



State Senator
TINA MAHARATH

3rd District

Sponsor Testimony
Senator Tina Maharath
Senate Bill 35
Financial Institutions and Technology Committee
Tuesday March 9, 2021

Chairman Wilson, Vice-Chair Hottinger and members of the Financial Institutions and Technology Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 35.

Senate Bill 35 would prohibit rental agreements from including a mandatory cable television fee. Any current provisions concerning mandatory cable television fees in a rental agreement would be voided. The bill would allow for cable television fees so long as the tenant has the ability to negotiate whether or not the fee is included in a rental agreement.

Senate Bill 35 originally came about through advocacy by several of my constituents, who informed my office that their landlords were requiring that they pay a cable television fee as part of their rental agreement, even while their jobs were being lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Housing costs have been rising enough as is, and the pandemic has placed thousands of Ohioans on the brink of homelessness. Cable television fees should never be a factor in whether a person can continue living in their home. By prohibiting mandatory cable television fees, we can help make renting more transparent and remove at least one potential barrier to housing during historically difficult times.

Chairman Wilson and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this issue and I respectfully request your favorable consideration and passage of Senate Bill 35. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.