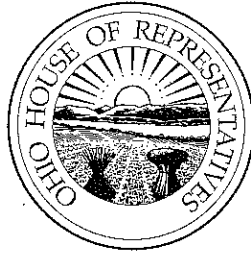


FRED STRAHORN

Minority Leader

Ohio State Representative
39th House District
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6111



Committees
Rules & Reference

February 20, 2018

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Rosenberger:

We strongly suggest that Am. Sub. H.B. 228, currently assigned to the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, be re-referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee.

As you know, Am. Sub. H.B. 228 deals with criminal issues regarding the burden of proof in a self-defense claim, the legal duty to retreat, the reduction of criminal penalties for the illegal or improper use of handguns and the infringement of local control in public safety issues. This complex bill is replete with repercussions that not only impact the law enforcement community but the public safety of the entire state.

Governor Kasich has taken to the national stage, declaring a need for "common sense gun laws" with an eye to "look at everything about improving gun safety." We agree, wholeheartedly. The eyes of the Nation are on Ohio and we have the opportunity to show thoughtful and responsible deliberation on a bill that stands to dramatically impact criminal charging as well as penalties with regard to firearms. Surely, this is why we empanel a Criminal Justice Committee with members who have experience and specialized training in that particular field.

The Ohio Legislature has a responsibility to our communities to get this right. The process begins with Am. Sub. H.B. 228 being re-referred to the Committee in the best position to properly vet the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Strahorn".

Fred Strahorn
Minority Leader

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Leland".

David Leland
Ranking Member
Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

cc: Governor John Kasich
Representative Kristina Roegner, Chair of
Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee

Capitol Office

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