



Tim Schaffer
20th District

Ohio Senate
Senate Building
Room 128, First Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8076
sd20@ohiosenate.gov

Committees:
Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair
Government Oversight and Reform
Insurance
Transportation

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 41 — Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday February 9, 2021

Chairman Manning, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 41.

Modeled after pieces of legislation that were enacted in Tennessee and introduced in other states, Senate Bill 41 requires riot offenders to pay for costs that result from riots or that cause a public safety response to a riot

Over the past several months, we have seen how violence has taken a toll on communities and the damage riots have caused. We need to hold accountable those who act to harm or damage property, and ensure that they are the ones paying for these actions, not the taxpayers and businesses.

Let's take a look back at last summer right here in downtown Columbus. Think about the broken glass in this historic building, the broken windows of nearby storefronts, and the aftermath of plywood facades.

In fact, the Columbus Department of Police estimated that in first four days of last summer's riot, there were more than \$1.2 million in damages to businesses. During those four days, 115 businesses, nonprofits, and state offices reported damage. When you consider the additional cost of \$3.3 million spent on the public safety response, this is an enormous cost!

To respond to this deplorable violence, this bill would follow the phrase we all have known since childhood: "if you break it, you buy it." It's really that simple!

To start, the bill would add court ordered restitution to victims of crimes in addition to any other sentence imposed for rioting. Additionally, no money paid in

satisfaction of fines imposed for rioting are to be used toward the satisfaction of reimbursements for the restitution.

This language would also permit a state agency to submit an itemized list of costs to be paid by those convicted of a validated, serious threat to public safety. These threats include arson, criminal mischief, terrorism, and rioting.

Considering that individuals also decided to destroy public property during the riot, and even cover this historic building with red paint, the bill would also charge those who knowingly deface, paint, or apply graffiti public property. In addition to any sentence imposed for this damage to property, the offender would be ordered to make restitution for the damage, as well as the costs of cleaning or restoration.

As legislators, we need to ensure that should these acts happen again – and I pray that they don't – that there are safeguards in place to ensure that those who commit the crimes are the ones held responsible – not the taxpayers.

Thank you once again Chairman Manning and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.