

60th House District

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Public Health Policy

Brian Lorenz State Representative

Chair McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee, Thank You for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 379. This bill will require road crews to scan deceased pets found in the roadway for microchip identification. The intent of this bill is to bring closure to families that have lost a pet, should the animal be chipped.

The loss of a pet is a traumatic experience. Further, living with the unknown as to whether the pet has passed or is still alive brings stress, anxiety, and possibly a cost component to the family. In Ohio, our road crews are charged with several tasks outside of snow plowing and keeping road conditions safe, they are also required to remove animals in the event of a fatality – whether that is a deer or rodent or unfortunately a pet. Why not use this removal as an opportunity to create a quick scan to see if there is an owner match so the family of the lost pet can be notified and have closure. The cost of removal of the animal is negligible and scanners are very inexpensive. A search on Amazon reveals many of the items cost less than \$30.

Being the owner of three dogs, Hashtag, Rey, and Louie I can attest that having my friends chipped has paid dividends in at least one instance. I would want to know as soon as I could if one had tragically passed after an escape.

I would like to thank my co-sponsor Representative Carruthers, who I know is also an avid dog lover for her partnership on this bill. Chair McClain, Vice Chair Dobos, Ranking Member Grim and members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 379. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.