



FINANCE
COMMITTEE NOTICE

To: Members of the Finance Committee
From: Jerry C. Cirino, Chair
Date: May 20, 2025

Friday, May 30, 2025
1:30 PM
Finance Hearing Room

AGENDA

Am. Sub. H. B. No. 96 Make state operating appropriations for FY 2026-27
Stewart

8th Hearing,
Proponent/Opponent/
Interested Party

If you plan to testify in person for Finance committee between 5/27 and 5/30, you must submit your testimony through our website before Friday, 5/23 at 5PM. Any testimony submitted after this will be considered written only.



League of OhioSportsmen

Established 1908

Proponent Testimony, House Bill 96

Senate Finance Committee

Jay Peterson, President, League of Ohio Sportsmen

May 22, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Jerry Cirino, Vice Chair Brian Chavez , Ranking Member Paula Hicks-Hudson, and the distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Jay Peterson, and I am the President of the League of Ohio Sportsmen, one of Ohio's oldest conservation organizations. For over 117 years, our members have worked to be good stewards of our natural resources as we fish, hunt, camp, boat, and enjoy the beauty of our great state. Our organization continues to partner with the Division of Wildlife on conservation and wildlife management projects.

One of those partnership projects is H2Ohio. H2Ohio's Best Management Practices are key in helping farmers keep nutrients in the soil where they belong. These Best Management Practices, that include cover crops, buffer strips, and using farm implements equipped with precision technology, are not only helping the Western Lake Erie Basin, but are also working statewide. These practices, including cover crops, buffer strips, and wetland restoration, create amazing wildlife habitat while helping to clean and filter nutrient runoff and protect the health of waterways throughout the state.

The League of Ohio Sportsmen would also like to express our support for the operating budget for the Division of Wildlife within Senate Bill 96. We support the nonresident license fee increase. Hunting is important to us, and we want to make sure prices are fair for all sportsmen. Increasing nonresident license prices will allow the Division of Wildlife to continue providing services that we enjoy, like maintaining public hunting grounds and keeping a stable deer population.

The League of Ohio Sportsmen also supports oil and gas drilling on state wildlife lands. The revenue from oil and gas drilling should go to the Division of Wildlife. Sportsmen's dollars were used to buy these lands for wildlife recreation opportunities. Any revenue generated from those properties should be used for the same purpose. We like our wildlife officers and having places to take future generations to learn to hunt and fish. The revenue from oil and gas drilling on state wildlife lands will help continue this work for years to come.

Thank you for your time today, and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

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