AFP-OHIO LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

LAME DUCK PRIORITIES, 2026

Twenty-one bills ranked by impact. Veto overrides on the back.

BILL	WHAT IT DOES
TIER 1 / HIGHEST IMPACT	
HB 176 / SB 90	**Regulatory relief division & universal regulatory sandbox.** Lets entrepreneurs test new products and services without being blocked by outdated state rules.
HB 11	**REINS Act.** Requires major new state regulations to win legislative approval before they can take effect.
HB 392	**Ohio Right to Compute Act.** Protects Ohioans' right to own and use computing hardware, including for artificial intelligence, free from excessive state restrictions.
HB 59	**Occupational licensing streamlining.** Simplifies licensing rules so it's easier to start working in a licensed profession in Ohio.
HB 965	**Ban on mandatory public-employee union dues.** Prohibits requiring public employees to pay union dues as a condition of keeping their job.
SB 8	**Ban on paid public-employee union release time.** Stops taxpayers from paying public employees' salaries for time spent on union business.
TIER 2 / SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT	
HB 134	**Cottage food registration.** Replaces licensing requirements for home-based food producers with a simple registration process.
HB 613	**State tax enforcement authority.** Updates the state's authority to enforce and collect taxes that are owed.
HB 473	**Bar public employers from paying employee retirement contributions.** Prohibits public employers from covering employees' share of retirement system contributions.
HB 280	**Police & Fire pension solvency.** Shores up the long-term financial health of the police and firefighter pension system.
HB 645	**Zero-based budgeting review.** Requires state agencies to periodically justify their full budget rather than relying on the prior year's spending.
HB 361	**Local zoning/building-inspection reform.** Speeds up local zoning and building-inspection approvals for housing and construction.
SB 104	**Preempt local short-term rental regulation.** Limits the ability of local governments to restrict short-term rentals like Airbnbs.
SB 170	**Right-to-try for investigational treatments.** Expands access to experimental treatments for patients with serious illnesses who have exhausted approved options.
TIER 3 / NARROWER IMPACT	
HB 814	**Eliminate E-Check requirement.** Ends mandatory vehicle emissions testing in counties that meet federal air-quality standards.
SB 175	**Age verification/parental consent for apps.** Requires app stores to verify user age and obtain parental consent before minors can download certain apps.
HB 983	**Data center accountability act.** Sets new oversight requirements for large data centers operating in Ohio.
HB 941	**Eliminate vacant civil service positions.** Removes long-vacant state civil service positions from the books to cut administrative bloat.
HB 264	**Restrict government publications before elections.** Limits government agencies from publishing certain materials in the weeks before an election.
HCR 24	**National debt resolution.** A non-binding resolution urging Congress to address the national debt.
SCR 20 / HCR 35	**Energy infrastructure resolutions.** Non-binding resolutions calling for expanded energy infrastructure investment in Ohio.

VETO OVERRIDES FOR LAME DUCK

Five rulemaking-oversight items DeWine vetoed from the budget bill.

ITEM	WHAT IT WOULD HAVE DONE, AND WHY DEWINE VETOED IT
Item 29 Restatement of principle of law or policy in rule	Forces agencies to formalize informal "policy" into a JCARR-reviewable rule within a set window, closing the sub-regulatory-guidance loophole. DeWine's veto called it a constraint that "prioritizes speed over thoroughness."
Item 31 Recommendation of Invalidating Resolution	Expands when JCARR can recommend a resolution invalidating a rule — Ohio's version of a legislative veto over regulations. DeWine cited "a significant impact on the ability of state agencies to promulgate administrative rules."
Item 32 Restatement of Principle of Law or Policy in Rule (JCARR reporting)	Companion to Item 29: moves up the JCARR reporting deadline (Nov. 30, 2025) and requires rulemaking to begin within three months, shrinking the window agencies can operate without rule review.
Item 33 Administrative Rules Containing Regulatory Restrictions	Most explicitly REINS-like: requires an agency that already hit its 30% restriction-reduction target (SB 9, 134th GA) to justify any new rule to JCARR in a "show cause" hearing before it can take effect.
Item 34 Proposed rules and revised proposed rules	Lengthens the rule review/comment timeline and tightens JCARR's invalidating-resolution conditions. DeWine called rules "already subject to rigorous review," warning more delay causes "administrative delays and inefficiency."