



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### H.B. 234

130th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Grossman and Becker, Boose, Lynch, Brenner, Hood, Beck, Hackett, Retherford, Stebelton, Thompson, Maag

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes a person who holds a valid hunting license to use a suppressor attached to an authorized gun while hunting game birds or wild quadrupeds.
- Exempts a person who owns a firearm muffler or silencer attached to a gun that is authorized to be used for hunting from the existing prohibition against knowingly acquiring, having, carrying, or using any dangerous ordnance.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Use of gun suppressor while hunting

The bill authorizes a person who holds a valid hunting license issued under the Hunting and Fishing Law and who hunts game birds or wild quadrupeds (see below) to use a suppressor attached to a gun while hunting. A person only may use the suppressor if the person is authorized to possess the suppressor under state and federal laws and has registered the suppressor in accordance with the National Firearms Act.<sup>1</sup> Currently, no gun larger than a ten gauge may be used in taking game birds or wild quadrupeds.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 1533.04(A).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 1533.16, not in the bill.

Under the bill, a suppressor is any device used for diminishing the sound of any shot, bullet, or projectile that is discharged from a gun that is authorized to be used for hunting by the Hunting and Fishing Law.<sup>3</sup>

The bill also exempts from the existing prohibition against knowingly acquiring, having, carrying, or using any dangerous ordnance a person who (1) owns a dangerous ordnance that is a firearm muffler or silencer attached to a gun that is authorized to be used for hunting by the Hunting and Fishing Law, and (2) is authorized to use such a dangerous ordnance by the bill.<sup>4</sup>

## Background

Under current law, game birds includes mourning doves, ringneck pheasants, bobwhite quails, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, pinnated grouse, wild turkeys, Hungarian partridges, Chukar partridges, woodcocks, black-breasted plovers, golden plovers, Wilson's snipes or jacksnipes, greater and lesser yellowlegs, rails, coots, gallinules, ducks, geese, brants, and crows.<sup>5</sup> Wild quadrupeds include both of the following:

(1) Game quadrupeds, which include cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, black squirrels, fox squirrels, red squirrels, flying squirrels, chipmunks, groundhogs or woodchucks, white-tailed deer, wild boar, and black bears; and

(2) Fur-bearing animals, which include minks, weasels, raccoons, skunks, opossums, muskrats, foxes, beavers, badgers, otters, coyotes, and bobcats.<sup>6</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	07-17-13

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 1533.04(B).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 2923.17(A) and (C)(8).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 1531.01(S).

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 1531.01(U), (V), and (W).

