

91st House District

Highland County
Fayette County
Pike County
Ross County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High St
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-3506
Rep91@ohiohouse.gov



Bob Peterson
State Representative

Sponsor Testimony
H. B. 340

Committees

Chairman
Government Oversight

Finance, Agriculture,
Development, and Natural
Resources Subcommittee

Insurance

Public Utilities

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and other members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 340. This bill would authorize an employee mobility grant program that would enable an employer to offset the cost of chartering commuter vehicles for their employees. These grants can be up to \$15,000 per employer, per year. To qualify for this grant, the transportation must

- (1) Be in a commuter highway vehicle,
- (2) Driven by a qualifying driving service, and
- (3) The employer's location has to be in a county with a population of less than 50,000.

A great example from my district is the new LG Honda battery plant that is along 71 in Fayette County. This investment in Ohio is expected to create 2,200 jobs, with more in the near future: workers will likely come from Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Fayette, and surrounding counties. If this grant program were to be in place, it would create more opportunities for individuals from those city centers, from the surrounding counties, to become employed at this plant and have less difficulties in getting to work. If you own a business, or manage employees, you know that part of the challenges we are facing with securing and maintaining our workforce is transportation.

This bill is one small way we can start to fight our employment issues within the state. Sites like the one in Jeffersonville, that are further away from our main city centers, now have a way to encourage and cater to larger pockets of the population for jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony. We would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Peterson
State Representative
Ohio's 91st House District