

# State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

## Ohio House District 15

(614) 466-3100 | Rep15@ohiohouse.gov | Legislative Aide: Aliyah Awan; Aliyah.Awan@ohiohouse.gov



### | December 2024

#### **Committees:**

- *Financial Institutions (Ranking Member)*
- *Aviation and Aerospace*
- *Commerce and Labor*
- *Economic and Workforce Development*
- *Ways and Means*
- *9-1-1 Steering Committee*

Hello Neighbors,

As you may know, this will be my final newsletter in the 135th General Assembly as I prepare to leave office. In this edition, I will review some of the legislation considered or passed in the House over the last few weeks, as well as the status of some of the work remaining to be done. This includes my bills to prohibit the 3D printing of dangerous “auto-sears,” and reinstating Ohio’s child enticement statute which was declared unconstitutional a while ago by the Ohio Supreme Court. Both recently had their first committee meetings after being introduced several months ago.

I am also very pleased to report that HB274, a bipartisan bill I jointly sponsored with Rep. Adam Mathews, was passed this month by the House and is awaiting action in the Senate. This is the first Homestead Exemption enhancement bill passed by the House this term to assist qualifying Ohioans with the growing expense of their property tax bills.

Serving in the Ohio House has been one of the greatest honors of my life. It has been gratifying to address so many important issues for Ohioans, and particularly for our District 15 constituents. I will cherish the friendships I have made with other members—great people on both sides of the aisle whose dedication to their work is so obvious.

Thank you also to District 15 for the opportunity to represent you in Ohio’s House of Representatives. And who knows what the future will hold?

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Dell'Aquila".



State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila  
77 South High Street, 11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Office: (614) 466-3100





## Legislative Updates

### **HB386, Prohibition of Manufacturing Auto-Sears**

The need to end the dangerous 3D printing of auto-sears is gathering more national attention after I introduced HB 386 to prohibit this practice over a year ago on November 30, 2023. The bill came up for its first committee meeting on November 19, 2024.

Now, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) has just completed a two-day national summit to combat this growing public safety threat created by the manufacturing of these small machinegun conversion devices that convert semi-automatic handguns into fully automatic machineguns. Auto-sears can be 3D printed with software freely available online, and have become the most frequently recovered type of illegal guns, accounting for about half of the firearms recovered in ATF trafficking investigations. According to the ATF, a semi-automatic handgun with an auto-sear can fire 30 rounds in two seconds with a single trigger pull.

Criminals using converted machine guns are committing more shootings each year throughout America. In a recent series of arrests in Cleveland, for example, the U.S. Marshall's Service confiscated dozens of illegal firearms and 28 auto-sears.

The summit brought together leading federal and local prosecutors, law enforcement officials, legal and public policy experts, elected officials and a university engineer to discuss the emerging public safety and health threat from machinegun conversion devices and practical steps to combat it. Perhaps this rising level of attention to the problem will encourage legislative action to close the gap in existing law that does not address the manufacturing of these otherwise illegal devices.

The need for passage of HB386 persists and is becoming more urgent. Hopefully, it will be taken up in the next General assembly. For more information on HB386, please click this link: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=23498>



Representative Richard Dell'Aquila speaking on the Floor of the Ohio House of Representatives

### **HB274 To Enhance Ohio's Homestead Exemption Passed By the House**

Among the most frequent inquiries my office receives are those from fixed income homeowners expressing concern over their ever-increasing property tax burden. We in the House Ways & Means Committee have considered several possible measures to enhance the homestead exemption to assist these constituents.

I am pleased that HB 274 is the first bill to come to the House floor and to pass so resoundingly, by a vote of 78-11 on December 10, 2024. Thank you to Rep. Adam Mathews (R-Lebanon) for jointly sponsoring this bill with me. We now await action from the Ohio Senate as the statehouse nears the end of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly,.

HB 247 will protect fixed income seniors as property taxes continue to be on the rise by establishing an enhanced Homestead Exemption for certain long-term homeowners who qualify for the general Homestead Exemption and have occupied their home for 20 or more consecutive years. This bill will benefit an estimated 461,450 Ohio homeowners who would qualify for the enhanced reduction. For more information on the bill, please follow this link: [https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general\\_assembly\\_135/legislation/hb274/02\\_PH/pdf/](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_135/legislation/hb274/02_PH/pdf/)



## Legislative Updates (Continued)

### HB 593 Regarding Child Enticement Violations

Several years ago, the Ohio Supreme Court declared Ohio's Child Enticement Statute to be unconstitutionally overbroad, as it would prohibit otherwise legal activities. It has since not yet been brought into constitutional compliance. Criminal proceedings alleging certain violations of the statute have been dismissed or never charged.

