



Bob Peterson
President Pro Tempore

1 Capitol Square, Rm 138
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8156

Rob McColley
State Senator, District 1

1 Capitol Square, Rm 40
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8150

Senate Bill 293, Sponsor Testimony
Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving us the opportunity to speak to Senate Bill 293.

Several weeks ago, President Obhof and several of the Republican caucus members stood in front of the press and announced the staggering statistics from a study done on Ohio's regulatory restrictions. This study was conducted by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Senator McColley and I are glad to introduce this legislation that will aim to reduce the overly regulated environment that businesses in our state face.

According to the Mercatus Center, Ohio has the third highest number of regulations of the 22 states so far studied by the researchers: 246,852. According to their numbers, the average number of regulations is 148,682. The Ohio Lottery Commission alone has over 30,000 regulations, while the Ohio EPA has over 28,000.

Senate Bill 293 will require our state agencies to establish a base inventory, review their rules thoroughly, and then reduce them by 30% in three years, with benchmarks of 10% each year. If a state agency is not able to meet this reduction goal, then for every regulation they propose to add, two must be removed. This bill also establishes a statewide regulation cap: the State as a whole cannot have more regulations than 70% of the original statewide base inventory.

We believe this reform is necessary to reduce government impact on Ohioans lives and businesses. We need to know how many restrictions we have, we need to systematically review them, and we need to eliminate the rules that are unnecessary.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.