



Proponent Testimony
Association of Ohio Health Commissioners
House Bill 178
March 1, 2022

Chairman Peterson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC), this testimony is submitted in support of House Bill 178, co-sponsored by Representatives Schmidt and Miller.

As proposed, HB 178 limits the pressure of water features included in public swimming pools, public spas, and special use pools. It requires the flow rate through a nozzle of a water feature, including a fountain or other interactive feature, to be at a rate that does not harm patrons. The bill also prohibits the rate from exceeding 20 feet per second unless justified by the design engineer and fountain system manufacturer.

Plan review for the pools and spas described in the bill is the function of the Department of Health; therefore, water pressure should be verified by ODH and the pool design engineer during the plan review and construction phase. This new requirement will help to assure that there are no future injuries like the one suffered by McKenna.

On behalf of its 112 local health district members, AOHC supports the addition of this requirement to the regulations governing public swimming pools, spas and special use pools and asks this committee to favorably vote for House Bill 178.

Thank you for your consideration.

Contact Information:

Beth Bickford, Executive Director
aohc_1@aohc.net
614-832-0336 (cell)