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Senate Local Government Committee
SB 340 Sponsor Testimony
February 17, 2026

Chair O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 340, which would require a municipal corporation to obtain electorate approval prior to operating a traffic camera program.

Since 1991, there have been 46 elections nationwide (14 in Ohio) in which a city sought voter approval to use traffic cameras. Of these 46 elections, only four times did the measures succeed (once in Ohio). In other words, voters have rejected traffic cameras in over 91% of elections, sending a clear message to local governments across the country that people do not want these devices on their streets.

Currently, the state of Ohio has no way of knowing the number or locations of traffic cameras that are operating across the state, and yet they are actively enforcing state traffic laws. This bill simply requires municipal corporations to obtain approval from their voters at the next regular election before establishing a traffic camera program. By requiring this vote, we will hold cities and villages accountable to their

voters so they can no longer profit from ignorance. This measure would also help us identify the number of cameras across the state so we can better estimate the economic impact of these cameras. Lastly, this bill contains technical corrections upon the recommendation of LSC to clarify terminology and repeal a portion of code that has been overturned by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Chair O'Brien and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions from the committee.