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S.B. 28
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hoagland

Amanda Goodman, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Allows owls to be used in the sport of falconry.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Owls used in falconry

The bill allows a person to use owls (of the family Strigidae¹) in the sport of falconry, provided the person does so in conformity with state and federal falconry laws.² Falconry, also called hawking, is the sport of employing birds to hunt game.

Under current law, a person who wishes to engage in falconry must obtain a permit from the Chief of the Division of Wildlife.³ Both of the following bird families (designated as raptors in the law) are currently approved for use in falconry in Ohio:

- Falcons and caracaras (of the family Falconidae); and
- Accipitrids (of the family Accipitridae, other than a bald eagle), such as hawks, eagles, kites, harriers, and Old World vultures.⁴

¹ The family Strigidae contains approximately 189 different species of owls and are distinguished from barn owls (which are part of the family Tytonidae). For more information, see <https://www.britannica.com/animal/Strigidae>.

² R.C. 1533.05. See also federal law, 50 C.F.R. § 21.29, which allows all Strigiformes (owls that are “native” raptors) to be used in falconry.

³ R.C. 1533.05(C).

⁴ R.C. 1533.05(A).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-27-21
Reported, S. Agriculture & Natural Resources	02-10-21
Passed Senate (33-0)	02-17-21
