

**Testimony of Dan Bedinghaus, Owner  
Batavia Bowl, Eastgate Lanes & Stones Lanes  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Proponent Testimony – HB 344  
House Finance Committee  
Tuesday, June 17, 2025**

Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, my name is Dan Bedinghaus and I am a second-generation family business owner of three Bowling Centers in the Greater Cincinnati area. I'm also a past president of the Bowling Centers Association of Ohio and a past Board Member of our national association. Thank you for letting me testify today as a proponent of HB 344, regulating retail gambling in Ohio. We have been in business since 1975 and we employ 89 Ohioans in my three centers.

I am here today to voice my support for HB 344. Because, as many of you know, this is NOT an expansion of gambling. It is regulating a currently wide-open, wild-west industry that is plaguing Ohio's hospitality industry. Bowling Centers need a small piece of the gambling pie in order to keep our brick-and-mortar Ohio businesses competitive.

This is what's happening in my bowling centers and all bowling centers across the state: After league bowlers finish their matches, many of them, instead of sticking around and having an extra beverage or some food, they head over to gamble on either eBingo machines or at the illegal slot machine parlors that are all over the state that, even though the casino control commission is doing their best to shut down, they still take customers out of our bowling centers.

As we've seen in other states, when you pass HB 344 and make all other gambling devices illegal per se, it dries up the illegal market. And, more than likely, since HB 344 controls where the machines will be located, there will actually be less machines in Ohio than there is now.

We hope you will see the merits of regulating an activity that is already happening in Ohio by passing HB 344. Ohio's small businesses, that employ thousands, needs you to address this issue to deal with the illegal machines once and for all. Thank you and I'd be happy to try and answer questions.