

Committees

Community Revitalization
Public Safety



Committees:

Children and Human Services
Small Business

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Thank you, Chair Click, Vice Chair Mullins and fellow members of the House Community Revitalization Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 393 alongside my joint sponsor, Representative Click. This bipartisan legislation is an attempt to help give incarcerated Ohioans a second chance.

In many cases, a state ID card is the barrier preventing justice involved individuals from accessing crucial supports such as, SNAP benefits, housing, and healthcare and can prevent them from taking the next step in their life in finding employment, opening bank accounts, voting, and basic stability needed for reintegration. Without it, you're invisible to the systems that are supposed to help you rebuild your life.

House Bill 393 simply expands Ohio's existing ID program by adding inmates who are completing programming at community based correctional facility to the ID program. This legislation has the support from community based correctional facilities in Ohio. They see on a daily basis, the needs of the individuals they work with and access to a state ID is a barrier holding back countless residents.

This legislation also benefits our broader communities, not just the individual. When people are given the tools to succeed, they're less likely to return to the justice system. That means safer neighborhoods, lower costs to taxpayers, and more families staying together.

This isn't just about paperwork. It's about dignity. It's about opportunity. It's about giving people the chance to succeed. If rehabilitation is our goal, then we must make the path to rehabilitation as accessible as possible.

Thank you once again to my joint sponsor Chair Click and to my fellow Community Revitalization Committee members.