

HB 586 Sponsor Testimony

Thank you Chair LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Criminal Justice Committee for allowing me to present sponsor testimony for HB 586.

House Bill 586 would allow individuals convicted of offenses to file a petition for relief either immediately after or sub sequentially after a felony conviction based on DNA evidence. It is imperative that our justice system in Ohio allows those that may have been wrongfully convicted to plead their case, and this bill expands the ability to do so.

Furthermore this post-conviction request for discovery applies retroactively with regard to any petition that satisfies the new criteria for petitions set forth by this bill. Therefore, this bill would allow those who may be currently serving time for a wrongful conviction to plead their case.

Another important issue that HB 586 addresses is the case of death sentencing. HB 586 allows for those convicted of a criminal offense and sentenced to death and that claim there is an infringement of their rights under the Ohio Constitution to proceed with their petition in the case of new DNA evidence with clear and convincing evidence.

Ohio must have systems in place to address new evidence that reveals the innocence of the convicted. HB 586 addresses this issue through the expansion of who is allowed to file a petition. This bill will have a positive impact on my district in Cleveland as well as the state of Ohio as a whole. Thank you for your consideration and I will be happy to answer any questions.