



State Representative Martin J. Sweeney
14th Ohio House District
Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 444

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Devitis, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and distinguished members of the Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the honor and privilege of allowing me to offer sponsor testimony today on House Bill 444.

Part of my job as a legislator is to seek common sense solutions to problems that my constituents face. I believe House Bill 444 will do that. In addition to the standard year-long food operation license, House Bill 444 would allow for a separate license for half of the year. The reason for this is simple. It will allow small businesses that operate a seasonal food business (i.e. an ice cream or root beer stand) to only pay for a license for the time that they are open. It makes no sense for a business that is open from May to September to be paying for a year-long license. This legislation will allow these businesses to save a little bit of money on their license, which in turn could be used to hire additional seasonal help. As the seasonal help at these types of businesses are often high school students, this will help instill a strong work ethic in even more young Ohioans throughout the state.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify before the Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee. I look forward to any questions you may have, your active participation in this process and hopefully your support of this legislation.