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**Sponsor Testimony**  
**State Senator Joseph Uecker**  
**State Senator Sean O'Brien**  
**Senate Bill 257**  
**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
**March 15, 2018**

Thank you Chairman Landis, Vice Chairwoman Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien and the members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for giving us the opportunity to speak on behalf of Am. Senate Bill 257.

Ohio is a beautiful state with many public lands and waters to explore. However, families are spending less time together discovering the outdoors. In partnership with the Ohio Division of Wildlife this legislation was developed to improve customer service and expand options for the sportsmen's community and their families in Ohio and across the country.

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.

Please join us in better serving and accommodating Ohio's sportsmen and women. Thank you, we are happy to answer any questions.