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Legislative Update

Below is a list of legislation the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is tracking. Whether you are for or against these proposals, they are sure to affect Ohio's Latino community. To read a complete list of tracked legislation, [click here](#).

Education and Workforce Development

[House Bill 2-](#) Introduced by Reps. Mike Dovilla and Kristina Roegner, HB 2 aims to increase transparency and accountability for Ohio's charter schools, which spend nearly \$1 billion each year in state taxpayer money. Among other provisions, HB 2 prohibits sponsors from selling goods and services to schools they manage, and requires that copies of financial and enrollment records be furnished on a monthly basis to the sponsor, members of the governing authority and the designated fiscal officer. The bill passed the Ohio House last week by a vote of 70-25 and now heads to the Senate for further review. Most Democrats voted against the measure, arguing that it does not do enough to hold charter schools accountable. It has not been referred to a committee at this time. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 28 percent of charter school students in the US are Latino.

Related Articles:

Columbus Dispatch -- [House passes bill to reform Ohio charter schools](#)

Toledo Blade -- [State House passes tougher charter rules](#)

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[Editorial: Traffic cameras, redux](#)

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[Bill to reduce Lake Erie toxic algae heads to Ohio governor](#)



Upcoming Events:

Chronic Disease Self-Management Class, Columbus - April 7

Financing Your Small Business Webinar - April 9

Prevention, Retention and Contingency Training, Cuyahoga County JFS - April 14

Volunteer UA: Where Communities & Good Causes Connect, Upper Arlington - April 16

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Business, Commerce and Labor

[House Bill 102](#) - Introduced by Reps. Hearcel Craig and Niraj Antani, HB 102 would offer tax credits to businesses that hire and employ a veteran for at least one year. According to Rep. Antani, the veteran unemployment rate for post 9/11 veterans is 11.8 percent - a figure significantly higher than the state's 4.8 percent unemployment rate. Both Craig and Antani are freshmen legislators. This bill has been referred to the House Ways & Means Committee and awaits a hearing.

Related Article:

WCBE -- [New bill would give incentives for hiring veterans](#)

Health and Safety

[House Bill 69](#) - Introduced by Reps. Christina Hagan and Ron Hood, the 'Heartbeat Bill' would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, typically around the 6th week of pregnancy. After a heated debate on the House floor, the legislation passed 55-40, with most Democrats and a small number of Republicans voting against the measure. An amendment to make an exception for victims of rape and incest was rejected by House Republicans. The bill now heads to the Senate where it faces a tough uphill battle, as Senate President Keith Faber and Governor Kasich continue to question the bill's constitutionality.

Related Articles:

Columbus Dispatch -- [House passes 'heartbeat bill' after emotional debate](#)

Cleveland Plain Dealer -- [What's next for Ohio's anti-abortion 'heartbeat bill'? Here are some answers](#)

[complete list of events.](#)

Immigration, Justice and Civil Rights

[Senate Bill 134](#) -- Similar to legislation introduced in the 130th General Assembly by Sen. Bill Seitz of suburban Cincinnati, SB 134 would reduce the penalties for housing discrimination in Ohio, and allow violators to pay civil penalties instead of punitive damages. Currently, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission can force landlords to pay up to \$10,000 in punitive damages for a first time offender. Under Sen. Seitz's legislation, the penalty would be capped at \$2,000 in civil penalties. This legislation would bring Ohio's housing discrimination laws in-line with federal laws.

Related Article:

Cleveland Plain Dealer -- [Lawmakers seek to loosen Ohio's housing discrimination law, require birth control coverage](#)

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