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City Attorney Klein Applauds Passage of Drug Sentencing Bill

COLUMBUS – Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein applauded the Ohio Senate for passing Senate Bill 3, legislation to modernize Ohio’s drug sentencing laws.

“For the last two years, I’ve had the honor of working with a bipartisan group of legislative and local leaders to bring drug sentencing reform to Ohio,” said Klein. “Senate Bill 3 is critical because it addresses a key failure of the criminal justice system. Too often, we charge people battling addiction with felonies and incarcerate them instead of getting them treatment. SB 3 allows us to help those struggling with addiction and go after drug traffickers. I urge the House to quickly pass this much debated, important legislation.”

Klein and Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O’Brien worked with lawmakers to craft the legislation. Klein’s recommendations of downgrading low-level (fourth- and fifth-degree felony) drug possession to a misdemeanor offense, with a presumption toward rehabilitation, as well as allowing for the sealing of those same convictions have been incorporated into the Senate-passed bill.

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