the US Air Force from 1994 to 1998, the Ohio Air National Guard from 1998 to 2000, and the US Air Force reserve from 2000 to the present.

There are two veterans in House District 62 running against Incumbent **Jean Schmidt** (R). Ian Schwartz (D) is a veteran of the UA Air Force. He served from 2007 to 2011. Ron Grethel (L) served from 2013 to 2021 in the US Army National Guard.

Mason Blankenship (D) served in the US Marine Corps from 2005 to 2010. He is running against the incumbent, **Thadeous Claggett** (R) in the 68th district.

Incumbent **Gary Click** (R) in District 88 is up against US Army Veteran, Aaron Jones (D) who served from 1991 to 1995.

There are three individuals running for a seat in the 89th District. They are Easton Retzke (D), Caleb Stidham (R), and Steven Kraus (I). Krause is a write-in candidate and a graduate of the Community College of the Air Force. He served in the US Air Force for 11 years.

In House District 95 Paul Cameron (D) is running against the incumbent, **Ty Moore** (R). Cameron served in the U.S. Army from 1988 to 2014.

Adam Holmes (R), the incumbent in the 97th House District is facing two challengers. They are Kristina Geis (I) and Tim Godwin (L). Godwin served from 2001 to 2005 in the US Marine Corps. Holmes graduated from the Naval Academy and served for 31 years in the US Marine Corps.

Representative **Steve Demetriou** (R) is running for the Senate's 27th District seat. He is up against Mike Roberto (D). Demetriou served in the US Army from 2011 to 2016 after his graduation from the US Military Academy.

Senate District 33 has incumbent **Alessandro Cutrona** (R) being challenged by Michael Kripchak (D). He is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy and served from 2000 to 2007.

The decision is yours -Measure twice

We have shown you who has served in the Armed Forces, but every candidate has much more information that you will need to uncover to understand them better. They all have a story that we hope you will uncover and read before you go to the polls and cast your vote.

Being a veteran does not make anyone the best candidate for the position. There are good veterans and not so good veterans. That is true with any group of people, and it is up to every one of us to do everything we can to find the best candidate. The elected person will be serving you and your community for the next two or more years. It is up to you to find the best person.

A carpenter will tell you to measure twice and cut once. In an election you may need to measure each candidate more than twice before you vote once. If you don't measure your candidate, you may not get a good one.

—OLR—

Reflections

"We preach the virtues of democracy abroad. We must practice its duties here at home. Voting is the first duty of democracy."

-Lyndon B. Johnson

ATTENTION LEGISLATORS

Ohio Legislative Report will publish an announcement of your upcoming Town Hall or District Meeting.

Send your press releases to:
oh.leg.report@gmail.com
by the end of each month to be included.

A look at what the bills say... In a Nutshell

Summaries from the OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DRAFTING

Two bills have been introduced that are aimed at helping get the word out to veterans in Ohio of some of the benefits and programs available to them. One bill has already passed and signed by Governor DeWine and the other is sitting in committee.

Senate Bill 39 was introduced by Senators **Terry Johnson** (SD-14) and **Hearcel F. Craig** (SD-15) on January 28, 2025. I passed unanimously at all stations and was signed by the governor on July 1, 2025. It has been in effect since September 30, 2025.

House Bill 470 was introduced on March 4, 2026, and referred to the House Veterans and Military Development Committee, but has not had any hearings yet. The bill sponsors are Representatives **Lauren McNally** (HD-58) and **Rachel B. Baker** (HD-27). It has nine cosponsors.

Senate Bill 39-

The Summary & Final Analysis

SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of Veterans Services, to create a veterans' benefits and services poster.
- Requires the Director of Commerce to provide an employer with a copy of the poster at the employer's request and allows the employer to display it on the employer's premises.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Veterans' benefits and services poster

The act requires the Director of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of Veterans Services, to create a veterans' benefits and services poster. The Director of Commerce must include information about the following topics in the poster:

- Department of Veterans Services' programs, contact information, and website;
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs veterans crisis hotline;
- Substance abuse and mental health treatment programs;
- Educational, workforce, and training resources;
- Tax benefits and exemptions;
- Availability of an armed forces designation on an Ohio driver's license or identification card;
- Unemployment benefits;
- Legal services;
- Availability of any other benefit or service for veterans that the Directors determine should be included.

Under the act, the Director of Commerce must provide an employer with a copy of the poster free of charge at the employer's request. The act permits an employer employing employees in Ohio to display a copy of the poster on the employer's premises in a conspicuous place that is frequented by the largest number of employees and to which all employees have access.

