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State Senator Bill Beagle
Senate Bill 320 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee
November 14, 2018

Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Kunze, and Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity for Senator Lehner and I to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 320.

Before I tell you what Senate Bill 320 does, let me tell you how it came about.

Every two years the Dayton Development Coalition hosts an event to welcome CORONA to our area. CORONA brings together the top people in the Air Force to Wright Patterson Air Force Base for a series of meetings. Typically, the Secretary of the Air Force attends. This year Congressman Mike Turner brought Secretary Heather Wilson over to Representative Jim Butler and me so that she could tell us directly what she has been telling military communities across the nation: To best serve her airman, and all military families, communities need to provide two things. First, excellent schools for the children of the members. Second, employment opportunities for the spouses of the service members. Our military is requesting that we make it as easy as possible for spouses holding professional licenses issued by other states to be able to work here in Ohio while their spouse is assigned here. SB 320 is in direct response to her challenge to Ohio.

SB 320 will require state occupational licensing agencies to issue temporary licenses or certificates for up to six years to members of the military and their spouses who are licensed in another state and have moved to Ohio for active duty. The only requirements for the military member and their spouse to practice within the scope of the profession under Ohio law would be for the individual to maintain a license or certificate in good standing in their home state, and show proof that they, or their spouse, are an active duty military member.

Six years was chosen as the typical assignment lasts two to four years, but there are some technical positions that last six years. If a license is required beyond six years, the applicant must conform to Ohio's requirements to obtain the license or certificate.

This legislation will require a state licensing agency to annually verify the standing of the license issued by the temporary license holder's home state. If an individual does not adhere to any rule in this legislation or is in any way not in good standing, temporary licenses can be revoked and eligibility for a temporary license will be withdrawn.

This bill will require that fees charged must be one-third of the original charge for the temporary license, and each state licensing agency must prepare a report for each fiscal year on the number and type of temporary licenses or certificates issued during that fiscal year.

We owe it to our active servicemen, servicewomen, and their spouses, who already give up so much to serve our country, to provide a quick and easy process to practice their professions in Ohio. Senate Bill 320 will create a straightforward process for members of the military and their spouses to receive licensing reciprocity.

Senate Bill 320 is one of the top priorities of the Secretary of the Air Force, who decides in which state to locate military bases and missions. Ohio would be well-served to quickly respond to this problem, for both our competitiveness in attracting military missions and, more importantly, for taking care of our service members and their families.

Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Kunze, and Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 320. Senator Lehner and I are happy to take questions at this time.