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Standing Committees
Transportation, Ranking Member;
Behavioral Health;
Finance;
Government Oversight;
Public Health Policy;
Economic & Workforce Development

Michele Grim
State Representative

Before the House Transportation Committee

House Bill 372 – Stop, Look, Listen

Sponsor testimony provided by Representative Michele Grim

February 13, 2024

Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, and my fellow members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony alongside my joint-sponsor, Representative Hoops, on House Bill 372, also referred to as “Stop, Look, Listen”. I’d also like to thank Representative Hoops for re-introducing this bill from the 134th General Assembly.

Ohio has a robust rail network with thousands of crossings carrying necessary resources and commodities. This cannot occur without the assistance of on-track equipment, which provides maintenance for trains across our state. Impact with this equipment from vehicle operators can be extremely harmful. HB 372 is a simple fix to the Ohio Revised Code that could increase safety for everyone.

According to the Federal Railroad Administration, in 2023 there were a total of 204 rail accidents and incidents in Ohio. Of these 204 accidents, 139 account for highway-rail incidents and other various accidents on railways. Stop, Look, Listen would aim to prevent this exact type of incident, one in which a vehicle operator has been struck by on-track equipment.

Rail safety is an issue that needs our attention **now**, and this bill provides a common-sense, widely supported, solution to increase awareness. This change is supported by rail labor and the rail industry. Over 30 states have already passed similar laws. These accidents are devastating for communities, but we have the opportunity to implement needed changes.

HB 372 also gives the driver an opportunity to learn more about safer driving practices and avoid a potentially fatal accident in the future.

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Chairman McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, my fellow members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for taking the time to listen as we provided this testimony regarding HB 372. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.