



## **House Ways and Means Committee Proponent Testimony on HB 155 May 15, 2018**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, my name is Evan Newman and I am the Director of Membership for the Ohio Trucking Association. Collectively, we represent over 1,000 trucking, moving, logistics, warehouse companies and allied vendor members. On behalf of our members, I would like to express our support for HB 155.

The trucking industry is the lifeblood of the U.S. economy. Nearly 70% of all the freight tonnage moved in the U.S. is transported by trucks. Moving 9.2 billion tons of freight annually requires nearly 3 million heavy-duty Class 8 trucks and over 3 million truck drivers.

The U.S. Department of Labor places the median annual salary for all truck drivers at around \$40,000, but because of the variety of jobs that fall into the truck driver category, heavy duty truck drivers typically make much more. Pay for drivers is based on production, so entry level drivers can expect to make an increased wage shortly after entry into the industry. The median annual wage for a trucker that works for a private fleet is \$73,000 with some drivers topping \$100,000 per year. Unfortunately, the trucking industry is having difficulty finding drivers to fill these high-paying positions.

To help address this problem, we worked with legislators on both sides of the aisle to introduce a comprehensive package of legislation to this General Assembly. HB 155 is one of those bills, which we hope will help give companies the resources needed to train more drivers, resulting in more, highly qualified, CDL holders.

As many of you know, truck driving is a skill that requires on the job training to master. Companies spend thousands of dollars on providing on the job training to future drivers. Other companies simply do not have the resources and are unable to provide such an investment in their safety culture. To encourage on the job training opportunities, HB 155 would make an employer eligible for a credit against the income tax. The credit would be equal to one-half of the employer's actual training

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expenses and would be capped at \$25,000. The total amount of credits that may be awarded a year would be limited to \$3 million.

On the job training to obtain a CDL or to build upon skills already obtained by a driver will open doors that lead to lifelong employment opportunities to the employee. Further, it shows an investment in the employee but the employer which will ultimately assist in retaining drivers and stimulating the Ohio economy. This employability transfers not only within the trucking industry but also in to countless other industries that require heavy-duty vehicle operators as well.

We would like to thank the sponsors of the bill, Representatives Sprague and Howse, for their work on developing this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

Evan Newman  
Director of Membership  
Ohio Trucking Association