



Ohio Legislative Report



Volume One Alpha; Number One

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HELPFUL LINKS

UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

www.congress.gov

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTAIVES:

www.house.gov

US SENATE:

www.senate.gov

OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

OH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

www.ohiohouse.gov

OH SENATE:

www.ohiosenate.gov

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE:

www.ohiosos.gov

NEW E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first issue of Ohio Legislative Report (*OL Report*). It is an emailed newsletter for all members of the Ohio VFW or Auxiliary who subscribe.

It is our hope that it will be issued around the first week of each month and cover primarily news of issues affecting Ohio's veterans, military, and their families in the Ohio General Assembly.

It will also be used as a call to arms when there is a piece of legislation that needs the help of the 85,000 members of our organizations but contacting legislators requesting them to act.

Do not expect every bit of information needed to enlighten everyone on a bill to be published here. In most cases we will give a summary of a piece of legislation and a link you can use to get all the details. Some bills are hundreds or thousands of pages, but even three or four pages would be more than we can fit into the *OL Report*. If you have questions about something you will always find the editors email posted on page one.

We hope you enjoy the *OL Report* and will learn and benefit from its content. If there is something you would like to see included, let us know. If you have an idea that would improve it, let us know. If you have a complaint about the *OL Report*, let us know. We know there is always room for improvement and we want to hear your ideas.

Ohio Legislative Report

Is published [at least] once per month to report the latest information about legislative issues –from both Washington, DC and Columbus, OH - that will affect the lives of Veterans and Military Personnel and their families members in Ohio.

It is emailed at no charge to members of the Veteran Service Organizations who subscribe.

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KEEP INFORMED ABOUT WHAT YOUR VFW IS DOING FOR YOU ON THE HILL

Signup for 'VFW Action Corps Weekly'

www.vfw.org/advocacy

NEW YEAR—NEW GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Ohio Legislature held the first sessions on January 3 and officially began the 135th General Assembly. The 135th G.A. runs for two years.

After the swearing in of all legislators, the first order of business was to elect the leaders of each chamber. In the Senate Chamber all went as planned and Senator Matt Huffman was elected President for the second time.

But on the House side, things did not go as well. The representative expected to be elected was not and it became a rocky start for the new House of Representatives. The elected Speaker of the House was Representative Jason Stephens.

By the end of four weeks the Senate announced the leaders and members of all standing committees the first week, the house announced their committee leaders the second week and the committee members at the end of the month. The Senate had introduced more than 40 bills and numerous resolutions. The House will start introducing bills the first week of February. The Senate is in its third week of Committee hearings. The House will start holding hearing the second week of February.

Let us hope the House can put their problems behind them and get down to meaningful work very soon. There is plenty of work to be done.

NEW YEAR - NEW CONGRESS

The 118th Congress of the United States began not too unlike the Ohio General assembly did. The Senate faired well while the House sputtered. It took fifteen ballots over a four day period before the members of House of Representatives elected Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House.

Things are moving along now as bills are being introduced and committee hearings are being held.

Ohio has one less Representative than in the past. The 2020 census showed a smaller increase in population than other states did. Because of that Ohio now has 15 congressional districts.

You will find a list of all Ohio's U.S. representatives and senators and their contact information within this issue.

NEW DISTRICTS

Following the 2020 census the Ohio General Assembly, after must controversy, set new congressional district and new district for the Ohio House and Senate. Your districts may have changes. If you are not sure what district you are now in check on the Ohio Secretary of State's website from this link:

www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters

VETERANS IN THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Next issue of the *OL Report* have a will list the Veterans serving in the Ohio Senate.

Steve Demetriou District H35 (R)

Representative Demetriou studied economics at the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 2011 with Dean's List honors and a bachelor's degree. After West Point, Demetriou was commissioned as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army.

During his time in the Army, Rep. Demetriou completed Army Ranger and Airborne training. He served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.

Haraz N. Ghanbari ** District H75 (R)

Haraz has more than two decades of military service. He is a Navy veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Inherent Resolve, and an Army veteran of Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia. Promoted to Lieutenant Commander on Sept. 1, 2018, he currently continues his service in the United States Navy Reserve.

**Representative Ghanbari is an Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Honoree -Class of 2018.

Jennifer Gross District H45 (R)

Gross is a 21-year Air Force veteran and retired Lt. Colonel, who served our great nation in Saudi Arabia during Operation Provide Comfort and in Sarajevo during Operation Provide Promise. Gross retired from the military in 2008.

Adam Holmes District H97 (R)

Holmes spent over 27 years in the United States Marine Corps and retired as a Colonel in 2016. During his career as a Marine aviator, Holmes served in several senior leadership and command positions. His experience includes 40 combat missions supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and over 3000 flight hours supporting crisis response missions in Somalia, Rwanda, the Middle East and other areas around the world.

