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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 28  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

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**Version:** As Reported by House Agriculture and Conservation

**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 Strigidae<sup>1</sup>) in the sport of falconry, provided the person does so in conformity with state and federal falconry laws.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 1533.05(C).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 1533.05(A).

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-27-21
Reported, S. Agriculture & Natural Resources	02-10-21
Passed Senate (33-0)	02-17-21
Reported, H. Agriculture & Conservation	04-20-21

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