



**County Engineers  
Association of Ohio**

**Ohio House Judiciary Committee**

Proponent Testimony on H.B. 132

John Olivieri, Executive Director

County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO)

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Chairman Thomas, Vice Chair Matthews , Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 132. I am John Olivieri, Executive Director of the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO), which represents Ohio's 87 elected county engineers (1 Charter County Engineer) and their thousands of dedicated staff who maintain over 29,000 bridges and more than 26,000 miles of county roads statewide.

CEAO strongly supports H.B. 132 because it strengthens and enforces Ohio's Move Over Law to protect the lives of the men and women who work daily along our roadways, often within inches of fast-moving traffic.

Just this past fall, Trenton "Trent" Gallaway, a 20-year-old Richland County Highway Department worker, was tragically struck and killed while performing moving road maintenance on Bowman Street in Franklin Township. Trent was a young man with a full life ahead of him. He was doing his job and paid the ultimate price because a driver failed to take appropriate care around a roadside crew.

Sadly, Trent's story is not unique. Our engineers, inspectors, and crew members are routinely exposed to risk simply by doing the essential work of maintaining Ohio's infrastructure. That risk is intensified when motorists fail to move over or slow down as required by law.

This legislation is a commonsense, public safety measure that improves protections for county road crews in several key ways:

- It increases criminal penalties for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault if those offenses result from a violation of Ohio's Move Over Law (R.C. §4511.213).
- It creates a new vehicular assault offense specifically tied to violations of the Move Over Law. An overdue recognition of the serious harm caused when drivers ignore these protections.
- It mandates a minimum one-year driver's license suspension and significantly increases fines, from a few hundred dollars to up to \$10,000, when someone kills or severely injures a roadside worker.

- It ensures that driver education (R.C. §4508.02) includes instruction on Move Over responsibilities, helping shape safer driving habits before bad ones begin.
- It directs the Ohio Department of Transportation (R.C. §5501.28) to post visible, enforceable signage highlighting the penalties, reinforcing driver awareness and compliance.

County engineers and their crews operate not just in active construction zones, but also on routine maintenance sites, inspections, and emergency response scenarios. This bill does not create new responsibilities for drivers; it enforces and reinforces the ones that already exist, with appropriate consequences when those responsibilities are ignored.

The Move Over Law only works when it is respected, and that requires both public awareness and meaningful enforcement.

In conclusion, *H.B. 132* is not just a piece of policy, it is a commitment to Trent Gallaway and thousands of others working on our roads every day. On behalf of the County Engineers Association of Ohio, I urge your support of this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions.