

As Introduced

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H. B. No. 230

Representatives Gonzales, Ginter

**Cosponsors: Representatives Greenspan, Dean, Johnson, Bocchieri, Retherford,
Hughes, Goodman, Antani**

A BILL

To amend sections 4781.40, 5301.072, 5311.191, and 1
5321.131 of the Revised Code to prohibit 2
manufactured home park operators, condominium 3
associations, neighborhood associations, and 4
landlords from restricting the display of the 5
thin blue line flag. 6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4781.40, 5301.072, 5311.191, and 7
5321.131 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 8

Sec. 4781.40. (A) (1) The park operator shall offer each 9
home owner a written rental agreement for a manufactured home 10
park lot for a term of one year or more that contains terms 11
essentially the same as any alternative month-to-month rental 12
agreement offered to current and prospective tenants and owners. 13
The park operator shall offer the minimum one-year rental 14
agreement to the owner prior to installation of the home in the 15
manufactured home park or, if the home is in the manufactured 16
home park, prior to the expiration of the owner's existing 17
rental agreement. 18

(2) The park operator shall deliver the offer to the owner 19
by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person. If 20
the park operator delivers the offer to the owner in person, the 21
owner shall complete a return showing receipt of the offer. If 22
the owner does not accept the offer, the park operator is 23
discharged from any obligation to make any further such offers. 24
If the owner accepts the offer, the park operator shall, at the 25
expiration of each successive rental agreement, offer the owner 26
another rental agreement, for a term that is mutually agreed 27
upon, and that contains terms essentially the same as the 28
alternative month-to-month agreement. The park operator shall 29
deliver subsequent rental offers by ordinary mail or personal 30
delivery. If the park operator sells the manufactured home park 31
to another manufactured home park operator, the purchaser is 32
bound by the rental agreements entered into by the purchaser's 33
predecessor. 34

(3) If the park operator sells the manufactured home park 35
for a use other than as a manufactured home park, the park 36
operator shall give each tenant and owner a written notification 37
by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by handing it to 38
the tenant or owner in person. If the park operator delivers the 39
notification in person, the recipient shall complete a return 40
showing receipt of the notification. This notification shall 41
contain notice of the sale of the manufactured home park, and 42
notice of the date by which the tenant or owner shall vacate. 43
The date by which the tenant shall vacate shall be at least one 44
hundred twenty days after receipt of the written notification, 45
and the date by which the owner shall vacate shall be at least 46
one hundred eighty days after receipt of the written 47
notification. 48

(B) A park operator shall fully disclose in writing all 49

fees, charges, assessments, including rental fees, and rules 50
prior to a tenant or owner executing a rental agreement and 51
assuming occupancy in the manufactured home park. No fees, 52
charges, assessments, or rental fees so disclosed may be 53
increased nor rules changed by a park operator without 54
specifying the date of implementation of the changed fees, 55
charges, assessments, rental fees, or rules, which date shall be 56
not less than thirty days after written notice of the change and 57
its effective date to all tenants or owners in the manufactured 58
home park, and no fee, charge, assessment, or rental fee shall 59
be increased during the term of any tenant's or owner's rental 60
agreement. Failure on the part of the park operator to fully 61
disclose all fees, charges, or assessments shall prevent the 62
park operator from collecting the undisclosed fees, charges, or 63
assessments. If a tenant or owner refuses to pay any undisclosed 64
fees, charges, or assessments, the refusal shall not be used by 65
the park operator as a cause for eviction in any court. 66

(C) (1) A park operator shall promulgate rules governing 67
the rental or occupancy of a lot in the manufactured home park. 68
The rules shall not be unreasonable, arbitrary, or capricious. A 69
copy of the rules and any amendments to them shall be delivered 70
by the park operator to the tenant or owner prior to signing the 71
rental agreement. A copy of the rules and any amendments to them 72
shall be posted in a conspicuous place upon the manufactured 73
home park grounds. 74

(2) No park operator shall include any restriction in a 75
rental agreement against, or otherwise prohibit on a tenant's or 76
owner's rental property, any of the following: 77

(a) The display of the flag of the United States or the 78
national league of families POW/MIA flag if the flag is 79

displayed in accordance with any of the following: 80

(i) The patriotic customs set forth in 4 U.S.C. 5-10, and 81
36 U.S.C. 902, governing the display and use of the flag; 82

