

# Ohio House of Representatives



**State Representative Bill Dean  
District 71**

**State Representative Bob Peterson  
District 91**

**HB 554 – Sponsor Testimony  
Ohio House Civil Justice Committee  
June 4, 2024**

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Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chairman Mathews, Ranking Member Issacsohn, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony regarding House Bill 554, which is companion legislation to Senator Hackett's Senate Bill 206. This is a constituent-driven bill brought to me by the Wilmington Air Park, which is ranked the highest-volume cargo airport in Ohio. The bill will allow public-use airports to dispose of abandoned or derelict aircraft, while providing ample due process to afford owners the ability to bring their aircraft into compliance with FAA regulations and costs owed to the airport where it is parked.

The process is similar to the existing method for disposing of abandoned motor vehicles but differs in that the Federal Aviation Administration has developed procedures specific to aircraft. We have provided you a research memo from LSC which compares this process to anticipate your questions on the similarities and differences between our bill and existing law regarding motor vehicles. For more explanation, I'll now turn it over my joint sponsor, Rep. Peterson.

Thank you for that introduction, Rep. Dean. This bill includes carefully drafted reforms regarding abandoned aircraft and derelict aircraft which should be enacted swiftly for multiple reasons. Airports such as Wilmington Air Park are dealing with unsightly aircraft that take up

valuable ramp space and detract from businesses that may want to locate in Ohio, which is strategically located within a short flight of the majority of North America. In addition to appearance concerns, airports must also contend with the safety hazards that these aircraft pose to employees and authorized visitors. It is our understanding that dozens of planes across Ohio fit into this statute, but Wilmington likely has more such aircraft than any other airport in the state due to its traffic volume.

As the birthplace of aviation, Ohio has been on the cutting edge of aeronautical innovation for over a century. Please join us as we propel the economic engine of Ohio's aviation industry by supporting House Bill 554.

Thank you for your time today. Rep. Dean and I welcome any questions from the Members of the Committee.