



State Representative Tavia Galonski

Ohio House District 33

Sponsor Testimony, H.B. 18

House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee | March 7th, 2023

Chairman Loychik, Vice Chair Demetriou, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on House Bill 18 today.

House Bill 18 makes a bureaucratic change that cuts back on red tape currently being faced by Ohio's veterans. This bill would require the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to accept a county issued veterans ID card in lieu of only accepting a DD-214 when providing proof of service while applying for a military license plate.

It is important to emphasize that this bill still maintains current requirements and does not replace the use of a DD-214, but rather adds the veteran's ID card as an additional document that is able to be provided as proof for license plates that designate a branch of service or general veteran status. Veterans would still need to provide additional supporting evidence—usually a DD-214—for more specialized military license plates, such as the Purple Heart plate or any plates designating a specific conflict, such as World War II or Vietnam.

The impetus for House Bill 18 came from a former constituent of mine who resides in Barberton, Ohio. When applying for a military license plate, he had his veterans ID on hand but did not have his DD-214 immediately available. Since a DD-214 is required when being issued a county issued veterans ID, he found it to be just another bureaucratic hindrance. House Bill 18 would, at no additional cost to the BMV, make the military license plate application process more convenient for veterans who wish to commemorate their service.

Chairman Loychik, Vice Chair Demetriou, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for your consideration of this simple, but important legislation that would help countless veterans in Ohio. At this time, I am happy to take any questions from the committee.