(ii) Federal law, state law, or any local ordinance or 83
resolution; 84

(iii) A proclamation of the president of the United States 85
or the governor of the state. 86

(b) The display of the state flag as defined in section 87
5.01 of the Revised Code if the flag is displayed in accordance 88
with state law, any local ordinance or resolution, or 89
proclamation by the governor of the state; 90

(c) The display of a service flag approved by the United 91
States secretary of defense for display in a window of the 92
residence of a member of the immediate family of an individual 93
serving in the armed forces of the United States. A service flag 94
includes a blue star banner, a gold star banner, and any other 95
flag the secretary of defense designates as a service flag; 96

(d) The display of a thin blue line flag or emblem on a 97
flag pole, through the use of a bracket, or in a window in 98
accordance with any state law, any local ordinance or 99
resolution, or a proclamation by the governor of the state. 100

(3) A tenant who requests to display the flag of the 101
United States ~~or~~, the national league of families POW/MIA flag, 102
or the thin blue line flag at the rental property as provided in 103
division (C)(2) of this section through the use of a flag pole 104
shall contact the park operator with reasonable notice before 105
installation of the flag pole to discuss the following: 106

(a) Placement in compliance with any local zoning 107

restrictions and the required underground utility service 108
requests (OUPS); 109

(b) Cost of the materials and installation; 110

(c) Installation in a workerlike manner if installed at 111
the tenant's request and expense; 112

(d) Any lighting required to comply with division (C) (2) 113
(a) (i) of this section; 114

(e) The appropriate size of the flag and flag pole, which 115
shall be consistent with the size and character of the building. 116

(4) A tenant who requests to display the flag of the 117
United States ~~or, the national league of families POW/MIA flag,~~ 118
or the thin blue line flag at the rental property as provided in 119
division (C) (2) of this section through the use of a bracket to 120
be permanently affixed to the manufactured home, shall contact 121
the park operator with reasonable notice before installation of 122
the bracket to discuss the following: 123

(a) Placement in compliance with any local zoning 124
restrictions; 125

(b) Cost of the materials and installation; 126

(c) Preferred location of the bracket with installation to 127
be performed in a workerlike manner if installed at the tenant's 128
request and expense; 129

(d) Any lighting required to comply with division (C) (2) 130
(a) (i) of this section; 131

(e) The appropriate size of the flag and flag pole, which 132
shall be consistent with the size and character of the 133
manufactured home. 134

(5) A tenant who owns the manufactured home but leases the lot and who requests to display the flag of the United States~~or~~, the national league of families POW/MIA flag, or the thin blue line flag at the rental property as provided in division (C) (2) of this section through the use of a bracket to be permanently affixed to the manufactured home, shall contact the park operator with reasonable notice before installation of the bracket to discuss the following:

(a) Placement in compliance with any local zoning restrictions;

(b) Preferred location of the bracket to insure that there will be no encroachment of the flag or bracket onto common areas of the park;

(c) Any lighting required to comply with division (C) (2) (a) (i) of this section;

(d) The appropriate size of the flag and flag pole, which shall be consistent with the size and character of the manufactured home and surrounding manufactured home park.

(6) A park operator who does not receive the notifications required under divisions (C) (3) and (4) of this section is not liable for any damages, fines, or costs associated with any issues arising from the placement of the flag pole or the bracket by the tenant.

(7) Any display of the flag of the United States~~or~~, the national league of families POW/MIA flag, or the thin blue line flag shall use a flag or flag pole of an appropriate size, consistent with the size and character of the manufactured homes within the manufactured home park.

(8) Any violation of this division is against public

policy and unenforceable. Any provision of a rental agreement 164
that violates this division is an unconscionable term under 165
section 4781.48 of the Revised Code. 166

(9) Nothing in this division exempts a tenant from a 167
provision in a lease agreement that requires a tenant, at the 168
termination of a lease, to return the premises in the same 169
condition as they were in when the tenant took possession. 170

(10) As used in division (C) of this section, "thin blue 171
line flag" and "thin blue line emblem" mean a flag or emblem 172
used by law enforcement to commemorate fallen law enforcement 173
officers, to show support for living law enforcement officers, 174
and to symbolize the relationship of law enforcement with the 175
community as protectors of fellow citizens from criminal 176
elements. 177

