



State Representative Justin Pizzulli

Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 272

House General Government Committee

June 6th, 2025

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 272, the Protecting Utility and Resources for Enhanced Living, Improved Food, and Environment Act (PURE LIFE Act). I also extend my gratitude to the Legislative Service Commission for their diligent support and expertise throughout the drafting process. This legislation, which I began developing upon my appointment, reflects priorities of profound importance to me and the constituents we serve.

House Bill 272 is a carefully crafted, bipartisan measure grounded in proven policies successfully implemented across the United States. Drawing on precedents from both Republican and Democratic led states, it incorporates balanced compromises to address pressing public health and environmental concerns while respecting practical considerations.

House Bill 272 is comprised of 4 distinct sections encompassing banning harmful food additives, restricting PFAS in consumer products, restoring local control over water fluorination, and prohibiting cloud seeding.

The first section prohibits a targeted list of food additives, dyes, and oils and aligns Ohio with states such as Texas, California, Florida, Alabama, Missouri, and Tennessee, which have enacted or proposed similar reforms. The additives include:

- **Artificial Food Dyes** (e.g., Red 3, Red 40, Yellow 5, Yellow 6, Blue 1, Blue 2, Green 3), banned in California and West Virginia and subject to warning labels in the European Union and United Kingdom. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has signaled plans to phase out certain dyes by 2026.
- **Titanium Dioxide**, which is prohibited in the EU, UK, and California's Food Safety Act.
- **Brominated Vegetable Oil**, which is banned in California and removed from FDA approval in 2024.

- **Potassium Bromate**, which is banned in countries including Canada, Brazil, the UK, South Korea, and India.
- **Propylparaben**, which is prohibited in Japan, the EU, and California.
- **Azodicarbonamide**, which is banned in the EU, UK, Australia, and Singapore.
- **BHT and BHA**, which is restricted in the EU, UK, and Japan.

These substances, primarily used for aesthetic purposes or extended shelf life, offer no nutritional benefit. This legislation empowers Ohioans to make informed choices about the quality of their food.

The second section addresses per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly known as “forever chemicals,” which are linked by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Harvard School of Public Health to serious health risks, including kidney and testicular cancer, reproductive harm, immune system suppression, and developmental delays in children. Found in products ranging from food packaging to cookware, PFAS pose a pervasive threat to public health.

Modeled after New Mexico’s successful approach, HB272, this provision was developed in consultation with major business stakeholders to ensure broad support and practical implementation. It adopts federal definitions to target the most harmful applications of PFAS, aligning Ohio with states such as Minnesota, Texas, Florida, Alabama, and Maine, which have enacted comparable measures.

The third section repeals Ohio’s state-level mandate for water fluoridation, one of only 13 such mandates nationwide. By restoring local control, this provision aligns Ohio with 37 other states that entrust communities with decisions regarding their water systems. This change does not prohibit fluoridation but allows local governments to assess their specific needs. According to the Legislative Service Commission, this reform could yield annual savings of \$2.5 million to \$11.2 million for local governments and water providers, enabling investments in infrastructure, water quality, or rate relief for residents.

The fourth section prohibits cloud seeding, a practice pioneered in Ohio in 1923 at McCook Field in Dayton. While historically significant, cloud seeding raises unresolved questions about its long-term environmental impacts and the propriety of manipulating natural weather systems. Tennessee has already enacted a similar ban, and House Bill 272 follows suit to ensure responsible stewardship of Ohio’s natural resources.

House Bill 272 is a concise, 18-page measure with far-reaching implications for public health, environmental protection, and local governance. Rooted in bipartisan precedent, it reflects a balanced, evidence-based approach to addressing issues that directly impact Ohioans’ lives. By aligning with successful policies from across the nation, this

legislation promotes transparency, prioritizes public health, and restores local decision-making authority.

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent and members of the House General Government Committee, thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions upon the conclusion of my joint sponsorship, Rep. Robb-Blasdel's testimony.