

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**WILLIAM C. HAYES**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
OF  
LICKING COUNTY

20 SOUTH SECOND STREET  
NEWARK, OHIO 43055

FELONY AND CIVIL  
DIVISIONS  
(740) 670-5255

JUVENILE COURT  
DIVISION  
(740) 670-5264

TAX FORECLOSURES  
(740) 670-5021

FAX  
(740) 670-5241

Carolyn J. Carnes  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Division Chief  
Licking County Prosecutor's Office

Senate Bill 114 Proponent Testimony  
Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee  
May 21, 2019

Chairman Uecker, Vice-Chairman Brenner, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 114.

The purpose of this legislation will expand the authority of a township to regulate noise within the unincorporated area of the township.

As legal counsel for all 25 townships within Licking County, our office has received numerous telephone calls and emails from our clients regarding the ability to regulate noise within the unincorporated areas of the County. While these complaints originated primarily from Licking Township, other townships have noise concerns as well. Generally, these concerns center around excessive noise late into the evening hours caused by such events as parties (indoor and outdoor), live music from small businesses and small engine racing (e.g., all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes), among other things.

Specifically, Licking Township contains an outdoor entertainment venue that traditionally hosts multiple 3 and 4 day long festivals. These events generate excessive noise, disturbing the quality of life for residents in the area surrounding the venue. The Licking Township Board of Trustees contacted our office to determine what, if any, efforts could be taken by the Township to curb the noise. Unfortunately, under the current state of the law, because the noise is generated within an interstate business district, rather than a residential zoning district, there is no mechanism currently in place to allow the Township to take any action.

Our Township Officials do not want to hinder any private businesses or impede upon the private property rights of their constituents. Rather, our Township Officials are in support of Senate Bill 114 so that they may have the discretionary authority to regulate extreme noise in the late evening hours for the peace and enjoyment of all residents.