



DONTAVIUS L. JARRELLS

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 25

134TH LEGISLATIVE REPORT • WINTER 2021



Friends & Neighbors,

As we strive to find normalcy and push beyond the tumultuous and uncertain year we all faced, my office remains unwaveringly committed to restoring Ohio's promise of better jobs, better lives, and brighter futures.

Among the top priorities of the 134th General Assembly in the Ohio House of Representatives was the need to draw and pass fair and equitable state and congressional districts, pass a state biennium budget that equitably serves all Ohioans, and put forth legislation that supports those struggling amid the health and economic crisis due to COVID-19. While the legislature has fallen short of accomplishing all of these priorities, I am pleased with our efforts to create a fairer, more effective, and more efficient government.

I proudly serve alongside my colleagues on the following committees: **Behavioral Health and Recovery Support, Finance, Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education, Insurance, and Ways and Means**. As a legislative member, I supported allocating \$156 million for COVID-19 relief to bars and restaurants and co-sponsored House Bill (H.B.) 3, known as Aisha's Law, which modifies civil and criminal law regarding domestic violence. I also joined my colleagues to allocate \$250 million to expand high-speed internet access in unserved and underserved areas and sponsored legislation to eliminate discriminatory covenants from deeds during property transfers.

As your Representative, the comments and feedback you provide are integral to building a better Ohio for all of us. I am incredibly grateful for your civic participation and look forward to building with you.



If you have any questions regarding policy issues, or if there is ever any concerns that our office can assist with, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Dontavius L. Jarrells

Ohio State Representative, District 25

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



H.B. 69 - Increase State Minimum Wage

Co-authored by Representatives Jarrells and Kelly (D-Cincinnati), this bill would modernize Ohio's minimum wage, gradually raising it to \$15-per-hour by 2026. This increase is projected to benefit 1.56 million working Ohioans (29% of the Ohio workforce).

H.B. 114 - Poindexter Village to be Designated State Historic Site

Authored by the Representative, this legislation officially recognizes Columbus' Poindexter Village as an official Ohio historical site. Adding Poindexter Village to the Ohio History Connection's network of historic places celebrates Ohio's Black history and ensures the history of this community will never be forgotten.

H.B. 274 - Restore Local Authority to Regulate Firearms Conduct

Co-authored by Representatives Jarrells and Upchurch (D-Cleveland), this bill restores local authority to regulate the ownership, possession, purchase, sale, transfer, transportation, storage, and keeping of firearms. This legislation would repeal language from House Bill 347, which the Ohio legislature passed in 2006.

H.B. 281 - Enact Mental Health and Disability Terminology Act

Co-authored by Representatives Jarrells and Young (R-Washington Twp.), this bill replaces statutory terms related to people with disabilities, substance use disorder, and mental illness. The bill also updates statutory provisions relating to assistance dogs, braille teacher standards, the Children with Medical Handicaps Program, the former Ohio Commission for the Blind, and accessible parking spaces.

H.B. 316 - Enact the 2020-2021 High School Education Recovery Act

Co-authored by Representatives Jarrells and Hillyer (R-Uhrichsville), this bill would allow any student currently working on or making progress towards a high school credit during the 2020-2021 school year to use the 2021-2022 school year as a supplemental year to retake or supplement courses the student already has taken.

H.B. 354 - Revise the Law Regarding the Preparation of Deeds

Co-authored by Representatives Jarrells and Ghanbari (R-Perrysburg), this legislation declares discriminatory covenants void by statute, provide immunity from civil liability to attorneys who remove discriminatory covenants from deeds that they are preparing for the transfer of a property, and prohibit county recorders from refusing to record a deed due to such omission.

H.B. 367 - Revise Body-Worn and Dashboard Cameras, Excessive Force Provisions

Co-authored by Representative Jarrells and Commissioner Erica Crawley, this bill would require police officers to wear and activate their body-worn camera or dash camera when responding to a call for service or during any interaction with the public, implement excessive use of force provisions, and increase transparency and accountability for law enforcement across Ohio.

H.B. 410 - Enact Actionable Help and New Dignity for Upward Progression Act (A HAND UP)

Co-authored by Representatives Jarrells and Click (R-Vickery), this bill would eliminate barriers individuals face in transitioning from public assistance to work. The bill also streamlines Ohio's public assistance process to promote effective communication and coordination across agencies for those receiving public benefits.

