



Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee, we are pleased to bring before you today House Bill 60.

House Bill 60 authorizes the issuance of an enhanced driver's license, enhanced commercial driver's license and enhanced identification card. The issuance of these forms of identification would facilitate land and sea border crossings between the United States, Canada, and Mexico for Ohio residents, pursuant to an agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security. The cards will be equipped with RFID chips that would allow one to only carry one form of identification for border crossings. It is important to note that in the United States, all major and most minor border crossings are equipped with this technology. Upwards of 95% of people crossing the border could do so by using an Enhanced Driver's license.

Our bill would facilitate commerce and travel for drivers in Ohio. Not only would it make travel into Canada and Mexico for Ohioans quicker, but it would do so in a secure manner. Through their local deputy registrar, applicants for the Enhanced Driver's License are processed through a security check by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Through an agreement with DHS, and in compliance with the Federal REAL ID program, an Ohio Resident could request an EDL in place of a regular driver's license. The cost to obtain these licenses would be a fee of \$25, in addition to the other fees current law prescribes for issuance of a driver's license, CDL, or ID card, with the total cost being less expensive than a passport or passport card. As you can see by the attached information provided by the Department of Public Safety, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont and Washington have all passed similar legislation to allow for the issuances of Enhanced Driver's Licenses.

Furthermore, the benefit to Ohio commerce would be tremendous. As bound by law, commercial drivers may only drive thirteen hours before taking a break. Because of this, every minute is precious to meet delivery and pickup times. An Enhanced commercial driver's license would make entry through borders faster and safer which is good for business and our state. In addition to the time constraints that a commercial driver is bound to, an EDL reduces the number of identification documents that Ohio truck drivers must carry with them during their daily travels. Everyday Ohio motorists who frequent to Canada for business or recreation would also benefit from this convenience of not having to carry a passport.

In addition, it is important to note that there is no personally identifiable information stored on the card's RFID chip. This card uses a unique identification number that links to electronic files contained in a secure Department of Homeland Security database. This number does not contain any personally identifiable information. In addition to these measures, upon receiving an EDL, an individual is also given information on how to use, carry, and protect their license. An RFID-safe sleeve is also provided that prevents anyone from reading the secure unique identification number associated with their license.



Representatives Steve Hambley and John Rogers

We would like to emphasize that an Enhanced Driver's License is a completely optional form of identification. Consumers have the freedom to choose whether this license would be beneficial to them. This optional license has caused little to no problems in the states who have already adopted the program, and the results have been tremendously successful. As indicated in the attached report from the Ohio DPS, since the implementation of this opportunity in other states, over 2 million residents of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont and Washington have enrolled for Enhanced Driving Credentials. If Ohio follows the average enrollment percentage from other states with an EDL opportunity, this program would see approximately 640,00 Ohio drivers register for their EDL.

House Bill 60 passed the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee 12-2, and passed the House 90-4. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 60, and are available for any questions. Thank you.