



STATEHOUSE REPORT

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Governor officially receives bills, clock begins

The General Assembly, although the bills were passed in November, formally sent several pieces of legislation to Governor DeWine on Tuesday. These include five property tax reform bills and the dangerous dog reform bill.

The governor has 10 days (excluding Sundays) to act on bills once he receives them. Since the bills were sent to him on December 9, he must sign, veto, or line-item veto the bills by December 20 or December 22 (depending on whether he received them on Tuesday or Wednesday). If he does not act on a bill by the deadline, it becomes law without his signature.

The key bills that CCAO is watching are:

- [House Bill 335](#): Caps growth of inside millage to the inflation rate.
- [House Bill 186](#): Caps growth of the school district 20-mill floor to the inflation rate and reforms property tax credits.
 - This bill includes an appropriation, which would allow the governor to line-item veto portions of the bill if he so chooses.
- [House Bil 129](#): Incorporates additional levies in the calculation of the school district 20-mill floor.
- [House Bill 124](#): Gives more power to the county auditor in setting property valuations.
- [House Bill 247](#): Reforms dangerous dog law.

Other bills that have county impacts include [House Bill 10](#) (allowing multiple deputy county apiarists), [House Bill 29](#) (requiring access to feminine hygiene products in county jails),

[House Bill 309](#) (changes to county budget commissions), and [Senate Bill 293](#) (changes to voter roll maintenance and absent voter ballots).

Marijuana law revision bill advances to Governor

This week, the Senate agreed to a conference committee report regarding [Senate Bill 56](#) (Senator Stephen Huffman), which revises Ohio's medical and adult-use marijuana laws.

The bill does not have a significant direct effect on county governments since counties have no role in Ohio's adult-use marijuana system. The most likely county impact will come from changes to criminal penalties.

The bill prohibits the use (across different categories) of marijuana in public places, applies penalties for passengers who use marijuana in a vehicle, limits the quantities of marijuana that individuals may possess, and prohibits individuals younger than 21 years old from purchasing, using, or possessing marijuana.

The [Legislative Service Commission believes](#) these changes may increase costs to the court system and county jails, but the extent of cost increases will vary based on if offenses exceed those when adult-use marijuana was illegal and may be offset by penalties and fines.

While it does not pertain to counties, the bill also authorizes the distribution of Host Community money to townships and municipalities that have dispensaries within their jurisdiction. Payments to host communities were included in the original citizen-initiated statute, but spending authority was never established. SB 56 will allow money to begin flowing to these local governments.

Legislative Activity

Introduction of Bills

The following bill(s) that may be of interest to counties were introduced this week:

- [House Bill 627](#) (Representative Jason Stephens): To allow a board of county commissioners to disapprove of certain scenic river designations.