House Bill 740-

The Summary & Analysis

As Introduced

SUMMARY

▪ Requires the Director of Health to create a poster containing information on veterans medical benefits.
▪ Requires the Director of Health to provide a copy of the poster free of charge to a health care provider upon request.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Veterans medical benefits poster

The bill requires the Director of Health, in consultation with the Director of Veterans Services, to create a veterans medical benefits poster, and specifies the information that must be included on the poster. The Director of Health must provide a copy of the poster to a health care provider free of charge upon request. A health care provider may display a copy of the poster in a conspicuous location. Under the bill, "health care provider" means a hospital, ambulatory care facility, long-term care facility, pharmacy, emergency facility, or health care practitioner.

The poster must include information about the following institutions and programs:

1. The Department of Veterans Services contact and website information and applicable programs the Department offers;
2. The Military Injury Relief Fund;
3. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs veterans crisis line, including its contact information;
4. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs caregiver support program;
5. Military OneSource;

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6. Relink.org;
7. Substance abuse and mental health treatment programs available to veterans;
8. Veteran health care rights;
9. Legal services available to veterans;
10. The availability of any other benefit or service relevant to veterans health care that the Directors determine should be included on the poster; and
11. The importance of veterans sharing their veteran status with health care providers as such information may aid in diagnosis and may enable health care providers to identify available resources.

—OLR—

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

***Report* welcomes letters to the editor**

- Letters should be limited to 250 words.
- Letters with over 250 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:
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Discover your

Ohio Department of Veterans Services

Learn about the events, programs, responsibilities, endeavors and goals of this excellent state agency.

Find them at
www.dvs.ohio.gov

Statehouse Announcements

The Ohio Statehouse will be closed on Monday, October 12, 2026, in observance of Columbus Day.

The Ohio Women's Monument will officially be unveiled on October 14, 2026, with a special ceremony at the Ohio Theatre, directly across the street from where the monument will sit on Capitol Square. A ribbon cutting will take place on the South Plaza directly after the program. This is a free ticketed event. Click here to RSVP.

The National Fossil Day tours of the Ohio Statehouse have been rescheduled to Oct. 13. These special tours will take place at 10:00 am and 1:00 p.m. Expert geologists from The Ohio State University and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will lead an exploration of the limestone walls, stairs, and columns that support the Ohio Statehouse. The fossil tours are a unique opportunity for anyone fascinated by geology and natural history.

-EXHIBITS-

New Exhibit - The Mystery of the Origin of the Headless Horseman
Now - October 31
Gov. Thomas Worthington Center

Using books, artifacts, and reproduction maps, the exhibit traces the origins of the Headless Horseman. The Headless Horseman is the apparition who chased Icabod Crane out of town in Washington Irving's 1820 tale, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

Last Chance - Ohioans in Space: The Carl Walz Spacesuit
Now - November 3
Rotunda
Presented by the Kent State University Museum, this exhibit honors Ohio's enduring leadership in innovation and discovery. Alongside images from the James Webb Telescope, the exhibit showcases the spacesuit worn aboard the International Space Station by NASA astronaut and Kent State alumnus Carl E. Walz, '77.

NEWLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION

HB 996 was introduced on September 2 by Representative **Tracy Richardson** (HD-86).

The bill would amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.768 of the Revised Code to create the "United States Military Academy West Point" license plate.

It has not been referred to a committee.

HB 1001 was introduced on September 8 by Representative **Johnathan Newman** (HD-80).

The bill would amend sections 323.11 and 4503.06 of the Revised Code to disallow property taxes from being a lien on property and instead requiring them to be the personal liability of the property owner, to require county treasurers to abate delinquent taxes on property owned by senior citizens or certain disabled veterans, and to name this act the Private Property Protection Act.

It has not been referred to a committee.

SB 470 was introduced on September 14 by Senator **Kristina D. Roegner** (SD-27).

The bill would enact section 5534.156 of the Revised Code to designate the bridge spanning the Cuyahoga River on State Route 8 as the "First Lieutenant Ronald Yale, USMC, Memorial Bridge."

The bill was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

HB 1015 was introduced on September 23 by Representative **Angela N. King** (HD-84).

The bill would enact section 5534.632 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of the interchange of U.S. Route 33 and State Route 66 in Auglaize County as the "Sgt. Eli Holsinger Memorial Interchange."

The bill has not been referred to a committee.

HB 1016 was introduced on September 23 by Representative **Gayle Manning** (HD-52).

The bill would enact section 5534.623 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 57 in Lorain County as the "Army Sgt. Daniel Michael Shepherd Memorial Highway."

