



SENATE GENERAL GOVERNMENT & AGENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

December 11, 2020

CONSTRUCTION COALITION'S OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 246

Chair Schuring, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien and Senators on the General Government & Agency Review Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our continued opposition to S.B. 246. While we appreciate the attempt to address the negative impact on the bill on the construction industry with AM_133_3811, **the amendment has not been vetted by our organizations and memberships, nor does it address our concerns.**

Our coalition continues to strongly believe **construction should be completely exempted** from the legislation should the bill be rushed through during lame duck for the following reasons:

- ***SB 246 would negatively impact Ohio's construction industry by encouraging transient out-of-state contractors and workers into Ohio, particularly at a time when work is diminishing due to the economic fallout caused by COVID.*** The intent of S.B. 246 is to encourage economic growth and help Ohio businesses gain qualified workers by providing a comprehensive "reciprocity" process to give Ohio licenses to out-of-state licensees. However, the construction industry is unique in its mobility and competitiveness, and S.B. 246 would have the opposite impact, providing out-of-state licensed workers and contractors a competitive advantage over Ohio-based workers and contractors, particularly since they would not have to meet the same standards as licensed Ohioans.
- ***The Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB) already authorizes reciprocal agreements with other states where the licensing qualifications are comparable, and the other states provide the same considerations for licensed Ohioans.*** Not only does S.B. 246 undermine the current OCILB license reciprocity system, the bill does not contain any reciprocal language to ensure there is a quid pro quo for Ohio license holders in other states. And, the union and open shop (non-union) industry professionals on OCILB are better suited to make these determinations without the legislature overreaching into this specialized arena.

We urge the committee not to favorably report S.B. 246 unless construction is completely excluded from the bill. We are happy to continue discussions with our respective organizations in the coming months and work with the bill sponsors and legislature to help find common ground, allowing you to reach your objectives of increasing Ohio's pool of talent while maintaining high standards for Ohio's construction industry employers and workers.