H.B. 415 - Revise In-State Tuition Eligibility for Veterans and Dependents

Co-authored by Representatives Jarrells and Miller (D-Columbus), this bill would expand eligibility for veterans, their spouses, and dependents for in-state tuition. This bill also provides in-state tuition to any member of the Ohio National Guard who has 15 days of active duty or active-duty training in a service year.

H.B. 453 - Create "Recovery is Beautiful" License Plate

Authored by the Representative, this bill would establish the "Recovery is Beautiful" specialty license plate to provide individuals and families with hope and encouragement, as well as provide additional funding to expand recovery supports when individuals experience a mental health or substance abuse problem.

STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

After several months of intensive committee hearings, the legislature passed the state's two-year operating budget, Amended Substitute House Bill 110. The bill appropriates \$161.9 billion for the 2022-2023 biennium. For comparison, the previous budget (133-H.B. 166) appropriated \$143.27 billion during the 2020-2021 biennium, a difference of roughly 12.2%. The legislature tackled COVID-19 relief funding, residential broadband expansion, reforms to the Ohio Power Siting Board for wind and solar projects, and much more. As a member of the Finance Committee, I'm proud to provide a brief overview of the significant policy and funding provisions within the operating budget:

Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources

- Provides \$156 million for COVID relief to bars, restaurants, new businesses, the lodging industry, entertainment venues, and the State Fair for fiscal year '22.
- Funds Broadband Development Grants (Dept. of Development (DEV)) for eligible broadband providers at \$250M over the biennium.
- Funds the TechCred program (DEV) at \$58.3M over the biennium. TechCred is a workforce development program that offers financial assistance for students and workers to enroll in short-term training courses or programs in specific industries or pursue in-demand jobs.
- Allocates \$350M to the Brownfield Remediation Program to award grants for the remediation of brownfield sites throughout Ohio.
- Declares void discriminatory covenants in deeds limiting the transfer or lease of real property to individuals against whom discrimination is prohibited under Ohio Civil Rights Law.

Primary and Secondary Education

- K-12 schools will receive a total of \$10.9 billion in each fiscal year for the Fair School Funding Plan. It is estimated the statewide average base cost per pupil will be \$7,202; whereas, under the old school funding formula, the per-pupil cost was set at \$6,020.
- Appropriates \$50 million for the School Bus Purchase Fund.
- Academic distress commissions are prohibited for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

Higher Education

- Establishes Juneteenth as a state holiday.
- Allocates \$7M for Short-Term Certificates to award need-based financial aid to students enrolled in a program that may be completed in less than 1 year.
- Increases Ohio College Opportunity Grant by \$8M over the biennium.
- Increases National Afro-American Museum line item by \$170,000 over the biennium.
- Grants in-state tuition to a student who is not an Ohio resident if that student completes a bachelor's degree program at any state institution of higher education and then immediately enrolls in a graduate program at that, or another, state institution.

Health and Human Services

- Extends Medicaid coverage for one year postpartum, from 60 days after giving birth.
- Requires ODH to allow women screened for breast or cervical cancer by providers outside of the Ohio Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP) to receive cancer treatment under if the woman is otherwise eligible to participate in BCCP.
- Expanded initial eligibility for childcare from 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 142% of FPL and for special needs children 150% FPL for initial eligibility and 300% FPL for continued eligibility. This provision ends on June 30, 2023.

2022-23 General Revenue Fund (GRF)

Program Category	FY 2020 (Actual)	FY 2021 (Actual)	FY 2022 (Appropriation)	FY 2023 (Appropriation)
K-12 Education	\$9,460.5	\$9,364.1	\$9,926.0	\$10,077.8
Health & Human Services ^{Medicaid}	\$15,471.8	\$18,094.4	\$15,974.4	\$20,150.1
Health & Human Services ^{Non-Medicaid}	\$1,338.4	\$1,368.4	\$1,615.4	\$1,606.3
Higher Education	\$2,606.1	\$2,683.8	\$2,757.4	\$2,760.7
Corrections	\$2,052.7	\$2,016.6	\$2,179.8	\$2,254.0
General Government	\$2,134.0	\$2,043.3	\$2,391.6	\$2,395.9
GRF Program Total^{\$Bn}	\$33,063.5	\$35,570.6	\$34,844.5	\$39,244.8
% Change		7.6%	-2.0%	12.6%



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