

HB 510 Sponsor Testimony

Representative Fraizer and Representative Ray

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for hearing HB 510, a bill that gives the Attorney General's Office the ability to debar a state vendor.

HB 510 was brought to our attention by the Attorney General's Office because current Ohio law does not allow the AG's office to seek the debarment of a vendor, or to ask a court to debar a bad vendor.

Currently, there are three state agencies that are permitted to debar vendors: the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Department of Administrative Services, and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. While each of these agencies has independent authority to debar bad actors who rip off the state or fail to deliver on their contractual promises, we feel the AG's office should also have access to this process to help protect Ohio's interests.

When a vendor is debarred, they are not allowed to do business with the state for a certain period of time. Thus, the debarment process is a powerful tool for protecting the state's resources and appropriately punishing bad actors.

It is important to note that nothing in HB 510 changes the criteria for why a vendor can be debarred. The existing process for debarment sets a very high standard, and the Attorney General would follow the same standard as it exists today. This includes publicizing a list of vendors who are debarred by the AG or by a court.

HB 510 allows the Attorney General of Ohio to prevent inadequate, negligent vendors from conducting poor business at the cost of our tax dollars. Extending a resource to them that is already permitted to other agencies provides parallel authority to ensure vendors deliver on contractual obligations and that bad actors are held accountable.

Thank you Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. My Joint Sponsor and I are happy to take any questions.