



**Representative Wes Goodman**  
**District 87**

**House Bill 280 – Sponsor Testimony**  
**Transportation and Public Safety Committee**  
**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 280. This bill is a simple fix for a small oversight in code, so I will not take too much of your time.

This issue was brought to my attention by a motorcyclist from my district. Under current Ohio law, individuals are prohibited from wearing earplugs or headphones while operating a motor vehicle. While this is reasonable in most cases to ensure that drivers are not distracted and are able to hear their surroundings while on the road, it poses a problem for motorcyclists. Excessive wind noise while riding a motorcycle can be uncomfortable for riders.

This unfortunately puts Ohio motorcyclists in a position where they must choose between obeying the law and riding their motorcycle comfortably. My bill would correct this by allowing motorcyclists to wear earplugs for to reduce wind noise while riding. It does not change the law regarding the wearing of headphones or earbuds to listen to audio.

I have worked with the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and Buckeye Sheriff's Association to ensure there are no unforeseen consequences of making this change. The Sheriff's Association is supportive, while the Chiefs of Police and Highway Patrol are neutral.

I respectfully ask for your support of this common sense legislation. I will take any questions the committee may have.