



Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association

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Executive Director
Senate Bill 28
Proponent Testimony
March 13, 2019

Chair Eklund, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on Senate Bill 28.

As you know, 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. As is evidenced by some of the stories told during testimony on this bill during the 132nd General Assembly, current law provides little deterrent to someone with multiple protection order violations or convictions for menacing and stalking. Current law does not reflect the dangerousness of an offender who continues to flaunt the law and places their victims at unnecessary continued risk.

By providing for graduated penalties for individuals who continue to violate protection orders or who violate a protection order after multiple convictions for crimes like aggravated menacing, menacing, and aggravated trespass, Senate Bill 28 acts as a deterrent to this behavior, strengthens law enforcement's ability to secure justice for victims, and promotes public safety.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written remarks. We encourage your favorable consideration of this bill.