

Ohio House of Representatives



State Representative Bill Dean District 71

**HB 284 – Sponsor Testimony
Ohio House Transportation Committee
February 13, 2024**

Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony regarding House Bill 284. As Rep. Hillyer mentioned, this bill will allow watercraft operators to use a rearview mirror in place of a spotter. The use of a rearview mirror as a safety device has been used for over a century, as the adjustable automobile mirror debuted in 1908. It's time that we join Kentucky and dozens of other states who allow vessel operators to use a mirror in the same fashion.

As the father of ten children, I have many fond memories of enjoying the lake with my family. In addition to providing great family memories, the legislation promotes the vigorous physical activity inherent in water recreation, ensuring the safety of all participants while eliminating a burdensome restriction on Ohio's recreation. From Lake Erie to C.J. Brown Reservoir and Buckeye Lake to Pleasant Hill Lake, this committee's members represent some of Ohio's best waterways. Please join with us as champions for Ohio watersports by supporting HB 284.

Thank you for your time today. Rep. Hillyer and I welcome any questions from the Members of the Committee.