

99th House District

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Sarah Fowler Arthur
State Representative

Testimony, HB 433- Modernizing Amusement Ride Inspection Fees

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for hearing sponsor testimony on House Bill 433, legislation that will update Ohio's amusement ride inspection fee structure. This proposal is the result of thoughtful collaboration and a shared commitment to fairness, safety, and transparency.

As many of you know, Ohio has long prided itself on maintaining strong standards for amusement ride safety. However, under our current law, the fee structure used to support these safety inspections is outdated and inequitable. Currently, all amusement rides regardless of size, complexity, or inspection time are charged the same permit fee, and inspection fees do not reflect the time required to conduct those inspections.

This means that small inflatable operators are effectively subsidizing the inspection costs of much larger, more complex rides like roller coasters and other major attractions. This imbalance is not only unfair to small businesses, but it also undermines the transparency and sustainability of the inspection system itself.

In my district, family-owned small businesses with bouncy houses, pay thousands of dollars a year in licensing fees way above and beyond the time required to inspect the rides. Fees should reflect the actual cost of ensuring safe rides, not put local owners out of business.

The legislation we are seeking today will correct this by implementing a fee structure that is reflective of the costs associated with each ride type. This proposal was developed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture in close collaboration with industry stakeholders and received unanimous support from the Advisory Council on Amusement Ride Safety.

This legislation is revenue neutral, allocating inspection more equitably and ensuring that Ohio's amusement ride safety program can continue to operate efficiently and effectively.

I thank you for hearing our testimony on House Bill 433 and would welcome any questions you might have on the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Fowler Arthur". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Sarah Fowler Arthur

State Representative

House District 99