Beth Lear District H64 (R)

She served in the Ohio Air National Guard, including active duty at the Pentagon during Operation Desert Storm.

Mike Loychik District H65 (R)

Loychik dedicated eight years of his life to the United States Air Force. He was a C-130 Crew Chief with a special operations group, as well as a combat search and rescue group. He retired as a Staff Sergeant.

Adam C. Miller District H6 (D)

Miller is a practicing attorney and a Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps member, US Army Reserves. Rep. Mille recently returned from an Active Duty tour as Rule of Law Director, NATO/US Forces Afghanistan. He is Colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps (Reserve) and has served multiple tours overseas.

Tracy M. Richardson District h86 (R)

She is a graduate of West Point and was deployed in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, earning a Bronze Star Medal. She is currently serving as a U.S. Army Reservist.

Brian Stewart District H78 (R)

Rep. Stewart enlisted for active duty in the Army after experiencing 9/11 as a high school senior. He is an infantry veteran of the Iraq War and earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) in addition to twice receiving the Army Commendation Medal.

Daniel P. Troy District H60 (D)

Rep. Troy is a U.S. Army veteran.

Casey Weinstein District H34 (D)

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Casey served at Wright-Patterson AFB.

Scott Wiggam District H77 (R)

During Scott's four year, active duty tour in the United States Air Force, he was honored with an Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service.

Bernard Willis District H74 (R)

Representative Willis is a career military pilot earning the rank of colonel as a multi-tour commander who flew F-16s and unmanned MQ-1 Predator drones.

He is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, distinguished graduate of the MQ-1 Predator transition course, and was the top Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force Security Forces Officer course where he received the 4-Star Air Education and Training Command commander's award for excellence.

118th United States Congress

Ohio Members

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

District 1 Greg Landsman
1432 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-2216

District 2 Brad R. Wenstrup
2419 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-3164

District 3 Joyce Beatty
2303 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-4324

District 4 Jim Jordan
2056 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-2676

District 5 Robert E. Latta
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
(202) 225-6405

District 6 Bill Johnson
2336 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-5705

District 7 Max L. Miller
143 Cannon House Office Building
(202) 225-3876

District 8 Warren Davidson
2113 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-6205

District 9 Marcy Kaptur
2186 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-4146

District 10 Michael R. Turner
2082 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-6465

District 11 Shontel M. Brown
2344 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-7032

District 12 Troy Balderson
2429 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-5355

District 13 Emilia Strong Sykes
1217 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-6265

District 14 David P. Joyce
2065 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-5731

District 15 Mike Carey
2234 Rayburn Office Building
(202) 225-2015

SENATE:

Sherrod Brown
503 Hart Office Building
(202) 224-2315

J. D. Vance
B40C Dirksen Office Building
(202) 224-3353

All office buildings are in:
Washington, DC 20515

You can find links to the websites of all Ohio legislators from the following link:
www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member

BILLS INTRODUCED IN JANUARY

The house got off to a slow and rocky start and as of February 1st no bills have been introduced, although many representative have them waiting for the next session so they can introduce them. We will be posting them on the *VFW of Ohio—State Legislation* facebook page as they are made public.

In the senate there are four bills of interest to our veterans and their families.

SB 12 Summary:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on January 11th

Referred to the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee.

- Establishes a veteran-owned business enterprise certification program under the Department of Development.
- Expands the eligibility criteria for set-aside state purchasing contracts currently available to certified minority business enterprises to include certified veteran-owned business enterprises.
- Increases the value of set-aside state purchasing contracts from 15% to 20% of the estimated total value of purchases per fiscal year.
- Reserves 5% of state purchasing contracts for certified veteran-owned business enterprises and preserves the 15% of state purchasing contracts that are reserved for certified minority business enterprises under current law.

SB 14 Summary:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on January 11th

Referred to the Senate Education Committee.

- Permits a school district, community school, or STEM school to employ as a teacher an eligible veteran who does not hold an educator license.
- Establishes related service, educational, registration, and mentorship requirements that a veteran must meet in order to be employed as a teacher.
- Permits an eligible veteran to teach a core subject area.

SB 15 Summary:

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on January 11th

Referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

- Creates a permanent motor vehicle registration option for retired military veterans within the existing Military License Plate Program.
- Waives standard motor vehicle registration taxes and fees (after the first year of registration) for a retired military veteran who registers a motor vehicle under the Program.

SB 43:

Introduced by Senator Andrew O. Brenner (District 19) on January 31st.

Has not been referred to a committee yet.

The summary was not available yet but it will amend sections 323.151, 323.152, 323.153, 4503.064, 4503.065, and 4503.066 of the Revised Code to modify the homestead exemption for the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran.

Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel through committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses. To find a bill put the bill number (ie: SB 12 or SB 43) into the search bar and go from there.

You can find the Ohio Legislature's website from this link:

www.legislature.ohio.gov

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.