The bill has not been referred to a committee.

HR 545 was introduced on September 28 by Representative **Brian Stewart** (HD-12).

The resolution honored Sergeant Zachary Cline as the 2026 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

The resolution was adopted the same day.

2026 GENERAL ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 3rd

Oct. 06: Early in-person voting and absentee voting by mail begins (first day after close of voter registration)

Oct. 28: Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for Nov. 3 general election must be received by boards of elections by the close of business

Nov. 03: General Election Day. -Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls

Legislation In The 136th Ohio General Assembly

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

HB 1 Enact Ohio Property Protection Act
HB 22 Authorize homestead exemption for surviving military spouses
HB 27 Designate Specialist Jacob A. Ashton Memorial Bridge
HB 40 Increase disabled veteran enhanced homestead exemption
HB 50 To designate a portion of SR 47 the "PFC John Wayne Richard Memorial Highway."
HB 56 To designate a portion of SR 421 the "CPL David James Amheiser Memorial Highway."
HB 61 Modify homestead exemption, owner-occupancy tax credit amount
HB 95 Support members of Ohio Veterans Education Council
HB 96 Make state operating appropriations for FY 2026-27
HB 135 Prohibit source of income discrimination in rental housing
HB 171 Designate a portion of State Route 28 the “CPT Louis John Speidel Memorial Highway.”
HB 192 Enact the Community Pharmacy Protection Act
HB 198 Regulate manufacture, sale of inhalable, ingestible hemp products
HB 204 Designate 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day
HB 228 To designate a portion of I 280 the "SSG Jack W. Coy Veterans Memorial Highway."
HB 234 Designate Cpl. Robert Dockstader Memorial Highway
HB 259 Designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway
HB 267 Regards creation, display of veterans benefit and services poster
HB 290 Enact the Atmosphere Protection Act
HB 292 Establish the Ohio Defense Commission
HB 297 Regards funds provided by county for Memorial Day expenses
HB 316 Designate MSGT Norman Michael Kilbarger Memorial Highway
HB 335 Regards county budget commissions, property and sales tax, funds
HB 339 Allow surviving spouse to retain Purple Heart license plate
HB 344 Regards electronic instant bingo, lottery terminals; levy a tax
HB 360 Designate SPC Louis P. Shuster Memorial Interchange
HB 383 Designate Litten Brothers Memorial Highway
HB 384 Designate Staff Sergeant Melvin Trushel, Sr. Memorial Highway
HB 385 Designate PFC Thomas "Tommy" Pizzino Memorial Highway
HB 414 Designate Navy Seaman Jadwisiak Memorial Highway
HB 419 Create the Save22 license plate
HB 434 Exempt military driver's license applicants from driver's ed
HB 451 Designate CPL Lindsey William Mitchell Memorial Highway
HB 452 Designate 761st Tank Battalion Day
HB 464 Exempt military-certified child care providers from licensure
HB 476 Authorize online raffles under the Charitable Gaming Law
HB 497 Designate PFC James Vincent PottKotter Memorial Highway
HB 500 Designate a school JROTC program as a career-technical ed program
HB 516 Designate 83rd Ohio Division Memorial Highway
HB 529 Authorize tax credit if hiring veterans, service members, spouse
HB 576 Designate November as Veterans' month
HB 580 Designate PFC Francis Guillozet Memorial Highway
HB 600 Designate PFC Wetzel Eldridge USMC Memorial Highway
HB 607 Name Spc. 4th Class Frank A. Herda, Medal of Honor Rec. Mem Hwy

More on next Page...

HB 632 Allow driver's license or ID card to show Gold Star Family status
HB 660 Regards the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program
HB 681 Designate Marine PFC Glenn S. Wingenbach, Jr. Memorial Highway
HB 708 Govern practice of providing veterans claim consulting assistance
HB 721 Establish the Veterans Organization Grant Program
HB 730 Make capital reappropriations for biennium ending June 30, 2028
HB 731 Create the Land of U.S. Grant license plate
HB 738 Designate PFC Chris Dixon Memorial Highway
HB 740 Regards creation, display of veterans medical benefits poster
HB 748 Establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program
HB 759 Enact the Ohio Vets-Military Families Childcare Act
HB 771 Modify Governor's authority re: Ohio National Guard; deployments
HB 785 Enact the ASSET Act
HB 788 Regards paid military leave for law enforcement officers
HB 790 Miller, JDesignate the Honor and Remember flag; encourage flag display
HB 823 Regards deployed elected official's office, meeting attendance
HB 824 Allow deployed elected official to retain the official's position
HB 844 Authorize tax credit for qualifying technology investments
HB 879 Prohibit unlawful removal of item used as a memorial for the dead
HB 886 Enact the V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act
HB 933 Enact the Fair Trial Protection Act
HB 955 Expand homestead exemption - disabled veteran's surviving spouse
HB 959 Make capital appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2028
HB 961 Enact the V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act
HB 962 Create the Blue Star Mothers of America license plate
HB 974 Designate LCpl Richard O. Fisher Memorial Highway
HB 996 Create United States Military Academy West Point license plate
HB 1001 Enact the Private Property Protection Act
HB 1015 Designate Sgt. Eli Holsinger Memorial Interchange
HB 1016 Designate Army Sgt. Daniel Michael Shepherd Memorial Highway

