

## 55<sup>th</sup> House District

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Grafton Village & Sheffield Village

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## Committees

Primary & Secondary Education, Chair  
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Commerce & Labor  
Correctional Institutional Inspection  
Committee  
Higher Education & Career Readiness

## Gayle L. Manning State Representative

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for allowing me to give sponsor testimony today on House Bill 358 – to revise the reporting requirements and process of gift exchanges as it relates to the Ohio Ethics Law. To be specific, this legislation would change the minimum dollar amount of a gift required to be reported, and to require that reporting be done according to a dollar amount range.

Transparency, honesty, and integrity are traits that we all should hold very close. To be an elected officially, one must abide by these principles at all times as we work to serve the people who desire for us to be as authentic and genuine as possible. Therefore, this legislation is designed to enhance the aspect of transparency, which in this case, relates to gift amounts.

The current law surrounding this topic states that a General Assembly member must disclose the source of every gift received that is over \$75, or \$25 if the gift is received from a legislative agent, during the preceding calendar year but these are the *only* thresholds as it relates to gifts received from a legislative agent.

House Bill 358 would eliminate the current thresholds and identify with more accuracy the amount of every gift received in accordance with five range amounts. Furthermore, for each gift of over one hundred fifty dollars, including a gift received by a member of the general assembly from a legislative agent received by the person in the person's own name or by any other person for the person's use or benefit during the preceding calendar year, except gifts received by will or by virtue.

For specification, the five ranges would be the following:

- Range 1: one hundred fifty or more, but less than two hundred fifty dollars;
- Range 2: two hundred fifty dollars or more, but less than one thousand dollars;
- Range 3: one thousand dollars or more, but less than ten thousand dollars;
- Range 4: ten thousand dollars or ore, but less than one hundred thousand dollars;

Range 5: one hundred thousand dollars or more

Once again, I want to emphasize the importance of transparency, honesty, and integrity. This legislation strengthens those three characteristics when it comes to our institution. To be more transparent is to be more genuine and this is exactly what our constituents are expecting of us. By simply providing more financial ranges when it come receiving gifts from legislative agents, I believe that we will be able to uphold our promise of authenticity to the people of Ohio.

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 358. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.