



State Senator Bill Beagle
Senate Bill 125 Sponsor Testimony
House Community and Family Advancement Committee
April 11, 2018

Chairman Ginter, Vice Chair LaTourette, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Community and Family Advancement Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 125. Former Senator Shannon Jones began working on this legislation in the 131st General Assembly, and I believe it is vital to many Ohio families. This is a companion bill to Representative Gavarone's HB 366.

In 2013, the Ohio Child Support Guidelines Advisory Council met to review the state's current child support guidelines. As a result, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services released the *2013 Child Support Guidelines Review: Report to the General Assembly*, which became the catalyst for this legislation.

Senate Bill 125 will offer much needed revisions to Ohio's child support guidelines. These new guidelines will modify child support obligations for families throughout Ohio, affecting more than one million children. The proposed child support guidelines will include multiple statutes and will incorporate various materials to calculate the proposed obligations. The suggested revisions in this legislation are sensible, comprehensive, up-to-date, and efficient.

So, in summary, I'm here to ask the legislature to build on the work of Child Support Guideline Commissions from 2005, 2009 and 2013. Some work has been done, but SB 125 includes many necessary updates. They are not unanimous, and so I am asking you to make some difficult choices, but our children are struggling because the general assembly has been slow to act.

I know this committee agrees that it is time to say enough and act on these recommendations. The problem this bill helps to solve is the low collection rate of child support for Ohio's neediest children. Generally, children of better off parents experience a much higher collection rate. This gap must be closed, and SB 125 will take a big step toward doing just that.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention that there were a few LSC technical amendments (AM_132_0335) that make SB 125 different from HB 366, which you have previously heard in this committee. Those changes are:

- 1) SB 125 replaces all incorrect references to "guidelines" with "guideline" regarding "guideline income."

- 2) SB 125 updates the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) reference to the most recent index of March 2016.
- 3) SB 125 updates R.C. 3119.05 because the section was amended since the bill was drafted.
- 4) SB 125 corrects an inaccurate cross-reference in R.C. 3119.06 from 3119.01(C) (13) (a) to 3119.01(C) (12) (a).
- 5) Corrects a typo in R.C. 3119.30(B) (1) (b). The amendment corrects “3119.302of” to “3119.302 of.”

Chairman Ginter, and members of the House Community and Family Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 125. I am happy to take questions at this time.