



Sponsor Testimony

Representative Dave Greenspan

House Bill 336

Chair LaRose, Vice Chair Kunze, Ranking Member Schiavoni and Members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, I stand before you today as the sponsors of a very important piece of legislation – House Bill 336, the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative.

This bill requires the registrar of motor vehicles to establish a six-month driver's license reinstatement fee reduction and amnesty program no later than ninety days after the effective date of the Bill. The program shall immediately terminate six months thereafter.

So Where Did This Concept Come From For This Bill?

Currently there are over 8 million drivers licenses issued in Ohio. Over 1million of the over 8 million issued driver's license are suspended, with an average of nearly three suspensions per license holder. Many Ohioans currently under suspension for an extended period of time do not have the financial means to pay the reinstatement fees. This bill seeks reduce the number of drivers on the road without a valid license and without automobile insurance while simultaneously reducing the amount of administrative backlog with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It is our goal to create a reasonable, practical, and measured attempt to make sure that Ohioans are legal to drive with a valid driver's license and insurance while driving through our neighborhoods and on our interstates.

This legislation grants reinstatement fee reduction or amnesty for people under the following conditions:

1. A person whose license has been suspended because of an eligible offense may apply to the Registrar for a reinstatement fee reduction as long as the individual has completed all court-ordered sanctions, and at least eighteen months has expired since the court imposed the suspension.

a. If the person owes reinstatement fees for multiple eligible offenses, the person shall be required to pay only the lowest reinstatement fee owed for those offenses

b. If the person owes reinstatement fees for only one eligible offense, the person shall be required to pay one-half of the reinstatement fee owed for that offense.

2. A person whose driver's license or permit has been suspended may apply to the Registrar for complete amnesty if the person has completed all court-ordered sanctions, and the person can demonstrate proof of indecency by providing documentation in a form approved by the Registrar, and

3. The person does not have an offense that involves alcohol, a drug abuse, combination thereof, a deadly weapon, violent assault, or of a sexual nature.

The Registrar shall conduct a public service announcement program regarding the driver's license reinstatement fee reduction and amnesty program that includes a description of the program and its requirements. In addition, the Registrar shall make such information available on the Bureau of Motor Vehicle's web site. This bill also grants the Registrar's office a great deal of flexibility to and prerogative by allowing the office to establish any procedures necessary for the implementation of this program.

I am thankful to the Registrar and the Ohio Bureau of Motor vehicles to their commitment to solve this problem, and working so closely with us throughout this process.

Thank you your consideration of this Bill and we are available for your questions.