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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.

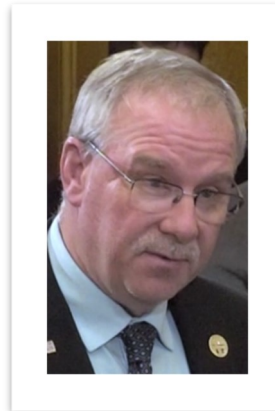
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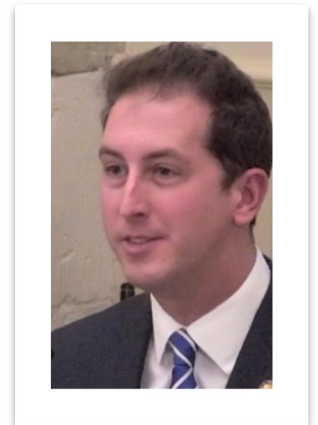
Statehouse Happenings

November hearings began with House Bill 242 in the House Higher Education Committee. It was the fourth hearing for HB 242 and Ranking Member **Joseph A. Miller, III** (District 53) brought forth an amendment which was accepted prior to the committee voting 13-0 to favorably pass the bill. HB 242 was introduced in July but was not referred to committee until after the summer break in September. The Primary sponsors of the bill are Representatives **Adam C. Miller** (District 6) and **Dick Stein** (District 54). The bill would establish the Armed Forces Reserve Component Scholarship Program and related funds beginning on July 1, 2025.



Rep Jones testifying before the Pensions Committee

The House Pensions Committee held the 1st and 2nd hearings for House Bill 310 which as introduced Representative **Don Jones** (District 95) at the end of October. Jones gave sponsor testimony on the 14th and the committee heard proponent testimony on the 28th when two witnesses offered testimony. According to the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) analysis the bill makes changes to the cost for a State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) member to purchase military service credit.

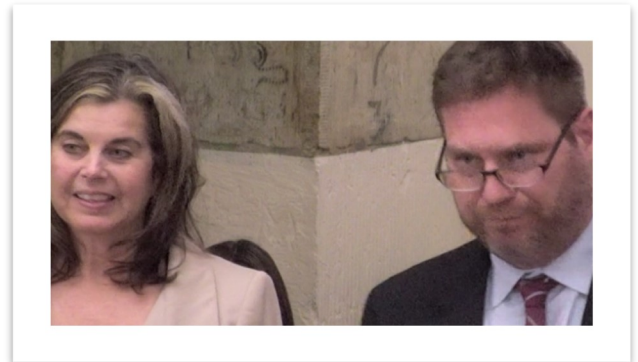


Rep Santucci testifies before the Transportation Committee

On November 14th the House Transportation Committee heard sponsor testimony on two bills that will honor Ohio veterans.

House Bill 286 will name a bridge in Vienna Township, Trumbull County "Vienna Township Veterans Bridge". Following testimony by bill sponsor Representative **Nick Santucci** (District 64) the bill was favorably passed with a unanimous vote (13-0).

Testimony was then heard from Representatives **Brian Lorenz** (District 60) and **Beth Lear** (District 61), the primary sponsors of House Bill 294. The bill will name a portion of Interstate 71 "Delaware County Veterans Memorial Highway". The bill as introduced would apply to the northbound and southbound lanes of Interstate Route 71 between State Route 36 and the



Reps Lear and Lorenz testifying before the Transportation Committee

See Happenings on Page Six...

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN NOVEMBER

SB 183:

Introduced by Senator Nickie J Antonio (District 23) on November 1st.

It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.662 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of I-90 in Cuyahoga County as the "Lance Corporal James Patrick Rizzo Memorial Highway."

HB 317:

Introduced by Representative Reggie Stoltzfus (District 50) on November 2nd.

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.661 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 172 in Stark County as the "Sgt. Cory M. Endlich Corridor."

SCR 8:

Introduced by Senator Tim Schaffer (District 20) on November 7th.

It was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.

The resolution would urge the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the United States Congress to take prompt action to reduce the processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims.

SCR 9:

Introduced by Senator Tim Schaffer (District 20) on November 7th.

It was referred to the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee.

The resolution would urge the U.S. Congress to support the provision of prompt and comprehensive mental health treatment to military personnel and veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other service-related stress disorders.

HR 302:

Introduced by Representative Nick Santucci (District 64) on November 14th and adopted the same day.

It was referred to the House Rules and Reference Committee.

The resolution commends Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1090 on its One Hundredth Anniversary and salute its members as fine Ohioans.

SB 191:

Introduced by Senator Mark Romanchuk (District 22) on November 21st.

It was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.154 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 39 in Richland County as the "PFC Richard 'Rick' Wesley McFarland Memorial Highway."

HB 335:

Introduced by Representative DJ Swearingen (District 89) on the November 21st.

It was referred to the House Transportation Committee.

The bill would enact section 5534.663 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 163 in Ottawa County as the "Ottawa County Veterans Memorial Highway."

HR 316:

Introduced by Representatives Daniel P Troy (District 23) and Jamie Callender (District 57) on November 28th and adopted the same day.

It was referred to the House Rules and Reference Committee.

The resolution congratulates Jay Wilson American Legion Post 112 on its Centennial and salute its members as outstanding citizens.

OUT IN THE DISTRICTS



November 11, 2023
State Representative Cindy Abrams (*back row center in red sweater*) was guest speaker at the Veterans Day Luncheon held by Harrison VFW Post 7570.



November 12, 2023
State Senator Al Landis (*far right*) attended the R.E.A.L. Veterans Reception at St. John's United Church of Christ Fourth & Faith in Dover.



