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**Committees:**

Finance – General Government & Agency Review  
Subcommittee, Vice Chairman  
Transportation, Commerce & Workforce  
Energy & Public Utilities  
Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

**Michael A. Rulli**  
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**SPONSOR TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 194**

**Senator Michael A. Rulli**

**11/17/20**

Chairman Wiggam and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 194. Senate Bill 194 will provide a much-needed layer of security for our elections.

In 2016, Russian hackers accessed voter registration databases in two counties in Florida and the statewide voter registration system in Illinois. There is no evidence that voter registrations were altered in either state, but hackers were clearly in a position to do so and this is a threat that we should take seriously for Ohio.

Ohio county boards of elections manage their own elections and control their own voter registration systems. Similar to voting machines, our counties contract with vendors to manage these databases. However, right now there are no standards that vendors need to meet before offering these critical databases to our counties.

The Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners currently sets standards for voting machines, marking devices, tabulating equipment, software, and electronic pollbooks that must be met before a vendor can contract with a county board of elections. Senate Bill 194 will add voter registration databases to that list and allow the appointment of a cybersecurity expert as a non-voting member.

Ohio voters need to have the confidence that their registrations are secure and accurate and our county boards deserve systems that are properly vetted so they can do their jobs

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of this bill, I would be glad to answer any questions from the committee.