



Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8060
Gavarone@ohiosenate.gov

Committees

General Government - Vice Chair
Local Government - Vice Chair
JCARR - Co-Chair
Judiciary
Public Utilities
Rules and Reference
Small Business and Economic Opportunity

Senator Theresa Gavarone

Senate Majority Floor Leader
2nd District

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and fellow members of Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 224, legislation to revise the telemarketing law.

As some of you know, I sponsored Senate Bill 54 of the 134th General Assembly, which created safe-harbor provisions and increased penalties on illegal robocalls so that we can better safeguard Ohioans from this scam practice.

While we have made great strides since the passage of SB 54, we need to continue to build off that work to further combat this harmful practice. This is an issue many continue to feel today, especially our senior population, who can sometimes receive hundreds of these calls a day. Constituents continue to reach out to my office with these concerns, with some saying their phone rings every couple of minutes, with a new robocall potentially trying to scam them.

The legislation you have before you today, SB 224, is clean-up language from our previous legislation, specifically the safe-harbor provisions we enacted, after FCC inactions in the last administration. The safe harbor provisions were created so that we can protect the good actors in this space, the ones who are in compliance with the law.

SB 224 will continue to ensure that the Ohio Attorney General is equipped with the necessary tools to go after those who engage in illegal robocalls, criminals who are trying to scam Ohioans out of their hard-earned money.

I would like to thank the Attorney General's office for bringing this issue to me. Together, we can build upon our previous work to continue to pushback against this illegal practice.

Chairman Manning, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 224. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.