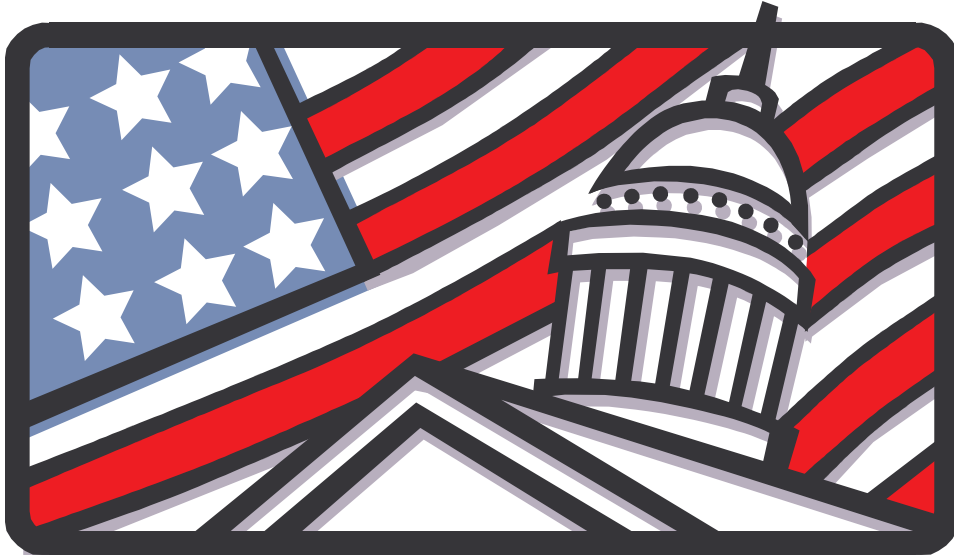


Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Legislative Status Report



**For the
126th General Assembly
and the
109th Congress**

Ohio Farm Bureau's Vision is to create a partnership between farmers and consumers that meets consumer needs and ensures agricultural prosperity in a global marketplace.

Note: If you are viewing this document online, simply click on the bill number, sponsor's name for more information. Click on full text to see the full text of the bill as introduced.

Ohio House of Representatives Pending Legislation

[HB 1](#) TAX LAWS ([Kilbane](#)) The Governor's proposal to reform Ohio's tax statutes, including reducing personal income taxes by 21%, eliminate portions of the state estate tax and eliminating existing business taxes, replacing revenue with a commercial activity tax. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF supports the Governor's budget position with the following qualifications: the threshold for the filing fee be raised; the kilowatt hour increase and the property transfer fees should be removed.

[HB 3](#) VOTER SYSTEMS/RECOUNTS ([DeWine](#)) To require the Secretary of State to establish a computerized statewide voter registration database in compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002; to require electors who register to vote by mail and have not previously voted in an election to provide identification before being permitted to cast a ballot; to permit certain electors to vote by provisional ballot in federal, state, and local elections; to specify counting standards for optical scan ballots; and to require that the applicant for a non-automatic recount pay the entire cost of the recount if its results do not change the result of the election. [Full Text](#)

FB View: Currently monitoring this bill.

[HB 5](#) EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE PLANS ([Raussen](#)) To permit small employers to offer health care plans without benefits otherwise required by statute, to provide for the operation of health savings accounts consistent with federal laws, and to limit the amount of copayments and deductibles paid by persons insured by health benefit plans. [Full Text](#)

FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 7](#) WORKERS' COMPENSATION ([Buehrer](#)) To direct the General Assembly in its deliberations regarding the enactment of reforms of the state's workers' compensation law. [Full Text](#)

FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 16](#) CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS ([Calvert](#)) To make capital and other appropriations, to change the name of the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo to the Medical University of Ohio at Toledo, to amend the versions of sections 3305.01 and 3307.01 of the Revised Code that are scheduled to take effect August 1, 2005, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. [Full Text](#)

FB View: This bill has passed and is now law.

[HB 43](#) ASSISTED LIVING MEDICAID WAIVER ([McGregor](#)) To require the Department of Job and Family Services to seek a federal waiver to establish an assisted living Medicaid waiver component and to make an appropriation. [Full Text](#)

FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 46](#) HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ([Schaffer](#)) To increase tax-deductibility of unreimbursed medical expenses and to expressly incorporate favorable tax treatment of new health savings accounts. [Full Text](#)

FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 55](#) MEDICAID RULES ([Hoops](#)) To identify matters that must be addressed in rules governing Department of Job & Family Services-administered Medicaid home and community-based services programs. [Full Text](#)

FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 61](#) TAX EXPENDITURE REVIEW ([Driehaus](#)) To provide for appraisal of the effectiveness of tax expenditures and for their expiration after appraisal if not renewed. [Full Text](#)

FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

Note: If you are viewing this document online, simply click on the bill number, sponsor's name for more information. Click on full text to see the full text of the bill as introduced.

