



GOVERNMENT ACTION TRACKER

JUNE 2026

Ohio focuses on data centers. Meanwhile Congress kicks their feet.

Following the May primary election, the Ohio General Assembly returned to Columbus. The most prominent discussions currently center on data centers and their impact. The legislature formed the Select Committee on Data Centers, the Governor paused the tax credit for data centers, and both chambers introduced new bills to curb their expansion. Committees continued vetting various proposals impacting businesses.

The bill that would ban PFAS received a hearing, while amendments were made to the bill mandating allergen and sodium warning labels. Meanwhile, activity from Congress was rather sparse before they went on recess for Memorial Day.

Activity We Are Watching

As the General Assembly approaches its extended summer break, anything not of significant priority for the chambers is unlikely to move much until fall. A few bills of concern (HB 272 and 364) received hearings recently, however further action on these bills sounds unlikely. HB 364 received a sub-bill in its last hearing which did not significantly address our concerns about the bill. We are doubtful that the bill will be moving any further. We will be discussing with the committee's chair to make sure.

While multiple topics await further discussion in Congress, activity from the Federal Legislature continues to be slow as funding debates take up most of the effort. Any THC extensions or regulations still exist only as rumors. Additionally, there has been little word of any significant progress on the Credit Card Competition Act or the Upward Mobility Act.

State Update

Although they just returned, the Ohio General Assembly is preparing for its last few sessions before the lengthy summer recess. Bills that move are ones that the chambers' leaders feel are the most important to pass before November. At the front of the list is the capital budget. Unlike the budget passed last year, the capital budget focuses primarily on the needs of the different agencies, alongside funding for community projects across the state. Beyond the capital budget, no concerning bills appear to be of priority for either chamber. Some bills may move before the break, but anything that moves will have a monthslong pause; the legislature is not scheduled to return until after the November election.

After the results of the May Primary, the Ohio Restaurant PAC officially started the endorsement process for the 2026 Gubernatorial election. We sent letters to both major candidates, including a questionnaire of issues important to the hospitality community. Once returned, our Endorsement Committee will review the responses and interview the candidates. Their recommendations will be sent to the board for a final vote of 60% of the board. The Endorsement Committee is comprised of ORHA members from across the state, representing a diverse range of concepts.

Ohio Bill Tracking

<u>HB 2</u>	Establishes the Child Care Cred Program, allowing in certain circumstances for employers, employees and the state to share in the cost of childcare	5th hearing held
<u>HB 10</u>	Regulates imitation meat and egg products	Passed out of both chambers, signed by the Governor, effective now
<u>HB 19</u>	Reduces the mental state for prohibiting the sale of alcohol to a minor from Knowingly to Recklessly	1st hearing held
<u>HB 105</u>	Revise and supplement state regulations concerning non-recourse litigation funding agreements	Passed the House, 2nd hearing in Senate
<u>HB 134</u>	To authorize the sale of certain homemade foods under a microenterprise home kitchen enterprise registration	Passed the House, 2nd hearing held in Senate – ORHA Testified Interested Party
<u>HB 160</u>	To revise Liquor Control, marijuana and hemp laws	3rd hearing held - ORHA Testified Interested Party
<u>HB 194</u>	Revises the Alcohol Franchise Law	2nd hearing held
<u>HB 198</u>	Regulate the manufacture, distribution and sale of ingestible hemp products	3rd hearing held - ORHA Testified in support
<u>HB 209</u>	Exempt tips from state, municipal and school district income taxes	2nd hearing scheduled - ORHA Testified in support
<u>HB 246</u>	Require certain construction industry employers to use E-verify	Passed both chambers, signed by the Governor, effective now
<u>HB 272</u>	Regards food dyes, PFAS, fluoride, and certain substance releases	3rd hearing held
<u>HB 302</u>	To establish age verification & parental consent requirements for developers and app stores	3rd hearing held
<u>HB 364</u>	Require food service operations to denote certain allergens and sodium on their menu	4th hearing held - ORHA testified in opposition
<u>HB 387</u>	Allow local governments to allow Sunday liquor sales without needing local election approval	1st hearing held

