



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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Executive Director
Senate Bill 171
Proponent Testimony
February 27, 2018

Chair Bacon, Vice-Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on Senate Bill 171, a bill to enhance the penalty for someone previously convicted of violating a protection order.

Under current law an individual who has previously been convicted of certain specified offenses, including previous violations of a protection order, is subject to an enhanced penalty from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the fifth degree upon a subsequent violation or multiple subsequent violations. The penalty never goes beyond a felony of the fifth degree regardless of the number of violations. This provides little deterrent to someone with multiple violations and does not, we believe, appropriately reflect the level of criminality or the dangerousness of an offender who continues to violate these orders.

Senate Bill 171 provides for graduated penalties for individuals who continue to violate protection orders or violate protection orders after multiple convictions for certain specified crimes like aggravated menacing, menacing, and aggravated trespass. We believe that graduated penalties will deter violations, promote the safety of victims, and promote public safety generally.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.