



# Ohio Legislative Report



Volume One Alpha; Number Seven

August 2023

## 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 SECRETARY OF STATE:  
[www.ohiosos.gov](http://www.ohiosos.gov)
- OHIO GOVERNOR:  
[www.governor.ohio.gov](http://www.governor.ohio.gov)
- OHIO LAWS:  
[www.codes.ohio.gov](http://www.codes.ohio.gov)
- OHIO CHANNEL:  
[www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org)

## Ohio Legislative Report

Is published electronically every month to report on the latest information about legislative issues taking place in Columbus that will affect the lives of Veterans and 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:  
**[oh.leg.report@gmail.com](mailto:oh.leg.report@gmail.com)**

Editor: David K. Root

## Statehouse Happenings

The Ohio 135th General Assembly is on summer break.

Does that mean nothing gets done? That no one is working on your behalf? The answer to both is yes and no.

Although neither the house nor the senate are holding full sessions, non-voting sessions are still held each week so that new bills can be introduced, and house and senate resolutions adopted. However, the new bills will not be referred to any committees until the general assembly returns. Committees do not hold any hearings so there is no testimony being given.

So, what are your legislators doing during the break? There of course are some who are using a portion of the time for family vacations, but most senators and representatives are spending their time traveling in their districts visiting businesses, meeting with organizations, attending community functions, and of course doing some campaigning. Many legislators are holding district office hours, roundtables, or some sort of meeting to talk with their constituents.

Can you get in touch with your legislators if you need them during the summer break? Yes, you can. In most cases their offices in Columbus are still in full operation. You can call and email the office and communicate with the legislative aides the same as any other time of year. Emails and messages will be forwarded to the legislator. When it comes to connecting with your legislators, it is pretty much business as usual with the possible exception that the lines of communication might be a little slower than normal.

Summer break is an excellent time to meet your legislators and talk with them face to face. Keep an eye on their website, follow them on social media, and read your newspaper. If your legislator has scheduled a meeting for constituents, they will announce it. The *Ohio Legislative Report* facebook page quite often has those announcements posted and for the first time we are including them in this issue (see page 6) and will continue to do that in future issues.

Attend those meetings. Talk with them and find out what they have been doing, what they stand for, and what they are working on. Let them know what you would like to see them do and what you stand for. Legislators like to get your feedback on important issues.

If you do run into your legislator when they are in their district doing veteran or military related things, let us know. Tell us who, what, where, when, and why it happened and if you can get a photo that would be even better. *O.L. Report* wants to let all our readers know what their legislators are doing for veterans. Email all info and photos to [oh.leg.report@gmail.com](mailto:oh.leg.report@gmail.com).

There are two elections coming up. A special election on the 8th of this month and the general election on November 7th. There are a couple of very

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# BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN JULY

## **HB 242:**

Introduced by Representatives Adam C. Miller (District t 6) and Dick Stein (District 54) on July 17th.  
The bill has not been referred to a committee yet.

The bill will enact sections 3333.46, 3333.461, and 3333.462 of the Revised Code to establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds.

## **HR 221:**

Introduced by Representative Bernard Willis (District 74) on July 11th.  
The resolution was adopted on the same day.

The resolution Honors Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion.

## **HR 222:**

Introduced by Representative Bernard Willis (District 74) on July 11th.  
The resolution was adopted on the same day.

The resolution honors Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion.

## **SB 134:**

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on July 23rd.  
The bill has not been referred to a committee yet.

The bill will amend sections 323.151, 323.152, 323.153, 4503.065, 4503.066, and 5901.07 of the Revised Code to extend the homestead property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans.

## **SB 140:**

Introduced by Senator Frank Hoagland (District 30) on July 27th.  
The bill has not been referred to a committee yet.

The Bill will enact section 5534.649 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 149 in Belmont County as the "Sgt. Todd M. Bates Memorial Highway."

## **SB 141:**

Introduced by Senator Vernon Sykes (District 28) on July 23rd.  
The bill has not been referred to a committee yet.

The Bill will enact section 5534.301 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of I-77 in Akron as the "American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Memorial Highway."

