



Representative Bill Roemer  
Representative Bob Young

Local Government & Elections  
House Bill 423 Sponsor Testimony  
November 14, 2022

Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to bring sponsor testimony on House Bill 423. As I am sure many of you know, Ohio is home to the All-American Soap Box Derby – a nonprofit organization which gives kids fulfilling recreational and educational opportunities through soap box derby racing. Akron, Ohio is home to Derby Downs, a state-of-the-art facility specifically designed for soap box derby racing, which draws thousands of competitors and spectators from all over the world each year.

Since 1934, Ohio has been home to this premier event, which has drawn over a million competitors during its 87-year history. Young racers from far and wide combine their competitive spirit and their own ingenuity and love for science to deliver a unique race in Akron every year. It has become an indelible event for many of us in the community, and has left a significant economic, social, and educational impact on generations of people at home and abroad.

For many years, we have personally known many individuals involved in the Derby – including a few you will hear from in subsequent hearings. They and many others in Greater Akron will agree that this program and venue are one of the many things which make Ohio truly unique, which is why we feel it is appropriate to designate the All-American Soap Box Derby as a state symbol. House Bill 423

does exactly that, designating the Derby as the official gravity racing program of the State of Ohio.

Chair Gavarone and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify. We welcome any questions you may have at this time.