[HB 66](#) BIENNIAL BUDGET ([Calvert](#)) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2007, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. [Full Text](#)
FB View: OFBF supports the Governor's budget position with the following qualification: the threshold for the filing fee be raised to \$100,000; the kilowatt hour increase and the property transfer fees should be removed.

[HB 67](#) BWC BUDGET ([Schaffer](#)) To transfer the Public Employees Risk Reduction Program and the Occupational Safety and Health Act On-site Consultation Program from the Department of Commerce to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, to make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs. [Full Text](#)
FB View: This bill has passed and is now law.

[HB 68](#) ODOT BUDGET ([Patton, T.](#)) To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2007, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs. [Full Text](#)
FB View: This bill has passed and is now law.

[HB 72](#) WORKERS' COMPENSATION ([Buehrer](#)) To make various changes to the Workers' Compensation Law. [Full Text](#)
FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 74](#) DESTINATION-BASED SOURCING ([Gibbs](#)) To phase-in destination-based sourcing of sales for small businesses. [Full Text](#)
FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 77](#) STATE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ([Gilb](#)) To reorganize the executive branch of state government. [Full Text](#)
FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 85](#) ELECTRIC UTILITY AGGREGATION ([Blessing](#)) To limit retail electric service automatic governmental aggregation and to create a "Do Not Aggregate" list. [Full Text](#)
FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 86](#) MEDICAID INSURANCE OPTION ([Willamowski](#)) To establish a medical assistance program that offers access to sickness and accident insurance as an alternative to standard Medicaid pay-per-service coverage. [Full Text](#)
FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 101](#) PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE ([Wolpert](#)) To create the Local Government Public Notice Task Force to study local government public notice requirements and to issue a report including recommendations for meeting those requirements in economic and efficient alternative ways. [Full Text](#)
FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 109](#) TAX EQUALIZATION ([Blasdel](#)) To specify how new or destroyed property is to be accounted for in the equalization of real property assessments. [Full Text](#)
FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[HB 125](#) ELECTION LAWS ([Wolpert](#)) To require that the declaration of candidacy and petition or the nominating petition for a candidate for municipal court judge or clerk be signed by at least fifty electors of the territory of the court; that the declaration of candidacy and petition for a partisan candidate for municipal court judge or clerk be filed by the 75th day before the primary election or, in the year of a presidential primary election, the 60th day before the primary election; and that the nominating petition for a nonpartisan candidate for municipal court judge or clerk be filed by the day before the primary election. [Full Text](#)
FB View: Currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

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Ohio Senate Pending Legislation

[SB 1 TAX LAWS \(Amstutz\)](#) The Governor's proposal to reform Ohio's tax statutes, including reducing personal income taxes by 21%, eliminate portions of the state estate tax and eliminating existing business taxes, replacing revenue with a commercial activity tax. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF supports the Governor's budget position with the following qualifications: the threshold for the filing fee be raised; the kilowatt hour increase and the property transfer fees should be removed.

[SB 3 VOTER SYSTEMS/RECOUNTS \(Coughlin\)](#) To require the Secretary of State to establish a computerized statewide voter registration database in compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002; to require electors who register to vote by mail and have not previously voted in an election to provide identification before being permitted to cast a ballot; to permit certain electors to vote by provisional ballot in federal, state, and local elections; to specify counting standards for optical scan ballots; and to require that the applicant for a non-automatic recount pay the entire cost of the recount if its results do not change the result of the election. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[SB 5 EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE PLANS \(Hottinger\)](#) To permit small employers to offer health care plans without benefits otherwise required by statute, to provide for the operation of health savings accounts consistent with federal laws, and to limit the amount of copayments and deductibles paid by persons insured by health benefit plans. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF supports this legislation.

[SB 7 WORKERS' COMPENSATION \(Cates\)](#) To direct the General Assembly in its deliberations regarding the enactment of reforms of the state's workers' compensation law. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[SB 11 MINIMUM WAGE \(Prentiss\)](#) To raise the standard minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour beginning January 1, 2006, then to \$7.15 an hour beginning January 1, 2007, and to require an annual adjustment of the standard minimum wage each year based on the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF opposes this bill.

