



**Representative Sean Patrick Brennan  
14<sup>th</sup> House District**

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and Distinguished Members of the Ohio House of Representatives Standing Committee on Commerce and Labor.

First, I want to sincerely thank my friend and colleague Representative Steve Demetriou for inviting me to join him on this important piece of legislation. It has truly been a pleasure getting to know him as a fellow new member of the General Assembly. It has also an honor to call all of you colleagues.

Today we present to you House Bill 195, which will create an adaptive mobility vehicle dealer license in the state of Ohio. Currently, Ohio law is silent on licensing dealers who purchase vehicles and retrofit them to meet the needs of the disabled community. That is, any dealer who purchases a new vehicle from a licensed new car dealer and retrofits it to include an electronic or mechanical lift that enables someone to enter a vehicle via wheelchair or scooter, a mechanical wheelchair ramp, or a system that secures a wheelchair or scooter, does not really fit into the new or used vehicle dealer licensing categories.

According to the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association, there are about 9 adaptive vehicle dealers in Ohio, and several more mobility equipment dealers. Because they do not have a specific type of dealer license, as they are not exactly new car dealers, nor used car dealers, they are in legal limbo. This requires the dealers to jump through a lot of red tape which leads to various business interruptions. Creating this license will streamline the process for these important players in the retail vehicle space.

I believe that this legislation will benefit Ohioans in multiple ways. For instance, those who provide these services have expressed to me that they would like to be licensed by the state. According to them, this license will streamline and align the dual licensure that they currently have to possess via Ohio BMV and Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Creating an Adaptive Mobility Dealer's license that specifies these specific dealers and their technicians are ADA-certified will ease recertification processes, and prevent business interruptions – ensuring that mobility-impaired Ohioans still have access to these vehicles. Creating a license will also increase the credibility of their businesses in the eyes of customers. Further, this legislation will ensure that consumers are provided with all of the warranties and other consumer protections

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they are entitled to when purchasing a new vehicle. As a result, business will increase, which benefits the viability of the said businesses and Ohio's economy, including job creation.

Next, it supports low mobility Ohioans by providing them with piece of mind that the state of Ohio has given its blessing to a dealer. No longer will they have to wonder if the vehicle they are purchasing is truly safe and that they are protected by the same warranties and protections provided to purchasers of vehicles from new or used licensed dealers.

Representative Demetriou and I have been in communication with the Ohio Auto Dealers' Association, as well as folks in the adaptive motor vehicle industry all of whom who fully support this legislation.

I believe this legislation could become a model for the rest of the nation.

Further, there are other members of the Ohio House who have expressed their interest in co-sponsoring the bill, but we did not get their names until the bill had been filed.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored by your support of HB 195. I look forward to answering any questions the committee may have.

