



Senator George Lang
Senate Bill 157; Sponsor Testimony
Senate Judiciary Committee
May 14th, 2025

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 157: a bill that seeks to reduce the statute of limitations for contract actions.

Senate Bill 157 is a short, but important piece of legislation. This bill will reduce Ohio's statute of limitations for written contract actions from **six years** to **three years** after the cause of action accrued, unless an exception applies.

Exceptions to the reduction in SB157 include the following:

- An action against the state or a state agency for failure to make any distribution or other payment
- An action for breach of any sales contract

- Actions related to commercial paper
- Actions related to violations of the Consumer Sales Practices Act
- An action to recover the title to or possession of real property.

In addition, Senate Bill 157 reduces the statute of limitations for contracts **not** in writing from **four years** to **two years**, unless the action is against the state or a state agency for failure to make any distribution or other payment or an action for breach of any sales contract.

Two General Assembly's ago, I was proud to sponsor Senate Bill 13, which became law. Senate Bill 13 took the first major step in improving Ohio's business and legal climate by reducing the statute of limitations for written and oral contracts each by two years.

But Ohio still stands to improve its position as a business-friendly state. A stark example of where our state currently stands is the fact that California's statute of limitations is currently at four years and two years, respectively, for written and oral contracts. Even if Senate Bill 157 were to go into effect, Ohio's written statute of limitations would still only be slightly lower than California's and our oral contracts statute would be the same as California's. And, if Ohio wants to compete with other states experiencing economic growth, we must get

up to speed with competitive states. Several of these states currently stand at a lower statute of limitations on written contracts, including Tennessee, Texas, Florida, and others.

By implementing the reforms contained in Senate Bill 157, we can take another huge step in making our state the most business-friendly state in the country. Chairman Manning, thank you again for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 157, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.