

HB 190 Sponsor Testimony

Thank You Chair Ghanbari, Vice-Chair Loychik and members of the committee for allowing us to testify today.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Senate sponsor of the companion legislation - who is with us here today to speak on another issue - Senator Shaffer. Thank you.

As Speaker Pro Tempore Ginter mentioned, we have several known examples in Ohio of war relics going to private speculators.

HB 190 is a simple bill. It Prohibits a war relic that is located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association from being destroyed, relocated, removed, altered, or otherwise disturbed without first going through an number of steps and protections.

First, to the federal government, then the Ohio History Connection, and if they do not take the relic it must be given to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Ohio, or, if the war relic is not of the Civil War era, it must be given to any congressionally chartered veterans' service organization at the discretion of the Ohio History Connection.

The cannon in front of city hall is not a decoration, nor is it owned by anyone other than the people. This bill reaffirms that.

HB 190 authorizes the Ohio History Connection, with the help of local historical societies, to compile and maintain a registry of war relics that are located on public property or on the property of a cemetery association.

This bill doesn't prohibit private sales of private property. If someone owns a Civil War cannon, they can sell to whomever they wish.

This bill prohibits someone from selling war relics owned by the public – all of us – ensuring that generations to come will understand the price of freedom from The Revolutionary War through Operation Enduring Freedom.

Thank you. We'd be happy to take any questions.