Ohio Bill Tracking

<u>HB 395</u>	Require Job & Family Services to establish an online process for employers to report individuals who do not show for an interview	2nd hearing held
<u>HB 455</u>	Regarding the operation of public schools and the DEW, amendment includes expansion of 14-/15-year-old working hours on weekends	Passed out of the House, 4th hearing in the Senate, SB 50 language amended in.
<u>HB 554</u>	Require private sellers and government entities to accept cash	1st hearing held
<u>HB 685</u>	Require bars and restaurants to carry drink testing devices	Introduced
<u>SB 2</u>	To increase Ohio's power generation and improve the power grid	Companion legislation (HB 15) passed both chambers, signed by the Governor, effective now
<u>SB 23</u>	Revises the Alcohol Franchise Law	5th hearing held
<u>SB 30</u>	Requires retailers to give customers the option to pay by cash	2nd hearing held
<u>SB 33</u>	Allows employers to post certain labor law notices online	Signed by the Governor, in effect now
<u>SB 50</u>	Allows an employee who is younger than 16, with parental permission, to work slightly later hours during the school year	Passed both chambers, vetoed by the Governor - ORHA Testified in Support
<u>SB 56</u>	Revise medical and adult-use marijuana laws; levy marijuana taxes	Passed both chambers, Senate did not agree to House changes, conference report approved by both chambers, signed by the Governor, THC phase out line-item vetoed (now includes SB 86), in effect now
<u>SB 86</u>	Regulates hemp products, requiring their sale only in dispensaries. Allows for various liquor license holders to produce and distribute hemp infused beverages with certain restrictions	
<u>SB 167</u>	Require certain app store-based parental controls	3rd hearing held
<u>SB 175</u>	Require age verification & parental consent for apps & developers	4th hearing held
<u>SB 234</u>	Increases the state's minimum wage	Introduced
<u>SB 266</u>	Establishes rules and requirements for the testing and sale of intoxicating hemp products	Introduced

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<u>SB 336</u>	Requires the disclosure of mandatory fees or surcharges in customer transactions	Introduced
<u>SB 337</u>	Requires the disclosure of credit card surcharge fees	Introduced
<u>SB 348</u>	Require bars and restaurants to carry drink testing devices	First hearing held
<u>SCR 3</u>	Urge congress to change the <i>Federal</i> fair labor standards act to allow employees younger than 16 to work slightly later hours during the school year	Passed both chambers - ORHA Testified in Support
<u>SJR 9</u>	Remove the portion of the Ohio Constitution that currently prevents sales tax on to-go foods and beverages	Introduced

Federal Update

May proved to be a slow month for Congress. Both chambers are in a holding pattern until they pass funding for ICE and Border Control. While the Senate nearly finalized a plan for funding, it was shelved before Memorial Day and conversations will resume in June. Some talk has circulated regarding a temporary gas tax abatement to combat the high prices, however that timeline might be moot with gas prices slowly trending back down. From our friends at the national level, the National Restaurant Association officially endorsed the Dignity Act for its goals on addressing immigration reform.

Federal Bill Tracking

<u>H.R. 482 / S. 129</u>	No Tax on Tips Act	Included in the OBBB, signed by the President
<u>H.R. 2313</u>	Tipped Employee Protection Act – Clarifies federal law preventing 80/20/30 from returning	Cleared for floor vote
<u>H.R. 3074 / S. 1525</u>	Common Cents Act	Introduced in both chambers, passed House Committee
<u>H.R. 4366</u>	Save Local Business Act – Establishes clear “direct and immediate control” for determining joint employer status	Cleared for floor vote
<u>H.R. 4393</u>	Dignity Act	Introduced
<u>H.R. 5494</u>	Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act	Introduced
<u>S. 1582</u>	GENIUS Act	Signed by the President
<u>S. 2013</u>	Higher Wages for American Workers Act	Introduced, in Senate consideration
<u>S. 3623 / H.R. 7035</u>	Credit Card Competition Act	Introduced
<u>S. 3583 / H.R. 6949</u>	Upward Mobility Act	Introduced