



## State Representative John E. Barnes, Jr.

### HB 112: The Rehabilitated Ohioan Opportunity Act

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Thank you, Chair Butler, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Stinziano, and my esteemed colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 112, the “Rehabilitated Ohioan Opportunity Act.”

The “Rehabilitated Ohioan Opportunity Act”, will prohibit the Registrar of Motor Vehicles from refusing to issue a motor vehicle dealer, leasing dealer, or auction owner license based on finding that the applicant was convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, a felony or misdemeanor if both of the following apply:

1. The conviction or guilty plea occurred at least ten years before the application
2. The conviction or guilty plea was not related to the selling, taxing, licensing, or regulation of sales of motor vehicles, or theft, fraud, or deceit during a consumer transaction.

We must continue the advancement of building and creating opportunities for ex-offenders in order for these individuals to responsibly re-enter society. In the last General Assembly, we passed the Collateral-Sanctions Reform Bill, which the significance was based on two things:

1. The Justice system holds individuals responsible for their mistakes they make, but we must not allow that punishment to go beyond what the court has deemed necessary to establish justice, and
2. Our system of government is built on a judicial system that is based on the notion of individual rehabilitation.

If we truly believe in individual rehabilitation then this is an opportunity to merely give these individuals the rights that other Ohioans receive when participating in the lawful sale of motor vehicles, and I believe this bill properly vets that opportunity by what is contained in this proposal. There should always be hope for a better tomorrow and an opportunity for the hopes, dreams, and aspirations for individuals who have made a mistake. The “Rehabilitated Ohioan Opportunity Act” is an important bill that will contribute significantly to continuing the work and advancement of creating opportunities for these individuals.

Thank you again for this opportunity, I would be happy to answer any questions.