

Ohio lawmaker wants to ban noon Buckeye games after Ohio State-Texas scheduling

The bill would require Ohio State games to begin at 3:30 p.m. or later when the team faces a Top 10 opponent

**By Haley BeMiller
Columbus Dispatch**

An Ohio lawmaker wants to put a stop to noon Buckeye football games.

Rep. Tex Fischer, R-Boardman, introduced legislation that would require Ohio State games to begin at 3:30 p.m. or later when the team faces a Top 10 opponent. The move came after FOX announced that it will air the [Ohio State-Texas game](#) on Aug. 30.

While the game time is not officially set, fans expect it to kick off at noon – and they aren't happy.

"I think it greatly degrades both the fan experience, and if you've got recruits going to that game ... they're being robbed of the opportunity to experience an absolutely incredible atmosphere," Fischer said.

The bill would exempt the annual [Ohio State-Michigan game](#) that traditionally kicks off at noon. Broadcasters or football conferences that violate the rule would be fined \$10 million.

[FOX ramped up the noon timeslot](#) after it became the Big Ten's primary media rights partner, scheduling high-profile games for its Big Noon Kickoff. Fischer said that sours the experience for fans who attend in-person and hurts the local economy by giving people less time to pregame or tailgate.

Plus, he argued, the vibe of a night game is electric.

"FOX tends to just stick Ohio State in the noon slot every opportunity they get," Fischer said. "It's a guaranteed way to get great ratings."

This isn't the first time state lawmakers have tried to influence Ohio State games, and the ideas usually don't gain much steam. Sen. Bill DeMora, D-

Columbus, [introduced a bill](#) to prohibit public universities from giving streaming services exclusive rights to a game.