

3rd House District

Wood County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center

7 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

614.466.8104

Rep03@ohiohouse.gov



HARAZ N. GHANBARI

State Representative | Ohio House District 3

Committees

Finance
Energy and Natural Resources
Armed Services and Veterans Affairs
Higher Education
Insurance

Subcommittees

Finance Subcommittee on Primary
and Secondary Education
Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy Generation

To my colleagues Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Plummer and Ranking Member Leland and members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 539.

Before we take a deep dive into this important, and impactful legislation, I would like to take a brief moment to thank all of our law enforcement officers across the State of Ohio — both past and present — for their dedicated service in the communities we represent. For those on the “Thin Blue Line,” this is National Police Week. Although this legislation was introduced on March 5, it’s coincidental that we are having the first hearing during National Police Week. Legislation that helps support these officers as they faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all of the duties incumbent upon them to protect our fellow citizens, is legislation I will always support.

House Bill 539 will grant Township Trustees the authority to allow their township law enforcement officers to patrol and enforce the laws on stretches of interstate highway that run through their jurisdiction.

Following a fruitful dialogue with interested parties including: The Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association, The Department of Public Safety, The Ohio State Highway Patrol, The Fraternal Order of the Police, The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, representatives of the Perrysburg Township Police Department, The Ohio Townships Association and some of our colleagues, the following requirements were included in this draft legislation:

- The highway is part of the interstate highway system
- The township has a population between 5,000 and 50,000 residents
- Township Trustees through resolution have granted authority to patrol the applicable interstate
- The highway is located within the township officer’s jurisdiction
- There is a permanent access point on and off the highway located within the jurisdiction and open to the public

This legislation is permissive and also includes a provision where the Township Trustees may revoke the previously granted authority through a resolution.

In closing, interagency cooperation is essential now more than ever. This legislation further enhances the ability to protect our fellow citizens.

I would like to thank the committee for their time and would welcome any questions.