(D) No park operator shall require an owner to purchase 178
from the park operator any personal property. The park operator 179
may determine by rule the style or quality of skirting, 180
equipment for tying down homes, manufactured or mobile home 181
accessories, or other equipment to be purchased by an owner from 182
a vendor of the owner's choosing, provided that the equipment is 183
readily available to the owner. Any such equipment shall be 184
installed in accordance with the manufactured home park rules. 185

(E) No park operator shall charge any owner who chooses to 186
install an electric or gas appliance in a home an additional fee 187
solely on the basis of the installation, unless the installation 188
is performed by the park operator at the request of the owner, 189
nor shall the park operator restrict the installation, service, 190
or maintenance of the appliance, restrict the ingress or egress 191
of repairpersons to the manufactured home park for the purpose 192
of installation, service, or maintenance of the appliance, nor 193

restrict the making of any interior improvement in a home, if 194
the installation or improvement is in compliance with applicable 195
building codes and other provisions of law and if adequate 196
utility services are available for the installation or 197
improvement. 198

(F) No park operator shall require a tenant to lease or an 199
owner to purchase a manufactured or mobile home from the park 200
operator or any specific person as a condition of or 201
prerequisite to entering into a rental agreement. 202

(G) No park operator shall require an owner to use the 203
services of the park operator or any other specific person for 204
installation of the manufactured or mobile home on the 205
residential premises or for the performance of any service. 206

(H) No park operator shall: 207

(1) Deny any owner the right to sell the owner's 208
manufactured home within the manufactured home park if the owner 209
gives the park operator ten days' notice of the intention to 210
sell the home; 211

(2) Require the owner to remove the home from the 212
manufactured home park solely on the basis of the sale of the 213
home; 214

(3) Unreasonably refuse to enter into a rental agreement 215
with a purchaser of a home located within the operator's 216
manufactured home park; 217

(4) Charge any tenant or owner any fee, charge, or 218
assessment, including a rental fee, that is not set forth in the 219
rental agreement or, if the rental agreement is oral, is not set 220
forth in a written disclosure given to the tenant or owner prior 221
to the tenant or owner entering into a rental agreement; 222

(5) Charge any owner any fee, charge, or assessment 223
because of the transfer of ownership of a home or because a home 224
is moved out of or into the manufactured home park, except a 225
charge for the actual costs and expenses that are incurred by 226
the park operator in moving the home out of or into the 227
manufactured home park, or in installing the home in the 228
manufactured home park and that have not been reimbursed by 229
another tenant or owner. 230

(I) If the park operator violates any provision of 231
divisions (A) to (H) of this section, the tenant or owner may 232
recover actual damages resulting from the violation, and, if the 233
tenant or owner obtains a judgment, reasonable attorneys' fees, 234
or terminate the rental agreement. 235

(J) No rental agreement shall require a tenant or owner to 236
sell, lease, or sublet the tenant's or owner's interest in the 237
rental agreement or the manufactured or mobile home that is or 238
will be located on the lot that is the subject of the rental 239
agreement to any specific person or through any specific person 240
as the person's agent. 241

(K) No park operator shall enter into a rental agreement 242
with the owner of a manufactured or mobile home for the use of 243
residential premises, if the rental agreement requires the owner 244
of the home, as a condition to the owner's renting, occupying, 245
or remaining on the residential premises, to pay the park 246
operator or any other person specified in the rental agreement a 247
fee or any sum of money based on the sale of the home, unless 248
the owner of the home uses the park operator or other person as 249
the owner's agent in the sale of the home. 250

(L) A park operator and a tenant or owner may include in a 251
rental agreement any terms and conditions, including any term 252

relating to rent, the duration of an agreement, and any other 253
provisions governing the rights and obligations of the parties 254
that are not inconsistent with or prohibited by sections 4781.36 255
to 4781.52 of the Revised Code or any other rule of law. 256

(M) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Revised 257
Code, the owner of a manufactured or mobile home may utilize the 258
services of a manufactured housing dealer or broker licensed 259
under Chapter 4781. of the Revised Code or a person properly 260
licensed under Chapter 4735. of the Revised Code to sell or 261
lease the home. 262

Sec. 5301.072. (A) No covenant, condition, or restriction 263
set forth in a deed, and no rule, regulation, bylaw, or other 264
governing document or agreement of a homeowners, neighborhood, 265
civic, or other association, shall prohibit or be construed to 266
prohibit any of the following: 267

