

House Arts, Athletics and Tourism Committee

Proponent Testimony on HB312
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September 29, 2025

Chair Miller, Vice Chair Hiner, Ranking Member Jarrells, and members of the House Arts, Athletics and Tourism Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB312. HB312 would designate the *Sander vitreus*, commonly known as the “walleye” as the state fish of Ohio.

Ohio is widely recognized as the “Walleye Capital of the World” and the walleye is deeply embedded in Ohio’s outdoor culture, including featured in fishing tournaments and attracting tourism along Lake Erie.

The City of Port Clinton hosts thousands of people for the annual walleye festival in the spring and for New Year’s, drops a 20-foot walleye at midnight. Each spring, more than 10,000 fishing enthusiasts line the banks of the Maumee River as part of the annual walleye run – generating millions of dollars for the local economy.

The walleye is an important economic driver for the state of Ohio and its designation as the state fish will emphasize its cultural and economic importance.