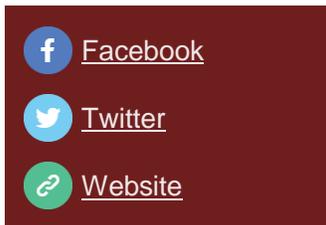




**Advise • Connect • Build**



## ***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](#).

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

La Prensa

[Raising Latino graduation rates needs a comprehensive strategy](#)

La Prensa

[BGSU to host annual Latino Issues Conference](#)

Vocero Latino

[Candidates should focus on Ohio's Hispanic vote](#)

Dayton Daily News

[Kasich says no to being a running mate on Republican ticket](#)

Dayton Daily News

[Ohio AG issues 4th rejection to medical marijuana group](#)

Columbus Dispatch

### **Senate Bill 268 - Employment Discrimination Law**

Introduced by Sen. Bill Seitz of Cincinnati, [SB 268](#) would reform Ohio's employment discrimination laws. Among numerous provisions, the bill would reduce the time limit for an employee to file a discrimination claim from six years to 1 year, and would reduce some of the damages that victims could collect on claims. Additionally, supervisors could no longer be liable in civil actions. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce says the bill is a step to more closely align Ohio law with federal law, while opponents claim the bill would protect those who discriminate. The legislation has been referred to the Senate Civil Justice Committee where it awaits a hearing.

#### **Related Articles:**

Columbus Business First - [Employment-discrimination overhaul introduced at Statehouse](#)

Columbus Dispatch-- [Bill would overhaul Ohio employment discrimination law](#)

### **House Bill 487 - Seal of Bilingual Literacy**

[Ohio employers get reduction in workers' compensation premiums](#)

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### Upcoming Events:

Job Expo Series,  
Columbus - March 22

Hispanic Chamber of  
Columbus "Latino Lunch  
and Learn", Columbus -  
March 24

Latin Ladies and Friends  
Annual Meeting,  
Columbus - March 26

Women of Color  
Leadership Experience,  
Columbus - April 9 & 10

Minority Health Summit,  
Toledo- April 16

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

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Did you miss a Legislative  
Update?

Introduced by Representatives Sarah LaTourette and Kristina Roegner, [HB 487](#) would require the State Board of Education to establish a Seal of Biliteracy and attach it to the high school transcripts of qualifying students. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award of education in recognition of students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. More than 15 states have an approved state seal and 8 states are currently considering such legislation. This bill has not yet been referred to a committee.

### Senate Bill 295 - Revise Ohio's Smoking Ban

Introduced by Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni and Senator Bill Seitz, [SB 295](#) would allow smoking in cigar clubs and other private organizations even if the club is attached to other buildings. Current Ohio law allows smoking in private clubs, but only if they are in free-standing buildings, have no employees and are nonprofit entities. The legislation also removes the requirement that the clubs have no employees are are nonprofit entities. The American Lung Association in Ohio, American Heart Association and American Cancer Society are all opposed to the bill. The bill's sponsor says the idea would be good for economic development. This bill has not yet been referred to a committee.

#### Related Articles:

*Dayton Daily News* -- [Ohio lawmakers want to allow smoking at some private clubs](#)

*Columbus Dispatch* -- [Bipartisan pair of Ohio legislators propose exception to indoor-smoking ban](#)

### House Bill 360 - Health Insurance Coverage of Abortion

Introduced by Democratic Representatives Nicholas Celebrezze and Nickie Antonio, [HB 360](#) would repeal the prohibitions against including abortion coverage in insurance plans purchased through the federal health insurance exchange and in health insurance

[Click here to access a list of all  
our updates.](#)

policies offered to public employees. Eight representatives, all Democrats, have signed onto the bill. HB 360 has been referred to the Community and Family Advancement Committee where it awaits a hearing.

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