[SB 22 ELECTRIC RATE STABILIZATION \(Padgett\)](#) To further state policy under the Electric Restructuring Law by providing for implementation of rate stabilizations plans where there is insufficient, generation market development or a lack of effective competition in an electric utility's service area and ensuring against any undue competitive disadvantage between Ohio and regional customers of an electric utility or its affiliates, and to declare an emergency. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[SB 26 SALES TAX SOURCING \(Amstutz\)](#) To establish a period during which vendors with total Ohio taxable sales of one million dollars or more must make the transition to destination-based sourcing of their sales and to allow origin-based situsing for sales made under certain circumstances. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[SB 31 COMPENSATORY TIME \(Coughlin\)](#) To afford private sector employer the option to offer and to employees the option to accrue and use compensatory time off and to afford both public and private employees and employers the option to institute biweekly work schedule programs. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

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[SB 37 EQUINE MARKETING \(Grendell\)](#) To enable certain persons associated with the equine industry to establish an equine marketing program. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF supports this bill. This bill has passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee for consideration.

[SB 47 STATE PARK FEES \(Grendell\)](#) To prohibit the Division of Parks and Recreation in the Department of Natural Resources from adopting rules establishing a fee for parking a motor vehicle in a state park or for admission to a state park and to declare an emergency. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[SB 64 ESTATE TAXES \(Grendell\)](#) To exempt from the estate tax certain contributions to a trust or fund attributable to a decedent's former employer. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF supports this bill.

[SB 73 LIVESTOCK ANTIBIOTICS \(Hagan, R.\)](#) To establish requirements governing the use of antibiotics in livestock and livestock products and to ban the purchase for school meals of poultry products that have been treated with an antibiotic belonging to the class of fluoroquinolone antibiotics [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF opposes this legislation.

[SB 77 ELECTRONIC VOTING DEVICES \(Grendell\)](#) To permit direct recording electronic voting machines certified for use in Ohio on January 1, 2005, to continue to be used in this state if they are modified to meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and, when technologically and economically feasible, modified to include a voter verified paper audit trail. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[SB 78 GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION \(Grendell\)](#) To reorganize the executive branch of state government. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

[SB 79 PRIMARY ELECTION DATES \(Cates\)](#) To require primary elections, including those held in presidential election years, to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. [Full Text](#)

FB View: OFBF is currently monitoring this bill and has no position.

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United States Congress Pending Legislation

In an effort to be user-friendly, the federal legislation is listed by subject area then by chamber.

AIR QUALITY

Senate: [S. 131](#) [Inhofe](#) (R- Okla.)

The Clear Skies Initiative would amend the Clean Air Act to reform regulations for energy suppliers and perhaps ease market pressure on natural gas. **Status:** 2/2/2005 Senate committee/subcommittee Environment and Public Works. Hearings held. 3/9/2005 Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works consideration and Mark Up Session held
FB: Current Policy Supports.

[S. 342](#) [McCain](#) (R- Ariz.)

The Climate Stewardship Act of 2005 would provide for a program of scientific research on abrupt climate change and limit greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. **Status:** 2/10/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.
FB: Current Policy Opposes.

[S. 386](#) [Hagel](#) (R- Neb.)

The Climate Change Technology Deployment and Infrastructure Credit Act of 2005 would amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out activities that promote the adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **Status:** 2/15/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
FB: Current Policy Supports.

House: [H.R. 759](#) [Gilchrest](#) (R- Md.)

The Climate Stewardship Act of 2005 would provide for a program of scientific research on abrupt climate change, and will limit greenhouse gas emissions. **Status:** 2/10/2005 Referred to House Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
FB: No position

ANIMAL HEALTH/WELFARE

Senate: [S.J. RES. 4](#) [Conrad](#) (D- N.D.)

This is a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by USDA relating to risk zones for introduction of BSE. **Status:** 3/2/2005 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 25. 3/7/2005 Held at the desk. Companion to H.J.RES. 23.
FB: Current Policy Opposes.

[S. 73](#) [Cantwell](#) (D- Wash.)

The Animal Feed Protection Act of 2005 would expand the existing ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban by prohibiting "specific risk materials" (SRM) in all U.S. animal feed, and banning the import of feed that may contain SRM. **Status:** 1/24/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
FB: Current Policy Opposes.

Note: If you are viewing this document online, simply click on the bill number, sponsor's name for more information. Click on full text to see the full text of the bill as introduced.

[S. 108](#) Johnson (D- S.D.)

This bill would prohibit USDA from implementing the minimal-risk region rule until mandatory country-of-origin labeling is implemented. **Status:** 1/24/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Companion to H.R. 384.

FB: Current Policy Oppose.

House: [H.R. 384](#) [Herseht \(D- S.D.\)](#)

This bill would prohibit USDA from implementing the minimal-risk region rule until mandatory country-of-origin labeling is implemented. **Status:** 1/26/2005 Referred to House Committee on Agriculture. Companion to S. 108.

FB: Current Policy Opposes.