November 10, 2023
State Representative Sara Carruthers (District 47) attended the Butler County Veterans Day Program



November 13, 2023
State Representative DJ Swearingen (*2nd from right*) was a speaker at the Ohio Veteran's Home in Sandusky during their 135th anniversary celebration.



November 11, 2023
State Representative Thomas Hall (*far left at the wall*) speaking during Veterans Day Ceremonies at the Woodside Cemetery in Middletown.



November 11, 2023
State Representative Daniel P. Troy (*far right*) participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony put on by the Lakeland Community College.



November 11, 2-23
State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (*2nd from right*) attended the Ney American Legion Post 680 Buckeye Boy's State and Girl's State recognition Dinner.

More on Page Four...

More... *District Activities*



November 10, 2023
State Representative Steve Demetriou (*with mic*) leads the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance during the Veterans Day Program at Kenston Middle School.



November 11, 2023
State Senator Theresa Gavarone (*at lectern*) was keynote speaker at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky during the annual Veterans Day Program.

If you see your Ohio legislator doing 'veteran or military things' get a picture of them and send it to us with all the information so we can put it in Ohio Legislative Report.

Email everything to:

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November 8, 2023
State Representative Sean Brennan (*r*) was presented a special certificate for his support of veterans and their families from the Parma Area Senior Veterans during their Special Veterans Day Tribute.

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Reflections

"The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government."

-George Washington

Ohio Legislative Report
Wishes all our readers an joyous
holiday season. My it find you
and your family happy, healthy,
and safe.

Happy Holidays

Legislation In The 135th Ohio General Assembly

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

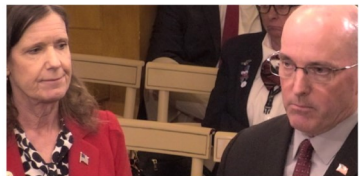
- ◇ HB 18 Allow military license plate applicant present county veterans ID
- ◇ HB 33 Establishes operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025
- ◇ HB53 Authorize refundable tax credits for hiring certain veterans
- ◇ HB 57 Index the homestead exemption to inflation
- ◇ HB 60 Increase amount of 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
- ◇ HB 286 Designate Vienna Township Veterans Bridge
- ◇ HB 294 Designate Delaware County Veteran's Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 299 Designate Specialist Five Frederick Wayne Taylor Memorial Highway
- ◇ HB 310 Regards STRS member purchase of military service credit
- ◇ HB 317 Designate Sgt. Cory M. Endlich Corridor
- ◇ HB 335 Designate Ottawa County Veterans 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
- ◇ HR 302 Honoring Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1090 on its Centennial
- ◇ HR 316 Honoring Jay Wilson American Legion Post 112 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

See *Bills* on Page Six...

Happenings, from Page One

border of Delaware and Morrow Counties, in Delaware County. The sponsors asked that the bill be amended on the recommendation of veterans in Delaware County to apply to the entire section of I-71 which is within the boundaries of Delaware County. The amended bill was then favorably passed with a vote of 13 to 0.

The House Ways and Means Committee heard testimony on House Bill 254 on the 14th and again on the 28th. The bill, introduced by Representatives **Tracy M. Richardson** (District 86) and **Adam Holmes** (District 97) would enhance and expand



Reps Richardson & Holmes testify before Ways and Means Committee

a property tax reduction for certain homeowners who are disabled veterans. Veterans rated at 100% disabled would be exempt on the full taxable value of their homestead. A veteran who has received a disability rating of greater than 70% but less than 100% qualifies for an exemption equal to \$10,000 of their homestead's value. A veteran who has received a disability rating of at least 50% and up to 70% qualifies for an exemption equal to \$5,000 of the homestead's value according to the LSC analysis.

The hearing on the 17th was from the sponsors and the bill's 2nd hearing on the 28th was proponent testimony which was heard from members of the DAV, AMVETS, VFW, and several other veteran organizations.

Over on the Senate side, the Senate Veteran and Public Safety Committee heard testimony on the 14th for Senate Bill 154. It was the first hearing so the testimony was from the bill's primary sponsor, Senator **Kristina Roegner** (District 27).

SB 154 will simply bring the Ohio Revised Code up to date by including the United States Space Forces. According to the LSC analysis, it updates the definitions of the U.S. Armed Forces, Armed Services, and Uniformed Services throughout the Revised Code to include the U.S. Space Force.

On the 15th the Senate Insurance Committee held the 6th hearing for Senate Bill 63 which was introduced by Senator **George Lang** (District 4) in February. The LSC analysis states that under the bill,

testimony on House Bill 254 on the 14th and again on the 28th. The bill, introduced by Representatives **Tracy M. Richardson** (District 86) and **Adam Holmes** (District 97) would enhance and expand



Sen Roegner testifying on SB 154

"within 30 days of filing any complaint, a plaintiff in any tort action who is alleging an asbestos claim must file a sworn statement signed by the plaintiff or plaintiff's counsel specifying the evidence that provides the basis for each asbestos claim against each defendant in the action."

An amendment was first voted on and it was defeated before the bill was favorably passed out of committee with a split vote of 7 to 6.

Bills, from Page Five

- ◇ 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
- ◇ SB 167 Designate Marine Corporal Tim W. Russell Highway
- ◇ SB 169 Designate Cortland Veterans Memorial Bridge
- ◇ SB 183 Designate Lance Corporal James Patrick Rizzo Memorial Highway
- ◇ SB 191 Designate PFC Richard 'Rick' Wesley McFarland Memorial Highway

- ◇ SR 171 Honoring Thomas Mihalis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079 as it commemorates its One Hundredth Anniversary

- ◇ SCR 8 Urge federal govt reduce processing time-veteran disability claim
- ◇ SCR 9 Urge Congress support military, veteran mental health treatment

OHIO CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION #8 WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Effective: 1851

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety require it.