On April 4, 2023, I introduced HB148 which was designed to correct this issue. I then joined with Rep. Josh Williams (R –Sylvania Twp.) as joint sponsor, to reintroduce the bill as HB593 on May 15, 2024. The bill received its first committee hearing on November 19, 2024. Hopefully, this important legislation will be brought up again in the next General Assembly if it is not passed in the current term. For more information on HB593, please follow this link: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=23503>

### Recent Dedication/Naming Bills of Note

In the past few weeks, the House has also passed several dedication and naming bills, two of which I introduced. The first is to designate April as “Arab-American Heritage Month” in recognition of the many contributions and achievements by Americans of Arabic ancestry. The bill is now on the Governor's desk awaiting signature.

Also reported favorably out of committee this month is HB297, a measure of particular importance to our District 15, as it commemorates the date in 1983 when the now classic movie, “*A Christmas Story*,” filmed in Cleveland, Ohio, was released.

This commemoration is particularly significant for our Ohio House District 15 as well as the entire City of Cleveland. The house featured in the movie is located in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood at 3159 W 11th Street, Cleveland, Ohio. This holiday film has justifiably joined the ranks of several other Christmas classics. The 19th-century Victorian home featured in the film has been restored and renovated to appear just as it did in the film, inside and outside.

The museum displays some of the props from the film which fans will recognize, including Randy's snow suit, the Higbee's department store window toys, the chalk board from Miss Shields' classroom, hundreds of behind-the-scenes photos, as well as one of the custom-built Daisy Red Ryder BB guns used in the filming. The historical, economic, and cultural significance of this commendation is indisputable.

As importantly, this commemoration will contribute to the continuing redevelopment of the entire Tremont neighborhood and enhance the prestige of the City of Cleveland

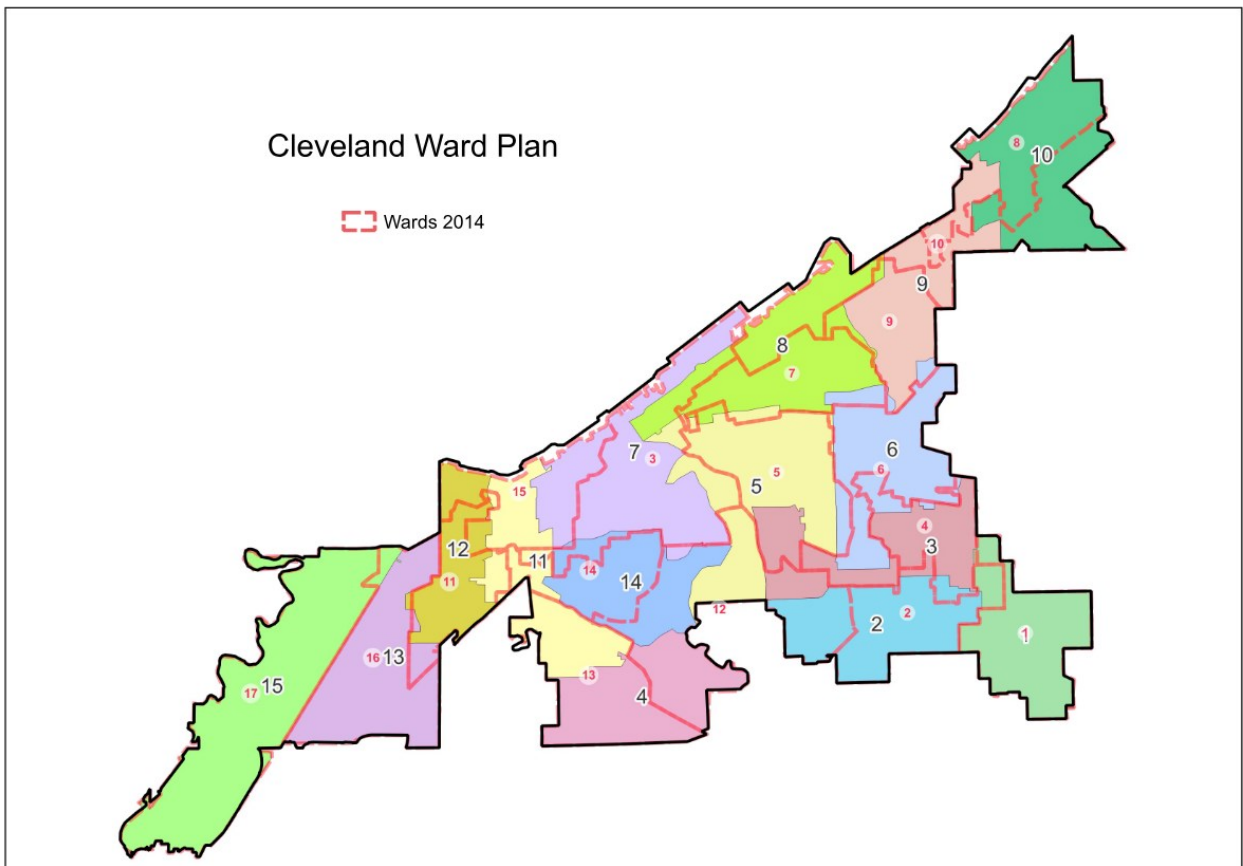
and Ohio in general by bringing more national attention to the location where this cherished film was sited, to say nothing of the potential increase in tourism. And how much more appropriate could it be than to advance this bill now--just before the 2024 Christmas holiday?



