



Representative Sean Patrick Brennan
14th House District
Serving Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland's West Park

February 22, 2024

Sponsor Testimony
HB 195: To Create an Adaptive Mobility Vehicle Dealer License

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and Distinguished Members of the Ohio Senate Standing Committee on Transportation.

Thank you Chair Kunze for taking the time to speak to me multiple times about H.B. 195. The time you took and the delving questions you asked prove how seriously you take your role. I truly appreciate you placing this bill on your busy agenda and agreeing to *put your proverbial foot to the accelerator to move it forward.*

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 serve the needs of the aging and disabled community. That is, any dealer who purchases a new vehicle from a licensed new car dealer and adapts it to include a mechanical lift that enables someone to enter a vehicle via wheelchair or scooter, special hand controls for steering, accelerating, and braking, among a multitude of other possible devices, does not really fit into the new or used vehicle dealer licensing categories.

Currently, there are about 15 adaptive mobility vehicle dealers in Ohio. Because they do not have a specific type of dealer license, as they are not really considered new, nor used, car dealers, they are operating in legal limbo. This requires the dealers *to maneuver through multiple speed bumps*, due to having to jump through a lot of red tape which leads to various business interruptions. Creating this license will streamline the process, removing barriers to entry, 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 that they would like to be licensed by the state. According to them, creating a license will enhance the credibility of their businesses in the eyes of customers. As a result, business will increase, which benefits the viability of the said businesses and Ohio's economy, including job creation. Further, ending the current barrier to entry into the market will encourage growth in this industry and the corresponding benefits of competition, including innovation and lower prices.

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Most importantly, it supports disabled and aging Ohioans by providing them with piece of mind that the state of Ohio has given its blessing to the dealer. They can rest assured that the vehicle they are purchasing is built to meet the best safety specifications and that they are protected by the same warranties and consumer protections provided to purchasers of vehicles from new or used licensed dealers.

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

H.B. 195 passed unanimously in the House committee and 88-1 on the House floor. It is the quintessential example of legislation that shows that when we work in a bipartisan manner all Ohioans benefit. In short, should it become law, it is a bill we can all be proud of.

I want to sincerely thank my friend and colleague Representative Demetriou for inviting me to *share the wheel* with 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.

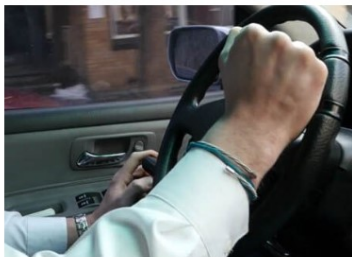
In closing, I hope that you will put all of my bad dad jokes *in the rearview mirror* and support H.B. 195. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Push-Pull Braking, Acceleration, Steering Aids and Electronic Driving Systems



Mechanical Hand Controls

Our Mechanical Hand Controls can be ordered and installed at one of our store locations ensuring that the controls are installed properly for the type of vehicle and the person driving. Using push pull hand controls should only be done by those who have had sufficient training by a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS).



Spinner Knobs & Grips for Steering

MobilityWorks offers a wide variety of spinner knobs, grips and amputee rings to make steering easier for the driver. The use of steering wheel spinner knobs and other hand control equipment generally requires the driver to pass a special training class which educates drivers on the nuances of using the controls.



Hi-Tech Electronic Hand Controls

All of the hi-tech equipment we offer is manufactured by the most trusted names in the mobility industry. Our certified NMEDA QAP technicians custom fit your vehicle to the equipment specified by a certified driver rehabilitation specialist (CDRS) to meet your specific driving requirements.

Find the Perfect Transfer Solution from the Industry's Leading Manufacturers



BraunAbility: Turny Evo

The Turny Evo is ideal for anyone with limited mobility or wheelchair users who are looking for easier transfers in and out of a vehicle.



Adapt Solutions: XL-Board

The XL-Board is designed to fit into the Mazda 5. The XL-Board's compact features make a great solution.



Adapt Solutions: XL-SEAT

The XL-SEAT is intended to fit into most minivans on the market and certain pick-up trucks. It's unique design makes it the first choice when looking for simplicity.



Adapt Solutions: XL-Base

The XL-Base is designed to fit into the front and second row passenger side positions of most minivans. It is reliable, comfortable, safe and easy to use.



B & D Independence: Seat Bases

B&D manufactures transfer seat bases for both the driver and passenger positions for virtually all makes of minivans and full size vans, allowing greater flexibility.



Adapt Solutions: Speedy Lift

SPEEDY-LIFT is designed to fit into most minivans on the market. The SPEEDY-LIFT can be paired with the XL-SEAT motorized transfer board, making it an ideal application for wheelchair drivers.



Adapt Solutions: Power Pull

With the use of an electronically controlled retractable cable and remote control, the person in the chair can attach their wheelchair to the POWER PULL from outside the vehicle.



Adapt Solutions: LINK

The LINK skillfully maneuvers to offer optimal leg room and head room while it gracefully exits the vehicle and lowers the original seat to the desired height, for easy level transfers.

