



State Senator William P. Coley II
Senate Bill 290 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Judiciary Committee
May 20, 2020

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Brenner, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 290. Senate Bill 290 amends criminal trespassing code to allow property owners in Ohio to use purple paint as a sign of no trespassing on their real estate.

It is often difficult for landowners, particularly owners who have large pieces of real estate, to maintain and replace their “No Trespassing” signs on a regular basis. In 1997, Texas became the first state to allow property owners to use purple paint as a warning to trespassers. The color purple was chosen because it is easily seen in the outdoors.

This legislation amends Ohio’s criminal trespass law to allow purple paint to be a warning sign for trespassers. The other methods signaling “No Trespassing,” such as traditional signs, are still options. Similar laws exist in Kansas, Arizona, Montana, Arkansas, Idaho, Florida, Maine, North Carolina, Missouri, and Illinois.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 290. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.