

Ohio

Latino Affairs
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Plain Dealer
[Second Ohio medical
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Toledo Blade
[Kasich touts Ohio growth in
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Dayton Daily News
[Ohio teens can apply for
attorney general's advisory
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Legislative Update

Below is a list of legislation the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission is tracking. We encourage you to become familiar with these proposals, as they could affect Ohio's Latino community. To read a complete list of tracked legislation, [click here](#).

House Bill 286 - Ohio Pastors Protection Act

[House Bill 286](#) would allow ministers and "religious societies" refuse to perform a marriage or allow property to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the minister's or society's held religious beliefs. The legislation was introduced following the Supreme Court's decision making same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states. The bill sponsor, Rep. Nino Vitale of Urbana, says the bill is "an issue of protection for those who have committed their lives to the service of God and their community." The ACLU of Ohio opposes the legislation claiming that religious leaders' right to decline to perform weddings is already protected by the First Amendment. Furthermore, protection is extended to "religious societies", which is an undefined term that could grant the right to legally discriminate very broadly. The House Community and Family Advancement Committee has held two hearings on the proposal.

Senate Bill 204 - Driver's License Suspensions for Drug Offenders

[Senate Bill 204](#) would eliminate mandatory driver's license suspensions for minor drug offenses. Under the proposal, judges

Columbus Dispatch
[Ohio ethics panel to clarify stance on elected officials' nonprofit jobs](#)



Upcoming Events:

2016 Minority, Women and Small Farmers Conference, Wilberforce
- April 9

Spring Health Fair, Cincinnati - April 10

Crime Victims' Rights Day, Columbus - April 13

HIV and Mental Health, Columbus - April 14

Godman Guild Job Fair, Columbus - April 15

El Dia de los Niños Celebration, Dublin - April 16

Minority Health Summit, Toledo - April 16

Mi Tierra Baila Performance, Columbus - April 17

Amigos Latino Gala, Dayton - April 22

could still suspend a drug offender's license, but are given more discretion. Proponents of the legislation say that mandatory suspensions can have varied negative outcomes, such as causing an offender to lose employment, or meet the terms of probation and treatment. The Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee unanimously voted the bill out of committee, which will head to the Senate floor for full consideration.

Columbus Dispatch - [Lawmakers want to remove mandatory license suspensions for drug offenses](#)

Dayton Daily News - [Bill would let Ohioans with drug convictions keep license](#)

House Bill 511 - Paid Family Leave

[House Bill 511](#) would make Ohio employees eligible for paid family and medical leave. Under the proposal, individuals could receive up to \$1,000 a week for 12 weeks in order to care for a family member, bond with a new child or deal with a health condition. The program would be paid for by employee premiums withheld from wages -- a cost of around \$30 per year for an individual employee. There are 32 sponsors on the legislation - all Democrats. This bill has yet to be referred to a committee.

Related Articles:

Cleveland Plain Dealer -- [Ohioans could receive paid maternity, sick leave in new bill](#)

Senate Bill 264 - Sales Tax Holiday

[Senate Bill 264](#) would establish August 5-7, 2016 as a one-time sales tax holiday for clothing, school supplies and instructional materials. Last year, Ohio held its first-ever sales tax holiday, which reportedly saved consumers \$3.3 million on \$46.75 million in tax-exempt back-to-school purchases. The General Assembly is considering making the holiday permanent, but the Ohio Senate first wants to gather more data before making that decision. The Ohio Senate passed the bill this year, and the House Ways and Means Committee is now reviewing the proposal.

Ohio Fatherhood
Summit, Columbus - May
25

[Click here to view a
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