

I-LYA Ohio Marine Trades Associations Report

Fall 2025

Long Stalled Marijuana Law Changes Move Forward

The Ohio Senate had passed Senate Bill 56 in February, 2025 that makes changes to the recreational marijuana law passed by voters in 2023. The bill as passed by the Senate did things such as modifying THC limits and the number of plants that can be “home grown”. The bill also tightened provisions regarding public use.

Negotiations between the House and the Senate reached a stalemate.

Conference committees meet to accept a final version. The House then approved the conference report; however, the Senate had already adjourned. They plan to act on the conference report on December 9th.

Regarding marijuana public use, prohibits public smoking or vaping of marijuana and only allows the use on privately owned real property that is used primarily for residential purposes.

Military Discounts at Parks – Passes Senate

Legislation from Senator Tom Patton, Senate Bill 223, would require the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft Chief to create a discount program offering reduced rates on state park services and rentals for veterans and active-duty service members. Under the bill the discount would be at least 25%.

The discount would not apply to merchandise purchases. Services discounted could include **dock rentals and fees**. This bill is supported by veteran’s groups. It unanimously passed the Ohio Senate on October 22, 2025, and will now be considered by the Ohio House. During testimony before the House Natural Resources Committee, the sponsor indicated ODNR has estimated a budget impact of about \$585,000.

Constitutional Amendment Proposal

Senator Steve Huffman has proposed Senate Joint Resolution 8 to make hunting and fishing a Constitutional right in Ohio. SJR 8 would start the process of going to the ballot. Legislators cannot solely change the State Constitution. However, they can pass a resolution to take an issue directly to the ballot for a citizen vote. SJR 8 is being considered by the Senate General Government Committee.

Proponents testified that the amendment would:

- Protect and preserve Ohioans' traditional right to hunt and fish by placing it in the state's highest law.
- Ensure continued access to outdoor recreation and support wildlife/habitat conservation.
- Allow Ohio voters to permanently safeguard these activities.

Proponents at the hearing included the NRA, American Sportfishing Association, the Midwestern States Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and others.

Representatives Ron Ferguson and Nick Santucci are sponsoring a companion measure in the House, House Joint Resolution 1. Hearing have not been held on HJR 1 since March.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced a milestone for the H2Ohio program

Key points:

- 95% of previous participants re-enrolled or expanded their acreage.
- 16% growth in new producers, with nearly 300 first-time enrollees.
- Farmers are estimated to be preventing ~550,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering waterways this year through voluntary best management practices.

Launched in 2019, H2Ohio is a science-driven initiative that **pays farmers incentives to adopt proven conservation practices that reduce nutrient runoff**, improve soil health, and help prevent harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie and other Ohio waters. Participation requires a Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan developed with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Governor DeWine and ODA Director Brian Baldrige praised Ohio farmers—especially in northwest Ohio—for their strong, ongoing commitment, calling the 2.5 million-acre benchmark “proof that farmers are invested in the health of our water and soil.

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