



# GOVERNMENT ACTION TRACKER

JAN. 2026

## **Federal Reserve and Treasury act on pennies. Ohio Governor strikes down extended timeline for THC Beverages.**

December typically proves to be a quiet time for government. Both the state and federal legislatures tried to make sure their work was wrapped up before the end of the year to give the elected officials time to return home for the holidays. During that time however, the Governor line item vetoed the 180-day phase out for THC beverages in Ohio that was in Senate Bill 56.

In other news, the U.S. Treasury Department issued guidance on penny rounding, and the Federal Reserve announced that pennies will be returned to circulation.

# Activity We Are Watching

The Ohio General Assembly is set to resume committees and sessions in late January/early February. We are discussing our priorities with elected offices and focused intently on the 14/15-year-old labor laws and a potential veto override on SB 56.

More information is in the State Update.

## State Update

**Hemp-THC: With less than a week left before Christmas, the Governor issued a line-item veto to the section of SB 56 that gave bars, breweries and everyone involved in THC beverages an extra 180 days before the drinks became illegal.**

Because SB 56 contained funding from marijuana interests, the Governor was allowed to strip the THC phase out while letting the full bill pass. In response, [we sent a letter to both the House and Senate](#), imploring them to override the veto and return the phase out to allow more time for exit planning or for Congress to adjust the law at the federal level. Additionally, we are executing an [outreach campaign](#) to streamline connecting you with your elected officials. Please let your elected officials know your personal experience selling THC drinks and the impact the elimination would have on your business.

[Early fallout from DeWine THC announcement is hardly uplifting - cleveland.com](#)

### Youth Workers

We are working with the Governor's team and the bill's sponsor to find a path forward regarding youth workers and should have more information coming soon. If you would like to be involved in this conversation, please let us know by contacting [Grant Stahl](#) on our team.

# 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*

*Passed by Senate*

*Signed by Governor, effective March 18*

### 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*

### Funding Agreements

## HB 105

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

*Passed House, awaiting action in the Senate*

### Microenterprise

## HB 134

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

*Passed House, awaiting action in the Senate*

*\*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  
Passed Senate  
Signed by Governor, effective March 18*

# Ohio Bill Tracking, Continued

## BILL TRACKING

### **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 (sodium warning label amended in)

*2nd hearing held*

### **Sunday Liquor Sales**

#### **HB 387**

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

*1st hearing held*

### **Interview No-Shows**

#### **HB 395**

Require Job and Family Services to establish an online process for employers to report individuals who do not show for an interview

*1st hearing held*

### **Cash as Payment**

#### **HB 554**

Require private sellers and government entities to accept cash

*1st hearing held*

### **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

*2nd 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*

# Ohio Bill Tracking, Continued

## BILL TRACKING

### 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*

*Passed House*

*Vetoed by Governor*

*\*ORHA Testified in Support*

### Marijuana

#### **SB 56**

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

*Conference report approved by both chambers*

*Signed by the Governor, THC phase out line-item vetoed (\*SB 86)*

### 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*

### Minimum Wage

#### **SB 234**

Increases the state's minimum wage

*Introduced*

### Hemp Sales

#### **SB 266**

Establishes rules and requirements for the testing and sale of intoxicating hemp products

*Introduced*

### Disclosure of Fees

#### **SB 336**

Requires the disclosure of mandatory fees or surcharges in customer transactions

*Introduced*

### Surcharge Fees

#### **SB 337**

Requires the disclosure of credit card surcharge fees

*Introduced*

### Minor Work Hours

#### **SCR 3**

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

*Passed Senate*

*Passed House*

*\*ORHA Testified in Support*

# Federal Update

While Congress may have been out on break during December, the Federal government did not sit quietly for the entire holiday break. [The U.S. Treasury Department issues their guidance regarding rounding on pennies.](#) The method they recommended was to abide by the rounding rules used in Canada, where lows (1, 2, 6, 7) round down and highs (3, 4, 8, 9) round up to the nearest nickel. While their guidance does not offer much legal protection, it indicated that the Federal government was listening to retailers' concerns with pennies. Additionally, the Federal Reserve recently announced that they would resume circulation of pennies. Part of the origins of the penny shortage were due to the Reserve not distributing or exchanging pennies between suppliers and banks.

On Tuesday, January 13, President Trump [posted](#) his support for the Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA). His support provides extra momentum to have the CCCA passed by Congress. We are working with the National Restaurant Association to highlight the importance of this legislation. Join us in Washington D.C. on March 10-12 for the NRA's Public Affairs Conference and meet directly with Ohio's congressional delegation to let them know the importance of the CCCA.

# 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.*

## Tipped Employees

### **H.R. 2312**

Clarifies federal law preventing 80/20/30 from returning

*Cleared for floor vote*

## Common Cents Act

### **H.R.3074/S.1525**

Stop minting pennies

*Introduced in both chambers, passed in House Committee*

## Save Local Business Act

### **H.R. 4366**

Establishes clear “direct and immediate control” for determining joint employer status

*Cleared for floor vote*

## Dignity Act

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

Immigration reform

*Introduced*

## EWEA

### **H.R. 5494**

Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act

*Introduced*

## GENIUS Act

### **S. 1582**

Crypto currency regulation

*Signed by President*

## Higher Wages

### **S. 2013**

Higher Wages for American Workers Act

*Introduced, in Senate consideration*

#### Questions?

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