



**State Representative Bill Patmon
Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 395
January 31, 2018**

Good afternoon Madam Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee.

Since the events in October, 2017 that left nearly 60 people dead and more than 500 injured at a music festival in Las Vegas, “bump stocks” have been at the forefront of the nationwide conversation on guns. My bill will prohibit the manufacture, sale, and transfer of any trigger crank, bump-fire device, or other product that accelerates a semi-automatic firearm’s rate of fire without converting it into an automatic firearm. Under this bill, anyone who engages in the manufacture, sale, or transfer of these devices in the State of Ohio will be guilty of a felony of the second degree.

The National Firearms Act of 1934 and the Gun Control Act of 1968 provide strict regulations for the possession and transfer of machine guns, yet there are no regulations on devices that significantly increase the rate-of-fire that semi-automatic weapons can achieve. When a semi-automatic firearm is fitted with a “bump stock,” its rate-of-fire increases to roughly 400-800 rounds per minute. This is a drastic increase from the 45-60 rounds per minute that is standard with semi-automatic firearms¹. These devices allow semi-automatic firearms to be used in a way that mimics firearms that are illegal to own under current law.

At this time, at least 15 states are considering legislation that work to regulate bump stocks and related devices². The efforts of these states¹ are coupled with the actions of the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Announced on December 5, 2017, the ATF “has begun the process of promulgating a federal regulation interpreting the definition of “machinegun” under federal law to clarify whether certain bump stock devices fall within that definition.” In the press release, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions stated:

"Possessing firearm parts that are used exclusively in converting a weapon into a machine gun is illegal, except for certain limited circumstances. Today we begin the process of determining whether or not bump stocks are covered by this prohibition. We will go through the regulatory process that is required by law and we will be attentive to input from the public. This Department is serious about firearms offenses, as shown by the dramatic increase in firearms prosecutions this year. The regulatory clarification we begin

today will help us to continue to protect the American people by carrying out the laws duly enacted by our representatives in Congress.³"

The actions of the ATF show that the federal government is willing to look into regulations for bump stocks, but we simply cannot sit and wait for however long the process may take. As a state, we have the unique opportunity to set an example for the rest of the country when it comes to the regulation of these devices all the while providing for the increased safety of the people of Ohio.

Again Madam Chair Roegner and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, I thank you for your time and am more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this legislation.

¹ <https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2017/10/daily-chart-3>

² https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/2018/01/18/facing-congressional-inaction-states-move-to-ban-bump-stocks/?utm_term=.8f8e5e6fde5d

³ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-and-atf-begin-regulatory-process-determine-whether-bump-stocks-are>