



Senator Stephanie Kunze
June 26, 2019
Sponsor Testimony Senate Bill 158
Ohio Bullfrog License Plate

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 158.

In 2010, Ohio lawmakers enacted legislation to name the Bullfrog as Ohio's state frog. The effort to have this statute enacted came from the vision and research of a teacher and students from Grizzell Middle School, which is part of the Dublin City School district. The Grizzell social studies teacher, Shawn Kaeser, began the quest in 2002 to get the bullfrog a little recognition because during a class scavenger hunt, his class realized Ohio didn't have an official amphibian.

Incorporating the quest to have the bullfrog named as the state amphibian into his lesson plans gave Kaeser's classes hands-on experience in the legislative process as they would petition lawmakers each year. The experience also included setbacks. Students would testify in favor of naming the bullfrog the state amphibian, but several general assemblies would adjourn before the law could be enacted into law.

Some resistance came in 2009 from a Cleveland-area school that wanted the spotted salamander recognized. What Mr. Kaeser dubbed "the great amphibian compromise" settled the dispute, designating the bullfrog the state frog and salamander the state amphibian. Grizzell Middle School's perseverance paid off as the bill naming the bullfrog the state frog was signed into law on June 2010. The eight year legislative journey taught these students you have to remain committed to your purpose, but at the same time sometimes in the legislative process there has to be compromise.

Nearly ten years later after the enactment of this legislation, Grizzell Middle School has approached me to help them continue their hands on legislative learning experience to teach the next generation of middle school students. They are hoping to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the bullfrog being designated as Ohio's state frog by enacting legislation to create the Ohio bullfrog license plate.

If enacted into law, this license plate would cost an additional \$15 (on top of the standard \$10 administrative fee) and the \$15 would be distributed to the Ohio department of natural resources, which shall use the contributions for the protection and preservation of wetlands in Ohio and for educational programs pertaining to the bullfrog and similar wetland animals.

I have brought with me the sample artwork I was provided from Grizzell Middle School to show the preliminary design of the Ohio bullfrog license plate that would be available to the public if Senate Bill 158 is enacted into law.

Chairman McColley and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 158. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.