[H.J. RES. 23](#)

This is a joint resolution that disapproves of the rule submitted by USDA relating to the establishment of minimal-risk regions for the introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy into the United States. **Status:** 2/17/2005 Referred to House Committee on Agriculture. Companion to S.J.RES. 4.

FB: Current Policy Oppose.

FARM LABOR

Senate: [S. 352](#) [Mikulski \(D- Md.\)](#)

The Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act of 2005 would exempt from the annual limit those H-2b workers who have worked in the United States in any of the last three years, have demonstrated that they are law abiding and do not pose a security risk. **Status:** 2/10/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

FB: Current Policy Supports.

FARM PROGRAMS

Senate: [S.385](#) [Grassley \(R- Iowa\)](#)

This bill would amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to lower the caps on payment limits and remove the three-entity rule. **Status:** 2/15/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

FB: Current Policy Opposes.

HEALTHCARE

Senate: [S. 406](#) [Snowe \(R- Maine\)](#)

Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005 would amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 to allow for a standard set of health benefits to be offered across state lines, while meeting the administrative and filing requirements of the state where the plan is located (state of domicile). **Status:** 2/16/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

FB: No position.

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House: [H.R. 525](#) [Johnson \(R- Texas\)](#)
Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005 would amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow for a standard set of health benefits to be offered across state lines, while meeting the administrative and filing requirements of the state where the plan is located

(state of domicile). **Status:** 2/2/2005 Referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce.
FB: No position.

TAXES

Senate: [S. 7](#) [Kyl \(R- Ariz.\)](#)
The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Act of 2005 would increase American jobs and economic growth by making permanent the individual income tax rate reductions, the reduction in the capital gains and dividend tax rates, and the repeal of the estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes.
Status: 1/24/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.
FB: Current Policy Supports.

Death Tax

Senate: [S. 420](#) [Kyl \(R- Ariz.\)](#)
Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005 would strike the sunset clause in current law so that when death tax repeal takes place in 2010, it will be permanent. Unless Congress acts, repeal will only be on the books for one year and would be reinstated in 2011. **Status:** 2/17/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Finance. Companion to H.R. 8
FB: Current Policy Supports

House: [H.R. 8](#) [Hulshof \(R- Mo.\)](#)
Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005 would strike the sunset clause in current law so that when death tax repeal takes place in 2010, it will be permanent. Unless Congress acts, repeal will only be on the books for one year and would be reinstated in 2011. **Status:** 2/17/2005 Introduced/originated in House. Companion to S. 420.
FB: Current Policy Supports

TRADE

Senate: [S. 328](#) [Craig \(R- Idaho\)](#)
The Agricultural Export Facilitation Act of 2005 would clarify Congress' original intent of "cash payment in advance" language under the Trade Sanctions and Reform Act of 2000, as well as take other steps to increase the sale of U.S. agricultural products to Cuba. **Status:** 2/9/2005 Referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.
FB: Current Policy Support.

House: [H.R. 719](#) [Moran \(R- Kan.\)](#)
The Agricultural Export Facilitation Act of 2005 would clarify Congress' original intent of "cash payment in advance" language under the Trade Sanctions and Reform Act of 2000, as well as take other steps to increase the sale of U.S. agricultural products to Cuba. **Status:** 2/9/2005 Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
FB: Current Policy Support.

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WATER

House: [H.R. 135](#)
The Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2005 would create a commission to assess and project current and future water supply and demand and to develop recommendations for federal, state and local governments, as well as the private sector, to maintain an adequate supply of fresh water for the U.S. **Status:** 2/3/2005 Referred to House Subcommittee on Water and Power. **FB:** Current Policy Support.

ENERGY

Senate: [S. 650](#) [Lugar \(R-Ind.\)](#)
The Fuels Security Act of 2005 increases the renewable fuels standard (RFS) and use of ethanol and biodiesel to four billion gallons in 2006 and eight billion gallons in 2012. This legislation is a starting point in the process to address the renewable fuels standard issue, most likely as part of a comprehensive energy package. Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio) is an original sponsor of this legislation. **Status:** 3/17/05 Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. **FB:** Current Policy Supports

MISC

Senate: [S. 256](#) [Grassley \(R- Iowa\)](#)
Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, or Chapter 12, gives financially-strapped farmers a cushion to reorganize debt without the consent of creditors. **Status:** 3/10/2005 Passed/agreed to in Senate 74 - 25 Companion to H.R. 685. **FB:** Current Policy Supports.

House: [H.R. 685](#) [Sensenbrenner \(R-Wis.\)](#)
Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, or Chapter 12, gives financially-strapped farmers a cushion to reorganize debt without the consent of creditors. **Status:** 2/9/2005 Referred to House Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Companion to S. 256. **FB:** Current Policy Supports.