

## State Appoints OHLA Board Member Steve Van Sickle to Ohio Retail Food Safety Advisory Council

The Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Agriculture have appointed Steve Van Sickle, Director of Operations at Sauder Village and Sauder Heritage Inn in Archbold, as a new member of the Ohio Retail Food Safety Advisory Council.



Department  
of Health

Department  
of Agriculture

The Council is established in [Section 3717.02](#) of the Ohio Revised Code. Van Sickle joins 13 additional members of the council who represent the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, retail food service establishments, food service operations, local boards of health and health departments, academia and the general public.

The Council makes recommendations for the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code; examines specific food safety issues raised by the directors of agriculture and health and making recommendations regarding those issues; mediates unresolved issues among state agencies about the interpretation of rules adopted under O.R.C. 3717 and makes recommendations regarding the issues; reviews all comments on and requests for interpretation of the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code; and makes recommendations to the director of agriculture and director of health for use in issuing joint letters of opinion when recommended by the Council.

It makes recommendations with respect to improving the food safety awareness of consumers and their confidence in the state's food supply and with respect to improving the food safety awareness of consumers; makes recommendations regarding the licensing categories and inspection frequencies to be used in regulating retail food establishments and food service operations; and makes recommendations to the director of health with respect to the program for certification of individuals in food protection and approval of courses in food protection.

In nearly two decades of service in hospitality, Van Sickle has overseen numerous food & beverage operations, and served on the District Licensing Council in Fulton County, and as a representative to the Fulton County Board of Health. He has also been a member of the OHLA Board of Trustees since 2017.

OHLA President & CEO Joe Savarise said that the organization was proud to nominate Van Sickle for this important state Council, because he was a perfect representative for the industry, the association, and for food service and hospitality professionals across the entire state.

Van Sickle's term on the Council runs through December 31, 2027.

## While Court Ruling Holds Up Rule on Joint Employment, President Vetoes Repudiation

Two positive steps in stopping a massively damaging new NLRB rule which would make franchisors joint employers of franchisees' employees were a recent ruling by a federal judge blocking the rule, and votes by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to pass resolutions to overturn the rule.

President Biden vetoed the measure which passed with bipartisan support. In his message regarding the veto, the President made it clear what he feels the joint employment rule, and the entire current regulatory approach on labor issues is all about when he wrote, "Republicans are siding with union-busting corporations over the needs of workers and their unions." Biden also wrote that rule would ensure that employers cannot evade their legal obligations by controlling workers indirectly through contractors.

In the vast majority of instances where the joint employer rule would negative impact franchised hotels, workers are neither unionized nor contractors.

Prior to the measure reaching the Senate floor, OHLA member owners and operators of franchised hotel operations met with key staff for Ohio's U.S. Senator J.D. Vance, who voted on April 10 in favor of the Senate resolution to overturn the rule.

With the rule on hold, the final outcome will depend on any additional legal action or appeals.

## Lawmakers Move to Nix TSA PreCheck

An amendment to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill threatens the future of the Transportation Security Administration PreCheck program by effectively halting the use of facial matching technology.



This could increase wait times at airport security checkpoints just as the industry enters the hyper-busy summer travel season. Travel economy experts warn of negative effects both for travelers but also for the travel industry as it continues recover from the pandemic.

U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) oppose the use of facial recognition because of privacy, not security, concerns. "The TSA program is a precursor to a full-blown national surveillance state," said Senator Merkley. "Nothing could be more damaging to our national values of privacy and freedom. No government should be trusted with this power."

"Every day, TSA scans thousands of Americans' faces without their permission and without making it clear that travelers can opt out of the invasive screening," said Senator Kennedy. "The Traveler Privacy Protection Act would protect every American from Big Brother's intrusion by ending the facial recognition program."

U.S. Travel Association is leading the charge nationally to oppose the Merkley/Kennedy amendment. Individuals can quickly send a message to their Senators using this link: <https://www.travelactionnetwork.com/campaign/faa/>

## OHLA Supports Legislation to Benefit Victims of Trafficking

The Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee received testimony on May 7 from proponents including OHLA of a measure to expunge non-violent criminal offenses from the records of the victims of human trafficking victims.

House Bill 385, sponsored by State Representatives Tracy Richardson (R-Marysville) and Josh Williams (R-Sylvania) will help victims of human trafficking, but also will aid the entities working to provide them employment and career opportunities, by expanding eligible offenses for expungement to include misdemeanors and fifth- and fourth-degree felonies.

“We work with organizations that are dedicated to providing victims options for pathways to their personal freedom and self-sufficiency.” OHLA’s President & CEO Joe Savarise said. “One stellar example is Ohio-based Freedom a la Cart, which provides job opportunities and practical skills for victims in an effective workforce development program. It is our industry’s commitment, working with organizations such as this, to provide more job opportunities and career paths for those interested in the rewarding and upwardly mobile hospitality sector.”

See OHLA’s full testimony on H.B. 385 [here](#).

## Overtime Threshold will Increase July 1 ... and January 1

The U.S Department of Labor is raising the annual salary threshold for employees to qualify for possible exemptions from overtime. Only July 1, the annual salary level will rise from the current \$35,568 to the new level of \$43,888. Employees will need to be paid at least that amount to qualify for the possible executive, administrative or professional exemptions from overtime.

Employers should note that just six months later, on Jan. 1, 2025, the salary threshold will increase again, to \$58,656 per year – a 63 percent increase over the current level.

Paying employees more than the threshold does not automatically exempt them from overtime. The employer must be able to demonstrate that the employee meets the defined duties of the so-called “white collar” exemptions ([executive](#), [administrative](#) or [professional](#)). These tests have not changed, just the salary threshold to qualify for them.

You can find out more about the changes from these updates from OHLA partners [Ogletree Deakins](#) and [Fisher Phillips](#). OHLA will hold an information and question/answer session with specialists in this field to help review specific situations in hotel environments. If you have questions about the exemptions and duties tests, please share them via [info@ohla.org](mailto:info@ohla.org).

## Attorney General Yost Hosts Fifth Human Trafficking Summit

Registration is open for the 2024 Ohio Human Trafficking Summit on Wed. August 7 at Hyatt Regency Columbus. The daylong event gathers service providers, law enforcement officers, health care professionals, victim survivors and others to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices to advance the fight against human trafficking in communities statewide. Registration is just \$50 before July 1. Registration and additional information can be found [here](#).

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