

S.B. 53

Sponsor Testimony

State Senator Kristina D. Roegner

27th Senate District

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Chairman Coley, Vice-Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Craig and Members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 53, which clarifies a question that has arisen from an amendment made in H.B. 228 of the last General Assembly. Simply put, this legislation is drafted to correct that amendment to prevent any unintended consequences.

As passed by the Ohio House of Representatives, H.B. 228 expressly specified in section O.R.C. 2923.11(**L)(7)** that certain firearms should not be considered “dangerous ordnance.” However, during the final drafting of the substitute bill that ultimately passed, this uncontroversial change was moved to section 2923.11(**K)(7)**, inadvertently classifying these firearms as “dangerous ordinance.”

Notwithstanding this misclassification, upon consultation with the attorneys at LSC, it appears that the amended language would not affect the legality of any existing firearms, since pre-existing law already unambiguously states that pistols, rifles, or shotguns suitable for sporting purposes are not classified as dangerous ordnance. However, it has always been my perspective that one of the primary roles of the General Assembly is to ensure that Ohio law remains clear, so as to not lead to unnecessary litigation or dispute. The bill does contain an emergency clause in order to clear up this confusion before H.B. 228 takes effect at the end of March.

This legislation will **not** change existing Ohio gun law in any manner except to clear up this confusion. The sole effect of S.B. 53 is to make sure that Ohio law governing dangerous ordinances is understandable, consistent, and clear. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony. I would be happy to answer questions at this time.