



**Ohio General Assembly**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Columbus**

**Sponsor Testimony of Representatives Jonathan Dever**  
**Regarding House Bill 518**  
**Before the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 20, 2018**

Chairman Landis, Vice Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on behalf of House Bill 518, which amends Ohio's hunting and fishing laws to better serve and accommodate Ohio's sportsmen and women.

In partnership with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, this legislation was crafted to improve customer service and expand options.

This legislation makes the following improvements:

- Fishing licenses will be valid for one year from the date of purchase. Current law states that fishing licenses are only valid from the first day of March of the current year and expire the last day of February the following year.
- The Chief of the Division of Wildlife is granted discretion in requiring people to have fishing licenses to better accommodate veterans and those with disabilities.
- Nonresidents will be required to obtain a Lake Erie fishing permit during the walleye spawning season.
- Expands the apprentice hunting license by allowing people to hunt as an apprentice hunter as long as they are accompanied by a licensed hunter who has completed the hunter education course.
- Creates a new senior apprentice hunting license.
- Allows those with disabilities to hunt with an all-purpose vehicle on both private and public land.
- Permits non-resident youth to hunt at the resident youth price.
- Establishes a three year, five year, and lifetime hunting and fishing license.
- Grants the Chief of Wildlife the ability to create license packages i.e. a husband and wife package.

Thank you, again, for allowing us the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 518. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.