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Senate Bill 79 Sponsor Testimony
House Committee on Government Accountability & Oversight
April 10, 2018

Chairman Blessing and members of the committee, thank you for allowing sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 79.

SB 79 was introduced on March 2nd of 2017 and assigned to the Government Oversight and Reform Committee. After receiving hearings, it was favorably reported by the committee on June 28th and passed by the Senate that afternoon. It has been pending before this committee since September of last year.

Senate Bill 79, along with its companion legislation House Bill 51, establishes a framework for the Legislature to review 24 specified executive agencies once every four years. The purpose of this review is to ensure that the aforementioned agencies have remained confined to their intended scope, and not strayed from their defined role.

The bill lists a number of criteria that are to be used by the Legislature in their consideration of an agency. These items include determining if the public is being served in the most effective manner, if the policies of the agency are focused on real threats to public health and safety, and if the agency 's functions are unnecessarily redundant, to name a few. Should an agency be involved in occupational licensure, additional questions designed to ensure the necessity of the license mandate would have to be considered. Additionally, this bill aligns the already existing, biannual performance audits conducted by the Auditor of State with the legislative review process, granting an even clearer look at agency activities.

It should come as a surprise to nobody that government rules and policies, even those with good intentions at their root, will more often than not grow beyond their intended scope. A bloated government does not serve as a safeguard to the public but as a barrier to innovation, economic growth, and the liberties of Ohioans. SB 79 is an attempt to ensure that Ohio's regulations, and government in general, remain focused expanding opportunities for the people of this state, and do not stifle that which they are intended to protect.

Chairman Blessing and members of the committee, thank you again for your consideration of Senate Bill 79.