

SB 156 Proponent Testimony
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Senior Director of Science & Technology, Quest Diagnostics Employer Solutions
Senate Judiciary Committee
Chairman John Eklund
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Chairman Eklund, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Dr. Barry Sample, and I am the Senior Director of Science and Technology with Quest Diagnostics Employer Solutions. Quest Diagnostics is in support of Senator Theresa Gavarone's Senate Bill 156. This legislation prohibits defrauding an alcohol, drug, or urine screen test and bans the sale and distribution of synthetic urine for that purpose, thereby reducing the opportunity to undermine the integrity of drug testing performed by laboratories.

Synthetic urine has become an increasingly popular means of eluding a positive drug test result. These products are typically comprised of uric acid, creatinine, salts, and coloring – designed to mimic a normal human urine specimen and to pass standard laboratory tests of specimen validity. When combined with innovative delivery systems, they can effectively undermine the integrity of the drug test specimen collection process. Today, synthetic urine can be easily bought in head shops, via online distributors, and in some retail establishments.

Quest Diagnostics and other laboratories perform validity testing to ensure that the drug test specimen is consistent with normal human urine and that it has not been tampered with. However, manufacturers of synthetic urine have responded by adding additional constituents to their products in an effort to defeat these specimen validity tests. Often, an adulterated specimen will be flagged for inconsistencies which requires retesting, thus adding costs and delays to the testing process. These costs and delays are passed on to business, government, and taxpayers.

Prohibiting the sale, distribution and use of synthetic urine and other efforts to undermine the integrity of drug testing in Ohio will help to reduce drug test cheating, reduce costs to business and government, and provides confidence in test results. There is no legitimate use for synthetic urine, other than to cheat a drug test, and there is no reason for it to be available in the marketplace. This bill will help protect the safety of our workplaces, roads, and transit systems, while also driving compliance with probation and parole drug testing, and aiding in drug addiction recovery and treatment.

Chairman Eklund and members of the committee thank you for your thoughtful consideration of SB 156. We encourage your support of the bill.

Sincerely,



R.H. Barry Sample, PhD
Senior Director of Science and Technology, Employer Solutions, Quest Diagnostics Incorporated