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Details on every bill can be found on the Ohio Legislature website. You can also check the status of bills as they travel thorough committees and sessions, check to see how the voting went, and read the testimonies of witnesses.

To find a bill put the bill number (i.e. SB 712 or HB 943) into the search bar and go from there.

You can find the Ohio Legislature's website here:

**[www.legislature.ohio.gov](http://www.legislature.ohio.gov)**

**OUT  
IN  
THE**

# DISTRICTS

## SENATOR DOLAN ATTENDS SOLDIERS FUNERAL

July 29, 2023

(North Olmsted, Ohio) Senator Matt Dolan (District 24) presented a proclamation from the Ohio General Assembly and an Ohio flag that had flown over the statehouse on July 4th to family members of 1st Lt. George J. "Bud" Rueter during grave side services at Sunset Memorial Park.

Rueter returned home to be buried 80 years after his B-24 Liberator was shot down over Romania on August 1, 1943.



## SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

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

EMAIL THEM TO:

[oh.leg.report@gmail.com](mailto:oh.leg.report@gmail.com)

REPRESENTATIVE GROSS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER!

 Jennifer Gross  
R-West Chester



## Future Town Hall Meetings

**Where:** Fairfield City Council Chambers - 5350 Pleasant Ave. Fairfield, OH 45014

**When:** Monday, 09/18/2023, from 5:00 - 6:00 PM

## COFFEE WITH CONSTITUENTS!



MONDAY, AUGUST 21

10AM-12PM

CARROLL COUNTY COFFEE COMPANY  
704 CANTON ROAD NW  
CARROLLTON, OHIO



STATE REP. MONICA  
**ROBB  
BLASDEL**

97<sup>TH</sup> HOUSE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



**ADAM HOLMES**

The Ohio House of Representatives

## Summer Office Hours

Once again, our office has scheduled summer office hours events across the district. Please come visit Rep. Holmes and ask challenging questions, discuss current legislation, and introduce ideas for new legislation.

### August 4th - New Concord

New Concord Library  
77 W. Main Street, New Concord, OH 43762  
11am to 1pm

### August 16th - Zanesville

John Mcintire Library  
22 N. 5th Street, Zanesville, OH 43701  
10am to 12pm

### August 24th - Cambridge

Guernsey County Library  
63500 Byesville Road, Cambridge, OH 43725  
9am to 12pm

## OFFICE HOURS

JOIN REPRESENTATIVE CARRUTHERS TO DISCUSS:

- Constituent Concerns
- My Legislation
- Input on Local Happenings

**FRIDAY**

September 1  
4:40-6:30 p.m.

True West Coffee  
313 Main St.  
Hamilton, OH 45013



# OPINIONS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*O.L. Report is printing with consent of the author a letter sent to the members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.*

Chairman Hoagland, Vice-Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and member of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee, my name is Ernest Massie and I am the District 11 Commander (Central Ohio area) for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept. of Ohio. As we closed the FY 2024-2025 Budget, and you were hoping to take a nice Summer break, I was hoping to add for your consideration the addition of a third Ohio Veterans home .

As you know, the state currently operates two, one in Sandusky and one in Georgetown. Sandusky is a 427 bed facility and Georgetown is a 168 bed facility. Ohio is currently sixth in terms of veteran population,

we punch above our weight there. with 729,645 veterans (3.8% of the nation's total in 2020), and 346,283 of those are 65 years old or over (47.5%); Veteran Population - National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (va.gov). Veterans tend to want to be treated by the VA, and tend to want to cluster together with folks with shared experiences and with people who have specific knowledge of their needs. Speaking from experience, I was a state employee my entire career, but in my latter years, I chose to use the VA as my health care provider for that single purpose. I have a service connected injury, and they knew just how to treat it and had a holistic approach (all under one single roof) to my medical care.

The federal government (VA) does provide some

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## OUR OPINION

### Asbestos Bill Is Unfair and Burdensome For Veterans

Senator George F. Lang (District 4) is once again attempting to make it nearly impossible for veterans in Ohio to be able to file an asbestos lawsuit. Senate Bill 63 was originally introduced in the 134th General Assembly as Sente Bill 252. Lang reintroduced it in the 135th General Assembly on February 21st of this year.

