



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Bethany Boyd

H.B. 31*

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by H. State Government)

Reps. Grossman and Stinziano, Baker, Bishoff, Blessing, DeVitis, Dovilla, Ginter, Hackett, Hall, Hambley, Hood, Leland, Maag, Ramos, Rezabek, Ruhl, Schaffer, K. Smith, Strahorn, Vitale

BILL SUMMARY

- Designates the song "Hang on Sloopy" the official state rock song.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Official state rock song

The bill designates "Hang on Sloopy" the official rock song of Ohio.¹ The song rose to popularity in 1964 when it was first performed by the soul group the Vibrations, followed a year later by the well-known rendition sung by the McCoys, a Dayton, Ohio rock band. The song was first performed by the Ohio State University Marching Band in 1965, and became a popular standard in the band's repertoire. The song's words and music were written by Wes Farrell and Bert Russell. Legend has it that the song is about Steubenville native Dorothy Sloop, an entertainer who sang and played the piano at Dixie's Bar of Music in New Orleans. Mr. Farrell and Mr. Russell are thought to have frequented Dixie's.² (The song is not about the cartoon dog Snoopy.)

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House State Government Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5.092.

² "The 'Sloopy' Scoop," *Columbus Dispatch* (September 26, 2013).

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced
Reported, H. State Gov't

02-03-15

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