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Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 266 — Sponsor Testimony
February

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 266.

Senate Bill 266 extends protections given to nonprofits under a bill I sponsored during the 133rd General Assembly. While that bill provided civil immunity from liability to nonprofit organizations for instances of a defensive shooting on their premises, this new legislation offers tort immunity to those who act in self-defense or the defense of another to protect members and guests of the nonprofit.

The concept for this legislation was brought to my attention by a constituent who wants to close the loophole in current law for his church. My constituent's church has members who carry concealed as a part of their highly-structured defensive protection plan, as do many other places of worship throughout our state.

This bill **does not** expand concealed carry rights or locations. But it will go a long way to protect the innocent organizations and their members who have no ill intent and are trying to do the right thing in a difficult moment.

Thank you once again, Chairman Manning and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this issue to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.