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Committees

Ways and Means, Chairman
Agriculture and Rural Development
Public Utilities

Special Appointments

Tax Expenditure Review Committee, Chair
Ohio 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission,
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Study Committee on Receivership Laws

Tim Schaffer
State Representative, 77th House District

House Bill 156—Sponsor Testimony
House Civil Justice Committee
Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 156.

House Bill 156 fixes an important loophole that will help protect local non-profit organizations around the state.

Current law provides civil immunity from liability to employers of employees who are involved in a defensive shooting. This bill simply extends that protection to organizations that have "volunteers, members or officers" who might also someday be involved in a defensive shooting--most likely nonprofit corporations like churches.

Take churches for example. By my interpretation of the Revised Code, if the minister were to defend his or her congregation using a concealed firearm against an intruder intending harm, the minister and the church would have immunity against unreasonable liability. But if an usher or trustee (non-employee) were to also shoot the perpetrator, there would be no liability protections.

The concept for this legislation was brought to my attention by a constituent who wants to close the loophole in current law for his church. My constituent's church has members who carry concealed as a part of their highly-structured defensive protection plan.

House Bill 156 does not expand concealed weapon rights or locations. But it will go a long way to protect the innocent organizations and their members, volunteers and officers who have no ill intent and are trying to do the right thing.

Thank you once again, Chairman Hambley and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this issue to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.