



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

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Legislative task force on indigent defense to begin work in December

Earlier this week, the co-chairs of the Indigent Defense Task Force contained in HB 150 announced that the task force will hold its initial meeting on December 7th or December 14th. The actual date of the meeting is still being finalized, but it is encouraging to see this Task Force begin its work. The tentative agenda for the first meeting will be to hear from members that participated in the Ohio State Bar Association's (OSBA) own task force on indigent defense. CCAO actively participated in that task force's work and was represented by Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan and Erie County Commissioner Matt Old.

The OSBA task force's recommendations were closely aligned with CCAO's own recommendations for indigent defense funding and delivery. Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan will be presenting CCAO's position on the OSBA task force recommendations at the initial meeting of the legislative indigent defense task force.

As a reminder, CCAO's appointed representative on the legislative Task Force is Commissioner Steven Davis from Fairfield County. During the entirety of the task force, CCAO will be working with the members to ensure that the indigent defense system is fully funded, to create a state ran delivery model for indigent defense services that is optional for counties, and to allow for counties to retain their current indigent defense system if desired.

If you have other issues that you would like CCAO to convey to the Task Force, please contact Managing Director of Policy, Kyle Petty at kpetty@ccao.org or 740-503-6088.

NOTICE: Senate Select Committee on Housing to hold hearing in Allen County on December 11

On Monday, December 11, the Senate Select Committee on Housing will hold its third field hearing, this time in Lima.

The hearing will be held 10:00 a.m., on the campus of Rhodes College at the Borra Center for Health Sciences ([8 Towne Square, Lima, OH 45801](#)) and is open to public testimony. If you would like to testify, you must complete [this document](#) and submit both it and your testimony to Senator Michele Reynolds' senior legislative aide Chloe Green by Friday, December 8. You can reach Green at chloe.green@ohiosenate.gov or 614-466-8064.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

The following bills were introduced this week that may be of interest to counties:

- [House Bill 338](#) (Representative Andrea White and Representative Bride Rose Sweeney): To allow child support orders to be issued, modified, or extended for children over 18 with a disability.

Upcoming Committee Hearings

The following committees are currently scheduled to meet and discuss bills that may interest counties. Other committees will likely meet as well, but as of press time for the *Statehouse Report*, they have not released agendas. Please note that these schedules are subject to change.

If you would like to testify on any bill, please visit the committee page and contact the committee chair's office for instructions on submitting testimony.

Wednesday, November 28

[House Civil Justice](#) (11:00 a.m.)

- [House Bill 305](#) (Representative Brian Stewart and Representative Richard Brown): To provide for the electronic filing of pleadings or documents in courts of common pleas except a probate or juvenile court, in municipal courts, and in county courts, to permit the clerk to disburse funds for the computerization of the clerk's office without the court's authorization, and to permit municipal and county courts to increase the maximum amount of their additional fees from ten dollars to twenty dollars to cover the computerization of the clerk's office.
 - Third hearing, all testimony
 - **POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS**
 - **POSSIBLE VOTE**

[House Pensions](#) (12:00 p.m.)

- [House Bill 296](#) (Representative Cindy Abrams and Representative Thomas Hall): To increase contribution amounts that employers of full-time municipal police officers must make to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.
 - Third hearing, opponent and interested party testimony

[Senate Ways and Means](#) (1:00 p.m.)

- [House Bill 187](#) (Representative Thomas Hall and Representative Adam Bird): To modify the procedures used to value real property for tax purposes and to abate

property taxes on certain municipal and community improvement corporation property.

- First hearing, sponsor and proponent testimony

House Ways and Means (2:30 p.m.)

- [House Bill 254](#) (Representative Tracy Richardson and Representative Adam Holmes): To expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans.
 - Second hearing, proponent testimony
- [House Bill 263](#) (Representative Dani Isaacsohn and Representative Thomas Hall): To authorize a property tax freeze for certain owner-occupied homes.
 - Third hearing, opponent testimony

House Criminal Justice (3:00 p.m.)

- [House Bill 314](#) (Representative Adam Bird and Representative Josh Williams): To remove the option for the juvenile court to transfer a proceeding against a juvenile to the county where the juvenile resides.
 - First hearing, sponsor testimony