



# GOVERNMENT ACTION TRACKER

SEPT. 2025

## **Congress returns to D.C. to continue legislative work, Ohio GA to follow**

In any legislative year, whether it's a budget or election year, August is generally a calmer time for both state and federal action. During the summer, both legislative bodies took a brief recess, allowing them to return to their districts and meet with their constituents.

Legislative activity has already resumed in Congress, and the Ohio General Assembly is starting back up this week.

# Activity We Are Watching

With both Congress and the General Assembly coming back to work, legislative activity is set to pick up again. A few bills introduced over the summer will likely get their time in the sun, but we have already been working to mitigate any harmful parts of any legislation to be removed or adjusted to be more business friendly. Additionally, chatter around Capitol Square hints that the renewed redistricting conversation may be the primary focus for September. Some committee chairs will still be hearing bills, but overall legislative movement could be slow until October.

## State Update

August was the final month of the Ohio General Assembly's recess. However, redistricting could be the focus of leadership in both chambers. Ohio's Congressional districts must be redrawn for the 2026 election. We will watch for any committee activity on bills of concern or interest for us and inform members should anything move quickly.

## Ohio Bill Tracking

### BILL TRACKING

#### Child Care Cred

### HB 2

Establishes the Child Care Cred Program, share in the cost of childcare

*5th hearing held*

#### Imitation Meat & Eggs

### HB 10

Regulates imitation meat and egg products

*Passed House  
Awaiting Senate  
action*

#### Minor Alcohol Sales

### HB 19

Reduces the mental state for prohibiting the sale of alcohol to a minor from Knowingly to Recklessly

*1st hearing held*

# Ohio Bill Tracking, Continued

## BILL TRACKING

### Funding Agreements

#### **HB 105**

Revise and supplement state regulations concerning non-recourse litigation funding agreements

*6th hearing held*

### Microenterprise

#### **HB 134**

To authorize the sale of certain homemade foods under a microenterprise home kitchen enterprise registration

*3rd hearing held*

*\*ORHA Testified*

*Interested Party*

### Revise Liquor & Hemp Laws

#### **HB 160**

To revise Liquor Control, marijuana and hemp laws

*3rd hearing held*

*\*ORHA Testified*

*Interested Party*

### Alcohol Franchise Law

#### **HB 194**

Revises the Alcohol Franchise Law

*2nd hearing held*

### Hemp Regulation

#### **HB 198**

Regulate the manufacture, distribution and sale of ingestible hemp products

*3rd hearing held*

*\*ORHA Testified*

*Interested Party*

### Construction E-verify

#### **HB 246**

Require certain construction industry employers to use E-verify

*Passed House*

*Awaiting Senate*

*Action*

### PURE LIFE (MAHA)

#### **HB 272**

Regards food dyes, PFAS, fluoride, and certain substance releases

*1st hearing held*

### Allergens on Menu

#### **HB 364**

Require food service operations to denote certain allergens on their menu

*Introduced*

### Sunday Liquor Sales

#### **HB 387**

Allow local governments to allow Sunday liquor sales without needing local election approval

*Introduced*

# Ohio Bill Tracking, Continued

## BILL TRACKING

### Improve Power Grid

## **SB 2**

To increase Ohio's power generation & improve power grid

*Passed Senate*

*Companion Bill  
HB15, passed*

*Signed by Governor,  
effective August 12*

### Alcohol Franchise Law

## **SB 23**

Revises the Alcohol Franchise Law

*1st hearing held*

### Pay by Cash Option

## **SB 30**

Requires retailers to give customers the option to pay by cash

*2nd hearing held*

### Labor Laws Online

## **SB 33**

Allows employers to post certain labor law notices online

*Passed, signed by  
Governor, effective  
July 21*

### Minor Work Hours

## **SB 50**

Allows an employee who is younger than 16, with parental permission, to work slightly later hours during the school year

*Passed Senate*

*1st hearing held in the  
House*

*\*ORHA Testified in  
Support*

### Marijuana

## **SB 56**

Revise medical and adult-use marijuana laws; levy marijuana taxes. (Now includes SB 86)

*Passed Senate*

*3rd hearing in the  
House*

### Hemp Regulation

## **SB 86**

Regulates hemp products, requiring their sale only in dispensaries

*Passed Senate*

*Amended to SB 56  
in the House*

*\*ORHA Testified  
Interested Party*

### Minor Work Hours

## **SCR 3**

Allow employees younger than 16 to work slightly later hours during the school year

*Passed Senate*

*1st hearing held in the  
House*

*\*ORHA Testified in  
Support*

# Federal Update

Similar to the State, Congress was out for all of August, spending time in district rather than DC. As session picks up, we will be working with our national partners to identify and advocate for legislation which would help our industry. Additionally, the Make American Healthy Again Commission could be releasing their finding report this month. Their original timeline had them releasing a report during September. Ohio currently is considering the PURE Life Act in the House, and we are working with our business partners to help hold the bill off until decisions come down from the Federal level.

Additionally, towards the end of August, the Treasury department put out their proposed list of occupations that regularly receive tips. The list was expected after the passage of the OBBB and designates what jobs will be able to take advantage of the no tax on tips portion. Of note, many common jobs in food service establishments are counted as regularly tipped workers, from obvious ones like servers and bartenders to more interesting ones like dishwashers and food prep workers. The full list can be found [here](#). It includes more occupations than just beverage and food service workers.

## Federal Bill Tracking

BILL TRACKING

### No Tax on Tips

#### **H.R. 482/S.129**

Eliminate the application of the income tax on qualified tips

*Included in the One Big Beautiful Bill signed by the President.*

### Higher Wages

#### **S. 2013**

Higher Wages for American Workers Act

*Introduced, in Senate consideration*

### Dignity Act

#### **H.R. 4393**

Immigration reform

*Introduced*

### GENIUS Act

#### **S. 1582**

Crypto currency regulation

*Signed by President*

#### Questions?

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