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## ***News Impacting the Community***

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[Metro to set up new 5-year  
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[Gov. John Kasich 'seriously  
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[House bill would allow  
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Columbus Dispatch  
[Reducing poverty in Ohio will  
be costly, panel says](#)

## ***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 27-* Introduced by Rep. Dan Ramos of Lorain, the "Finish Fund" aims to improve college completion rates in Ohio by providing grants to academically successful students who are nearing completion of their associate or bachelor's degrees and display financial need or hardship. Grants would be made available to college juniors and seniors at public and private non-profit universities who have made satisfactory academic progress towards completion and have exhausted all other methods of financial aid. The bill was introduced in the previous General Assembly, but never received full consideration on the House floor. This legislation has been referred to the Finance Committee, and awaits a hearing.

#### **Related Articles:**

*National Journal* -- [Minority students are saddled by school loan debt](#)  
*U.S. News and World Report* -- [Average student loan debt approaches \\$30,000](#)

Cleveland Plain Dealer  
[How state school board members voted on "5 of 8" rule](#)

Dayton Daily News  
[Amendment would make Medicaid available for inmates](#)

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## **Renewing Your DACA Status**

Ever since its inception in 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has granted temporary legal status to over 3,000 individuals in Ohio. Originally initiated as a temporary means to solving the immigration debate in Washington, the DACA program has begun its transition to a new phase wherein individuals originally granted a two-year reprieve are now applying for two-year renewals.

Because the DACA renewal procedure takes a few months to process, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is asking DACA recipients to submit renewal requests 4-5

## **Business, Commerce and Labor**

[Senate Bill 73](#) - Introduced by Senator Charleta Tavares of Columbus, SB 73 would require community colleges and technical colleges to comply with minority business enterprise (MBE) and Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) set-aside requirements. The Director of Administrative Services would oversee the establishment of guidelines for these colleges to establish procurement goals for contracting with EDGE business enterprises. Currently, four year colleges must comply with these goals, however two year institutions are not required to. This legislation has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee where it awaits a hearing.

## **Health and Safety**

[House Bill 147](#) - Introduced by Rep. Ron Hood of Ashville, HB 147 would allow individuals 21 or older and not prohibited from having a firearm, to carry concealed firearms without training or a permit. Supporters of the legislation say the bill will reduce crime and allow individuals to defend themselves, while opponents fear a lack of training will lead to more injuries and deaths. This legislation has 20 cosponsors, including Speaker Pro Tempore Ron Amstutz. As of yet, the bill has not been referred to a committee for further consideration.

### **Related Articles:**

*Columbus Dispatch* -- [Bill would allow Ohioans to carry concealed firearms with no permit, training](#)

*Dayton Daily News* -- [Opponents fire back at controversial gun bill](#)

## **Government, Immigration and Civil Rights**

months in advance of the expiration date of their current period.

Although a federal district court has temporarily halted DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans) and expanded DACA from being implemented, USCIS continues to accept initial and renewal applications from individuals who qualify under the DACA criteria announced in June of 2012.

For more information or to make an initial or renewal request for DACA, visit [uscis.gov/daca](http://uscis.gov/daca) or [uscis.gov/acciondiferida](http://uscis.gov/acciondiferida).

[Senate Bill 63](#) -- Introduced by Senator Frank LaRose of Copley Township, SB 63 would require the secretary of state to set up an online voter registration system. Similar legislation was introduced earlier this year by Rep. Michael Stinziano of Columbus -- both legislators introduced online voter registration bills in the previous General Assembly. Secretary of State Jon Husted is a proponent of the change and continues to urge the legislature to approve such a measure. SB 63 was referred to the Government Oversight and Reform Committee where it awaits a hearing.

**Related Article:**

*Cleveland Plain Dealer* -- [Online voter registration would save money, reduce errors, Ohio officials say](#)



**Upcoming Events:**

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

West Interfaith Legal Clinic, Hilliard - April 21

Ohio Benefits Medicaid

Renewal, Cuyahoga  
County JFS - April 23

Clinical Management of  
Sexually Transmitted  
Infections, Columbus -  
April 29

MACC Cultural  
Kaleidoscope Gala,  
Columbus - April 30

Hispanic Legislative Visit  
Day, Columbus - May 5

[Click here to view a  
complete list of events.](#)

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