



**State Representative Brian Hill
Sub. H.B. 506 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Agriculture Committee
April 17, 2018**

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chairman Hoagland, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony for Substitute House Bill 506. This bill further improves Ohio's strong regulations on commercial dog breeding.

To develop this bill, I worked with interested parties including Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, American Kennel Club, Ohio Professional Dog Breeder Association, Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Sportsmen's Alliance, HSUS, Cleveland Animal Protective League, Columbus Dog Connection, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Some key provisions bill are:

1. Modifies the factors that determine when a dog breeder qualifies as a high-volume dog breeder. A breeder is considered a high-volume dog breeder if the breeder has six or more fertile, unsprayed female adult breeding dogs and does one of the following:
 - Sells five or more adult dogs or puppies to a dog retailer or pet store;
 - Sells 40 or more puppies in any given calendar year to the public; or
 - Keeps, at any given time in a calendar year, 60 or more puppies that are younger than six months, that are bred on the premises of the establishment, and that have primarily been kept from birth on the premises
2. Requires high-volume dog breeders to comply with existing standards of care rules and comply with requirements in the bill, including:
 - Providing the dog with sufficient food
 - Using enclosures that are large enough for the dog to turn in a circle, lie down, and extend its limbs, not stacked, and is cleaned at least once per day
 - Providing licensed vet care, including vaccinations, parasite control, and prompt treatment for disease, illness, or injury
 - Providing the dog with environmental enrichment and human interaction time
3. Requires a dog retailer or owner/operator of a pet store that seeks to buy a dog from an in-state or out-of-state high-volume dog breeder, to do all of the following:
 - Verify that the breeder is in compliance with standards of care in rules and in the bill
 - Keep and maintain accurate records documenting the verification
 - Allow the Director to inspect those verification records during normal business hours
4. Exempts veterinarians providing clinical care and animal shelters operated by a humane society from the law governing high-volume dog breeders. In addition, an animal rescue is prohibited from selling a dog to a dog retailer or pet store, ensuring that an animal rescue cannot be considered a high-volume dog breeder.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.