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Senate Bill 123
Sponsor Testimony
April 9th, 2019

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman and Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight Committee, thank you for allowing my joint sponsor, Senator Dolan and I to provide testimony on Senate Bill 123. Senate Bill 123 will designate the *Dunkleosteus Terrelli* as Ohio's State Fossil Fish.

The fossil fish, nicknamed the "terrible fish", discovered in 1867 by local collector Jay Terrell, was found in the shale cliffs of Sheffield Lakes Shell Cove Park after the Ohio Department of Transportation began construction of I-71 in the area of Lorain County which I proudly represent. As time progressed, a reconsideration of the creature's taxonomy was prompted and in 1956 it was renamed and reclassified from *Dinichthys Terrelli* to *Dunkleosteus Terrelli* in honor of Dr. David Dunkle of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Known as the "Dunk" to many, measuring over 20 feet in length and weighing more than 1 ton, it is one of the largest predatory fish in fossil records. While living in the prehistoric sea that covered Northeast Ohio 354-364 million years ago during the Devonian Period (the Age of the Fishes), its large armored body and unbelievable bite force placed *D. Terrelli* as one of the first apex predators in history.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History now houses some of the worlds most well-preserved fossils including *D. Terrelli*.

It should be noted that this legislation will have no effect on the designation of *Isotelus* as Ohio's State Fossil