## Around the District

### City of Cleveland Considers New Ward Map

On the heels of the State of Ohio redrawing its district maps, including our own House District 15 map, the City of Cleveland is considering redrawing its ward map and eliminating two wards. Here is a map depicting the latest proposal, superimposed over the exiting ward map. As of this writing, no final decision has been made. For more information, please contact your City Council Representative or Cleveland City Hall.



### Three District 15 Rehabilitation Projects To Receive State Funding

The Broadview Savings & Loan Co, Kerns Hall, and South Brooklyn Savings rehabilitation projects in District 15 are receiving an award through the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program.

#### Broadview Savings & Loan Co. (Cleveland)

Total Project Costs: \$5,022,764

Total Tax Credit: \$373,000

Address: 4221 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109

Part of the South Brooklyn Historic District in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood of Cleveland, the Broadview Savings & Loan Co. began operations in 1919 in this colonial revival style building, designed by Cleveland architects Dalton – Dalton Associates. The bank quickly became one of the country's top 100 savings and loan banks, and a second floor was added in 1955 to accommodate growth. The bank was acquired in the 1990s and renovated, removing much of the historic fabric of the building. However, the two bank vaults remain. The renovation plans include the conversion of the building into 22 studios and one- and two-bedroom residential units



## Around the District (Continued)

### **Kerns Hall (Cleveland)**

Total Project Costs: \$20,684,475

Total Tax Credit: \$596,903

Address: 2604 Garden Ave., Cleveland, OH 44109

Constructed in 1890, Kerns Hall is a three-story mixed-use building in Cleveland's historic Brooklyn Centre. Kerns Hall primarily served to host "secret society" meetings and socials for the National Protective Legion, a fraternal order of Masons, with more than 4,000 members. The rehabilitation of Kerns Hall will allow room for local retail and restaurant space, as well as a community space on the upper floors. In addition, a vacant lot to the north of the hall will be utilized for the ground-up construction of 39 apartment units.

### **South Brooklyn Savings Loan & Co. (Cleveland)**

Total Project Costs: \$1,368,938

Total Tax Credit: \$180,000

Address: 4209 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109

The South Brooklyn Savings and Loan Company building was constructed in 1930 with a dual storefront to provide space for the South Brooklyn Savings and Loan Company and a dry goods company. In 1963, the Broadview Savings and Loan Co. acquired the building for additional space and connected it with a basement tunnel to its main building to the south at 4221 Pearl Rd. The rehabilitation will convert the space into eight residential units while maintaining the historic classic pilasters and the façade window openings.



## **Cuyahoga County EasyPay Program**

The Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office recently returned over \$240,000 in interest to taxpayers participating in the "EasyPay" program, resulting in a slight decrease in the amount they will owe when property tax bills are due in February.

EasyPay is a pre-payment (or escrow) program that allows taxpayers to divide payments into installments (monthly, biannual or annual). Payments are then held by the Treasurer's Office and applied when taxes are due. When taxpayers sign up to have those payments made automatically through their banks, the Treasurer's Office applies the interest earned on their payments to their tax bills. Property owners can use their account number to check their earned EasyPay interest credit online.

The county Treasurer just returned \$240,000 in interest to taxpayers who enrolled in EasyPay. By enrolling, taxpayers can avoid penalties, save money, and manage their payments. More information on the EasyPay program is available here: <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/treasury/pay-your-taxes/easypay> We could all use a break in our property taxes and every bit helps. Our next property tax bills will be mailed in early January 2025 and will be due on February 20, 2025.