The purpose of SB 63 is to curb the practice of over-naming in a lawsuit and while it may be a problem to those companies within the asbestos industry, we feel the problem should not be solved at the expense of Ohio veterans.

The bill, if it were to become law, would require a plaintiff to supply very specific information. The bill mentions over and over that everything required must be very specific. That could be extremely difficult for veterans suffering from asbestos caused diseases.

One of the leading diseases caused by asbestos exposure is mesothelioma. The symptoms of mesothelioma may not begin to show for 30 to 50 years and are quite often misdiagnosed initially. Once diagnosed, life expectancy is only 18-30 months.

The required specific information laid out in SB 63 would be a heavy burden for most veterans. Trying to remember the specifics of the exposure 30 years later is difficult for most, but for veterans who moved from base to base, or ship to ship it would be a monumental task.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Ohio Legislative Report* welcomes letters

- 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 verification.

EMAIL LETTERS TO:

oh.leg.report@gmail.com

## Reflections

*"Politics is about a lot more than winning and losing. I think politics at its best is about compromise, shades of grey and about issues."*

*-Matt Taibbi*

# 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 To establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds
- ◇ 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 121 Honoring Dan Shroyer as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HR 122 Honoring Dr. John Eichelberger as a 2023 National Veterans Golden Age Games Champion
- ◇ HCR 8 To urge the federal government to select Ohio for the permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command
- ◇ 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 134 To extend the homestead property tax exemption to certain disabled veterans
- ◇ SB 140 Designate Sgt. Todd M. Bates Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 141 Designate American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Memorial Highway
- ◇ SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary

## OHIO CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

#### SECTION #4 BEARING ARMS; STANDING ARMIES; MILITARY POWERS

*Effective: 1851*

The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security; but standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be kept up; and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.

You can follow, learn, and research every bill as it travels through the Ohio General Assembly.

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

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extremely limited long term care, so this is an area where the state can make a difference. By creating a facility in Central Ohio, on the scale of the Sandusky facility, we can provide for our aging veteran population a home for this aging segment of our population. The numbers can tell you (along w/ the Ohio Dept. of Veterans' Services) the wait list for the two facilities we have.

If you are looking for a "bang for the buck", this is it. The cost in the upcoming biennium (from HB 33), if I read it right, for the current two homes, seems to be \$100.3M. But I am sure, creatively there can be ways to find perhaps some donors to the construction process, federal dollars, or other means to assist in the sunk costs. Ohio's population is aging. You must address this sooner, rather than later.

Respectfully,

Ernest C. Massie  
District 11 Commander  
VFW Dept. of Ohio

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important issues that you should be voting on. They are not exactly 'veteran' issues, but they will affect you and I think every veteran has taken a side for each of them. The special election is about Ohio citizens ability to make amendments to the Ohio Constitution. It is Issue No. 1 and it is the only issue on the ballot. The November election will ask voters to decide whether or not to make a change in the Ohio Constitution about abortion.

*O.L. Report* is encouraging all voters to research the issues and vote for what will be best for all Ohioans based on the facts. We urge you to vote and to vote intelligently. We printed (below) the issue's language for you to study.

### 2023 OHIO GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

August 8 Special Election Day

Oct 10 Deadline for Voter Registration for General Election

November 7 General Election day

#### Issue 1

#### Proposed Constitutional Amendment

#### Elevating the Standards to Qualify for an Initiated Constitutional Amendment and to Pass a Constitutional Amendment

#### Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly

#### To amend Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

#### A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would:

- Require that any proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Ohio receive the approval of at least 60 percent of eligible voters voting on the proposed amendment.
- Require that any initiative petition filed on or after January 1, 2024 with the Secretary of State proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio be signed by at least five percent of the electors of each county based on the total vote in the county for governor in the last preceding election.
- Specify that additional signatures may not be added to an initiative petition proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio that is filed with the Secretary of State on or after January 1, 2024 proposing to amend the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

If passed, the amendment will be effective immediately.

#### SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

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.