HCR 7 To support the work of the Am. Leg. Buckeye Boys State and the Am. Leg. Aux. Buckeye Girls State
HCR 18 Urge Congress to recognize US troops who served in Honduras
HCR 20 Honor the United States Navy; commemorate its 250th anniversary
HCR 21 Recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps
HCR 23 Recognize 250th anniversary of United States Army, Chaplain Corps
HCR 27 Support use of state land for a new VA National cemetery
HCR 42 Urge Congress to enact the Veterans' ACCESS Act

HJR 9 CA: Require identification to vote

HR 133 Honoring Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary
HR 243 Urge selection of Rickenbacker as KC-46 Pegasus operating base
HR 365 In memory of Master Sergeant Tyler Simmons
HR 370 In Memory of Captain Curtis J. Angst
HR 378 In memory of Captain Seth R. Koval
HR 390 Honoring Beavercreek High School Air Force JROTC as a 2026 U.S. Air Force Open Drill Nationals Champion
HR 447 Designate Honor and Remember Flag to honor fallen service members
HR 545 Honoring Sergeant Zachary Cline as the 2026 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

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SB 17 Designate 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day
SB 21 Designate Rutherford B. Hayes Day
SB 39 Provide for informational poster on veteran benefits and services
SB 56 Revise medical and adult-use marijuana laws; levy marijuana taxes
SB 88 Enact the Ohio Property Protection Act
SB 92 Authorize total property tax exemption-totally disabled veterans
SB 148 Designate a portion of State Route 2 the "Specialist Lloyd Andrew Sellers Memorial Highway."
SB 179 Verify veteran status of imprisoned individuals
SB 193 Designate Captain Joshua Michael McClimans Memorial Highway
SB 197 Legalize, tax internet gambling; make other Gambling Law changes
SB 218 Exempt armed forces-certified child care provider from licensure
SB 223 Require ODNR discount program for veterans, service members
SB 244 Designate Abbey Gate Remembrance Day
SB 253 Designate Black Ohioan Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient Day
SB 280 Allow registration of a humvee as a historical motor vehicle
SB 293 Revise deadline to return absent voter ballots
SB 302 Create the Land of U.S. Grant license plate
SB 346 Create the 1905 Wright Flyer III license plate
SB 351 Allow deployed service member to attend public meetings virtually
SB 356 Temporarily increase the amount of the homestead exemptions
SB 362 Establish the Ohio Defense and Space Commission
SB 372 Make capital reappropriations for biennium ending June 30, 2028
SB 401 Designate General William Tecumseh Sherman Day
SB 402 Designate General Philip Sheridan Day
SB 416 Regards board of education members deployed on active duty
SB 417 Enact the ASSET Act
SB 450 Make capital appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2028
SB 455 Designate Col. George A. Martin Memorial Highway
SB 470 Designate First Lieutenant Ronald Yale, USMC, Memorial Bridge

SCR 7 Urge Congress reissue DoD Civilian Retiree Identification Cards

SJR10 CA: Require identification to vote

SR 21 Urge Congress support military, veteran mental health treatment
SR 22 Urge federal govt reduce processing time-veteran disability claim
SR 52 Honoring the DAR Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter on its 150th Anniversary
SR 97 Observing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Ohio
SR 123 Honoring Deborah A. Ashenhurst on her retirement from the OVDS
SR 192 Recognizing Rutherford B. Hayes Day in Ohio
SR 233 Honoring James W. Erisman on his One Hundredth Birthday
SR 299 In memory of Captain Seth R. Koval
SR 301 In memory of Captain Curtis J. Angst
SR 324 Recognizing the Month of the Military Child in Ohio, April 2026
SR 332 Honoring Beavercreek HS AFJROTC on winning two 2026 U.S. Air Force Open Drill Nationals championships

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.