(1) The placement on any property of a flagpole that is to 268
be used for the purpose of displaying the flag of the United 269
States, the flag of the state as defined in section 5.01 of the 270
Revised Code, ~~or~~ the national league of families POW/MIA flag, or 271
or the thin blue line flag provided the flag and flag pole shall 272
be of an appropriate size, consistent with the size and 273
character of the buildings that are subject to the requirements 274
or agreements of a homeowner, neighborhood, civic, or other 275
association; 276

(2) The display on any property of the flag of the United 277
States or the national league of families POW/MIA flag if the 278
flag is displayed in accordance with any of the following: 279

(a) The patriotic customs set forth in 4 U.S.C. 5-10, and 280
36 U.S.C. 902 governing the display and use of the flag; 281

(b) The consent of the property's owner or of any person 282
having lawful control of the property; 283

(c) The recommended flagpole standards set forth in "Our 284
Flag," published pursuant to S.C.R. 61 of the 105th Congress, 285
1st Session (1998); 286

(d) Any federal law, proclamation of the president of the 287
United States or the governor, section of the Revised Code, or 288
local ordinance or resolution. 289

(3) The display on any property of the state flag as 290
defined in section 5.01 of the Revised Code if the flag is 291
displayed in accordance with any of the following: 292

(a) The consent of the property's owner or of any person 293
having lawful control of the property; 294

(b) Any state law, local ordinance or resolution, or 295
proclamation by the governor of the state. 296

(4) The display of a service flag approved by the United 297
States secretary of defense for display in a window of the 298
residence of a member of the immediate family of an individual 299
serving in the armed forces of the United States. A service flag 300
includes a blue star banner, a gold star banner, and any other 301
flag the secretary of defense designates as a service flag. 302

(5) The display of a thin blue line flag or emblem on any 303
property on a flag pole, through the use of a bracket, or in a 304
window if the flag is displayed in accordance with any of the 305
following: 306

(a) The consent of the property's owner or of any person 307
having lawful control of the property; 308

(b) Any state law, local ordinance or resolution, or 309

proclamation by the governor of the state. 310

(B) A covenant, condition, restriction, rule, regulation, 311
bylaw, governing document, or agreement or a construction of any 312
of these items that violates division (A) of this section is 313
against public policy and unenforceable in any court of this 314
state to the extent it violates that division. 315

(C) As used in this section, "thin blue line flag" and 316
"thin blue line emblem" have the same meanings as in section 317
4781.40 of the Revised Code. 318

Sec. 5311.191. (A) No declaration, bylaw, rule, 319
regulation, or agreement of a condominium property or 320
construction of any of these items by the board of managers of 321
its unit owners association shall prohibit any of the following: 322

(1) The placement of a flagpole that is to be used for the 323
purpose of displaying, or the display of the flag of the United 324
States or the national league of families POW/MIA flag on or 325
within the limited common areas and facilities of a unit owner 326
or on the immediately adjacent exterior of the building in which 327
the unit of a unit owner is located, if the flag is displayed in 328
accordance with any of the following: 329

(a) The patriotic customs set forth in 4 U.S.C. 5-10, and 330
36 U.S.C. 902, governing the display and use of the flag; 331

(b) The recommended flagpole standards set forth in "Our 332
Flag," published pursuant to S.C.R. 61 of the 105th Congress, 333
1st Session (1998); 334

(c) Any federal law, proclamation of the president of the 335
United States or the governor, section of the Revised Code, or 336
local ordinance or resolution. 337

(2) The placement of a flagpole that is to be used for the 338
purpose of displaying, or the display of the flag of the state 339
as defined in section 5.01 of the Revised Code on or within the 340
limited common areas and facilities of a unit owner or on the 341
immediately adjacent exterior of the building in which the unit 342
of a unit owner is located, if the flag is displayed in 343
accordance with any state law, local ordinance or resolution, or 344
proclamation by the governor of the state; 345

(3) The display of a service flag approved by the United 346
States secretary of defense for display in a window of the 347
residence of a member of the immediate family of an individual 348
serving in the armed forces of the United States. A service flag 349
includes a blue star banner, a gold star banner, and any other 350
flag the secretary of defense designates as a service flag. 351

(4) The display of a thin blue line flag or emblem on a 352
flag pole, through the use of a bracket, or in a window on or 353
within the limited common areas and facilities of a unit owner 354
or on the immediately adjacent exterior of the building in which 355
the unit of a unit owner is located, if the flag or emblem is 356
displayed in accordance with any state law, local ordinance or 357
resolution, or a proclamation by the governor of the state. 358

