



**Representative Michael E. Henne**  
Ohio House District 40

**Sponsor Testimony**  
**HB 188 - Specialty/Sports Car License Plate**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present HB 188, the Specialty/Sports car license plate bill.

There are 19 states which do not require a front license plate but still keep the public safe. There are 31 states, including Ohio, which do require a front license plate, asserting that extra plate is necessary. HB 188 is an attempt to make a compromise, similar to one they've made in the state of Washington.

For the most part, a front license plate requirement does not affect many people's lives other than more taxpayers' dollars and time needed to attach the plate when you buy a new car. But, there are some vehicles where attaching the front license plate is much more of an ordeal, oftentimes requiring significant modifications like drilling into the frame or body of the vehicle. For many car enthusiasts, they would be willing to pay an additional fee to avoid defacing one of their prized possessions. Those are the individuals HB 188 is targeting.

HB188 would allow individuals to pay an additional fee, determined by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, for certain specialty and kit cars to have a special license plate, waiving the front license plate requirement. Bureau of Motor Vehicles will review applications and determine which vehicles qualify for this special plate. After approval, the special plate would be issued.

The initial reaction from Public Safety was opposition, the typical response to bills that eliminate the front license plate requirement. They can tell us anecdotal stories on how the front license plate has been instrumental in stopping a criminal or solving a crime. I contend that each of those instances will still hold true if HB 188 is enacted. Criminals are not going to bring extra attention to themselves by spending money on a kit car and buying the special license plate. Furthermore, the additional revenue provided by this bill will go towards additional training for officers, the number one area Public Safety requested for additional funds.

HB188 is not about taking sides in the debate about the costs and benefits of a front license plate. Rather, it is about finding a compromised solution. I may not be a car person but for

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# Ohio House of Representatives



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those that are, their vehicle is their most valued possession. This bill protects these people's most prized possession while still keeping Ohio safe. At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Henne".

Michael E. Henne  
Ohio State Representative



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