



**State Representative Jim Butler**

**41<sup>st</sup> House District**

**House Bill 351** – Sponsor Testimony before the House Ways & Means Committee; Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

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Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to offer sponsor testimony for House Bill 351 along with my joint sponsor, Representative Rick Perales.

House Bill 351 truly amounts to nothing more than a technical correction. Nothing about this bill should be controversial or troubling to anyone in any way. By making a simple change to the Ohio Revised Code of “uniformed services” instead of “armed forces” as it applies to exempting municipal income tax on earnings while members of these branches of service are on active duty, we are being fair in our application of the law.

As Rep. Perales already mentioned and described, members of the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration face life-threatening situations when they are deployed, just like their brethren in the Armed Forces do. Commissioned officers of the USPHS and NOAA may be militarized by the president. It is our belief that all members of the Uniformed Services ought to be treated the same under Ohio law, and on behalf of those members stationed in Ohio, and those who will be here in future, we are honored to bring this bill forward today.

Chairman Schaffer, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. This truly may be the most straightforward, non-controversial bill I have sponsored in my time in the legislature, and I hope this committee will give it expedient consideration on its way to a vote of the full House. I am happy to answer the committee’s questions at this time. Thank you.