(B) Any display of the flag of the United States ~~or~~, the 359
national league of families POW/MIA flag, or the thin blue line 360
flag shall use a flag or flag pole of an appropriate size, 361
consistent with the size and character of the condominium 362
buildings and common areas. 363

(C) A declaration, bylaw, rule, regulation, or agreement 364
or the construction of any of these items that violates division 365
(A) of this section is against public policy and unenforceable 366
in any court of this state to the extent it violates that 367

division. 368

(D) As used in this section, "thin blue line flag" and 369
"thin blue line emblem" have the same meanings as in section 370
4781.40 of the Revised Code. 371

Sec. 5321.131. (A) No landlord shall include any 372
restriction in a rental agreement against, or otherwise prohibit 373
on a tenant's rental property, any of the following: 374

(1) The display of the flag of the United States or the 375
national league of families POW/MIA flag if the flag is 376
displayed in accordance with any of the following: 377

(a) The patriotic customs set forth in 4 U.S.C. 5-10, and 378
36 U.S.C. 902, governing the display and use of the flag; 379

(b) Federal law, state law, or any local ordinance or 380
resolution; 381

(c) A proclamation of the president of the United States 382
or the governor of the state. 383

(2) The display of the state flag as defined in section 384
5.01 of the Revised Code if the flag is displayed in accordance 385
with state law, any local ordinance or resolution, or 386
proclamation by the governor of the state; 387

(3) The display of a service flag approved by the United 388
States secretary of defense for display in a window of the 389
residence of a member of the immediate family of an individual 390
serving in the armed forces of the United States. A service flag 391
includes a blue star banner, a gold star banner, and any other 392
flag the secretary of defense designates as a service flag. 393

(4) The display of a thin blue line flag or emblem on a 394
flag pole, through the use of a bracket, or in a window if 395

displayed in accordance with any state law, local ordinance or 396
resolution, or proclamation by the governor of the state. 397

(B) (1) A tenant who requests to display the flag of the 398
United States ~~or, the~~ national league of families POW/MIA flag, 399
or a thin blue line flag at the rental property as provided in 400
~~division~~ divisions (A) (1) and (4) of this section through the 401
use of a flag pole shall contact the landlord with reasonable 402
notice before installation of the flag pole to discuss the 403
following: 404

(a) Placement in compliance with any local zoning 405
restrictions and the required underground utility service 406
requests (OUPS); 407

(b) Cost of the materials and installation; 408

(c) Installation in a workerlike manner if installed at 409
the tenant's request and expense; 410

(d) Any lighting required to comply with division (A) (1) 411
(a) of this section; 412

(e) The appropriate size of the flag and flag pole, which 413
shall be consistent with the size and character of the building. 414

(2) A tenant who requests to display the flag of the 415
United States ~~or, the~~ national league of families POW/MIA flag, 416
or a thin blue line flag at the rental property as provided in 417
~~division~~ divisions (A) (1) and (4) of this section through the 418
use of a bracket to be permanently affixed to the unit, shall 419
contact the landlord with reasonable notice before installation 420
of the bracket to discuss the following: 421

(a) Placement in compliance with any local zoning 422
restrictions; 423

(b) Cost of the materials and installation; 424

(c) Preferred location of the bracket with installation to 425
be performed in a workerlike manner if installed at the tenant's 426
request and expense; 427

(d) Any lighting required to comply with division (A) (1) 428
(a) of this section; 429

(e) The appropriate size of the flag and flag pole, which 430
shall be consistent with the size and character of the building. 431

(C) A landlord who does not receive the notifications 432
required under division (B) of this section is not liable for 433
any damages, fines, or costs associated with any issues arising 434
from the placement of the flag pole or the bracket by the 435
tenant. 436

(D) Any violation of this section is against public policy 437
and unenforceable. Any provision of a rental agreement that 438
violates this section is an unconscionable term under section 439
5321.14 of the Revised Code. 440

(E) Nothing in division (B) of this section exempts a 441
tenant from a provision in a lease agreement that requires a 442
tenant, at the termination of a lease, to return the premises in 443
the same condition as they were in when the tenant took 444
possession. 445

Section 2. That existing sections 4781.40, 5301.072, 446
5311.191, and 5321.131 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 447