



## Ohio Senate

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## Committees:

Health - Vice Chair  
Financial Institutions & Technology  
Judiciary  
Transportation  
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee  
Select Committee on Gaming  
Correctional Institution Inspection Committee

**Niraj Antani**  
State Senator  
6th District

SB 218 Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
September 28, 2021

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Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 218, which increases penalties for voyeurism.

Under the current law, voyeurism is one of the only sex crimes where the penalty does not increase after multiple convictions. There are four different types of voyeurism charges including:

- A third degree misdemeanor for a violation of division (A), which states that no person, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the person's self, shall commit trespass or otherwise surreptitiously invade the privacy of another, to spy or eavesdrop upon another.
- A second degree misdemeanor for a violation of division (B) stating that no person, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying the person's self, shall commit trespass or otherwise surreptitiously invade the privacy of another to videotape, film, photograph, or otherwise record the other person in a state of nudity.
- A misdemeanor in the first degree for a violation of division (D), which states no person shall secretly or surreptitiously videotape, film, photograph, or otherwise record another person under or through the clothing being worn by that other person for the purpose of viewing the body of, or the undergarments worn by, that other person.
- The crime of voyeurism can be charged as a fifth-degree felony punishable by up to 12 months in prison and/or a fine of up to \$2,500 if the victim is a minor child who is under the age of eighteen years old at the time of the offense.

This bill would increase the punishment of repeat offenders. On the first conviction or guilty plea of voyeurism, the offender would receive a misdemeanor of the first degree. Upon the second offense, the offender would receive a felony of the fifth degree, and for three or more offenses, the offender would receive a felony of the fourth degree.



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Repeat offences of voyeurism is an issue that, unfortunately, is prominent in Dayton. Since 2005, Harold Rimblert III of Dayton has had more than a dozen voyeurism convictions. In January of 2020, Rimblert was arrested for walking into a women's restroom and looking at an unclothed woman in a secured restroom stall. In 2017, he was convicted for looking under bathroom stalls as women were using the restroom in an administrative building and at a local church. Rimblert has received jail time for the 2017 offenses, but no conviction higher than a misdemeanor even though he is a repeat offender and a tier III sex offender. There must be a more severe penalty for repeat offenders of voyeurism.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 218. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.