



House Bill 60 Sponsor Testimony

State Representative Dave Hall

Senate Agriculture Committee

January 26, 2016

Chairman Hite, Vice Chairman Uecker, Ranking Member Gentile, and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 60, which addresses the laws governing companion animals.

If enacted, H.B. 60—known as Goddard’s Law—is set to: revise provisions and penalties regarding treatment of companion animals, to revise the definition of "companion animal" in the Offenses Relating to Domestic Animals Law, and to provide a state collaborative effort to assist veterinarians in identifying clients who may use their animals to secure opioids for abuse.

This bill is very important to the constituents I represent in the 70th House District and the State of Ohio. As many of you know, companion animals become part of our families, and we care for them with great concern and love. We want to better protect companion animals for all Ohio families from the dangers of abuse by elevating punishments for these abusers.

More importantly, however, the bill will better identify serial criminals, as Rep. Patmon pointed out, and allow us to identify these potential abusers of people thereby helping us protect our children and families. The bill passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak to H.B. 60. I would be happy to take any questions at this time.

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