

# 135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FACT SHEETS

## H.B. 111: SUPPORT

Increase sentencing range for third degree felony domestic violence offenses

Sponsors: Rep. Jeff LaRe (R-Violet Twp.) and Rep. Kevin D Miller (R-Newark)

Committee Status



### Current Law

When repeat domestic violence offenders are convicted of a third-degree felony, they are subjected to community control **OR** a definite prison term. If a prison term, the sentencing would be a "low-tier" range.

Victim Specification	Prison Term under Current Law	Prison Term under H.B. 111
None	Definite term of 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36 months	Definite term of 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48, 54, or 60 months
Pregnant victim	Either a definite term of 6 months <b>OR</b> a definite term of 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36 months	Either a definite term of 12 months <b>OR</b> a definite term of 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48, 54, or 60 months
Pregnant victim and serious physical harm caused	Either a definite term of one year <b>OR</b> a definite term of 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36 months	Either a definite term of 18 months <b>OR</b> a definite term of 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48, 54, or 60 months

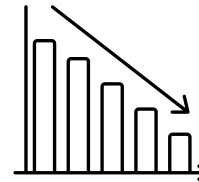
### If passed, this legislation would:



Increase third-degree felony offenses to a "higher-tier" sentencing range.



Create a presumption in favor for a prison term for third-degree felony domestic violence.



Potentially aid in the reduction of domestic violence homicides.

### Why is H.B. 111 Important?

- 1 The vast majority of domestic violence crimes are charged as misdemeanors. In order for DV charges to reach felony level, an offender must have two or more prior domestic violence convictions, or two or more convictions of a few other specified offenses involving a family or household member.
- 2 Most DV perpetrators are repeat offenders, who have continued to offend and who present a unique set of dangers to their victims and their victims' families.
- 3 H.B. 111 would hold these offenders accountable for their crimes while providing victims of domestic violence time to work with their local programs to establish long-term safety plans, particularly around financial security and safe housing.

*"Our focus is not on first-time offenders, nor on charges that have been dismissed or reduced to lesser convictions. Our focus, very specifically, is on individuals with multiple domestic violence convictions and a profound history of abusive behavior."*

*-ODVN Member Program Board Member*

# 135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY JANUARY 2023-DECEMBER 2024

*ODVN supports legislation and policy initiatives that foster change in our economic, social, and political systems and are consistent with our mission to advance the principles that all people have the right to an oppression and violence-free life. ODVN does not support legislation or policy initiatives that jeopardize or complicate the path to safety for domestic violence victims or further marginalize survivors of any group.*



## Legislative Priorities



### **Increasing Funding for Domestic Violence Shelters and Community Programs**

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) requested and received a \$20 million total allocation for the biennium to the Domestic Violence line item in the FY 2024-2025 budget to sustain our programs and allow them to serve more survivors seeking help. Thank you, Attorney General Yost, Governor DeWine, and the General Assembly for supporting this lifesaving work.



### **Reducing Domestic Violence Fatalities**

ODVN supports efforts to incorporate domestic violence risk assessment tools, such as evidence-based lethality assessment screenings, into local communities' responses to domestic violence. The proposed legislation should include funding for training for law enforcement officers.



### **Enhancing Child Safety**

ODVN supports efforts to create a safer, more child-centered process for children and their families in family court, especially for marginalized survivors who already experience systemic barriers to obtaining safety.

## Policy and Systems Advocacy

Scan the QR code to visit ODVN's policy website. From there you can view the electronic version of fact sheets such as this one, sign up for legislative updates, and see all of ODVN's tracked bills through a comprehensive legislative tracker.

