



**Representative Kristin Boggs**  
18<sup>th</sup> House District

**Representative Bill Seitz**  
Majority Floor Leader  
30<sup>th</sup> House District

**Rep. Boggs:** Chair Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore- Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for giving me and Representative Seitz the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 574.

This bill will revise the law governing the sale or furnishing of beer and liquor at events held at a private residence without a permit. As the law currently stands, any event held at a private residence where alcohol is being served without a liquor license, and there is money being exchanged, is effectively in violation of the “Keeper of a Place” law and is deemed illegal.

All of us have been to political fundraisers or charitable events at a private residences where alcohol being served and did not realize the hosts were violating the law.

I was certainly unaware of this law until a constituent was charged with several misdemeanors for violating it. It was during the height of the pandemic and this constituent had invited musicians who had lost gigs due to the shutdowns over to his home to play. The attendees brought beer and food that was shared with other guests. No money was charged to attend, or for the beer, but at the end of the night a donation hat was passed around for guests to contribute to the musicians.

An undercover police officer at the party charged the host with violating the Keeper of a Place law, a misdemeanor of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree.

The language in this law originated during the Prohibition era and has remained unchanged since 1908. There are wide discrepancies in enforcement of this law and this bill seeks to provide more clarity for events hosted at private residences.

Now, I will turn it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Seitz, and he will explain what changes the bill will make to current law.

**Rep. Seitz:** This bill will alter the Ohio Revised Code to allow the sale, furnishing, or gifting of alcohol without a permit at a private residence, up to five times per calendar year at an event that has the following characteristics:

1. The event is for a social, charitable, benevolent, or political purpose, but should not include any event the proceeds of which are for the profit or gain of any individual.
  - a. For this section, “individual” does not include an individual who is the beneficiary of a fundraising event for a charitable, benevolent, or political purpose.
2. The event attendance is limited to 100 people or less;
3. The event should not exceed 12 hours;
4. The sale, furnishing, or gifting of alcohol at the event cannot occur between 2:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m.;
5. No person under the age of 21 shall purchase or consume alcohol at the event and no alcohol is allowed to be sold, furnished, or gifted to any person under the age of 21 at the event;
6. No person at the event is allowed to sell, furnish, or gift alcohol to an intoxicated person.

This bill will also require the alcohol that is sold or furnished at these events to be purchased from a licensed seller in Ohio. The division of liquor control has the authority to request receipts from the host of the event to prove the alcohol purchase was from an agency store located in Ohio.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 574. We would be happy to answer any questions committee members may have at this time.