



Buckeye Firearms Association

Proponent Testimony Before the House Federalism Committee Regarding House Bill 248

Chairman Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Rieck, and I am Executive Director of Buckeye Firearms Association. I am here today representing Ohio's 4 million gun owners.

Buckeye Firearms Association supports House Bill 248, a bill that presents a simple and straightforward solution to Ohio's antique firearm conundrum.

There is no distinction in Ohio law between “firearm” and “antique firearm.” So, as the law is currently written, when a firearms dealer wishes to sell an antique firearm, he is required to use the federal background check system to run a background check, the same as he would for any other firearm.

However, federal law *does* distinguish between “firearm” and “antique firearm” and specifically prohibits the use of the federal background check system for anything other than a “firearm” as defined by federal law.

In other words, when an Ohio firearms dealer wishes to sell an antique firearm, he is both required to and prohibited from conducting a background check.

House Bill 248 will solve this problem by aligning Ohio and federal law. Simply put, Ohio will adopt the federal definition of “antique firearm” allowing Ohio law to work in the same way as federal law. Firearms dealers will be required to conduct a background check on firearms, but will not be required to conduct a background check on antique firearms.

There are 20 other states that have a definition following or similar to the federal definition of “antique firearm.” By passing House Bill 248, Ohio will simply be joining these states in abiding by federal guidelines on antique firearms.

I encourage the committee to pass this simple, straightforward bill.

Thank you for your time.