60th House District

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Brian Lorenz State Representative

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plumber, Ranking Member Thomas and esteemed members of the Homeland Security committee thank you for the time to speak on this bill.

Many of our trending State issues are related to protecting our next generation. Education, healthcare, and safety are top of mind. There has also been a great deal of interest in teen driving - implementing programs aimed to reinforce safe behavior are ways to keep our young drivers attentive and engaged on the road. While these programs are to be commended our driver education curriculum still lacks tangible defensive driving skill opportunities.

HB 395 is an attempt to incentivize young drivers by offering a \$50 tax credit for enrolling into a defensive driving course. It also creates an opportunity for young drivers to enroll in a course in lieu of a points/fine violation. It should be noted some courts allow for this deferral program. Finally, it reduces the permit application age from 15 1/2 to 15. The purpose for this change is to expose young drivers to the variety of weather conditions in Ohio.

I understand there may be questions on our methodology and capacity concerns, but I remain open to feedback from members and our meetings with stakeholders. The fundamental idea here is to compliment other safe measures and I am open to refinement.

I'd like to thank Representative Brewer for his partnership on this important bipartisan legislation and for the committees' time this morning. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Lorenz

State Representative

Ohio District 60